



THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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'Commons' to hit the auction block

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Built in 1980 as low-income housing, The Commons, located on the western edge of Norton is about to go on the auction block.

An ad in today's *Telegram* details the sale's criteria. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is conducting a foreclosure sale of the 30-unit property on Kennedy St. The sale will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, March 3 at the Norton County Courthouse in the Court Room.

Commons manager Virgil Mock said he has bidder's packets for anyone interested in the property. All interested parties must obtain a bid kit before they can bid. A bidder must also have \$50,000 in earnest money to bid.

Mr. Mock works for HCD International, a property management company



The Norton Commons will be sold in a foreclosure sale on March 3 in the Norton County Courthouse. The subsidized housing complex is in bankruptcy. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

said all avenues of income are considered and all expenses are considered, too.

He said rents are subsidized and eligibility is determined by the Ellis County Housing Authority. If an applicant is qualified to receive a subsidy, it could even be applied to private housing as long as the home-owner was willing to work with the agency.

There are 30 units at The Commons with 12 units occupied. Mr. Mock said one resident has lived in the same unit for 27 years and another resident has been there for 25 years.

The two or three bedroom units all come with central air and heat, a garbage disposal, refrigerator, a stove, carport and a storage unit. Tenants pay their own utilities including phone, water, gas, electricity, sewer and trash removal. No applications are being accepted at this

(Continued on Page 5)

Briefly

Blood drive set for Feb. 13

A blood drive will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Norton National Guard Armory. Walk-in donors are welcome; however, those with appointments will be given priority. Please bring your donor card or photo ID. Donors must be in generally good health, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be at least 17 years old. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to schedule an appointment to donate blood.

GOP caucus to be Saturday

Credentialing of registered Republicans will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Norton American Legion for a GOP Presidential Caucus. The caucus will begin at 10 a.m. You must have a state issued photo identification. To learn more about the caucus and the process go to: www.ksgopcaucus.org. Refreshments will be served.

Coyote contest will be on Feb. 9

The annual coyote and crow calling contest will be held this Saturday. All contestants must be pre-registered by 6 p.m. Friday. The contest will begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset. Check in time on Saturday will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at O'Briens rear parking lot, 110 S. State St., Norton. No one will be allowed to check in after 7 p.m. Price of entry is \$30 per two-man team and includes a meal Saturday night. For more information, contact Rick McChesney at 877-2606 or John Baker at 877-3253.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 30 percent chance of snow before midnight. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy with a low around 8. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible. **Wednesday** — Increasing clouds with a high near 32. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday Night** — A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 15. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest. **Thursday** - Partly sunny with a high near 35. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 21.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 17, High 41
Saturday Low 21, High 42
Sunday Low 27, High 44
Monday Low 31, High 41
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God, show us how to love as you have loved us in Jesus Christ. Amen

John Simmelink gave a bidder her handmade wooden jewelry box and jewelry after she managed to get the top bid during Saturday's Chocolate Auction. The auction is a fund raiser for the court appointed special advocate (CASA) program. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Chocolate auction brings in highest figures yet

By VERONICA MONIER
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The fourth annual Chocolate Auction was bigger than ever this year.

The auction, which was held Saturday in Phillipsburg at the Huck Boyd Center, was a benefit for the court appointed

special advocate (CASA) program in the 17th Judicial District, which covers Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Graham, Smith and Osborne counties.

The program was started in the district in 1992 with the help of Judge Charles Worden. The program matches a volunteer with a child who needs

a voice in a court situation. The case judge decides whether the child needs an advocate. If so, the advocate meets the child and everyone in his or her life, including doctors, teachers and family members, and then writes a report and sometimes testifies in court as the voice of the child.

Executive Director Kristal Stanton said they think they raised somewhere close to \$16,000 this year. She said they had about 120 bidders for the live auction and many others who came to show their support for the advocate program, sample the chocolate and

(Continued on Page 5)

Appraiser's office puts in extra effort

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Appraiser's office has been working hard to help with the county's geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

County Appraiser Alan Hale told the Norton County Commission Thursday that they had been working with Allied, the company the county hired to complete the mapping and addressing of all property.

Mr. Hale said the critical part of the project is calls placed and locational data.

At this point, the completion of addressing is critical to making the system work correctly, he said. To get this done, he said his staff is doing a lot of extra work to make sure the county is properly addressed and that each address is identified and mapped as it should be.

Mr. Hale said if his staff didn't put in

this extra effort, making the necessary corrections, the project would most likely not be a success or as successful as the county wants.

When finished, the GIS mapping will be a group of transparent maps that lay on top of each other. Each transparency will have different information on it and, when laid on top of each other, will make a complete whole.

Mr. Hale also spoke to the commission about a couple of tax abatements that are being issued or will be issued in the near future. He wanted to explain the reasoning for the abatements and the value/dollars that will be refunded.

The commission also met with:

• **Jane Wyatt, emergency medical service**, who said on Jan. 30, the service was unable to make a transfer because of the availability of back-up staff. She said one ambulance was already on an emergency transfer when a second trans-

fer out of town came in. The ambulance service is required by law to have a staffed ambulance in service, which is why they couldn't take the second call. She said if both units from Norton were on a transfer, there wouldn't be a front-line ambulance to respond in Norton.

Mrs. Wyatt and the commission talked about sending a letter to the Norton County Hospital Board, explaining the emergency medical service's protocol. The commission said they felt it is very important for the charge staff at the hospital to understand the service's limits and responsibilities when making a transfer to another medical facility. The commission asked County Clerk Robert Wyatt to prepare a letter to be sent to the board.

She said there are seven new students in the medical service class, which is going well. She said she has gotten two grants to help with training and course material

(Continued on Page 5)

Food Check-out is this week

By PATSY MADDY
Norton County Farm Bureau
County Coordinator

The cost of food in America remains affordable. According to the latest statistics compiled by the Agriculture Department's (USDA's) Economic Research Service, American families and individuals currently spend, on average, just under 10 percent of their disposable personal income for food. Applying that statistic to the calendar year means the average household

(Continued on Page 5)