

# Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

Page 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No. 79  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Norton and Northern Valley runners try their legs at hills and flats.

Pages 5 & 10

Friday  
October 1, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Joan Bolt

## Briefly

### Quilting group get into costume

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club are coming in costume to their next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday. The meeting will be held at the Long Island farm home of Irma Lee Gebhard. Members are to meet at 6:30 p.m. in Almena to car pool to her home. The program feature will be "Quilting Horror Stories".

### Ethical wills subject of talk

Diane Frickey, a licensed social worker, will make a presentation on ethical wills at 7 p.m. Sunday, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 102 E. Waverly, Norton. Ethical wills provide family with a legacy of values, beliefs, hopes and dreams, lessons learned, regrets and apologies, advice, guidance and requests.

### Soup supper will be Sunday

The Norcatour Pre-School soup supper has been re-scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Sunday in the all-purpose Room at the old Norcatour school building. They will be serving chili, vegetable beef and potato soup. Donations will be accepted.

### BB Gun group looking for kids

All youngsters between 8-14 are invited to sign up for Norton's BB gun team. Parents and their children are encouraged to come at 7 p.m., Wednesday to the basement of City Hall.

For more details call Teresa Lauer at 877-5181 or evenings at 877-3638.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly clear and much colder with patchy frost. Lows in the lower 30s. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 60s. **Saturday Night** — Clear and not as cool with lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Sunday** — sunny and warmer with highs in the mid 70s.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 67, Low 51  
Wednesday ..... High 72, Low 54  
Thursday ..... High 78, Low 53, Prec. .23  
Week ago ..... High 74, Low 50  
Month ago ..... High 92, Low 61  
Year ago ..... High 55, Low 36  
September precipitation ..... 4.89 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 21.47 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, give us eyes open to see each one we meet with love and concern. Amen

# Man collects \$1,000

By VERONICA MONIER

A lucky man took home \$1,000 last night.

As the rain came down and the lightning flashed, Pat Douglas, Norton, was propelled through the crowd that was gathered under the First State Bank overhang to collect his winnings.

His name was the seventh to be drawn during *The Norton Telegram's* \$1,000 Shopping Spree, which coincided with free pumpkin pie and Moonlight Madness.

Because of the downpour, the drawing, which was scheduled to begin at 7:55 p.m. just before the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce began giving out the free pie, had to start about 10 minutes early. Most of the crowd had already eaten their pie when the drawing began.

"I really hated to start earlier, but the lightning and rain had me worried," said Publisher Cynthia Haynes. "Organizers were asking us to go forward with the (Continued on Page 5)



Pat Douglas (above, right) is all smiles as he fans out the \$1,000 worth of scrip money he won last night during *The Norton Telegram's* giveaway of a \$1,000 Shopping Spree. Publisher Cynthia Haynes (above, left) presented Mr. Douglas his winnings while sales representative, Carol Erlenbusch, looked on. Earlier Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Director Karla Reed made her way to the top of a climbing wall provided by the Kansas Army National Guard. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

# Rain causes early end to Moonlight Madness

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Any store with a canopy was a haven for downtown shoppers last night when the rain poured down on the annual Moonlight Madness celebration.

Hundreds of shoppers crowded downtown Norton, despite the threatening skies.

One shopper said she got there early to buy homemade baked goods on sale by Kowpoke Supply.

Pajama-clad patrons showed up for the mystery movie at 7 p.m. compliments of the Norton Theatre.

Charlene Eastin came especially for the drawing. "I only had one ticket in for the drawing. So I knew I had to be here. I'll go shopping later."

One of the main attractions of the annual event was the climbing wall provided by the Kansas Army National Guard. One of the guardsmen said it is one of only two in the state and is booked a year ahead.

Storms had been building during the evening with thunder and lightning. About 7:20 p.m. the rain came, prompting

event organizers to bump up the entire night's schedule.

