

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

The Blue Jay wrestling squad wins the Hoxie Invitational Tournament and the basketball teams start their season.

Tuesday
December 9, 2003

Vehicle thefts, break-in connected

Police say they have traced a break-in at Pizza Hut in Oberlin and car thefts there and in Norton to a threesome from Norton, a pair of boys 17- and 18-years old and a 23-year-old woman.

While officers haven't released the names of the 17-year old and the 23-year old because charges have not yet been filed, the 18-year old is in the Norton County jail on other charges.

Dustin Rhodig is being held for the

possession and sale and distribution of marijuana and for the possession of drug paraphernalia, Norton Sheriff Troy Thomson said.

Oberlin Police Chief Wade Lockhart said all three of the suspects allegedly broke into Pizza Hut in Oberlin on Saturday, Nov. 29, taking cash, gift certificates and checks.

Last Wednesday, the woman told officers where to recover the cash box with the

checks and gift certificates. Chief Lockhart said most of the cash was gone.

Sheriff Thomson said that he has no proof to show that the break in at the Pizza Hut in Oberlin is connected with the break in at the Pizza Hut office in Norton.

The boys allegedly stole a 1998 Mercury Cougar from the 800 block of Norton Avenue sometime the night of Nov. 30 and drove it to Oberlin.

In Oberlin, Chief Lockhart said, the

youths hit something or damaged the car somehow, and it stopped running.

He said they apparently spotted a Mercury Villager Van warming up at 606 N. Wilson and decided to take it back to Norton.

The Norton County Sheriff's Office recovered the van, which was also damaged. A search of the area at the time failed to turn up the two youths.

Norton, Kansas Home of Sam Manning

Briefly SHARE deadline will be Thursday

The deadline for ordering the December Heartland SHARE food package is noon, Thursday. To order, call the Norton Senior Center at 877-5352 or Ermalea Mason at 877-3098.

Distribution will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Senior Center.

The December package contains 12 ounces of holiday ring bologna, 1 pound deli-sliced turkey, 1 pound cooked chicken breast filets, 8 ounces Subway all-beef meatballs, 1 pound boneless salmon filets, potatoes, lettuce, broccoli, apples, oranges, pears, tangerines and cheddar cheese.

For \$17.25 plus two hours of volunteer work, you can receive all of the food or "SHARE" listed above. You can order as many shares as you want. In addition to the December SHARE you can add the "meat only" package for \$9.50 and one extra hour of volunteer work. This includes the five meats that are in the basic SHARE package.

After you purchase a SHARE, you can order as many December specials as you want.

The Home for the Holidays package is being offered in December. This contains three cheeses and three summer sausages, all packed and ready to give. It is \$16 plus one volunteer hour.

The other December special is "Surf 'n' Turf". This includes 51-60 cooked, peeled and deveined jumbo shrimp and two 20-ounce T-bone steaks. This costs \$20 plus one volunteer hour.

Concert on hold

The Norton Junior High and High School concert set for tonight has been postponed because of the weather.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy and breezy with lows around 16. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Wednesday — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the south around 10 mph in the afternoon. Wednesday Night — Partly cloudy with lows around 12. Thursday — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 30s. Thursday Night — Partly cloudy with lows around 16.

Howell report:

Friday High 36, Low 18
Saturday High 49, Low 30
Sunday High 54, Lows 26
Monday High 46, Low 24
6" Snow
Month ago High 42, Low 31
Year ago High 42, Low 24
December precipitation 6" Snow
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God, forgive our hasty judgments, and teach us to accept one another.
Amen



Nativity comes to life

People driving through the parking lot of the Norton United Methodist Church Saturday night were treated to seven scenes of a living nativity. Mary and Joseph (above) lay the baby Jesus in the manger. In another scene a young Jesus and his father Joseph (right) work at carpentry.

— Photos by Veronica Monier



City makes plans for sewer system update

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The city of Norton doesn't want a new sewer system but it, like small communities across the country, will have to get one because of new federal standards.

"The plant we have today still meets the standards it was designed for — that's 40 years ago," said City Administrator Rob Lawson. "It's tired, but. . ."

The life expectancy of a new system is

at least 20 years, said Thaniel Monaco, an engineer with Miller and Associates out of McCook, Neb., said, but most last 40 to 50 years.

According to new regulations the system needs to be ready by 2005 and up and running by 2006.

The big problem is how to pay for a sewer system that will cost upward to \$4 million.

Mr. Monaco brought some ideas to the council last month on how to pay for the proposed system.

He said, besides trying to get grants, there are two ways communities are planning to pay for improvements. They can get a loan from the Department of Agriculture Rural Development or from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment State Revolving Loan Fund.

The Rural Development makes the city get bonds that the government will buy. The first payment needs to be in 2005 to 2006 and there are some fees, Mr. Monaco said. It also requests a 5 percent up front payment.

To figure what it will cost the city, Miller and Associates first looked at a loan from Rural Development assuming there were

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Group cares for elderly, ill

Norton CARES is a non-profit group set up to provide some of the day-to-day needs for people who are elderly or ill.

Group President Korla Griffey said volunteers give rides to doctor's appointments, to the hairdresser and to pick up groceries; help write checks to pay bills; and just talk and listen.

Mrs. Griffey also said the group tries to reimburse out-of-town drivers at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

Project Director Michelle Bohl said, "We have about 30 volunteers, but we

always need more."

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton, pastored by Rev. Rick Rostek, is sponsoring a soup luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Norton Senior Center.

Matching funds, up to \$500, will be provided by Thrivent, an organization created by combining the efforts of the Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans. Donations will be accepted.

To learn more about becoming a Norton CARES volunteer, call (785) 877-2131.

Almena to look at emergency plans

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Norton County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes told the The Almena City Council about a state-mandated program called Mitigation 20/20 at the council's meeting on Dec. 1.

Mr. Mapes said that Kansas is requiring that counties form task forces to prepare for disasters either man-made or natural.

The group will develop and maintain

a comprehensive plan on what to do in case of a disaster.

Cities from Norton, Clayton, Edmond, Lenora will join Almena in setting up their individual programs. City Clerk Twila Ingram and Council member Kristi Eggers were nominated to attend a meeting on Dec. 11 to discuss available disaster funds.

Nex-Tech employee Scott Sproul was also present to discuss a 3 percent

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