

# Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 83  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Norton Junior High loses final football game. Norton volleyball third in league. Norton gridders head for Russell tonight.

Pages 9, 10, 12

## Friday

October 21, 2005

Norton, Kansas

Home of Linda Donovan

### Briefly

## Vocal concert set for Tuesday

The Norton junior and senior high school vocal concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Both choirs and the Jay Singers will perform.

Each choir will sing five selections and the Jay Singers will sing three.

The public is invited.

## Childbirth class to be held next week

Childbirth education and family health classes meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday in the basement of Norton County Hospital. There are four classes per month covering subjects like staying healthy during pregnancy, pain management, breathing and relaxation, water labor and birth and baby safety. Cost of the four-week program is \$25. Class instructors are Dr. Glenda Mauer, M.D., Kay Garman, certified Nurse Mid-Wife, Joan Streck, R.N., and Buffie Severns, R.N. To learn more about these classes call Mrs. Severns at the hospital at 877-3351.

## Soup supper will be Saturday

The Norcatour United Methodist Church invites everyone to their annual Soup Supper and Church Bazaar. Serving begins at 5 p.m., Saturday at the Educational Building in Norcatour. The bazaar will follow with handmade craft items, baked goods and quilts being auctioned.

### Weather

#### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 30s. North winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.  
**Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers in the morning. Highs in the mid 50s. South winds around 10 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon.

#### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 85, Low 47  
Wednesday ..... High 60, Low 45  
    .40 of an inch of precipitation  
Thursday ..... High 64, Low 42  
Week ago ..... High 76, Low 44  
Month ago ..... High 92, Low 63  
Year ago ..... High 54, Low 50  
October precipitation ..... 1.81 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 21.36 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm  
10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

### Prayer

Dear God, help us to make room in our hearts for those who need us, whether they be friend or stranger. Guide us to show your love through sharing our love. Amen



The Eisenhower Elementary third and fourth grade vocal concert was a hit Tuesday night. The concert focused on Tall Tales and the students heroes. Erin Archer (left) did a number of Calamity Jane, while Tye Nickell (above) portrayed George Washington.

— Telegram photos by Charlotte Stephenson

## County landfill ready to open

By VERONICA MONIER

After several years of work, worry and frustration, the Norton County landfill is ready to be used.

Pat Cox, an engineer for the county's engineers, BG Consultants, told the commissioners on Oct. 11 that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has approved the permit for the construction and demolition pit, which means that the landfill can now be used.

He said health and environment also gave permission for the county to alter the daily landfill cover.

Norton County, he said, will be a pilot county to experiment with using cover on a three-week rotation as opposed to using a daily cover.

Normally, the state requires landfills to put six inches of dirt on top of the

trash each night to prevent blowing and fire. However, the Norton County commissioners asked to be able to spread a fire-resistant paper product on the trash each night and dirt only once a week in order to make the pit last longer.

"So we're ready to dump trash in there," asked Commissioner Leroy Lang of Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald.

Mr. Archibald said yes. He said the dirt work was finished and they just needed to get it seeded.

"We are an official municipal solid waste landfill as of yesterday," he said.

Commissioner John Miller said the first thing that needed to be done was to get the machine to distribute the  
(Continued on Page 5)

## Norton man upset about increase in water rates

By VERONICA MONIER

One Norton resident was not happy about the increase in water rates and told the Norton City Council so at a public hearing held at Wednesday's meeting.

Businessman Jim Gordon said the city needed to look at the increase in utilities and what it was going to do to residents.

"You might as well dig a hole and throw yourselves into it," he said. "People are going to stop watering their yards. The town is going to look like a desert and you're not going to get the money you want."

Councilman Ron Briery said the city didn't have a choice in raising the rates to pay for the water plant project. He said the

Kansas Department of Health and Environment would fine the city up to \$10,000 a day if it didn't do anything. That's \$3.6 million a year, he said.

"We don't want our water (rates) going up any more than you do," he said. "But we don't have a choice."

"So let them fine us," said Mr. Gordon.

"What are they going to do?"

Mr. Briery said the state will come and shut the city's plant down.

Mr. Gordon asked what army was going to do that and then told them to find some other way to pay for it.

"Get bonds. Do something," he said.