With serving tables set up in the drive-through of First State Bank, the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors decided to serve their pumpkin pie early. That led to the decision to hold the drawing for the giveaway of the \$1,000 Shopping Spree, sponsored by *The Norton Telegram* and Norton merchants, early.

Pat Douglas, head of security at the Norton Correctional Facility, was the winner. The Ambassadors started out with 336 pieces of pumpkin pie. Even though lots of people evacuated early when the rain hit, they only had about 10 pieces of pie left.

Rotarian Myron Veh estimated over \$2,000 worth of grocery items were loaded into the back of his red pickup truck during the evening in response to the club's "Pack the Pickup" promotion. The food drive will benefit God's Pantry at Norton's Trinity Episcopal Church. Mr. Veh also said that \$1,000 in cash donations had come in during the food drive.

# Hospital did well, served more last year

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital is doing well financially.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said the hospital had a net income of \$344,600 for fiscal year 2004, which ended June 30. He said that number is down from 2003 figures of \$871,800, but the difference came from the renovation project.

He said in 2003, the hospital received renovation money, which had to be reported as income. However, he said the hospital did about \$1 million more in patient services in 2004 than in 2003.

"Health care goes in cycles," he said. "We always try to maintain a positive financial outlook, or rather, try to stay in the black. Critical access status helps with that."

The hospital went to critical access status in August, 2002, he said. Critical access gives the hospital cost-based reimbursement for Medicare services.

Mr. Miller said one issue the hospi-

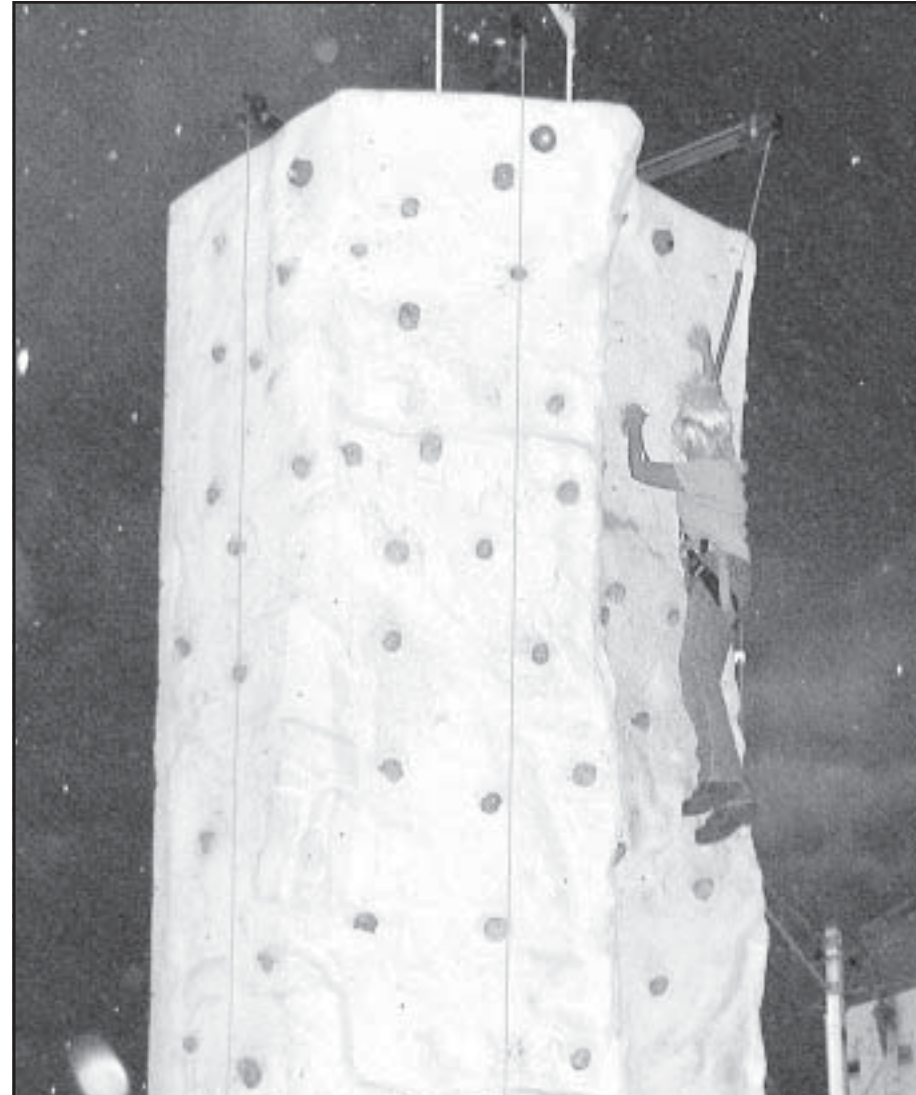
tal has to deal with more each year is the number of patients who have no insurance at all. He said as that number goes up, the hospital has to have its allowance for uncollectables go up as well. When the uncollectables allowance is increased, the bottom line is reduced.

