

Church:

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75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

October 20, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of Carol Griffith

Queen of the Kitchen

Briefly

Class offered for parents

The Hays Area Children's Center is offering a Professional Development event in Norton. It will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Norton City Office. Class topics will include Confidentiality: Drawing the Line to Protect Young Children; Build a Better Child Care Business; Prevention First: Play Safe, Be Safe; and Creating the Learning Environment for Preschoolers — Expressing Through Music Activities.

To learn more about this event call Amy at 1-888-351-3589 or 1-785-625-3257.

Voter registration closes Monday

Registration books for the Nov. 7 general election will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23. Registration can be completed at any of the following places: Norton City Office, Alma City Office, Lenora City Office and Library, and the Norton County Clerk's Office.

If you have any questions as to your status as a registered voter, please call 877-5710.

Soup supper set for tonight

The Norton Family, Career and Community Leaders of America will hold a soup supper before the Norton-Phillipsburg football game tonight. It will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. It will be an all-you-can-eat affair with your choice of three soups, relish plates and desserts. The cost is \$4 for adults through children 10 years old; \$2.50 for children ages 6 to 10; and children 5 and under are free. Proceeds will help sponsor the group's activities.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers in the evening then a chance of rain after midnight.
Saturday — Mostly cloudy and cooler with a 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s.
Saturday Night — Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 30.
Sunday — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s.
Sunday Night — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 47, High 59, .30 Prec.
Wednesday Low 31, High 49
Thursday Low 27, High 57
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, teach us how to be present with those who need comfort, when to comfort with silence and when to comfort with words. Amen



Head cook, Erma Hackney, chops onions for an evening meal at the Norton American Legion. Mrs. Hackney is the oldest restaurant cook in Kansas. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Age is no barrier for this Norton cook

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Question: What does the Norton American Legion have that nobody else does?

Answer: The oldest cook in the state of Kansas.

At age 92, Erma Hackney, who has been cooking since she was 19, carries that distinction. And she doesn't show any signs of quitting.

Mrs. Hackney, head cook at the Legion, said she learned that fact from the state health inspector on his last trip through the spic and span kitchen she maintains at the

Legion. He told her the next oldest cook is an 84-year old woman in Hays.

She said she never went to high school and attended Allison country school until she was about 14.

At 19 she took her first job as a cook for a family in Boulder, Colo. She stayed there for a couple of years until she came back to Lenora.

The hospital in Oberlin needed a cook, so she moved there. She cooked there during World War II.

In 1945, she married Herman Hackney. They moved to Glenwood Springs, Colo., where she worked at Mountain View

Nursing Home. She stayed there about 10 years, then went to another nursing home in Rifle, Colo. Mrs. Hackney heard of a new nursing home being built in Grand Junction, Colo., and she determined she wanted to work there.

Sometime in the '70s she retired. Her husband died in 1978, and she moved back to Norton in 1979. She began working part-time at the Legion and has been there ever since.

Mrs. Hackney said she doesn't have any real specialties. She said she is just a good old-fashioned cook. She said she tries to please whoever she's cooking for.

She said she has no plans to retire. She said, "As long as I'm able to go I will. I'm not much for sittin' around and doin' nothing."

She still puts in long hours, arriving at the Legion by 9:30 a.m., and sometimes not leaving until everything is cleaned up after 10 p.m.

She has several helpers to whom she gives a lot of credit. They are Mabel Bohl, Eleanor Jensen and Gladys Minshall. When she has a big dinner to serve, she also enlists the help of Rita Minshall.

Maybe someday she'll retire, but not anytime soon.

New economic director full of development ideas

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Economic Development board learned what its new director, Wade Carter, has been doing since he started at the beginning of October.

Mr. Carter said, with the help of his assistant, Verla Grysch, he has created some ideas. The first thing, he said, was to obtain a list of available workers. Several businesses are short on employees and this could help them.

"We just need to get a few warm bodies in place," he said.

Also, he said, he's been speaking with Shawn Mortensen of Mortensen Computers about getting a website in place. Right now, he said, the county has five or six and they don't really accomplish what they could.

Mr. Carter said he looked at the discoverOsborne.com site and was impressed. He called the woman who maintains it to get a few pointers. She said he could use whatever ideas he needed to

from the site.

Once the main website is up and running, he said he would like to help local businesses start their own websites, if they didn't already have one, and link it to the main site.

Mr. Carter said he has checked into a grant at myhometownhelper.com, which is through Hamburger Helper and can be used for community service projects. He said they are giving away \$15,000 a month until the middle of next year. However, he said, it doesn't really seem like a grant for economic development.

Board member Deena Wentz suggested that he let the Lions Club and other community service oriented organizations know about it.

Board member Donna Foley said it could maybe be used to help clean up the fire debris downtown.

Mr. Carter said he's been looking into putting together a job fair or some kind of

Straw vote margin stays steady at one

By TOM DREILING

The margin hasn't changed. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius still clings to a one-vote lead over Republican challenger Jim Barnett in the Nov. 7 gubernatorial race. Since Tuesday's report, an additional 8 votes came in to *The Telegram* office with each candidate receiving 4.

That gives the governor 42 votes and Mr. Barnett 41 for a total of 84 votes cast so far in our straw poll. One reader who responded to the poll said he will not vote for either of the two.

Tuesday's report had 38 votes for Gov. Sebelius and 37 for Mr. Barnett.

The poll continues through Oct. 31. To take part, simply e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. You may attach a comment if you

wish, but it is not required.

The latest comments include: "The choice is clear. Jim Barnett looks like a leader and sounds like a leader. Let's give him a chance to utilize that leadership."

"Voters of this area should bear in mind that Gov. Sebelius sincerely regards Norton as her other Kansas home. She has worked hard for Kansas and deserves our vote of confidence."

"We need Jim Barnett. After all, Mrs. Sebelius has other ambitions that include the national stage. Mr. Barnett's focus would be on KANSAS these next four years."

"Gov. Sebelius has worked hard for Kansas. She hasn't done everything right, but she is trying to move us in the right direction. Mr. Barnett has no new ideas, just criticizes Mrs. Sebelius."

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