

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

December 19, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Ben Bolt

Briefly

One Telegram on tap next week

The Norton Telegram will publish one issue next week and that will be on Tuesday, which will also combine within its contents The Monday Extra. Tom Dreiling, publisher, said the newspaper staff will be taking off the Friday after Christmas for an extended weekend, thus the elimination of the Friday issue. "Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us," he said. Incidentally, the publisher will be gone all next week to spend the Christmas holidays with family in Denver.

Games rescheduled; others on so far

The Norton high school varsity and junior varsity basketball games against Stockton, which were postponed on Thursday, have been rescheduled for Friday, Jan. 30, at Stockton, at 5 p.m.

The Norton Community High School basketball and wrestling teams will be busy this evening, weather permitting. The basketball team will host Phillipsburg. The girls C-team game will begin at 4 p.m. in the Stull Gym and will be followed by the girls junior varsity, girls varsity and boys varsity contests. The boys junior varsity game will be played in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, beginning at 5 p.m. The Blue Jay wrestlers will compete against Phillipsburg and Stockton in Phillipsburg, beginning at 6 p.m. Matches will be in this order: Norton vs. Phillipsburg, Norton vs. Stockton and Stockton vs. Phillipsburg. On Saturday, the Norton varsity wrestlers only will compete in the annual Holiday Classic in Goodland, beginning at 9 a.m. Norton will begin in a pool with Burlington, Hugoton and Hoxie. Another pool will have teams from Scott City, Goodland, Dodge City and Wichita County. In the third pool will be teams from Garden City, Buhler, Pratt and Ulysses.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — forecast here. forecast here. forecast here. **Thursday** — forecast here. forecast here. forecast here. **Thursday night** — forecast here. forecast here. forecast here. **Friday** — forecast here. forecast here. forecast here. **Friday night** — forecast here. forecast here. forecast here. **Saturday** — forecast here.

Kingham report:

Tues., Dec. 16 Low 0, High 16
1" Snow
Wed., Nov. 17 Low 7, High 32
Thurs., Nov. 18 Low 13, High 25
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, help us to set aside time to thank you for your blessings and to remember your presence..

Amen

Lucky thirteen



It took 13 tries, but the \$1,000 winning ticket was finally drawn Thursday night at the Norton Senior Center for the Christmas On Us promotion. Only one \$50 instant winner was not claimed throughout the promotion, which was drawn for at the Senior Center. Winners were, left to right:

Jeannie Wolf, \$50, Coby Nickell, son of Lari Ann Nickell, who won the first \$100 drawing, Leslie Pfannenstiel won the second \$100 drawing, her son Dalton, and Wanda Stephenson, who won the big \$1,000 prize.
— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Councilman upset; issues apology to Bolts

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Norton City Councilman Ron Briery, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Parks Committee, made his opinion known about the way Don and Paula Bolt, former race promoters for Elmwood Park Speedway, were treated at the last city council meeting on Dec. 3.

"It is my personal opinion that the Bolts were treated very unfairly during the last city council meeting," said Mr. Briery. "At the Parks Committee meeting [on Dec. 1], they were asked to bring a proposed race schedule for the 2009 season to the next city council meeting. There was never any discussion about it [at the Dec. 3 council meeting]. The only thing that was said about the Parks Committee meeting was that we [the city] were going to run an ad in the newspaper looking for a different promoter. We should have let them do the

'09 season, then talk about finding new promoters. I think it was wrong, that we should not have done that to them, and as Vice-Chair of the Parks Committee, I'd like to personally issue an apology to them."

Mayor David Corns agreed with Councilman Briery, and said he as well felt Mr. and Mrs. Bolt were treated unfairly.

According to Mayor Corns, in addition to the proposed race schedule, there were three proposals to increase the numbers at the races, both racers and fans, none of which were brought up at the following council meeting.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she wasn't at the Parks Committee meeting and was not aware that any of that had happened.