"They can't shut us down."  
(Continued on Page 5)

## Secretary talks about area's problems

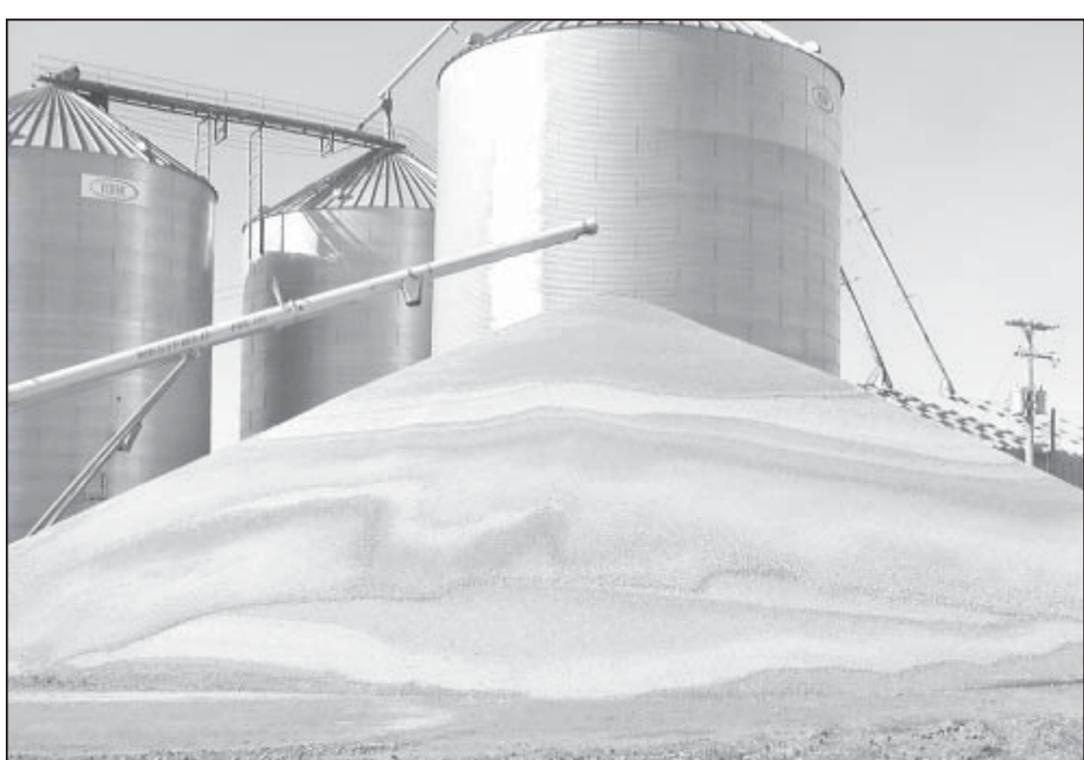
By VERONICA MONIER

Mike Hayden, secretary of the Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks and former governor, talked about the problems this area faces at a Northwest Kansas county commissioners and highway officials meeting Monday.

Mr. Hayden said the population in northwest Kansas is decreasing and that there isn't a single county in the area that is gaining population.

Wallace and Greeley counties only have two people per square mile; Ellis County is the only one in in the area with 20 or more people per square mile.

Between 1980 and 2004, the percentage change in population has been on a downward slide. Norton County has had a 13.35 percent decrease, while Rawlins County suffered the greatest loss of more than 30 percent.  
(Continued on Page 5)



A mountain of milo, stored on the ground at Reager, looked like a southwest desert landscape.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Man mad about rates

(Continued from Page 1)  
 "People are going to go somewhere else. Everyone's gonna leave. Then the town's going to be dead."

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city was issuing bonds. Also, the city is spreading the repayment of the loan out over 40 years to help with the increases.

"We've tried to find some way around it," he said. "But, there isn't a way around it. We did a study of other cities and our rates are comparable."

Thaniel Monaco, an engineer with Miller and Associates out of McCook, said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment oversees municipal water and waste water. They, in turn, are regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which is the one changing the regulations regarding water quality. The change in regulations is one of the reason Norton is having to build both a new water plant and a new waste water plant.

Also, he said, McCook has resisted the changes and the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency has the ability to fine the city up to \$4.3 million.

"How are they going to collect it," Mr. Gordon asked.

