

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Friday

November 18, 2011

Briefly

Santa and Mrs. Claus are visiting Norton

Santa is coming to town! Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus on Friday, Nov. 25 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Square. Also, enjoy a sleigh ride and hot chocolate and cookies served by Chamber Ambassadors in the Courthouse Lobby. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be in town to visit on the following Thursdays: Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. Sleigh rides will also be available on those evenings.

City office to close for Thanksgiving

The Norton City Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for Thanksgiving. Friday's recyclables route will not be picked up this week.

Pet Society to host trivia night event

The Second Chance Pet Society will hold a trivia night Saturday. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge. The cost to participate is \$50 per team, up to eight people. Proceeds go to the Second Chance Pet Society. For more information, contact Betty Terrell at 877-2157 or Linda Terrell at 877-5219.

Fund-raiser dinner set for this Saturday

The Norton Armory is hosting the 4-H Denver Trip Benefit Meal on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. The menu to be served includes beef fries, ham, beef and turkey. There is a \$6 charge at the door.

School closing set for Thanksgiving holiday

The Norton Community School District will not have school this Wednesday through Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. School will dismiss at regular time on Tuesday and start at regular time the following Monday.

Markets

Friday, November 18, 2011

Wheat.....	\$6.07
Milo.....	\$5.70
Soybeans.....	\$10.86
Corn.....	\$6.05

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Saturday - Mostly sunny and cooler with highs around 50. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy and cooler with lows around 17.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Nov. 15Low 32, High 56
 Wednesday, Nov. 16Low 26, High 35
 3 inches snow
 Thursday, Nov. 17Low 16, High 50
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm
 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to trust you when we feel abandoned, lonely, or rejected. Grant us hope to see the future possibilities instead of the present disappointment and rejection. Thank you for choosing us as your own. Amen.

Pheasants Forever banquet held



Don McMullen, one of the auctioneers for the Pheasants Forever banquet, sat and talked with his granddaughter, Trista McMullen, 4, before he took bids on her "sale." Part of the auction at the fund-raising banquet gave attendees the opportunity to "bid" on some of the children at the banquet with proceeds going into a 50/50 raffle drawing.

By Carleen Bell
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The annual banquet for the Longspur Chapter of Pheasants Forever was held Friday evening at the Eagles Lodge in Norton, drawing a crowd of about 300 pheasant and hunting enthusiasts from around the area.

Chapter President Brock Miller reported that 300 tickets were sold for the fund-raising event and about that many people were in attendance. The banquet featured a steak dinner, games, raffles, prizes and a live auction.

The proceeds from the annual event go back into the Longspur Chapter to support programming throughout the year. The money is used for projects like student scholarships, youth events, hunting awareness and education and habitat creation and maintenance.

The auction was facilitated by Duane McEwen, Don McMullen and Lance Kinderknecht.

Along with the regular auction, a "child auction" was held, which gave attendees the opportunity to "bid" on a child and the proceeds from that portion of the evening went into a 50/50 raffle drawing. The child whose ticket number was drawn also got to take home one of several hunting firearms that were given away throughout the evening.

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization, founded in 1982, dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant and other upland wildlife populations through habitat improvement, public awareness and education and land management policy. For more information or to find a Pheasants Forever Chapter, visit www.pheasantsforever.org.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

State funding will improve Highway 36

By Carleen Bell
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One of 14 Kansas communities selected to receive funding, the city of Norton will be seeing some significant funding in 2014 to help improve part of Highway 36 in the city.

The funding is coming through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Geometric Improvement Program, which provides funds for projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that the state of Kansas is contributing \$750,000 for the city to renovate a portion of Highway 36 from the four-way stoplight west almost to the Roadside Park. While the state is funding most of the project, Lawson said, the city of Norton will be required to fund 5 percent or about \$110,000 of the estimated \$860,000 project.

The geometric improvement project will include widening the selected portion of roadway with a cement surface, renovating the curb and gutter along the street portion and replacing road signs along the street. Sidewalk replacement also may be part of the project.

