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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Friday

December 22, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of June Kline

Briefly

Papers will print one day late

The Christmas and New Year's day holidays will alter the printing schedules for both *The Telegram Extra* and *The Norton Telegram*, said Tom Dreiling, editor/publisher. He said *The Extra* will be printed on Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Tuesday, Jan. 2. *The Norton Telegram* will be printed on Wednesday, Dec. 27 and Wednesday, Jan. 3. "We hope this doesn't inconvenience you," Dreiling said, "but that's the only way we can handle it in order to give our employees those two holidays off." He added, "Thanks in advance for your understanding."

School's out until next year

Both Norton and Northern Valley students had a little bit more time added to their winter break thanks to the weather. The students of both districts were set to be dismissed for the break at 1 p.m. Thursday. But, both schools' superintendents called snow days Wednesday and Thursday because of ice and snow. Students will return to class the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Commission taking holiday

Because of the Christmas holiday, the Norton County Commissioners will not be meeting on Monday. Instead, they will meet on Friday, Dec. 29 and will conduct regular business in addition to end-of-month business.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s. **Saturday** — Partly sunny, highs near 40. **Saturday night** — Partly cloudy, lows around 28. **Sunday and Christmas Day**, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s, highs in the 40s.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 20, High 45
Wednesday Low 23, High 35 (Wednesday Precip. .85 of an inch)
Thursday Low 30, High 33 (Thursday snowfall 5 inches)
(Readings taken at the Fred and Carolyn Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of all the world, thank you for your gift of salvation. Help us to serve you daily by sharing the good news of Christ with others. **Amen**

A frozen wonderland



Ice coated almost everything Wednesday morning, causing trees limbs to fall on power lines and even a 300-foot tower to collapse. — Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

Winter storm causes havoc in the northwest

By VERONICA MONIER and CAROLYN PLOTTS

An icy rain caused havoc in Norton this week.

People woke up Wednesday morning to a sparkling layer of ice covering grass, trees, power lines and just about everything else. Although pretty, the ice's weight caused trees to fall on power lines, causing sparks and power outages, and a wireless tower to collapse.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city received several hundred calls reporting problems with the power. He

said there were about 65 to 70 actual outages and although two crews have worked non-stop for two days, there are still 12 to 15 services down.

Mostly, he said, the damage was secondary and only a couple of poles went down.

"Our guys are still working hard to get everything back up," he said. "But, it could have been a lot worse."

Fire Chief Mitch Jones said the fire department was called out three times because trees were causing power lines to spark. But, he said, because of the situa-

tion, there wasn't anything the fire department could really do.

Thursday, a Rural Telephone tower collapsed. Ron Ellis, director of operations for the company, said the 300-foot tower toppled because the weight of the ice was just too much. The tower's collapse caused wireless phones and Internet to go down and also stopped transmission for KQNK Radio, Christian Broadcast, the community repeater and the Norton County Hospital's radio. The tower fell on the power line, so they are using a back-up generator, he said.

He said they've temporarily set up a 100-foot tower to get the phones and Internet back up. They were hoping to have the hospital's radio and the community repeater back in operation by Thursday night. But, he said, the antennas for KQNK and Christian Broadcast were damaged beyond repair. Hopefully, they will get new antennas and have those up and running soon as well.

Mr. Ellis said they were running generators in eight counties to make up for power loss.

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Temperatures expected to be a balmy 30 plus

By VERONICA MONIER

Weatherwise, things should be looking up.

Meteorologist Scott Blair, with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said although temperatures will not be precisely warm, they will be warmer. Some of the ice, he said, will hang around and some will melt, but no more is expected to hit the Norton area in the immediate future.

He said to expect a few flurries Thursday night, but that was all. The biggest threat, he said, will be from blowing ground snow.

On Friday, Mr. Blair said to look for temperatures around 38 degrees during the day. Friday night is expected to be cold but mostly clear.

"The weather looks pretty good from Friday until Christmas day," he said.

People can expect partially cloudy skies and highs in the upper 30s and lower 40s.

However, those who are traveling need to make sure roads have been opened before doing so.

Parts of Interstate 70, U.S. 24 and U.S. 36 remain snow-packed and icy.

Businesses closing early for Christmas holiday

Most area businesses will be closed on Christmas Day.

Banks

All county banks will be closed Monday. First Security Bank and Trust will close at noon Friday and reopen Tuesday.

Service Stations

Love's Convenience Store and Norton Total will maintain their 24/7 schedule. Time Saver will be open from 5 a.m. to midnight.

Countryside Sales and Service will be closed all day Monday.

Grocery Stores

Norton's two grocery stores, Jamboree and Norton Shop and Save will both close at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed all day Christmas Day.

Almena Market will close at 6 p.m. Saturday and reopen Tuesday.

Country Corner in Lenora will close at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed all day Monday.

Restaurants

There won't be any restaurant in town open Christmas Day and some are closing early Christmas Eve. McDonald's will close at 6 p.m. Sunday; Town and Country Kitchen at 2 p.m.; Dairy Queen at 6 p.m.; Pizza Hut/Taco Bell at 6 p.m.; and The Cardinal Bar and Grill at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Bars

O'Briens will be open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Christmas Day.

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Merry Christmas