The Parks Committee Chairman, Kim Snyder, was at an out of state funeral during Wednesday night's city council

meeting, though she did issue a letter to the city council and asked City Administrator Rob Lawson to read it aloud. It stated: "For the record, to those that are concerned about the track, we will come up with a solution for the track all in good time. This motion was made in order to take some of the first steps to decrease costs to the city and to promote fairness to other business. All promoters are welcome to present a plan for the track with the understanding of rules which will be implemented to protect the city. People are always voicing concerns that money wasted on things like this could be used towards curb and sidewalks and other projects that need to be done in the city, so this is one small step towards the right direction. Thank you...Kim Snyder."

Mayor Corns said he had been hearing criticism from citizens who think he voted to end the Bolts' racing promotion at Elmwood Park Speedway.

Mayor Corns clarified that he cannot vote unless there is a tie, in which case he carries the tie-breaker vote, and that City Administrator Rob Lawson, City Clerk Darla Ellis, and City Attorney Karen Griffiths have no voting power whatsoever.

In other business:

- Steve Zodrow from Mapes and Miller was at the meeting to present the 2007 audit to the council. There were no violations, and overall, the city is not in danger of being in financial trouble, even with the current economy. Councilwoman Mann thanked City Clerk Darla Ellis and City Administrator Rob Lawson for all their work on getting ready for the audit. Councilman Briery said he was very pleased with the audit report.

- The council approved all cereal

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'For me?'



Santa and his helpers delivered gifts to all the residents during the annual Andbe Home Christmas Party this week. Marietta Gilmore was excited as she opened her gift bag.

—Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

Shop repairs, donates bikes

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Joe Annon, Norton, works at the Norton Correctional Facility as the Shop Coordinator for the *Wheels For The World* program. He is also in charge of the *Bikes For Youngsters* program.

The Bikes For Youngsters program takes donated bicycles and refurbishes them to like new condition. The bikes are then distributed by charity organizations to families in the region and throughout the state. There are six inmates who restore the bikes.

"A charity group will get ahold of our shop and request a bicycle for a specific gender and age group," said Mr. Annon.

"We'll refurbish one or build a new one from parts, make sure everything works correctly and give it a fresh coat of paint. Then we give it to the organization that requested it, and they in turn give it to the family."

Mr. Annon wants to stress that the facility itself has nothing to do with the families the bikes go to.

"Ninety-nine percent of the time, we don't even know who the bikes go to," said Mr. Annon.

The program puts out about 30 to 40 bikes a month, but Mr. Annon said that about five percent of the bikes go to the elderly population.

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County Treasurer

By CYNTHIA J. LINNER
Norton County Treasurer

December 20 is the deadline for the first half property taxes of 2008 to be paid.

However, since it falls on Saturday, the deadline will be Monday, Dec. 22 without penalty. Remember to bring or send your payment stubs from the tax statements to ensure proper credit to your account.

This year you may pay your taxes online with a credit card or checking account. That website is www.kansas.gov/propertytax. If you have questions, please give us a call at (785) 877-5795.

The deadline to renew your automobile, light truck, motorcycle or motorized bike

tags if your last name or business name begins with "U", "X", "Y" or "Z" is Dec. 31. When renewing your vehicles, remember to include your current proof of insurance for all vehicles.

We need to verify the VIN number, policy number and current expiration date.

Computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. daily for balancing.

The courthouse will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26 and our computers will shut off at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31 for year end balancing.

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Surprise!



Connie German, left, was surprised to receive a rare three-wheeled bike from Joe Annon, Coordinator for the Bikes For Youngsters Program and the Wheels For The World Program at the Norton Correctional Facility. The bike was given to Mrs. German at the Senior Center in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Deep freeze hits Oberlin school

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkansas.com

A pile of colorful, handmade afghans and blankets sit in the corner on the top step in the vocal music room at Decatur Community High.

A big red space heater stands in the middle of the top step, running on high to help heat the room.

With temperatures outside dropping to the single digits Monday and the wind chill a minus 11, those blankets and heaters were put to good use, as the older front section of the building doesn't always have heat.

