

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

October 28, 2011

Briefly

Norton to have late start on Wednesday

In preparing for a transition to a revised educational schedule, the Norton Community School District will have a late start day on Wednesday, Nov. 2. School will start at 10:30 a.m. on that day. There will be no breakfast served on that day and buses will run their normal routes, two hours later than usual. School will be dismissed at the normal time.

Church to host speaker this Sunday

After church on Sunday, the Maple Grove Church will host a potluck lunch at the church. Following dinner, Luann Horchem will present a program about her missions work in Haiti. Church service, lunch and the program are open to the public.

Deadline for tag renewal is Monday

The deadline for businesses or persons whose last name begins with "S" to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycles and motorized bikes at the Norton County Treasurers office will be Monday, Oct. 31. Current proof of insurance to verify the VIN number must be brought with you.

Drivers license renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your drivers license, and a current utility bill with you. CDL licenses must be renewed at a full service office in Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

County to accept unused medication

The Norton County Sheriff's Office will be accepting unused and outdated prescription medication at the Sheriff's

VA Officer will visit Norton on Tuesday

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs will be in Norton Tuesday, Nov. 1 from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work.

Markets

Friday, October 28, 2011

Wheat	\$6.50
Milo	\$5.87
Soybeans	\$11.36
Corn	\$6.27

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, October 25Low 41, High 64
 Wednesday, Oct. 26Low 37, High 48
 .10 Rain
 Thursday, October 27 ...Low 25, High 52
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm)

Prayer

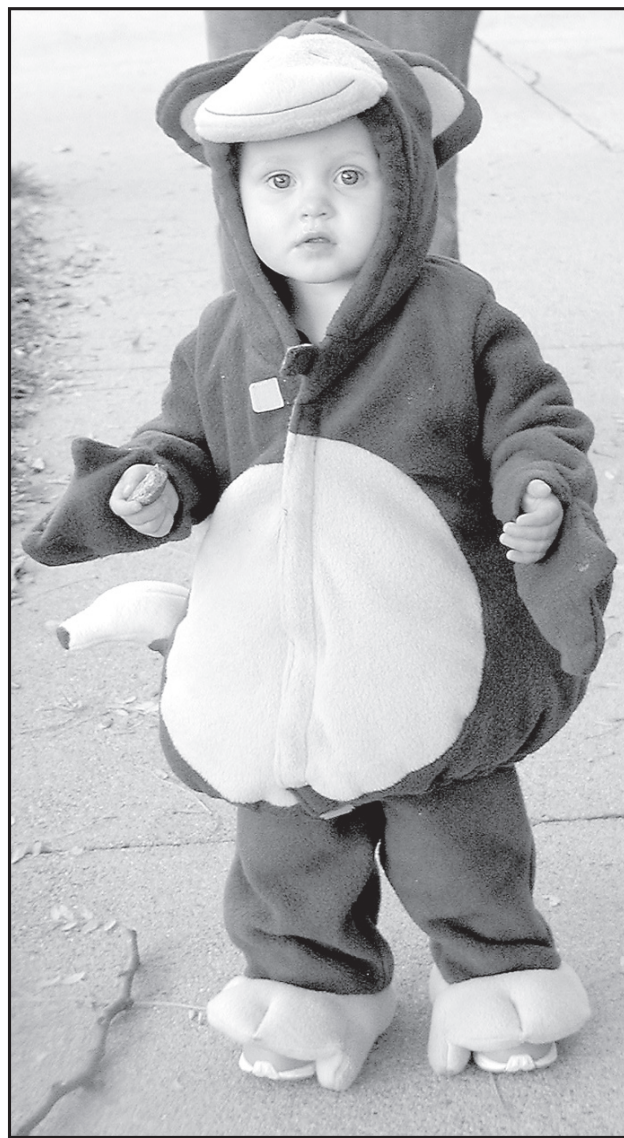
O God, thank you for your constant care and your presence with us, especially during our most vulnerable moments. Give us the strength to endure today's challenges. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Heller festival highlights Halloween spirit



The annual Heller Halloween festival drew hundreds of children and their families to downtown Norton Thursday for an evening of fun. The evening featured a parade through downtown where the children could show off their creative costumes just in time for Halloween. Families were able to enjoy a hotdog meal at the Norton Fire Station after the parade.

-Telegram photos by Carleen Bell and Dana Paxton



Almena unveils community center, city offices and library

By Carleen Bell
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After working for about three years to fund and construct the project, the city of Almena unveiled a new community center, library, and city offices at an open house celebration last Friday.

The celebration included a hot dog meal for a free will donation, along with tours of the facility and information about items needed to furnish the facility.