In 2004, he said the uncollectables allowance was \$294,400, which is up from \$161,900 in 2003.

"We had to increase the allowance over \$100,000 in one year," he said. "It becomes an operating expense."

"We are seeing a rise in the number of uninsured in our county. Based on our services, 7 to 8 percent of the people in the county have no insurance. State-wide, it is 10 to 11 percent."

Mr. Miller said the hospital's cash on hand is down from 2003. But, he said, that is because of the renovation project. He said during the renovation, the hospital had to have more cash to (Continued on Page 5)



# County should get anti-terrorism money

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County could get almost \$105,000 for emergency preparedness and anti-terrorism activities next year from the Homeland Security Act for 2004.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes asked the Norton County Commissioners to sign a request on Monday so the county can get money from a grant administered by the state Highway Patrol but coming out of federal money.

This year the county received approximately \$84,000 from a similar two-part grant for 2003. The money was used to get equipment and training that ties into homeland security, including communications equipment like radios for the ambulance service and road and bridge department, and new air packs and cylinders for the different fire departments, among other needed items.

Agencies which have received training or equipment from the 2003 grant include the ambulance service, fire departments, the police department, and the road and bridge department. The sheriff's office

and the hospital both had their own Homeland Security grants.

Mr. Mapes said he doesn't know exactly what the county needs but that he has already heard from some agencies asking if more money will be available.

"Everyday equipment is more beneficial," he said. "but, you need to get stuff that supports this grant."

He said that he felt the county needs training and equipment for decontamination.

"If they get into a chemical agent they need a place for decontamination," he said. "I don't think any of the departments has had any training in this."

Commission Chairman Leroy Lang asked how the county fits into the grant and plans for emergency preparedness.

Commissioner John Miller said that Norton needs to work with the eight-county bioterrorism it belongs to and try to regionalize the communications so that if someone has a problem, everyone can help.

(Continued on Page 5)



# Huskies run well at meet

The Northern Valley High School harriers took sixth place with 157 points at the Hill City Invitational on Sept. 23.

Janelle Fritz crossed the finish line first for the Huskies on the two-mile course in 27th place in 15-minutes, 13-seconds.

Amanda Hopkins placed 35th in 15:40, a four-second improvement from her last run. Joni Hilburn had a 30-second improvement for 42nd place at 16:05.

Knocking almost three minutes off her time from the first meet she ran in, Lindsey Jessup clocked in at 17:42 for 51st. Jesse Redeker also had an almost 3 minute improvement. She took 52nd at 17:47. Jena Jessup crossed the finish line in 57th place in 19:29.

"The girls' times have improved greatly over the first month and today they ran good races," said Coach Lonnie Brungardt. "However, we need to start working on getting up in the lead pack and competing instead of feeling comfortable in the mid-part of the race."

Bryce Marble took first in the 3.2-mile junior varsity boys run in 20:01, an almost four-minute improvement from his first meet.

Cody Lowry had a strong run, taking seventh at 21:28, while Blake Johnson was 10th at 21:51.

In his first cross country meet, Casey Dole took 19th in 22:29. For the first two miles, he ran with the top five runners.

