

Friday

November 7, 2003

Norton, Kansas
Home of Zeta Zellmer

Briefly

FFA fruit sales

going on now

Norton FFA members have begun their annual boxed fruit sales. Members will be taking orders over the next two weeks to insure delivery before Christmas. Place your order with any FFA member or contact their advisor, Garrett Beydler at the high school, 877-3338.

'T', 'V', 'W' names need to get tags

All persons whose last name begins with "T", "V" or "W" or businesses or lease companies with names that begin with "T", "V" or "W" need to purchase their vehicle tags and pay the personal property tax by Wednesday, Nov. 26, to avoid paying a penalty. The early deadline is due to holidays. The courthouse will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28.

The treasurer's office computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. each day to balance.

Remember to bring or include your proof of insurance, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date, for each vehicle being renewed.

Regular and CDL drivers license renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the treasurer's office at 877-5795.

Weight room to close

The Norton School District's weightlifting room and gyms will be closed next week for fall buffer week.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the upper 20s. **Saturday** — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain showers and snow showers. Highs around 40 with southeast winds 15 to 20 mph. **Saturday Night** — Cloudy with lows in the lower 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday Night** — Mostly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with highs in lower 50s.

Howell report:

Wednesday High 37, Low 27
Thursday High 39, Low 27
Week ago High 47, Low 33
Month ago High 85, Low 52
Year ago High 65, Low 35
November precipitation21 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 18.83 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God of the impossible, give us the spiritual vision to see our own obstacles and the strength of grace to overcome them. Amen

40 years of Jay Watching



Raymond Koel and the Blue Jay acknowledge the applause he received after a plaque was awarded to him by the school district in recognition of his 40 years as a member of the sideline chain crew at Norton Community High School football games.

— Telegram photo by Larry Boyd

Man stands on sidelines

By DICK BOYD

Raymond Koel of Norton has watched home Norton Community High School football games for the past 40 years but, rather than sitting in the stadium on the Blue Jay side, he has viewed them from the visitors' sideline as a member of the USD 211 chain crew.

During halftime of Norton's game with Beloit last Thursday evening, Raymond was honored by USD 211 when he received a plaque from Superintendent Greg Mann and Board President Anna Foley.

Engraved on the plaque were the following words: "USD 211 recognizes Raymond Koel for his dedicated and faithful 40 years of service as a member of the NCHS varsity football chain crew from 1964-2003. Presented in grateful appreciation this day October 30, 2003."

"I have worked with many school officials and chain crews. It has been an honor and a great privilege to serve the USD 211 school administration," said Raymond.

"When I first began 40 plus years ago, we had an iron pole with a small square piece of iron welded to it with a hole in it

to wire a chain to it but now we have the latest equipment which is also much lighter."

Raymond got started on the "chain gang" one Friday night when the late LaDon Eppinger had to be out of town and asked if he would like to substitute for him. "When he got back to town after the game, he asked me how I liked it and I told him it was a great spot to see a lot of action," said Raymond. "He said 'it's yours' and I've been doing it ever since." Raymond said he worked the longest with (Continued on Page 6)

Everyone will know who owns county vehicles

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Commissioners talked with department heads last month about signage on county vehicles.

The commissioners had received a letter from the state highway patrol with a copy of the state statute, which says that all county vehicles needed to be marked.

"All motor vehicles owned or leased by any political subdivision of the state of Kansas shall bear the name of the political subdivision owning or leasing such vehicle plainly printed on both sides thereof." — 8-305.

The Road and Bridge department is one of the few in the county that won't have to put any new signage on its trucks.

"We have decals on everything that's got wheels on it," supervisor Tom Brannan said.

Curt Archibald of the solid waste department said that his people will be putting "Solid Waste Department" decals on the trucks along with the Norton County ones that are already there.

Gina Frack of the health department said that she was making sure all her vehicles are properly signed.

Sheriff's vehicles are exempt from the statute.

In other business the commission:

- Discussed the purchase of a new semi-tractor with Mr. Brannan. The commissioners have been trying to determine if it is more cost effective to buy a new or a used truck.

