

In the hot seat...



A Norton firefighter took a closer look at an apparent brake fire on a truck owned by K&C Construction, Quinter. The truck pulled into the parking lot on the north side of the Norton Total Station. Two firetrucks and police responded to the fire. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Halloween parade postponed to tonight

The Halloween Parade and Wiener Roast was postponed until tonight in downtown Norton. The Norton Volunteer Fire Department and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will again co-sponsor the event. Participants in the parade are asked to assemble in the parking lot behind Hall's Clothing at 6 p.m. Troy and Chriselle Thomson will be dividing the children into groups from pre-school to sixth grade. Representatives of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK) and others will be holding signs for each age group to give direction on where to line up. The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will move east along Main Street to State Street, then south to Washington Street and east to the City Hall. At the conclusion of the parade, the free wiener roast will be held by the Norton Volunteer Fire Department. The wiener roast is financed through donations from businesses and individuals in the Norton area. Norton County Hospital personnel will be handing out trick or treat bags that contains apples and candy. This year the candy will be donated by the hospital. All children are invited to participate.

Alternative forage meeting scheduled in Norton

Beef producers are continually faced with the challenge of developing a forage system for their cattle. Feed costs based upon K-State estimates can range in the 70 percent of total costs for the cow herd. To help provide information for your decisions, Norton County K-State Research and Extension will be hosting an Alternative Forage informational meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1, beginning at 3 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Norton County 4-H Building. The program will conclude at 6 p.m. Keith Harmoney, Range Pasture Researcher at KSU Fort Hays Experiment Station, will discuss yield and persistence grazing trials of cool seasonal perennials such as wheat grass, Russian Rye, orchard grass, broom and fescues. Other featured crops will be barley and oats, triticale, sorghum sudans, brown mid-rib forages along with the feeding guidelines and values for each feedstuff. The meeting will focus on all aspects of developing a forage production enterprise that may work for your operation along with the use of these feedstuffs to reduce your feed costs. The topics will include management decisions for raising a productive crop for your herd. Also included in the program will be a discussion of producing each of the crops compared to the traditional forages. Other speakers for the program will include Brian Olson, NW Area Extension Agronomist; Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension Crop Production specialist; and Sandy Johnson, NW Area Extension Animal Scientist. For more information, call the Norton County Extension Office at 785-877-5755.

Sheridan County sheriff shot, killed

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
Colby Free Press

Sheridan County Sheriff James "Jimmy" Johnson was shot and killed at his office in Hoxie on Thursday afternoon while interviewing a man with possible mental problems. A deputy who was in the room with Johnson shot and killed the suspect, Steven Paul Reitcheck, 35, Hoxie, said Kyle Smith, deputy director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. He said Johnson, 54, was interviewing the man for a possible civil commitment when Reitcheck apparently pulled a handgun and shot him about 1:20 p.m. Smith later confirmed that Reitcheck was suspected in vandalism at his father's grave at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery, about a half mile west of Hoxie. Last month, Leroy Reitcheck's headstone was broken into several pieces, and Thursday afternoon, the soil around the grave had been dug up. The elder Reitcheck was killed in a hit-and-run car accident in June 2003. The driver later was arrested and convicted.

Johnson and his deputies were interviewing Reitcheck in the two-story blonde brick building which houses the sheriff's office and jail. The office is on the west side of the building, next to a second office, the evidence room, a break room and the dispatcher's office. The county jail is on the second floor; across the parking lot to the northwest of the Sheridan County Courthouse. The tree-shaded complex is a block west of downtown Hoxie. Shortly after the shootings, yellow police tape stretched from the building out to the two trees west of the office. The sheriff's blood-covered chair sat in the middle of the roped-off section. Deputy Hessel Anderson, asked if it was true the sheriff had been shot and killed, said Johnson had been shot, adding that he couldn't say anything else. "We'll be here a long time," said KBI agent Mark Kendrick of Colby. "It'll be a while before we can tell you anything." County Attorney Mike Haas arrived about 3:45 p.m. and went

