

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

12 PAGES

Friday

December 12, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Vida Perrill

Briefly

Farm bill meeting scheduled Monday

Vesta Hobbs, County Executive Director of the Norton County Farm Service Agency today said an opportunity exists for local farmers and ranchers to learn more about new programs in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). The Farm Bill contains new legislation for commodity, livestock, price support, conservation, and disaster programs. In addition, there are new eligibility criteria that will affect all producers, she said.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to attend the Farm Bill Informational meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building, Norton. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Vesta Hobbs on 785-877-5156 or e-mail vesta.hobbs@

Booster club to meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Wrestling coach Bill Johnson, boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka will report on their team's latest competition and preview upcoming contests. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 29. South wind around 15 mph.

Saturday - Partly sunny with a high near 60. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 29. Sunday - A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before noon. Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 18, High 27
1/2" Snow, .10 Rain
Wednesday Low 13, High 46
Thursday Low 27, High 51
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the people who help me. May I follow their example.
Amen

Mordecai's musicians



Don Mordecai, Norton Junior High Band Instructor, led his students during the junior high band annual winter concert on Tuesday night. The band played a variety of songs, such as "Jazz Chaconne," "Project March," "Holiday Celebration," "Beauty and The

Beast," "Valley of Fire," "Soul Man," and "The Name is Claus...Santa Claus." There are twenty-nine students in the junior high band.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Andbe Home readies for annual celebration

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

The Andbe Home in Norton will hold its annual Christmas celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is "'Twas The Night Before Christmas."

Nancy McGinnis, administrator, will give the welcome before the festivities kick off.

"This is my first year at the Andbe Home Christmas party," said Mrs.

McGinnis. "I'm looking forward to it. I think our staff will do a tremendous job entertaining residents and their families."

"There will be dolls that look like children laying under blankets by a fireplace," said Rose Ann Miller, Social Service Designee. "Sugar plums will be hanging from the ceiling above the dolls to represent the 'visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads.'"

The Norton Community High School

Jay Singers will perform, Volunteer Children will gather and listen to Levina Ingram read the classic story. Then jolly ol' St. Nick himself will appear and hand out gifts to the residents, with the *Volunteer Children helping deliver the gifts to the right people.

"The kitchen staff will make hors d'oeuvres, such as hot wings and cream puffs, and the Immanuel Lutheran Church will bring cookies," said Ms. Miller. "Afterwards, for the Afterglow

Program, Alta Mae VanGundy, the oldest resident at the Andbe Home, will recite from memory a poem she learned in the 30's."

To help bridge the generation gaps, the residents have been learning to play a game on the Wii gaming system.

"They've been practicing for months," said Ms. Miller. "The residents are going to teach their families how to play the game, and they are very proud of what

(Continued on Page 5)

Board again fails to act on baseball/softball program

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

There was no action taken at Monday night's Norton School District board of education meeting regarding the addition of baseball and softball to Norton Community High School sports.

There were no comments from the public when asked, and the school board members discussed the idea among themselves. Board member Scott Ellis said he had heard a lot of positive comments from the public about adding baseball and softball, but that lately, he had also been hearing more negative comments. Board Vice President Jeff Nielsen said he didn't think it would be a good idea to add another extra curricular activity when cuts may have to be made.

Before leaving the room so the board could go into executive meeting, Joe Durham, Norton, one of the patrons who was there to speak to the board about the addition of baseball and softball, asked if he was supposed to speak when the board asked for comments from the public. The board said yes, and Mr. Durham asked about bringing the issue up again before the board. Greg Mann, Norton School District superintendent, told Mr. Durham that the issue would have to be added to the agenda again before he could speak with the board about it.

Rich Miller, who was a mediator for the Recreation Commission baseball program and was at the board meeting in support of baseball and softball as a high school sport, said he didn't know if the issue will be brought to the school board again next month.

Also at the board meeting in support of having baseball and softball as a high school extra-curricular activity were Dr. Lamont Shirk, Jake Durham, Rick Green, Denny Nickel and Dr. Richard Peterson.

Superintendent Mann said he received an email from Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of School Finance for the Kansas Department of Education, for cost estimates for repairs and renovations, energy efficiency upgrades and upgrading technology for all Norton school buildings. Mr. Mann said he thinks this

is just information-gathering as part of President-Elect Obama's transition into the White House.

Superintendent Mann said he will be out of the office on Wednesday and Thursday to attend meetings in Topeka and that the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative meeting has been moved from Friday, Dec. 12 to Monday, Dec. 15.

The board held a discussion regarding the annual staff appreciation event. Superintendent Mann said there has been a dinner banquet at the American Legion in late May for the last two years, but that it could be changed if the board chose to. Board Vice President Nielsen said it seemed like a good time to change things. The board discussed the event, and ultimately decided to hold a dinner banquet again this year, on May 19.

The board changed the wording in the Professional Development Committee's by-laws. Superintendent Mann said the monthly meetings were frequently lasting less than 10 minutes. The board changed the wording so the meetings will be held every other month.

Board member Elaine Lofgreen gave a report on the November meeting of the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative Board of Directors, board member Nielsen reported on the Professional Development Committee, and board member Ellis reported on the Kansas Association of School Boards Convention in Wichita that he attended.

The board went into five executive sessions during the evening but no action was taken when they returned to open session.

The board appointed Don Jones to the Recreation Commission Board of Directors for a four year term. His term will expire on Nov. 30, 2012.

The board approved the Professional Development Committee points.

The board appointed board members Craig Renner and Scott Ellis to serve as the board's negotiating team for the 2009-2010 master contract.

The board paid bills and the meeting adjourned.



Rich Hageman, left, manager at Norton Shop and Save, looked at the ticket he gave to Jennifer Miller, right, Norton. Mrs. Miller won \$50 in the Christmas on Us promotion. Two of the Mrs. Miller's daughters, Erika, 3, and Ellie, 1 were with her to claim the prize money. Mrs. Miller's oldest daughter, Emily was in school.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Resident among \$50 winners

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

First thing Monday morning, Jennifer Miller came in to The Telegram office to claim her \$50 instant winner ticket, which came from Shop and Save.

"Rich [Hageman, Manager of Shop and Save] asked me if I wanted my tickets, and I said back to him, 'Why? I never win anyway.' I'm glad he gave me the tickets now," said Mrs. Miller.

Mrs. Miller said she doesn't know what she's going to use the money for yet, but she does plan on being at the big draw-

ing, which will take place on Thursday, Dec. 18 at the Washington Street Park at 7 p.m.

The total number of tickets in the barrel for the Dec. 18 drawing as of today is 11,648. If each ticket represents a \$10 purchase, that means \$116,480 was spent with the merchants sponsoring Christmas on Us this holiday season.

Five tickets were drawn Thursday evening. There are still four unclaimed. Be sure to look in Friday's double page Christmas On Us ads to see if you have a winning ticket!