



Tuesday

December 18, 2012

Briefly

Booster club's last meeting in 2012

The final 2012 meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be this Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria . Speaking will be basketball coaches George Rossi and Doug Reusink and wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

Blood drive will be held Wednesday

The Norton High School blood drive will be this Wednesday, at the High school Gym from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS to make your appointment or go to redcrossblood.org.

Last chance to see Mr. Santa Claus

Santa will be at his house at the Norton County Courthouse on Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. This is the last chance to see Santa before Christmas.

First half of taxes due by Thursday

The deadline for the first half taxes for 2012 to be paid without a penalty is December 20. Remember to bring or send your payments stubs from the tax statements to the Norton County Treasurer's office to ensure proper credit to your account. If you have any questions call (785) 877-5795.

Christmas break to start this Friday

USD 211 Schools will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on Friday for Christmas break. Classes will resume on January 7, 2013 at there regular times.

Markets

Tuesday, December 18, 2012
Wheat.....\$7.91
Milo.....\$6.84
Soybeans.....\$14.21
Corn.....\$7.15
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a chance of snow in the morning. Wednesday Night - Overcast with snow. Chance of snow 20 percent with accumulations up to 1 inch possible.

Kingham Report

Friday, Dec. 14Low 15, High 48
Saturday, Dec. 15.....Low 33, High 48
.80 Rain
Sunday, Dec. 16.....Low 23, High 37
1" Snow
Monday, Dec. 17.....Low 21, High 51

Prayer

Dear Giver of all that is good, what a joy it is to receive your love! Teach us to share it with others as a token of our gratitude to you. Amen.



Lighting contest has five winners

The Norton County Arts Council held their First Annual Christmas Lighting Contest this year and five winners were chosen. There were eleven homes entered in the contest and 53 ballots were cast. The end result was a tie for first place, a tie for second place and a third place winner. Featured in the photos are the two first place winners, at the top, the home of Cory and Gail Roy and to the right, the home of JD and Julia Daffer. Each of these winners received \$100 in Chamber Bucks. The second place winners were Angie Chisham and Wanda Stephenson who each got \$50 in Chamber Bucks and the third place went to George and Donna

Land who got \$25 in Chamber Bucks. A first place winner, Cory Roy said, "It was fun! I think it brought out more lights this year and we were glad the Arts Council did something like this for the community." Julia Daffer, another first place winner said, "I was surprised that there weren't more homes entered in the contest." Wanda Stephenson, a second place winner stated, "It seemed like there were a lot of lights out much earlier this year. I just wish more people had entered." The next Arts Council program will be Melinda Ferree, a Patsy Cline impersonator, who will perform at the East Campus Auditorium on Saturday, January 19 at 7 p.m.



How to increase lifespan of the current landfill

By Cynthia Haynes
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The Norton County Commissioners need to decide if they're going to dig themselves in deeper or not in their continuing struggle to deal with the county's trash. Brian Foster and Steve Berland, engineers with BG Consultants, laid out some ideas for the commissioners for increasing the lifespan of the county landfill during their meeting on Monday. The next pit at the landfill is set to be dug to 20 feet, Mr. Foster said. However, it might be possible to take it to 35 to even 40 feet deep. This would extend the life of the landfill by a lot, he said. However, the downside is that it will cost more to dig and the county must protect its groundwater. Mr. Foster said that preliminary checks seem to indicate that there is a sandy clay layer about 50 feet down in the area that is to be dug. However, he

said, that was not a scientific study. He said that he would recommend that the county do a geology sample to be sure what is actually under there. "I'd like to drill down deeper than 20 feet," he said. "Go down from 25 to 60 feet deep." The cost will probably be around \$20,000, he said. At least that was about what it cost to do the same type of work in the past. He offered to get the paperwork and bids if the county wants to go that way. The county landfill site now is good until 2016, Commissioner John Miller estimated. But the county will probably need to start putting money aside to pay for the new pit, which will need to be built in 2015 or '16. Commissioner Carolyn Applegate thought that the current site should last longer than originally thought because the county is doing more recycling and no longer putting dirt on top of the trash.

The landfill now has a life expectancy of about 40 years, Mr. Foster said. However, with a deeper pit it could be made to last up to 90 years. Commissioner Miller asked what Mr. Foster thought it would take to do the new pit and was told by Mr. Foster that if the county went for the deeper pit, the cost would be about \$750,000. That investment, he said, will cost more up front but should save the county a lot of money and trouble down the road. If the county stays with the present plan the cost will end up to be about \$500,000 by the time the landfill area is used up. "You have to be pretty forward thinking to do this but after these (pits) are filled in you will have to buy new land and get it permitted again," Mr. Foster said. (It took the county a lot of time and money to get the present landfill set up after the incinerator it was using would no longer work.) "This is just going deeper in the same

pit," Mr. Foster explained. "That is my recommendation, looking at it from your grandchildren's perspective." He also noted that the landfill could probably be financed. He figured the the three-quarter of a million dollars borrowed at 3.5 percent for 20 years would cost the county about \$50,000 a year, which is almost what Norton County is spending on the landfill now, he said. Mr. Berland, who has worked with

(Landfill - Continued on Page 5)

USD 211 makes statement on school tragedy

The recent tragedy in Newtown, CT brings home the fact that we live in an open and, therefore, vulnerable society. It also brings home the fact that no place is off limits to a deranged individual. In USD 211, the safety and security of our students and staff is our #1 priority. We have emergency procedures in place on which to rely if we should ever be faced with an emergency of such proportions. The USD 211 crisis team is reviewing our emergency procedures and our teachers and staff are also reviewing those procedures. In the months to come we will be looking at things which may enhance the security of our students and staff without our schools having to be fortresses. Some of these changes may lead to minor inconveniences for our students, staff and visitors but the purpose will be to enhance the safety of all while in our schools. Please keep the families and residents of Newtown, CT, who have suffered such tragic loss, in your thoughts and prayers.

The sweet taste of victory, winners

By Dana Paxton
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The sixth annual Norton Telegram Cookie Contest was held last Monday and raised over \$243 for God's Pantry. There were six adults entered this year and four children. Everything from sugar cookies to fudge was put out for judging. The contest is normally held on a Thursday but this year it was decided to move it to Monday so that more people would have the time to get their baking done and get entered. "We did have more entries than in the past two years but I was disappointed that more people didn't come in and vote for their favorite cookie. In years past we have raised more money for God's Pantry and this year it was as if the public didn't understand how the process worked even after six years. The process is so simple, put a quarter in the box for every cookie you try,"



This year's first place Norton Annual Cookie Contest winners were Lynn Hehn in the adult division and Althea Paxton for the child's division. Telegram General Manager Dana Paxton stated. This year's winners in the adult division were Janine Shearer in third, Shawn Schock in second and Lynn

Hehn taking first with her sugar cookies. As for the child's division, Addison Brooks placed third, Tana Breiner got second and Althea Paxton took first with her popcorn balls. Many wonderful prizes were donated to the winners again this year. Destination Kitchen presented the winners with cookbooks, portion cups, brownie mixes and other great items from their store. Stitch Up a Storm made both first place winners an embroidered apron. Endzone gave trophies and ribbons and the theatre gave movie passes. Garden Gate Florals Etc. gave winners towels and pot holders, measuring spoons and muffin tins and the Norton Telegram also donated several cooking items. The winners as well as the Telegram and God's Pantry extend their gratitude to all of the sponsors for their gracious donations and to those that came in and voted.

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