Mr. Monaco said the city won't be writing a check, but a good deal of the money it gets comes from the state. The state can stop sending the money the city gets.

"A lot of the communities in northwest Kansas are in the same situation you are," he said.

Dave Barber with the U.S. Department of Agriculture said a good chunk of the money the city is using to do this project is going to be a grant, so the city won't have to pay it all back.

The council passed Resolution 19-2005, adopting and providing for standards for procurement, bidding and contract awards for the water project.

In other business, the mayor:

- Signed the necessary paperwork so the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the city can proceed with getting the necessary money for the project.

## Landfill ready for use

(Continued from Page 1)  
 cover material. He said Mr. Archibald needed to get a second bid for the machine.

Mr. Archibald said he would see what he could do.

Also, he said, a letter will be going out saying that the only trash the cities will be picking up is trash that is bagged. No loose trash, he said.

"When the incinerator started, it was supposed to be bagged," he said. "We were good at first, but then got lax about it."

The trash being bagged will keep it from blowing in the streets.

However, he said, there are some things that can't fit in a bag, like a television, and that's understandable. The bagging requirement, he said, is mainly for loose trash.

In other business, the commission:

- Agreed to pay \$100 to allow County Health Supervisor Gina Frack to attend a course that will allow her to get a "certification of public health." The total cost of the course, she said, is \$1,100, but a grant will pay for \$1,000 of it. Mrs. Frack said the class will be two days a month for one year in Hays.

"They are trying to give us more

universal training for administrators," she said.

- Discussed insuring a cargo trailer that was bought with bioterrorism money. Mrs. Frack said the trailer is being stored at the hospital and county departments will be able to use it. But, she said, the county needed to insure it. The commission told her to speak with the Kansas County Association Multi-line Pool, which takes care of county property insurance.

- Asked Mrs. Frack to get additional bids for employee photo identification equipment. Mrs. Frack said with recent events, it is necessary for employees to have photo identification. She estimated the cost for the equipment is \$3,000.

- Agreed to pay for flu shots for county employees. Mrs. Frack said last year, about 20 percent of county employees got the shots, which cost the county less than \$200 at \$17 a shot. This year, she said, shots will cost \$20 each.

- Went into two closed sessions. The first for five minutes with Mrs. Frack. The second was for 15 minutes with County Attorney Karen Griffiths and County Counselor Doug Sebelius.

## Population topic of meeting

(Continued from Page 1)  
 "There are also a lot of other counties out here with considerable loss," he said. "Only Ellis County has had a positive change at 4.27 percent."

Mr. Hayden said in 1930 it took three and a half northwest Kansas counties to equal the population of Douglas County, while in 1950 it was six and in 1970, 12. Now, he said, it would take all of northwest Kansas to equal the population of Douglas County.

"The trend to urbanize is continuing," he said. "Small and medium-sized counties are losing population, while metro counties are getting bigger. There are nine metro counties out of the 105 in the state."

Mr. Hayden said it wasn't just shifts in population, but also aging that was part of the problem. The Great Plains, he said, has an older population than just about anywhere else in the country.

Also, during the last 40 years, the number of farms has decreased nearly 50 percent, while farm size is getting bigger.

This trend will continue, he said. As for water, Mr. Hayden said while the Ogallala Aquifer covers

most of Nebraska, it is very irregular in Kansas.

Overall, he said, there isn't enough water to sustain long-term agriculture in most counties. In some areas there is less than 25 years of water left, while other areas, although very small, will have water for the foreseeable future.

"There will be tremendous fundamental changes in agriculture over the next 25 years," he said.

Mr. Hayden said the face of Kansas is changing. People are going to have to start changing agricultural practices, changing the way water is used and possibly looking at new sources of energy such as wind energy.

There will have to be diversification, including agri-tourism, eco-tourism, bio-science such as ethanol, and possible free land to entice some population back into the area.

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Traffic was detoured for awhile last Friday as Kansas Department of Transportation workers relaid a layer of asphalt on parts of U.S. 36 and U.S. 283. On U.S. 283 (above) traffic was reduced to one lane while other lane was overlaid with asphalt and sand (right).

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NORTON

#### Senior High:

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.  
 Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; Students Against Drunk Driving, a.p.; Vocal Concert, auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Parent Teacher Conferences, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6:30 p.m.; FCCLA Andbe Home party, 2 p.m.