The city of Norton was required to request approval for the state's funding for the project, a process that Lawson said was quite lengthy. Along with Penco Engineering, based in Plainville, the city applied for the funding and met enough criteria to merit a visit from state officials. A committee of state officials visited the city earlier this year and, after the visit, approved funding for the project.

Because the city will fund a portion of the project, Lawson explained, the city will be deciding over the next two years where the funding should come from in the city budget. While no decisions have been made, the money will likely come from the city's Special Highway account or from the city's street department funding, or a combination of both.

(Highway - Continued on Page 5)

Norton city council appoints members to five commissions and committees

By Carleen Bell
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With multiple current terms expiring at the end of November, the Norton City Council took action Wednesday evening to appoint representatives to several city boards and commissions.

Norton Mayor David Corns reported that the Tourism and Bed Tax Committee, Housing Authority, Planning Commissioner, Library Board and the Recreation Commission each had members with terms expiring Nov. 30.

The Tourism and Bed Tax committee had two vacant positions. The council voted unanimously to re-appoint Brook Dix and Wallace Burton to the committee. The Tourism and Bed Tax committee still has two vacant positions, which city officials reported will likely be filled in the near future.

Terms on the committee are for two years.

The Housing Authority Committee had one vacant seat and August Meuhe was re-appointed to fill that seat. The term is a four-year appointment.

The Planning Commission had two vacant seats for three-year terms. Pat Morel was re-appointed to fill one seat and Rosalie Schulze was a new appointee for the Commission.

The Norton Public Library Board also had two vacant seats and Norma Brown and Lois Krauss were both re-appointed to fill four-year terms on the Board.

Finally, the Recreation Commission had one empty seat and the council re-appointed Holly Puga to serve a four-year term on the Recreation Commission.

The current terms will expire on Nov. 30 and the new appointees will take over on Dec. 1.

Board agrees to computer purchases

By Carleen Bell
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After hearing a report about the potential benefits of the equipment, the Norton School Board approved Monday evening the purchase of 10 new 'Google ChromeBook 11' computers for the school district.

Norton Technology Coordinator Keith Hauser reported to the board Monday evening that the district had purchased two of the laptop computers

to evaluate the possible usefulness of the equipment for the school.

Hauser demonstrated the technology for the school board, explaining that the computers are like notebooks, but use cloud-based storage instead of an internal hard drive. Using Google software and technology, the computer operates solely off an internet connection and automatically updates itself from the internet connection.

After agreeing to continue to evaluate

potential uses for the computers in the Norton School District, the school board agreed unanimously to purchase the Google ChromeBooks for a total of \$4,490.

The 10 computers will be placed in a classroom next semester as a pilot program and, depending on the effectiveness of the computers, more may be purchased in the future.

City to hire up to three police officers

By Carleen Bell
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Amid opposition and uncertainty from some members of the council, the Norton city council agreed Wednesday evening to hire up to three officers for the Norton Police Department to fill vacant positions in the department.

Norton Police Chief Pat Morel reported to the city council Wednesday evening that the department usually has a staff of six officers, but one officer is on military deployment until next October and two of the officer positions are vacant. To fill those positions, the department is conducting interviews this week with potential candidates.

Council member Jerry Jones, who chairs the city's Public Safety Committee, requested that if the candidate pool allows it, the police department be allowed to hire up to three police officers.

Though Morel explained that the department is likely to have a resignation before next October, the department is

required to reserve a position and allow the deployed officer to pick up employment where he left off before serving with the military.

Some city council members expressed concern however, that when the officer returns from military deployment, there is a potential that the department could have seven full time officers, which would pose a problem with city and department budgeting.

"My concern is that we are potentially increasing our budget for next year," said Council member Toby Kuhn. "Hiring three would take us to seven officers and one extra person is a lot of extra expense with salary, training and equipment. That's a lot of extra cost that we hadn't planned for."

In the end, the council agreed by a vote of 4-2 to permit the police department to hire up to three officers for the department, with Toby Kuhn and Donna Foley opposing the decision. Candidate interviews were slated to take place today.