- Heard that the old semis and new trailers have been wired to be compatible so that truckloads of road material can be covered with tarps. The older trailers have no tarps and the commissioners had complained about the number of windshields

the county has had to replace because of that.

- Were told that the road and bridge drivers have been warned to slow down after the county received several complaints about trucks going too fast for conditions.

- Heard from Mr. Archibald that the county may have to drill another two test wells at the proposed landfill site. The county has already put down four wells to check the groundwater for contamination.

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Extension Council to hold annual meeting, elections

The Executive Board of the Norton County Extension Council will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17, at the county 4-H Building.

The meeting will include reports of Extension Education Programs, a report of the State Extension Advisory Committee and a business meeting to elect members of a new executive board for 2004.

Of special interest will be comments from Multi-County Agronomist Brian Olson and Multi-County Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety Specialist Tranda Watts. Mr. Olson and Ms.

Watts cover Norton, Decatur, Sheridan and Gove counties.

Members of the 2003 extension council are Spencer Braun, Dan Porter, David Sprigg, Robby Mapes, Frank Hillebrand, Eric Thompson, Marilyn Donahey, Carol Riemann, Regina Stark, Connie Miller, Jeanette Lacy, Darlene McEwen, Patsy Maddy, Sue Hillebrand, Staci Briener, Angie Juenemann, Samantha Fulton, Alice Barnett, Gil Otter, Trent Richmond, Lou Goldsby, David Davis, Brenda Mann and Robert Willtfong.

County, employees meet to discuss health insurance

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County Commissioners met with county employees to go over health insurance changes and costs before the courthouse opened for business on Monday morning.

A representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield had met with the commissioners on Friday to go over the changes in the county policy.

In 1999 the county was paying \$340,700 in insurance premiums. By 2002 the cost had risen to \$493,000 and this year the cost will be \$566,600.

Next year the cost of premiums paid by the county is expected to be \$642,200.

As employees entered the room they were handed a sheet with the amount the county pays for single and family health insurance and the total annual premium costs over the last five years and what the cost is expected to be in 2004.

In 1999 the county paid \$258.06 per month for a single and \$572.87 per month for a family.

In 2004 the county will be paying \$488.10 for a single and \$1,079 for a family.

The county picks up the entire cost of insurance premiums for its employees.

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Veterans to march on Tuesday

If the weather agrees, the annual Veteran's Day parade, sponsored by American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, should be a spectacular event. Many people, businesses and clubs, as well as veterans, will march.

"I think this is going to be a great parade," said Second Vice Commander of the Norton American Legion Jake Durham. "I think we have over 100 entries."

The Legion color guard will lead the parade, while the Norton National Guard and the Legion firing squad will give military honors during the parade.

Other entrants include the Legion Auxiliary, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H'ers, Norton County Saddle Club, Knights of Columbus, Methodist Men, Lions Club, Norton Rotary and Eagles Club.

Others will be walking and riding on floats or in cars down State Street.

Entertaining the crowds will be the Norton Community High School and Northern Valley High School dance teams and cheerleaders, the Norton Community High School Band, the Norton Junior High School Band, the Northern Valley High School Band and the Logan High School Band.

Norton Homecoming royalty Brian Luft and Anna Berry, and Northern Valley Homecoming royalty Garth Gebhard and Regan Fessenden will also be in the parade.

The parade is set to begin at 2 p.m. with registration from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. near the East Campus wrestling room on State Street. The Norton and Northern Valley dance teams will begin their show at 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of State and Main streets.

Immediately following the parade, the American Legion post home will hold an open house. Everyone is invited.

At 6:30 p.m., the Veterans Day Potluck Dinner will begin at the American Legion. The public is invited to join the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members. Anyone who attends is asked to bring two dishes and table service. Rolls and drinks will be provided.

The Norton Community High School Jay Singers will entertain for the dinner crowd.

"This is a great opportunity to honor the veterans," said Mr. Durham, "and also the City of Norton for all of their support."