Thursday — Pep Assembly, 3 p.m.; District football versus Phillipsburg, here, Senior Night, 7 p.m.

Friday — Jazz, a.p.; State volleyball

Saturday — State volleyball; State cross country at Wamego

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.

#### Junior High:

Tuesday — Vocal Concert, auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Parent Teacher Conferences, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6:30 p.m.

#### Eisenhower:

Monday — No Morning Early Childhood Development

Wednesday — Parent Teacher Conferences, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday — Parent Teacher Conferences, Kindergarten, No School

Friday — Lightning Jack Program, third grade, 9:30 a.m.; fifth grade, 10 a.m.; kindergarten, 10:30 a.m.; Kindergarten to Andbe Home, noon; Kindergarten fall parties, 2:30 p.m.

Next Monday — Kindergarten to Andbe Home, noon; Early Childhood through sixth-Grade fall parties, 2:30 p.m.

#### All Schools:

October 24-28 — Red Ribbon Week

Monday — School starts late, no breakfast served, 10:30 a.m.; Professional Development Council, Alice Tweed Office, 4 p.m.

Wednesday — Parent Teacher Conferences, Early Childhood-12th grade, No School

#### High School Menus

Monday — No Breakfast, Lunch: Burrito, corn, pears or chef salad, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Long John, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Peanut butter and honey sandwich, pork and beans, cottage cheese, carrots, peaches or chef salad, milk

Wednesday — No School

Thursday — Breakfast: Yogurt, bagel/cream cheese, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Barbecue meatballs, potato salad, coleslaw with red cabbage and carrots, pineapple or chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chili Frito, cheese, salad, apple crisp or chef salad, milk

#### Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — No breakfast; Lunch: Taco crunch, corn, salad, chocolate cake, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Scrambled eggs/ham, pears, milk; Lunch: Ham and cheese, homemade bun, pepper strips, pork and beans, pears, milk

Wednesday — No School

Thursday — Breakfast: Fruit criptos, apple juice, milk; Lunch:

Ham and beans, celery, cornbread, applesauce Jello, cookie, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Yogurt, bagel/cream cheese, milk; Lunch: BBQ beef, homemade bun, French fries, dill spear, banana pudding, milk

#### NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — No School, High School Dance Team practice; Parent Teacher Conferences, Conferences, 1-5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Long Island.

Tuesday — High School Cheerleading Meeting; Volleyball tournament at Eastern Heights and Kensington, noon

Wednesday — Administration and Board of Education Meeting at Oakley

Thursday — Wichita Children's Theatre at Logan, Kindergarten through fourth grade, "The Three Little Kittens" 9:30 a.m.; grades 5-8 "Romeo and Juliet", 1 p.m.; High school football at Natoma, 7 p.m.

Friday — High school state volleyball at Hays; Grades 5-8 Band and Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m., Long Island.

Saturday — Booster Club Haunted House; High school state cross country at Wamego; High school state volleyball at Hays, TBA

Sunday — Daylight Savings

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### Time change

Monday — High School Dance Team Practice; Kindergarten-fifth grade Halloween parade and parties; Parade at 2 p.m.; Parties at 2:30 p.m.

#### School Menus:

Monday — No School.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Oatmeal, sausage link, peach half, cereal; Lunch: Ham-n-scalloped potatoes, whole wheat roll, peas, spice cake

Wednesday — Breakfast: Scrambled egg, toast, hashbrowns, ham, cereal; Lunch: Chili, carrot/celery, cheese sticks, cinnamon roll

Thursday — Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, scrambled egg, grape juice, cereal; Lunch: Chicken-fried steak, potatoes, peas and carrots, cherry pudding pie

Friday — Breakfast: Sausage gravy/biscuit, pineapple, cereal; Lunch: Enchiladas, salad, beets, apple crisp

#### JENNINGS

Thursday — Halloween program in the lunchroom, 2:45 p.m.

Next Monday — Halloween parties, 2:30 p.m.

The Norton County Sheriff's Office has recovered several lawn ornaments that were taken from the Norton area the weekend of September 24, 2005. The ornaments include deer, birds, frogs and college football team logos on limestone. If you are missing any of these items and can identify them, please contact the Norton County Sheriff's office at 785-877-5780