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THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Tuesday

December 21, 2010

Briefly

Norton schools out Wednesday

The Norton Schools will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22 and buses will run at dismissal. School will resume at the normal time on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. The USD 211 Norton Schools office will be closed Friday, December 24.

Clinic to close for Christmas

The Norton Doctors Clinic will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 25 and also closed on Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. The clinic staff wishes you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season.

Get a sleigh ride on Thursday

Come visit Santa at his house on the Norton County Courthouse lawn on Thursday Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. Sleigh rides also will be available.

State park office to take a holiday

The Prairie Dog State Park office will be closed from December 24 to January 2. The park office will begin accepting camping reservations and selling long-term camping permits beginning on Monday, January 3 for the 2011 camping season. License bargain sales began Dec. 15, when all 2011 KDWP licenses, permits, and other issues went on sale and are valid for the remainder of 2010 and all of 2011, adding more than two weeks to their value. This includes hunting, fishing, park licenses and permits. Licenses and permits can also be purchased online. Cabin reservations can be made 364 days in advance through <https://reserve.ksoutdoors.com> or through the park office.

Markets

Monday, December 20

Wheat\$6.90
Milo.....\$5.05
Soybeans.....\$12.37
Corn\$5.40
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 19. **Wednesday** - Partly sunny with a high near 33. **Wednesday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a low around 19. **Thursday** - A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high near 29. **Thursday Night** - A 30 percent chance of snow. **Friday** - Mostly sunny.

Kingham Report

Saturday Dec. 18Low 22, High 38
Sunday Dec. 19.....Low 24, High 35
Monday Dec. 20Low 19, High 40
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the mercy, love, and tenderness you shower on us. May we always be amazed by your goodness to us.



Pantry gives comfort to hundreds

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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God's Pantry is a volunteer-run community food distribution center operating under the umbrella of Norton's Trinity Episcopal Church.

Pantry director, Connie Johnson, said 245 families have already been served this year which is 33 more than was served in all of 2009. Mrs. Johnson said the need is great but, the Norton community has always been supportive of the pantry's work.

Begun in 1985 under the leadership of Dr. Bob Long and Abe Schneider, the goal of God's Pantry was to give food, on an emergency basis, to anyone in Norton County. The program operates year-round out of a building on the south side of the church located at 102 E. Waverly. The pantry is open Sundays from 3 to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Johnson said the pantry is not a grocery store and families are limited to using the pantry three times in a six month period for a total of six times a year. However, families are allowed to choose the food they want from the supply on hand. No one is forced to take foods they know their family won't eat.

In addition to accepting canned goods, God's Pantry volunteers welcome the donation of cash which they use to buy staples from local groceries and discount stores. Other non-food items needed include disposable diapers, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, band-aids, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper and personal hygiene products. Donated items may be left at The Norton Telegram office and Pamida.

Mrs. Johnson said the pantry has limited freezer space but, can accept



God's Pantry volunteers, Michael Woodyard, left and Connie Johnson, stock shelves at the community food bank operated by the Norton Trinity Episcopal Church. The food bank provides emergency food supplies to Norton families. Over 200 Norton County families have been served in 2010. – Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

donations of frozen meats.

Long time volunteer, Michael Woodyard said, "We have had great donations. It is wonderful to see how many people are really getting into this."

In addition to Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Woodyard, other God's Pantry volunteers include: Don Johnson, Elaine Mann, Steve Horney, Alberta Slaby and Georgia Briery.

Norton volleyball coach, drama sponsor resign

By HARRIETT GILL
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Staff resignations were presented to the Norton Community School Board of Education on Monday. Peggy Cox, Norton Community High School head volleyball coach and Joan Hale, high school drama sponsor, submitted their resignations.

Superintendent, Greg Mann, told the board that there will be two students graduating from the Learning Center on Wednesday. The graduation will be at the East Campus Auditorium at 7 p.m. Jennifer Boller, Board of Education President, will be handing out the diplomas.

Mr. Mann reminded Steve Berry, Jennifer Boller, April Karnopp and Chris Harting that the filing deadline is noon on Jan. 25 if they wish to run for reelection for their school board positions.

Mann informed the board that Pamida donated \$810 to be used by Eisenhower Elementary for school supplies for needy students. Mr. Mann asked the school board to vote to accept the donation. The donation was accepted by the board.

Other items reported on by Mann were: substate basketball will be at Smith Center; regional wrestling will be at Goodland; Bus #16 will need minor repairs after hitting a deer on Dec. 11.