In the junior high boys run, Jacob Gallentine took first place again, this time clocking in at 6:23.

Stanton Nelson was behind him in third place in 6:30, a 13-second improvement.



Northern Valley freshman Bryce Marble (left) finished strong to take first place in the boys junior varsity race at Hill City with a time of 20:01.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble

Tanner Jessup came in fifth place at 6:41, while Samuel Field finished his first race in sixth at 8:51.

Megan Cole took second for the second time in the junior high girls run. She clocked in at 6:54.

Caitlyn Patterson was right behind her in third place at 7:02, an improvement of 1:30.

In fifth place, Alison Cole had a seven-second improvement at 7:19. Christina Anderson took sixth place in 7:20 and Mirah Florence placed eighth at 9:11.

"I'm very pleased again with the junior high performances," said Coach Brungardt. "They continue to compete until they finish."

"Also, the junior varsity boys ran a great race, especially Bryce for winning it and Casey for a great first performance."

The Husky runners were in the Hays High Invitational yesterday and will compete in the Phillipsburg Invitational on Thursday beginning at 4:30 p.m.

# Northern Valley junior high Huskies football team remains undefeated

The Northern Valley Junior High football team continues its season without a loss, after defeat of Arapahoe, Neb., (42-6) on Sept. 16 and Western Plains (62-32) on Sept. 24.

## Arapahoe

The Huskies opened the first quarter with two touchdowns. Drew Eagleburger made the first on a 68-yard kick-off return. Jacob Gallentine ran in the extra points, and then later in the quarter ran 18 yards to score 6. The second points after attempt fell short, making the first quarter tally 14-0.

In the second quarter, Drew Britt scrambled 1 yard for another 6. Two more were added when Gallentine ran in the conversion.

Gallentine was in the end zone again in the second quarter on a 50-yard run. The attempt for extra points failed, leaving the half-time score 28-0.

Britt scored a second time when he intercepted the ball and returned it 40 yards. Eagleburger ran in the conversion.

Arapahoe made it on the board in the third quarter with a touchdown. No extra points were made.

The fourth quarter's only score was made by Britt when he ran 35 yards for a touchdown. The extra points attempt failed, making the final tally 42-6.

"We traveled across the border to Nebraska and beat a good Arapahoe team," said Coach Jim Cole. "The Huskies played a very good defensive game. We are tackling well and playing aggressively. We also had two interceptions and a blocked punt."

"On offense our line blocked well and all three backs rushed for quite a few yards. We are now 2-0."

Gallentine led rushing for the Huskies with 112 yards on 11 carries. He was followed by Britt, 100 yards on 9 carries; Eagleburger, 66 yards on 12 carries; Chaim McMillin, 10 yards on 2 carries; Taylor Hammond, 11 yards on 2 carries; and Ethan Hays, -6 yards on 3 carries.

No passes were completed. Tackles were made by Gallentine, 12 solos, 5 assists; Eagleburger, 9 solos, 1 assist; Britt, 6 solos, 2 assists; Nathaniel Graham, 4 solos, 4 assists; Derek Horacek, 4 solos, 1 assist;

Hammond, 2 solos, 4 assists; Tanner Jessup, 2 solos, 1 assist; Hutch Gehrke, 2 solos; McMillin, 1 solo, 4 assists; Travis Redeker, 1 solo, 2 assists; Eric Woodside, 1 assist; Ethan Hays, 1 assist.

## Western Plains

It was back and forth in the first quarter with Western Plains scoring first on a 46-yard run.

Next into the end zone was Northern Valley's Eagleburger on an 11-yard scramble. The Huskies gained the lead when Britt ran in the extra points.

Before the quarter was over, however, Western Plains recaptured the lead on a 70-yard kick-off return. Both of the Bobcats' attempts for extra points failed.

The second quarter brought two more Husky touchdowns, both made by Britt. The first was on a 12-yard run and the second on a 16-yard scramble. Gallentine brought in the extra points for both for a halftime tally of 24-12.

