

Tuesday

December 7, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Mike Vincent

Briefly

Churches offer Christmas music

The Living Word Baptist and Community Full Gospel Churches of Norton will present a Christmas Cantata, "Celebrate the Gift", during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at Community Full Gospel Church, 313 W. Lincoln St. The chorus is directed by Roy Harshbarger. The choir will perform the cantata Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Andbe Home and 3 p.m. at Norton Manor. The final presentation will be on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. The public is invited.

Josh Turner to sing Sunday

The Norton County Arts Council is sponsoring "An Evening With Josh Turner" at 7 p.m., Sunday, in the East Campus Auditorium. Mr. Turner, is a recording artist known for his hit single, "Long Black Train". Tickets are available at the Norton County Area Chamber of Commerce, 104 S. State St. at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Representative to help veterans

A service representative from the Kansas Commission On Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton Social Rehabilitative Services Office, from 1-2:30 p.m., Monday to assist veterans and their families with matters pertaining to veterans' benefits.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. West winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. West winds around 10 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 60s.

Howell report:

Friday	High 44, Low 30
Saturday	High 51, Low 31
Sunday	High 39, Low 30
Monday	High 47, Low 29
Week ago	High 31, Low 7
Month ago	High 77, Low 37
Year ago	High 49, Low 30
December precipitation	0.00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ...	25.75 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, when we are busy and life is hectic, remind us that you are our strength and guide. Teach us again to value time with you. Amen

Business opens in Almaena

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

What had always been a dream for Kristen Brands of Almaena, is now a reality.

The opening of her shop "Designer Brands", on Oct. 30, has allowed her to own and operate her own flower shop and boutique.

It's not like Mrs. Brands didn't have anything else to do. She and her husband, Glenn, welcomed their second child, John Foster, into their family on June 22.

They also have a daughter 3-year-old Sydney.

On July 18, the Brands moved into a new home in Almaena. Add in her work as a part-time feature writer for *The Norton Telegram* and you can see that she is no slacker. So why not add floral designer and gift shop owner to the mix?

"I wanted to stay home with the kids, yet be creative," said Mrs. Brands. "The shop allows me to do that."

Mrs. Brands' mentor is her aunt, Cathy Kimmell, who owns a shop in Denver called "The French Flat".

Ms. Kimmell specializes in home decor. Mrs. Brands credits her aunt with being her inspiration to start such an enterprise.

(Continued on Page 5)



Kristen Brands, owner of a new boutique, Designer Brands, in Almaena, arranged the shelves in her store Mrs. Brands and her husband, Glenn, specialize in fresh flowers and shabby chic tin ceiling tiles designs.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

County has extra sales tax money

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commission would like to know where its sales tax money is coming from.

County Treasurer Cynthia Linner has asked the state for a breakout. Commissioner John Miller said she was told that such a report can be run but that it would take about a week and it wasn't a public record.

Mr. Miller said he couldn't understand why it wouldn't be a public record since the report would be about tax money and compiled from information sent to the state from taxpayers and the counties.

He said he would ask Ms. Linner and County Attorney Doug Sebelius to get together to see what can be done to get the information out to the public, once the county has it.

The commissioners want the information because the county is getting more than twice what it expected to get in sales tax revenue.

The commissioners want to know if it is coming from Internet sales and catalog sales, which are now being taxed under the state's new destination sales tax law, which requires the tax to be paid where goods and services are delivered not where they are purchased.

"We're exceeding what the state said we'd probably get and we're exceeding what the auditor said we'd get," John Miller

Since the middle of the year the county has been getting \$20,000 in sales tax a month but the auditor had estimated the county would get \$100,000 this year in sales taxes.

"We're already over \$200,000," said Mr. Miller.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked about the possibility of hiring a new economic director, when one is hired, they would be an employee of the county as opposed to an employee of the City of Norton so the smaller cities and rural areas would be included.

- Accepted a bid from Lockwood Co. of Atchison for two index books for the Register of Deeds. Lockwood bid \$1,537 while Mid-Continent Micrographics out of St. Joseph, Mo., bid \$1,814, said Register Wanda Vincent.

- Learned the register's office has brought in about \$10,000 less this year than last year from mortgage registrations. Last year Mrs. Vincent said her of-

(Continued on Page 5)

Council extends no parking

By VERONICA MONIER

With the exception of buses, vehicles will no longer be able to park on Wilberforce Street north of East Campus.