Almena Mayor Camille Cox explained that the lot where the new facility was built used to house three small build-

ings, including the former community building, which was very small and couldn't accommodate the needs of a public building for the city.

Prior to tearing down the three buildings and constructing the new center, volunteers and community leaders worked for about three years to raise funds for the project. A major contributor to the project was Glenn Brands, who was instrumental in planning and fund-raising for the construction. Brands explained that building is 6,875 square feet, or 125x55 feet. Miller Construction, based in Goodland, was

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County accepts inter-state challenge

By Carleen Bell
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Accepting a challenge that could mean a modern-day Hatfield and McCoy rivalry, the county clerks of several counties in Kansas will be participating in a food drive challenge this year in an attempt to outdo county clerks from Nebraska in collecting food for needy families.

Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt reported that as of Thursday, 14 counties in Nebraska and 17 counties in

Kansas, Norton County among them, had signed up to participate in the challenge.

For the challenge, each county will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items to be distributed to needy families.

The state that collects the most food and money will win a traveling trophy for the year, but more importantly, bragging rights over the rival state.

Donations for the challenge will be collected from Monday, Oct. 31 to

Monday, Nov. 31.

Anyone interested in helping Norton County win the challenge and get a win over Nebraska can take non-perishable food items to the lobby of the Norton County Courthouse from Oct. 31 to Nov. 21.

"All the food collected in Norton County will stay in Norton County," Wyatt said. "The donations will go to God's Pantry to help needy families in the county."

Veterans Day parade set for Nov. 11 in Norton

The Norton American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars will host the annual Veterans Day Parade in Norton on Friday, Nov. 11.

All area schools are asked to enter their bands and other school organizations. All fraternal and social organizations are asked to participate, as well

as churches, youth groups and businesses.

The parade will be begin at 2 p.m. with sign-in beginning at noon at the east campus on North State Street. All veterans, as well as active and reserve components are invited to participate in the marching veterans group, which

will meet in the Christian Church parking lot on State Street in downtown Norton, or ride in the parade with cars that will be provided.

For more information or to register for the parade, contact Jake Durham at 877-2400 or Richard Wiltfong at 877-2459.

Donations needed for Operation Christmas Child

To help provide encouragement and much-needed supplies to children around the world, a group of volunteers from the Norton Community are collecting supplies for this year's Operation Christmas Child.

According to organizers, the group would like to fill empty shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, hygiene items and notes of encouragement for needy kids overseas.

Collection dates for the supplies will be Nov. 14-21. Volunteers can drop off shoeboxes of supplies at the First United Methodist Church at 805 W. Wilberforce on the following dates and times: Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on each day; Saturday, Nov. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 21 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of international Christian relief and evangelism organization Samaritan's Purse, uses whatever means necessary to reach suffering children around the world with these gifts of hope, including

sea containers, trucks, trains, airplanes, boats, camels and dog sleds. Tracking technology also allows donors to "follow" their box to the destination country where it will be hand-delivered to a child in need. To register shoe box gifts and find out the destination country, use the Follow Your Box donation form found at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ

Anyone who would like to get involved is asked to enlist families, churches, scout troops, community groups and businesses to collect donations and filling shoe boxes for needy children.

Step-by-step packing instructions can be found at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call (785) 877-2196 or visit www.samaritanpurse.org. National Collection Week for gift-filled shoe boxes is Nov. 14-21; however, shoe box gifts are collected all year at the Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone, N.C.

County hospital releases annual auditing report

By Carleen Bell
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After an annual audit of the facility's financial statements and documents for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Norton County Hospital representatives presented a report about the findings of the audit to the Norton County Commissioners Monday morning.

Because the hospital is a public entity operated with public funding, the facility is required to undergo an annual audit of financial statements and operations.

The audit for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 was conducted by BKD CPA's and Advisors, based in Wichita. According to the report from BKD, the audit includes "examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation."

Some of the highlights of the audit report include a comparison of the hospital's assets and liabilities from 2010 to 2011. The report indicates that the facility's total assets increased from \$14,095,805 in 2010 to \$16,225,314 in 2011. That increase can be attributed partially to an increase of patient accounts receivable, which increased from \$874,288 to \$1,204,677, along with a substantial increase in amounts due from third-party payers.

Along with total assets, the hospital's total liabilities also increased from \$865,859 to \$1,015,517. Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stover and Administrator Rich Miller explained that the increase in liabilities can be attributed to the construction of the new medical clinic, which opened this summer to replace the former Doctors Clinic.

Though BKD audited the financial reports and statements of Norton County Hospital, the audit report indicates that the auditors do not intend to evaluate or comment on the effectiveness of the facility's internal control over financial reporting. The report states that in the auditor's opinion, "Norton County Hospital complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements . . . that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2011."

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