In the third quarter, Northern Valley scored three successive touchdowns, followed by two from Western Plains.

Gallentine began the spree with a 1-yard dash. Eagleburger brought in the extra points. Cody Callaway was next when he caught a 5-yard pass from Britt. Eagleburger brought in the conversion. The third Husky touchdown was made when Britt intercepted the ball and returned it 36 yards. The conversion failed, leaving the score 46-12 in Northern Valley's favor.

Western Plains' two touchdowns were made when Eric Dysinger passed to Christopher McLain for 26 yards and 43 yards. Dysinger ran in the conversion on the first and the second failed making the score 46-26.

Britt kicked off the fourth quarter with a touchdown on a 17-yard run. Gallentine ran in the extra points.

Hammond made the Huskies' final touchdown when he dashed 1 yard to score. Callaway caught a pass from Hays for the extra points, for a score of 62-26.

The last touchdown was made by Western Plains, making the final tally 62-32.

"Our football team improved our record to 3-0 with this win," said Coach Cole. "We had no

trouble scoring points during the game. We ran our misdirection offense real well."

"On defense we shut down the Bobcats' running game, but had trouble stopping the pass."

Britt led rushing with 128 yards on 10 carries, followed by Eagleburger, 84 yards on 11 carries; Gallentine, 45 yards on 10 carries; McMillin, 35 yards on 2 carries; Hammond, 12 yards on 6 carries; and Hays, 10 yards on 1 carry.

Britt completed 2 of 2 passes for 35 yards, and Hays completed 1 of 2 for 3 yards. receiving were, Callaway, 2 for 8 yards; and Redeker, 1 for 30.

Making tackles were Graham, 6 solos, 3 assists; Britt, 6 solos, 1 assist; Gallentine, 5 solos, 2 assists; Redeker, 3 solos, 1 assist; Hammond, 3 solos; Jessup, 2 solos, 1 assist; Callaway, 2 solos; Eagleburger, 1 solo, 1 assist; Woodside, 1 solo, 3 assists; Horacek, 1 solo, 1 assist; McMillin, 1 solo; and Samuel Field, 1 assist.

# BOWLING

## TUESDAY HOUSEWIFE

Standings Sept. 28 — The 4 Dots, 14-10; D/M Service, 12-12; Norton Co-op, 11-13; Irene's, 10-14; High Line Scratch: J. Wright, 188; S. Smith, 169; L. Leidig, 167; Handicap: J. Wright, 224; I. Rolland, 209; V. Kanive, 208; High Series Scratch: S. Smith, 481; L. Leidig, 466; J. Wright, 441; Handicap: I. Rolland, 584; S. Smith, 583; J. Wright, 574

Results Sept. 21 — High Line Scratch: D. Keiswetter, 168; S. Smith, 167; C. Gerlits, 166; Handicap: C. Gerlits, 220; G. Moser, 211; L. Wentz, 207; B. Bruinekool, 207; High Series Scratch: S. Smith, 461; L. Leidig, 426; G. Moser, 424; Handicap: C. Gerlits, 573; S. Smith, 569; G. Moser, 568

Results Sept. 14 — High Line Scratch: D. Keiswetter, 171; B. Bruinekool, 156; K. Berlier, 154; Handicap: D. Keiswetter, 207; B. Bruinekool, 200; L. Wentz, 191; High Series Scratch: D. Keiswetter, 459; L. Leidig, 413; G. Moser, 410; Handicap: D. Keiswetter, 567; G. Moser, 563; B. Bruinekool, 525

# Man wins \$1,000 in drawing during Moonlight Madness

(Continued from Page 1)

drawing. "It went well despite the thunder and lightning. The crowd helped us out by calling out names into the street. We appreciate it."

Mr. Douglas said he hadn't realized his name was being called. He said he ran across the street, towards the drawing, looking for his son, Kurt, when someone yelled his name. He made his way through the crowd, with some helpful people moving him along, and found out he won the \$1,000.