The council proposed several weeks ago to make a no parking area from State Street to 307 feet west on Wilberforce. There will be no parking on the south side of the street, which is just north of East Campus, except buses. The north side of the street already is a no parking zone.

Councilman Jerry Jones said at last Wednesday's Norton City Council meeting that the Public Safety Committee met with three members of the Norton School Board and the district's superintendent. He said the school board would prefer if the no parking area was just the length of two passenger buses.

"They have good reasoning," said Mr. Jones. "But there would still be the problem of how to get the buses parked if other vehicles were parked behind."

(Continued on Page 5)

City heads must pay for vehicle use

By VERONICA MONIER

The city's department heads need to keep a log of anytime they take city's vehicles for personal use.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said a few things, such as the log, had to be added to the personnel rules because the Internal Revenue Service had changed some of its regulations.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said one change was that the department heads, with the exception of the police department, will have to keep a log of personal use of the city's vehicles, such as driving the vehicle home for the night and then back to work in the morning.

He said if the vehicle was bought for \$15,300, no matter how old it is now, then each head would be taxed \$1.50 per trip, because its a benefit and they have to claim it as income.

Mr. Lawson said the department heads have been allowed to take the vehicles home because they are considered to be

(Continued on Page 5)

Road and bridge crew busy with repairs

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

It's been too wet to do any blading on the county's gravel roads but the Road and Bridge crew is staying busy in the county shop repairing and doing maintenance on equipment.

County Road and Bridge Department Supervisor Tom Brannan told Norton County commissioners that his crews are busy but mostly inside right now.

Besides repairing the motor graders and other equipment, he said, the crews have almost finished making the 12 screens needed at the landfill to make sure blowing trash doesn't get away.

The crew set up an assembly line on the screen, he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Whitney Construction is supposed to start dirt work on the bridge at OS240, at roads W11 and B, in a week or so.

- Learned that the road and bridge department had put one load of gravel on W9 at K-9 and one load on W10, which is a field road. Mr. Brannan said that was all his crew could do right now because its too wet.

- Heard that a pickup Mr. Brannan was bidding on in an auction at Hill City went for more than the county was willing to pay.

- Were told that Washington Street will be opened again soon for traffic from U.S.

36 on the west side of Norton. However, Mr. Brannan said it will become a T intersection instead of a Y, so vehicles won't be able to take the turnoff at 65 mph anymore.

- Learned the state will be doing a road safety audit in January on road signs in the county and the cities.

- Were told by Commissioner Leroy Lang there was no red light on the top of the Brady Elevator in Norton, which is required for aircraft safety. Mr. Lang said he had heard that the city had shut off the electricity but felt that it is dangerous not to have the tower lit.

Deadline approaches for SHARE signup

The deadline for ordering the December Heartland SHARE food package is noon Wednesday. 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. 18, at the Norton Senior Center.

The December SHARE package contains a 26-ounce pot pie, one pound of bacon, a 12-ounce western style omelet, one pound of ground beef, potatoes, lettuce, baby carrots, green bell peppers, apples, oranges, a 10-pack of Sara Lee

Danish rolls, tangerines and grapefruit. For \$17.50 plus two hours of volunteer work, you can receive all of the food or "SHARE" listed. You can purchase as many shares as you want.

After buying a basic SHARE package, you may purchase a "meat only" package for an additional \$10.50 and one more



volunteer hour. The December meat package contains a 26-ounce pot pie, one pound of bacon, eight ounces of chicken nuggets, a 12-ounce western style omelet and one pound of ground beef. There is no limit to the amount of meat specials you can order.

After you purchase a SHARE you may order as many December specials as you want for \$20 each, plus one additional volunteer hour.

December's special is two pounds of cooked, peeled, and deveined jumbo shrimp and four 10-ounce rib eye steaks

Almena home site of new store

(Continued from Page 1)
“We started out a few years ago when we found a huge supply of antique tin ceiling tiles. At first we just did craft fairs,” said Mrs. Brands. She is quick to mention that her husband creates the designs for the tiles. Her shop features a variety of his work. These “shabby chic” tin tiles have been made into wall planters, clocks of all sizes, mirrors and more.

Fresh flowers are also offered at “Designer Brands”.

Mrs. Brands specializes in unique arrangements and welcomes the opportunity to help her customers with weddings, baby showers, seasonal arrangements and graduation parties. She said she needs a couple of days notice, so she can get fresh flowers from her wholesaler in Denver.

The store is in a sun room addition on the south side of the Brands’ home just across the street from the Almena Grade School.