Garrett's Plumbing of Norton has been replacing a steam condensation line for the heating system since October. That means since then the older section of the school hasn't had 24-hour heat yet this winter. The heater had been turned on every night, but since the sump pump broke and the new one isn't in yet, someone has to be at the school when it runs.

Students, teachers and staff have had to wear coats, sweatshirts and in some cases wrap up in blankets to stay warm.

"It was 45 degrees in our classroom this morning," said Mary Jo Lohofener, who plays the piano a few hours a day at the high school.

She said they haven't had heat all year, and although the classes have worked around it, it's crazy.

On Monday, the students went to the cafeteria, in the new back part of the building, to practice, because the music room was too cold. Mrs.

Lohofener said they have space heaters, but they blew a fuse on Monday.

Around 2 p.m., the heat in the vocal room got up to 55 degrees as the temperatures outside reached a toasty 9 degrees.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said the heating system was turned on Monday afternoon and things were warming up nicely. It's cold outside, he said, and it takes a while to heat up the building. Even when the system is running all the time, he said, it takes some time to warm up.

When the plumbers started the job, said Principal Charlie Haag, it wasn't as cold outside. Then as the project got underway, one thing led to another.

Parts had to be ordered. When the plumbers aren't working on the system, he added, it can be turned on.

Just recently, a sump pump in the basement broke. That meant the system couldn't be left on at night because the basement could fill up with water. At the school board meeting last week, the members approved buying a new pump.

Mr. Haag said they are using a smaller one, but in order for the heating system to be left on, someone has to be in the building. Kenny Black, district maintenance supervisor, started the system at 4 a.m. Monday, said Mr. Haag, and will probably do that all week.

The heating system then can run in the morning to get things heated up, he said, but then in order for the plumbers to work on the system, it

has to be turned off. Students have been moved around to different rooms, he said, and things have worked out. The heating system that's being worked on serves eight classrooms, the auditorium, the old gym and the vocal wing, said Mr. Haag. The rest of the high school is on a different system, which is working fine.

Dr. Cullen said he hasn't really received many complaints about the heat, although he has gotten some comments about it being cold.

"I think most people are understanding," he said.

The condensation line is being replaced now, said Dr. Cullen. It had to be done because of wear and tear over the last 80 plus years. When it failed last year, it caused at least \$30,000 in damage.

The district has a new boiler for the system, he said, but that probably won't be put in until the spring or summer when the heat isn't needed unless it has to be done before that, he added.

Everyone knows the high school is in the middle of a major renovation, said Dr. Cullen. It's about 90 percent complete. The project will probably take another week or two to be finished, he said, so probably by the end of Christmas break, the heat will be running as usual.

According to the National Weather Service in Goodland, the forecast for the rest of the week is for more cold, with a high on Tuesday of 21 and wind chill at minus 19. The high should be 23 today, up to 32 on Thursday and 29 on Friday.

Treasurer now able to issue permits

(Continued from Page 1)

The courthouse will also be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1 and Friday, Jan. 2, 2009.

We can renew regular driver's

licenses and issue ID cards and by appointment issue Instructional permits and restricted licenses for those who have completed a Drivers Education course and Out of

State transfer license. Applicants will need to bring certified birth certificates, social security cards and parent or guardian with valid DL or ID.

Recycling numbers show increase; city officer turns in resignation

(Continued from Page 1)

malt beverage licenses for 2009 brought before them, which included Jamboree Foods, Love's, 1st Stop, Pamida, Pizza Hut, Town and Country and Rainbow Lanes. Councilman Briery asked why the Stonehouse Restaurant had not applied for a license. Mrs. Ellis said she thought the owners of the restaurant are applying to the state for a club license.

• Mr. Lawson gave his report. He said the council approved budgeting for a 3 percent cost of living increase for 2009, and after some

research, he found that the most a city has approved for cost of living increase is 5.8 percent, and the least is 3.7 percent. Mr. Lawson said the increase would be for all city employees, and that it would take effect for the first full pay period of 2009. The city approved a 3 percent cost of living increase.