Julia Gallegos had drawn his name out of the almost 5,000 other names in the barrel. She also drew the names Mary Mann, Norton, and Dave Shearer, Almena.

Just before that, Samantha Embry stepped up to pick out the names Clara Williams, Norton; Myrna Wudtke, Norton; Reta Griffin, Norton; and Cliff Schoenthaler, Norton.

Mr. Douglas said he signed up for the Shopping Spree at Kellie's when he bought a new cell phone.

"I'm going to spend it all over," he said. "I'll try to spread it around."

Julie Douglas, his wife, said she was going to help him spend it. She said they might buy Christmas presents with it.

The Douglas' can spend the money at sponsoring businesses — First State Bank, Pamida Pharmacy, Western Distributing,



Samantha Embry dug deep in the barrel during last night's \$1,000 Shopping Spree, sponsored by The Norton Telegram and participating businesses.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norton Shop and Save, Kellie's, Mudslingers 4x4, Sander Furniture and Gifts, Moffet Drug, Town and County Kitchen.

The Telegram will be right there when Mr. Douglas spends his money, so that everyone can share in the fun.



Kevin Strutt (left) and Vance Scott with Nex-Tech's mobile radio department installed a new base station at Norton County Hospital Tuesday. The base station, a new remote and a repeater on a tower south of town, are all part of the hospital's new paging system that it got with a bio-terrorism grant this year. The new system will make it possible for emergency personnel to contact the hospital from almost anywhere in the county.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

# Hospital in the black for year

(Continued from Page 1)

pay for the projects. The hospital's net accounts receivable is up at \$1,029,000 compared to \$650,000, said Mr. Miller. Because the hospital did \$1 million in new business, its accounts receivable went up by about \$350,000.

He said there are several reasons for the higher accounts receivable.

The hospital has been busier with more patients, it is moving to a new computer system so account billings have been slower while employees learn the new system, and, because of higher insurance deductibles and co-insurances, payments are being made slower

in monthly installments.

He said the hospital's current liabilities were \$723,000 compared to \$819,000 in 2003.

A part of the hospital's long-term liability relates to the renovation project. He said long-term debt is \$1.6 million, which comes from revenue bonds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. He said \$650,000 of it is payable without interest over 10 years. The other \$950,000 is payable at a 3.35 percent interest rate over 20 years.

In addition to the yearly fiscal audit, the hospital also does a yearly Medicare cost report, which says if the hospital owes the

government money or if it will be receiving money.

For 2004, it is estimated the hospital will be receiving \$95,000.

Overall, Mr. Miller said the hospital is financially stable and continues to keep tax appropriations from the county down. The hospital gets two mills from the county, which is about \$75,000 or less than 1 percent of its operating budget.

He said the accounting firm that does the yearly audit also does a statistical comparison between hospitals.

"We compare very favorably to other hospitals our size in the state," Mr. Miller said.

# County to get anti-terrorism cash

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Mapes said he has talked to some groups, which are using satellite phones.

While this is a good thing if the electricity goes out, he said, there is no one around here to service the satellite units.

"I think we should hold off (on satellite phones) until its a little more refined," he said.

He told the commissioners that he is setting up a computer program to record the serial numbers of all equipment purchased with the federal money.

That way if someone asks for it,

he can just run it out.

Also, he said, county agencies need to know that they will have to replace equipment they get through these grants if it wears out or breaks.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Received the 2004 audit report from Hospital Administrator Richard Miller, and Finance Officer Brian Carlton and discussed the problem of people with no insurance, who can't pay their hospital bills.

Mr. Carlton also explained how the Dairyland computer system

will help improve the hospital and clinic billing systems.

• Learned that the clinic has received a designation as a Rural Health Clinic. This will allow them to recover the costs of procedures from Medicare and Medicaid if the cost is more than what is normally paid. This should help the clinic recover more money, Mr. Miller said.

• Were told that the hospital is working on its landscaping. Only the steep areas will be sodded, Mr. Miller said, because of the cost. The rest of the lawn will be seeded.