A separate entrance off the patio offers her customers easy access. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

“But, if we’re home, the doors are always open. Especially if

someone needs a last minute gift,” said Mrs. Brands.

“I thought it would be nice for the people in Almena to have something local.”

She is always watching for unique items at auctions and estate sales to make into design items for her customers. “Designer Brands” offers a wide selection from hand-made soaps and candles from the Sugar Shack in Edgar, Neb., to Barn Candles from Hastings.

Local artisans, who have their crafts on consignment include, Shana Hammond, from Prairie Creek Candles, Holdrege; Marshall Henderson, stained glass; Margaret Breathouwer, unique pillows; her sister-in-law, Vanessa Wilson, bracelets; her mother, Elaine Johnson, needlework; Sonya Montgomery, needlework; Ada Arford, antiques and display units; Deanna Nelson, hand crafted greeting cards; Aleta VanZyl, quilling crafts; and Joan Mann and Elaine Mann, silk flower wreaths and arrangements.

For more information about “Designer Brands”, call Mrs. Brands at (785) 664-4110.

Sales tax money exceeds expectations

(Continued from Page 1)
The office had brought in about \$40,000 and so far this year a little over \$30,000.

- Held a 10-minute closed session with Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Learned that the Emergency Medical Service Department will be over budget due to hiring a fourth emergency medical technician and setting up a first responder vehicle in Almena.

The commissioners asked Mr. Nielsen to talk to the county auditors about the problem.

- Were shown a plaque given to the Norton County Hospital by the American Hospital Association to

commemorate the hospital’s 50 years of membership in the national group.

- Went over how the hospital was doing with Administrator Rich Miller. Mr. Miller said the hospital is ahead in revenue and doing well.

Mr. Miller said there should be 35 to 40 babies born here this year. There aren’t too many rural hospitals which still do obstetrics, he said.

- Heard that the hospital renovation project is finished and the last payment made to the company, which did the work. The hospital is now paying on the bonds and loans it received to do the renovation.

Parking to be banned near East Campus

(Continued from Page 1)

He said he and City Administrator Rob Lawson measured the area and found that there would be a problem with space if it were only two bus lengths. They also measured out three bus lengths.

“We still think the best possible way to do this is to keep it the way we have it,” said Mr. Jones.

He said it would also be easier to enforce. He said they hadn’t talked to the school board yet.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the city needed to tell the school board what was happening in the spirit of cooperation.

“I don’t see the rush with passing this tonight,” he said. “We need to talk to them.”

Mr. Jones said the neighbors have talked to him several times and said they talked to a council member five or six years ago but nothing was ever done about it.

Councilman George Jones said he thought this was best.

“The school programs will be starting soon,” he said. “The safety of the kids is the most important issue here.”

The formal third reading of the no parking ordinance was waived and it was adopted 5-1 with Mr. Hawks voting no.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the newly formed economic development committee will meet at 5 p.m. tonight in the city building. Claire Guston with Sunflower Electric/Economic Development was supposed to give a presentation, but she won’t be able to make it.

- Gave Power Plant Operator Carol Griffey a \$1/hour raise. Mr. Hawks said Mr. Griffey is a retired power plant employee who works for the city part-time. He said due to Mr. Griffey, the city doesn’t have to hire a new full-time employee. He said Mr. Griffey has

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THE NORTON
TELEGRAM



Plans for the United Methodist Church’s annual living nativity production are coming together. Committee chairman, Chuck Look, and his son, Kyle Look, worked late

Monday night setting posts inside the stable scene. The living nativity will be from 6-8 p.m., Saturday night around the church’s parking lot. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Church prepares living nativity scenes

(Continued from Page 1)
them being turned away at the inn.

Next is the stable scene where the Christ child was born.

Then there is the carpenter’s shop, where Jesus learned the trade of Joseph.

And lastly, there is the scene at the cross where Christ died.

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship will be responsible for the more than 500 luminaries, which will light the route for cars to follow.

Admission is free but dona-

tions will be accepted at the end of the scenic drive. Drivers are asked to turn off their headlights as they travel the route and to be cautious, watching for children, sheep, goats and the occasional camel.

Everyone attending is invited

to come inside the fellowship hall after they have been through for cookies and hot chocolate provided by the church’s ladies circles.

Candy will be distributed to all youngsters.

City personnel manual changes with tax laws

(Continued from Page 1)
on call all the time.

However, he said, because of the new federal regulations, they will have to decide whether they want to take the city’s vehicles home, or drive their personal vehicle to work, get the city vehicle and then go where they need to be.