Gail Roy and Lindsey Bailey, representing the Math Department, presented the board with an overview on the mentoring program. The program has Calculus students helping Kindergarten students with math activities. Mrs. Roy and Ms. Bailey said the program has been very successful.

Information was given to the board about Multi Tier Systems of Support and Professional Learning Com-

munities by Mr. Mann.

The closing of a Capital Credit account with Rural Telephone that had belonged to USD 213 and to request a refund of the present day value was voted on and approved.

Keith Hauser, Director of Technology, was present to discuss the Revised Technology three year plan with the board. Consideration for adoption will take place in the January board meeting.

The board went into three executive sessions for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel.

A fourth executive session was held for the purpose of discussing matters relating to employer-employee negotiations. This executive session was required to protect the district's right to the confidentiality; of its negotiating position and the public interest. No action was taken as a result of this executive session.

City council adds to airport, tourism funds at meeting

By HARRIETT GILL
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The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held Wednesday, Dec. 15 where two public hearings were scheduled. In the absence of Mayor Corns, Council President Jeff Otter presided over the meeting.

Otter, called the Public Hearing for the amended budget hearing to order at 5:35 p.m. The proposed amendments will increase the Airport Bond and Interest Fund from \$36,510 to \$39,438 and the Tourism Fund from \$21,000 to \$25,128. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed at 5:37 p.m. The amendments to the budget were published in The Norton Telegram on Dec. 3, 2010. The council approved to accept the 2010 budget amendments.

The retirement reception for Vance Poage will be held on Dec. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the City Office. Vance has been an employee of the City for 24 years.

The position of Wastewater Plant Operator Trainee will be offered to Drew Eagleburger at a starting pay rate of 4-A.

Rob Lawson said the Utility Plant Supervisor Chris Frack had installed new

aerators that he built at the sewer plant and they are working. The bids for the HVAC system for the Recreation Center were opened on Dec. 15. He has been unable to reach one of the bidders to clarify items in the bid and make sure that the bid meets specifications. He asked the council to recess the meeting to reconvene on Dec. 21 at 5:15 to consider the bids for the Norton Recreation Center so he would have time to confirm that the bids meet specifications.

Lawson reported that the Airport Board had met and discussed the funding options for a fuel tank station. The board is looking at funding options for the REIL lighting system at the airport. This would allow night operations using a GPS system. An application for the funding of a new beacon and tower is being submitted.

Jeff Otter reported the Finance Committee had met to discuss the inmate work crew with the County Commissioners,

Equipment, but not road grader, in county's future

Norton County will not be getting a new road grader but there will be upgrades to other equipment.

The Norton County commissioners decided not to buy a new road grader, a major purchase which they had been discussing for some time, after talking to Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant Sandy Smith during their meeting a week ago Monday.

"Do they (the county crew) feel this new piece of equipment (grader) is essential," Commissioner Carolyn Applegate asked Smith, adding that she understood that the crew would prefer to get several pieces upgraded or improved.

Smith said yes, that's what she was getting from the crew. At some point a new grader will be needed but perhaps not now, she said, adding that no one actually thought they would

be getting a new grader.

"Would their hearts be broken if we didn't go ahead with the bidding process," Commissioner Applegate said.

"I don't think so as long as you go ahead with the small things," Smith replied.

Applegate said that she would hate to take on the huge debt of a new grader if the county doesn't have to.

Smith noted that the crew would like a flatbed trailer since they have been using personnel vehicles to haul the county's Bobcat.

Commissioner Miller said that if that's what the crew wanted, the county would notify the equipment dealers, it has talked with, that it won't be accepting bids on a new grader.

Landowners did not take millings from county

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Two landowners told Norton County commissioners on Monday that they did not take county asphalt millings stored on their land, and in fact, they were willing to help the county out with millings they are owed as rent.

The commissioners agreed with them.

Ed and Allen Braun of A&N Farms came to talk to the Norton County commissioners on Monday about a story that appeared in *The Norton Telegram* on Dec. 10.

In the story, the commissioners were talking about whether there would be enough millings piled in three spots around the county to put on roads being repaired with money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

At that time, the commissioners thought that there were some verbal agreements with landowners for storage space, but had nothing in writing to know how many loads of millings landowners were owed.

After discussing the matter, the commissioners asked County Attorney Doug Sebelius for advice. Mr. Sebelius said that the commissioners should warn landowners not to take any of millings or it could be construed as stealing.

The Brauns, who have land near Rea-

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Norton New and Used Furniture

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