Mr. Lawson said that between January 2008 and August 2008, the city collected 59,320 pounds of recyclables, between August 2008 and December 2008, it was 69,440 pounds, for a total of

128,760 pounds of recyclables collected from city residents in 2008. Mr. Lawson also noted that there are still a few recycling cans available at the city office for no charge to Norton residents who request one.

Councilwoman Mann asked if after collecting all those recyclables, did the landfill fees go down. Mr. Lawson said the fees did go down.

Councilman Briery said he thought the free recycling bins really helped people be able to recycle.

Mr. Lawson said there is a request from Don McMullen and Jerry Bantam to use Elmwood Park Speedway for the annual vintage races. Mr. Lawson also said that he has spoken with Mr. McMullen, and if the city has not found a race promoter by then, he would be the promoter for it.

The council approved the request to use the speedway for the vintage races.

Mr. Lawson reported to the council that police officer Curtis Black has given his two-weeks notice. Officer Black's last day

will be Dec. 26, after which, he is moving to a new city.

• The council went into executive session for 20 minutes. Upon resuming open meeting, no action was taken.

• Councilman Briery asked the council to approve setting aside \$15,000 from the capital outlay funds for the purchase of a back hoe and jackhammer to use on curb and gutter work in the city.

The council approved the motion, and Councilwoman Mann said she is excited about it, and thinks it is a good move because

the equipment can also be used for other projects in the city.

• Councilman Toby Kuhn said the Public Safety Committee met with the Municipal Court Judge Jerry Hawks. He also commended Police Chief Pat Morel for staying within budget in his department.

City bills were paid, and there being no other business brought before the council, the meeting was adjourned. The next city council meeting will be the year end meeting, on Dec. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Bike shop won award

(Continued from Page 1)

"We like to use the old-style bikes, the ones with fenders and baskets, for the elderly," said Mr. Annon. "Finding a three-wheeled bike is a rare thing, and those are what we like to use for the seniors that don't have a vehicle. They can keep some of their independence and still have transportation."

In 2006, the program won an award at the Kansas State Fair in a contest that was sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment called "Get Caught Recycling!"

"Out of over 400 entries in the contest, Bikes For Youngsters was one of 11 who received an award," said Mr. Annon. "We are very proud of that."

In October 2007, with the help of George Jones, Norton, and the Norton Christian Church sent 153 refurbished and rebuilt bikes to Greensburg.

"They sent us pictures of the kids on their bikes," said Mr. Annon. "It was a really good feeling for all of us to see that."

Some of the organizations that request bikes from the program are Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Norton Senior Center, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Youthville in Phillipsburg and

Hays, and area churches.

Mr. Annon said it can take anywhere between one and five days to refurbish a bike, depending on the condition of the bike and the parts available for repairs.

"The parts themselves are very expensive," said Mr. Annon. "To help defray that cost, we take bikes in any and all conditions, and if we can't get a bike back into good working order, we'll salvage the parts of it that are still good and take the rest to F and F Iron for money. The money we get from that is used to buy supplies or parts for the shop."

Mr. Annon stressed that the program is not a repair shop, and the bicycles they restore are not for sale. Families who need a bike should not call the prison to ask for one, but go through their church or a local charity instead. And most importantly, the shop will take any bike in any condition.

"We've even gotten bikes from city clean-ups in the area," said Mr. Annon. "We've gotten bikes from Hays, Colby, Phillipsburg, Oberlin, Hill City and even a couple of bikes from Goodland."

The program will never turn a bike away. To donate a bike or money to the program, call the Bikes For Youngsters shop at (785) 877-3301, extension 341.

Meeting reminder

The Norton County Commission will meet in regular session at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, will meet with the

commission at 10:30 a.m., and Diane Becker, Economic Development director, will meet with the commission at 11 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

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215 South Kansas Avenue, Norton • 785-877-3361; E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com