Another change, he said, was that meal money for business trips will be considered taxable income, unless it is accounted for with receipts. Also, unused money will have to be given back.

Finally, city issued cell phones, which are given to supervisory employees, are not to be used for personal use.

The council approved the changes to the personnel rules.

- In other business, the council: Approved the Elmwood Park Speedway race schedule for 2005. Councilman Jerry Jones said Don and Paula Bolt have turned the race track into a successful facility.

ity.

- Failed to pass an amendment to the new personnel manual with a 3-2 vote against it. If passed, the amendment would have added an additional two hours per month of vacation time for the employees who have been with the city for 20 or more years. Mrs. Mann and Mr. Jones voted yes, while Councilmen Jerry Hawks, Jim Williams and George Jones voted no.

- Approved the 2005 calendar of events for the Norton County Horse Council.

- Amended the new personnel manual to say that if the council approved a cost of living adjustment in December of each year, then the council would choose the amount and when the adjustment would become effective.

- Approved the dates of May 14, June 4 and Aug. 13 for motorcycle races. Aug. 20 and 21 are no longer on the schedule.

- Adopted the new Employee

Personnel Handbook as amended.

- Approved beer licenses for 2005.
- Sent notice to the postmaster that it is the post office’s responsibility to clean the snow away from the neighborhood cluster mailboxes and that the city will be enforcing snow removal.

- Heard a clarification from Mr. J. Jones that the minutes from the Nov. 17 meeting show that the Lions Club agreed to purchase a small piece of playground equipment, but that a Lions Club member said they haven’t agreed to do anything but might be interested in contributing.

He also said that he agreed with Mrs. Mann voting no regarding the purchase of the playground equipment because the details still needed to be worked out.

- Learned from Mayor David Corns that the city received \$13,976 in city sales tax receipts and \$11,417 in county sales tax for

a total of \$25,393 for October with a year-to-date total of \$313,029.20. He said last year’s total at this time was \$167,129.35.

- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the new playground equipment has been ordered. He said he talked to both the League of Municipalities and accountants Mapes and Miller and found out that everything, including the ground cover and landscaping materials, can be included in the lease purchase for \$69,355.

He said the pea gravel the city was planning on using met the fall protection standards but did not comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. However, a 12-inch layer of hardwood mulch does comply with both. He said the equipment is expected to be here in December. Then the city will have to have it installed.

Mr. Lawson said the city was setting up a donation system for the equipment.

Sorghum yields vary

Dryland grain sorghum yields varied a lot across the area.

Part of this likely came from the cooler temperatures the area received in August. Rain was spotty and growing practices played their part in determining yield.

Below are the dryland milo results from the K-State test plots at Colby, Tribune and Hays.

At Colby, the grain sorghum performance test was planted on May 27 with a final stand of 24,750 plants per acre. The test average for the 33 hybrids was 50 bushels per acre with a least significant difference of 9. The top-yielding hybrids were Garst 5750, Sorghum Partners KS 310, and DeKalb DKS37-07, all at 62 bushels per acre. Other top hybrids were DeKalb DKS36-00 at 58, Croplan Genetics 340 at 55, Asgrow Pulsar and Pioneer 85G01 at 54, and Dyna-Gro DGX-1737 and Seed Resource at 53 bushels per acre.

- Heard from Mr. J. Jones that the Pubic Safety Committee heard concerns from neighbors and school board members about a possible exit from the parking lot at Quizno’s. He said no action will be taken regarding the matter until a written proposal/permit is submitted for consideration.
- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the pole holes in the tennis courts have been filled in for the winter to help keep water out, and that snow removal went well this year.

About ag
Brian Olson,
K-State
agronomist



planted on June 25 with a final stand of 20,250 plants per acre.

Pioneer 85G01 was the top-yielding hybrid at Hays with a yield of 142 bushels per acre. The test was planted on May 24 with a desired stand of 35,000 plants per acre. The 37 hybrids in the test averaged 120 bushels per acre with a least significant difference of 19 bushels per acre. Other top hybrids were Mycogen 1G600 at 137, Sorghum Partners NK7633 at 135, Pioneer 86G08 and Garst 5401 at 132, and Croplan Genetics 494 at 131 bushels per acre.

To view a complete list of the hybrids, go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/ and click on the Kansas Crop Performance icon, or visit your county extension office to pick up a copy.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail bolson@oznet.ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic.

Doctors Clinic

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