

Friday

November 21, 2003

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Richard Morgan

Briefly  
Banner was not school's doing

Dear Editor,  
Several complaints have been registered with the school district over the banner exhorting the Blue Jay football team to victory in their sectional championship game. This banner was located at the 14 mile corner south of Norton on Friday, Nov. 14 and Saturday, Nov. 15. This banner was not authorized or constructed by any employee or student group of the Norton Community schools.

Sincerely,  
Greg Mann,  
superintendent

Editor's Note: The banner in question exhorted the team to victory with inappropriate language.

Nativity scene  
needs volunteers

The Norton United Methodist Church is sponsoring the living nativity on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Volunteers to portray biblical characters, shepherds and angels are still needed. Call Michelle Marsh at 877-2196.

Annual meeting set

The Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission and Pioneer Country Development will hold its 27th annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Elks Club in Hill City.

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the speaker, Mike Bacon, of Gothenburg, Neb.

For reservations, contact (785) 421-2151 or e-mail nwkpcd@ruraltel.net by Dec. 1.

Weather

Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with highs in the mid 30s. **Saturday Night** — A chance of snow in the evening then snow after midnight. Breezy with snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Lows around 19. **Sunday** — Snow in the morning then a chance of snow in the afternoon. Windy and colder with snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 inches.

Howell report:

Wednesday ..... High 71, Low 39  
Thursday ..... High 75, Low 27  
Week ago ..... High 55, Low 36  
Month ago ..... High 84, Low 49  
Year ago ..... High 65, Low 45  
November precipitation ..... 21 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 18.83 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles West and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Help us, O God of all our days, to live one day at a time. Help us make a difference for you today. Amen



Pageant planners prepare

Volunteers (above) from the Norton United Methodist Church dug out costumes needed for characters in their annual presentation of the living nativity. The production is set for Saturday, Dec. 6., from 6-9 p.m. on the church grounds. An angel is going to need his wings so those are found and fluffed by volunteers (left).

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

City needs people to serve on boards

The City of Norton will be making appointments to various boards and commissions, and needs people to serve.

Anyone interested in helping on a city board or committee should call the City Clerk's office at 877-5000 by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Board and committee members, whose term is expiring, also need to contact the clerk's Office, if they are interested in serving another term.

People are needed for:  
• The Norton Housing Authority, a five-member board appointed by the mayor for four-year terms. The housing authority meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and is the policy-making body for the management of the Norton Manor.

• Norton Convention & Tourism is a ten-member board representing community interests for the lodging industry, the service industry and association groups. Board members are appointed by the Mayor for two-year terms. Convention and tourism meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon and administers the money received from the hotel/motel guest tax.

• Norton Planning Commission is a seven-member board appointed by the mayor for three-year terms. The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to administer subdivision regulations within the city.

• Norton Library Board is a seven-member group appointed by the mayor for

four-year terms. The Library Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The board, established by state statute, oversees the operation of the library facility and programs. Members must be city residents.

• Norton Recreation Commission is a five-member board with two members appointed by the city council for four-year terms. It meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. to oversee the operation of the city's recreation programs.

• Norton City-County Airport Board is a six-member. It meets the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m. It helps administer, manage and control the city/county airport.

Bluejay face copyrighted

You see it everywhere — on shirts, hats, coffee mugs and cars — but did you know that the Bluejay face came from the mind of Kristine Posson?

Ms. Posson said she came up with the idea for the popular icon when she saw a drawing on a poster and

(Continue on Page 6)

Northern Valley OKs annual audit report

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Northern Valley School Board received and approved its yearly audit at its meeting earlier this month.

John Mapes, of Mapes and Miller CPA, presented a review of the audit.

Student Success Coordinator Monica Wilson said that she has ordered new Iowa Test of Basic Skills tests, and explained that the school now has the newest tests available. Ms. Wilson also talked about the school's art program and presented some examples of student work.

Doug Zillinger, FFA sponsor, presented the Advisory Council's goals and achievements. He also gave board members information on his contract extension days.

Principal Dwight Vallin recommended an addition to the K-8 handbook. He suggested changes may be made in student enrollment during the first five school days of the semester. Written permission must be received before the office will change the student's class schedule.

In other business, the board,

• Heard from Superintendent Bill Lowry, who shared an article regarding the negotiations process. Doyle Baird and Alan Woodside were appointed as board negotiators.

• Approved the request from the Norton School District to pick up Michael Crawford at the Tom Brown residence in Calvert.

• Discussed the job of grade school custodian in closed session.

• Was invited to a Veterans Day pro

(Continue on Page 6)

Tax money less than expected

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Like many of its citizens, the City of Norton has been hit in the pocketbook by the downturn in the economy.

Mayor David Corns told the City Council at its meeting on Nov. 4 that the city brought in \$18,226.66 in sales tax revenue in September. So far this year the city has brought in \$154,504. At the same time last year the amount was \$165,094 or \$10,500 more in sales taxes.

The city will, hopefully see a little more money in October as a three-fourth of a cent county-wide sales tax is now being collected. The City of Norton will get 33 percent of the additional revenue while the county gets 58 percent and the small towns get the rest.

"We're hurting a little bit this year," the mayor said. "It's a sign of the economy. Nothing personal on Norton, it's just the national economy."

Despite the bad economic news the council agreed to help out the airport board, which reported that it did not have enough money to pay the November bills. To get through the end of the year the airport will need an additional \$3,500. The council members agreed to pay half the needed amount and asked the board to send the other one-half of the bill to the

(Continue on Page 6)

Hospital chooses new system

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Norton County Hospital Board decided Wednesday night to purchase a computer information system from Dairyland Healthcare for \$490,000.

The Dairyland software package will cover both financial and clinical reports at the hospital. The company will train hospital employees on how to manage its information system on site.

The other system the board had been considering was by Medi-Tech, which would have taken employees to Hays at least 18 times for training.

"Our staff spent a lot of time and deliberation when bringing all the information forward to our board in making this presentation of the two options," said Administrator Richard Miller. "I appreciate all the time and effort involved in selecting Dairyland."

The board also decided to purchase shelving units for a supply room from Creative Dimensions of Oberlin for \$2,616 and to buy a new ice machine from Key Refrigeration for the first floor, nurses' station for \$2,598.

Board members approved several construction change orders in the renovation project at the hospital but, tabled a decision on a change order involving a shaft wall for the laundry chute until the next meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton said that in October the hospital had 330 patient days, 40 admissions, 25 surgeries,

(Continue on Page 6)

