

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

January 7, 2011

Briefly

Signup for classes to be on Monday

Colby Community College outreach will be having their enrollment for classes here in Norton on Monday at the Junior High cafeteria from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Angela Melvin for more information at 785-877-3518.

Free throw contest planned for Sunday

All boys and girls, ages 10 to 14, are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 9th at the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. for registration and the contest will begin at 2 p.m. Each contestant must submit a copy of his/her birth certificate and written parental consent during registration.

All contestants at the local level are recognized for their participation. The winners of the local level will be eligible to compete at the district level in Phillipsburg on Sunday, Feb. 6. For more information, please contact Brandon Weis at 785-346-6151.

Soccer league registration tonight

Registration for the AYSO soccer league will be held tonight at the Norton Economic Development office at 113 N Norton, Suite B from 5-8 and Saturday from 1-4. Cost is \$40. Final registration will be on Jan. 22 from 1-4 and will cost \$45.

Honor blood drive set in Jennings

The American Red Cross will be conducting an Honor Blood Drive at the Jennings United Methodist Church on Tuesday, Jan. 18. The blood drive is in honor of Lawrence Jennings. Contact person for this event is Marjorie Hartzog. She may be reached at 678-2664 (home phone) or 678-3010 (cell) for information.

Markets

Friday, January 7, 2011

Wheat	\$7.22
Milo	\$5.08
Soybeans	\$12.89
Corn	\$5.38

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 18. **Saturday** - Cloudy with a high near 30. **Saturday Night** - A 30 percent chance of snow. **Sunday** - Snow likely, mainly afternoon. Cloudy with a high near 25. **Sunday Night** - Snow and areas of blowing snow. **Monday** - Snow and areas of blowing snow before noon.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, January 4Low 9, High 40
 Wednesday, January 5...Low 15, High 43
 Thursday, January 6.....Low 25, High 51
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, grant us grace and humility so that we ask for your help in all that we do. May you be glorified through our efforts. Amen



Checking out the lights



Norton senior Spencer Shirk pinned Andrew Flanagin, Colby, in 2:34 of their championship match in the Gabel/Jenkins Wrestling Tournament in St. Francis on Sat., December 4. The Blue Jays won the championship and will compete this Saturday in the annual J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gym. See page ten for details.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Dispatch changes coming

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson doesn't want to keep up with the Jones or the Johnson counties but he may have to.

The sheriff's office has received an \$89,000 grant for computer-aided dispatch equipment and services from the State of Kansas Governor's Grant Program.

The money will be used to keep track of where his people are going and what they're doing, he said, and should help eliminate hand logs.

Besides computer equipment for better tracking the money will pay the \$13,000 annual county 911 maintenance fee and the \$1,200 monthly 911 trunk fees, Sheriff Thomson told the Norton County Commissioners on Monday.

While the information will be useful, the changes will be tough on the office staff, the sheriff said. Right now, the county dispatchers help out with clerical, typing and filing, helping out in the jail

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Expensive equipment upsets health nurse

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County Health Nurse Gina Frack isn't happy that northwest Kansas counties will be buying a machine to check the fit of protective masks for health workers and volunteers.

Frack told Norton County commissioners on Monday that she thinks the \$10,000 machine to check the masks is ridiculous.

"It's an absolute blatant waste," she said.

The counties are already required to

check to make sure the M95 masks fit, she said, and Norton County has paired with Norton County Hospital, which also has to check fit, to solve the problem. Several other counties out here have worked out similar arrangements, she said, but the county health people in Rooks County really seemed to want this machine and got their way at a recent regional meeting.

The money to buy the machine, which would be shared by the eight counties in the region, will come from a Homeland Securities grant, she said. The \$14,000 grant specifies that the money can only

be used for the machine and masks, she said, so someone at the state level is pushing this.

After the machine is purchased, each county should get about \$500 for masks, which isn't a big deal.

The masks, which Commissioner John Miller described as basically made of heavy paper with a metal piece to secure it over the nose, are used to protect health-care workers and volunteers, who have to work with those having influenza, tuberculosis or other very communicable diseases.

Besides being overly expensive, Frack said, who will be in charge of the machine, see that it's maintained and make sure that it gets where it needs to be in case of an emergency.

If you have a need in Cheyenne County, she noted, and the machine is in Rooks County, it will take hours to get it to where it needs to be.

Miller said he would call the Kansas Association of Counties to complain.

"Governor Brownback would like to know if there's a better way to spend Homeland Securities money," he said.

County purchases new grader for roads

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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After weeks of discussion and checking prices and products, the Norton County commissioners agreed during their year-end meeting that they would purchase a new dozer for the Road and Bridge Department.

Since the purchase is a major one, the commissioners said they wanted to get the best deal they could.

They got bids from Murphy Tractor in North Platte on a 2008 John Deere and from Foley Equipment out of Colby on a 2005 CAT.

Road crew employees were asked to check out a similar model CAT that Decatur County owns and commissioners asked about extended maintenance agreements and the cost of getting the giant machine to Norton County.

On Thursday, at their end-of-the-year meeting, the commissioners agreed that the John Deere grader would be a better deal since it was not only newer than the CAT model but the bid was more than

\$10,000 less. The John Deere will cost \$68,803.

The CAT was bid at \$78,000, commissioners said.

The commissioners agreed to put \$20,000 down on the machine and pay the rest on a lease purchase agreement over five years.

The dozer, which the new machine is replacing, was not in good enough shape for the bidders to take it as a trade in so Sandy Smith, who has been acting as liaison between the commissioners and the road and bridge department, asked if it should be put out on bids or just scrapped.

The commissioners decided to put the machine out for bids.

In other business, the commissioners: • Heard that Roger Braun took 23 loads of millings although he was owed 24. He said that his truck was a little big so he felt that was fair, Commissioner John Miller said. He was satisfied and so is the county Smith said. The county crews will restore the land and put a fence back up, the commissioners said.

Norton city council approves beer license

By HARRIETT GILL
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On Dec. 30, the Norton City Council resumed the meeting that had been recessed on Dec. 21.

Randy Shearer's application for a cereal malt beverage license for consumption on the premises at the Hardluck Bar and Grill was approved for 2011.

A 2011 license for cereal malt beverage

for original and unopened case lots, not for consumption on the premises, was also granted to Randy Shearer for the Hardluck Bar and Grill. The Hardluck Bar and Grill is located at 110 S. State St. in Norton.

The council approved the Appropriating Ordinance Number 25 as a whole.

As there was no further business, the council adjourned the meeting.

Frosty's melting away



The snowfall allowed children to make snowballs and snowmen but the warm weather has taken its toll on the frosty friends as evidenced by this picture. Just a remnant of its former self.

-Telegram photo by Harriett Gill