inside. Other officers started arriving, including Graham County Sheriff Don Scott and Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers arrived, parking their cars in the intersection just to the northwest of the sheriff's office to block traffic. Two troopers, including Terry Kummer of Colby, started setting up mapping equipment and took measurements of the area nearest the sheriff's office and of all vehicles parked to the south of the building. Graham County Undersheriff Melanie Scott arrived and left about 4:30 p.m., as did Decatur County Attorney Steve Hirsch. Smith, who had been at a meeting in Hays, arrived about 5:25 p.m. "I'll get a handle on things and come out and talk to you," he said. After the shooting, Johnson was taken by a Sheridan County ambulance to Colby, where he was to be airlifted to a larger hospital. However, police there said the sheriff was pronounced dead about 3:20 p.m. Johnson was elected sheriff in 1988 after having served on the Hoxie Police Department. He leaves his wife, Linda, also his office manager, and five grown children. Smith said the KBI is heading up the investigation with the help of area law enforcement agencies, including the Highway Patrol. The deputy director, who drove to Hoxie to lead the investigation, refused to name the officer who shot Reitcheck. "That's part of the investigation," he said. "I'm not going to comment on that right now." He said the Gove County sheriff, Weber, of Oakley, had been sworn in as Sheridan County's interim sheriff late Thursday. Officers from surrounding counties will be helping Weber provide patrol

and dispatch service for a while, he said. Besides the Johnsons, the sheriff's department comprises Undersheriff Brian Fenner, full-time deputy Anderson and part-time deputy Brandon Fenner, Brian Fenner's son, and dispatchers Marie Jones, Cindy Mowry, Sharon Thummel, Jade Baalman and Ed Peltz. Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser, who swore Weber in, said in the wake of Johnson's death, members of the Republican county committee will meet and nominate someone to replace him. The name will be recommended to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who will make the appointment, although the governor's stamp of approval is not required for a party nominee to take office.

Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, in a written statement, expressed his sympathies. "This is a sad time of great loss," Kline said. "Kansas law enforcement has lost another of our best and most brave. I join all Kansans in expressing our deepest sympathy to his wife, Linda, and the Johnson family." Kline said he had asked Gov. Sebelius to order flags be flown at half staff at the Memorial Building, which houses the office of the attorney general, and at the KBI headquarters. Mickey Leopold Funeral Home of Hoxie is in charge of Johnson's funeral arrangements.

FAMILY CHRISTIAN FALL CARNIVAL

Monday, October 30

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Toddler through Sixth Grade

- Train Ride • Plinko • Water Games (inside) • Ring Toss • Tattoo Booth • Dart Game • Spinning Wheel • Milk Bottle Toss • Football Throw • Baseball Toss • Basketball Throw • Bible Trivia • Door Prizes • Maze of Life • Concessions — LITTLE KIDS GAMES: • Clown Bean Bag Toss • Animal Bean Bag Toss • Fishing Pond • Duck Pond • Jonah's Whale Toss • Tattoo Booth • Sandy the Horse • Octopus Ring Throw • AND MORE! Come and Join in the Fun!!

*A Trick or Treat Alternative at the
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2nd Annual

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SUNDAY — 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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TRACTOR, FARM MACHINERY & IMPLEMENT AUCTION

Thursday, Nov. 2 - 10:00 a.m. CT

John Scott Farm - McDonald/Brewster Rd.
19 mi. N. of Brewster, KS or 10 mi. S. of McDonald, KS

Scott & Kramer, Sellers

 <small>1989 JD 8960 Tractor, 8,371 Eng. Hrs., 30.5L32 Tires, Dualls, 3-pt., 4-WD</small>	 <small>1989 John Deere 4955 Tractor, Front Wheel Ass't., 3-pt.</small>	 <small>1998 JD 9610 Combine, 1,828 Eng. Hrs., 1,262 Sep. Hrs., Dualls, Bin Extension; 1990 JD 930 Grain Platform</small>
 <small>Sunflower 30' Disc Drill, 10 in. Spacing</small>	 <small>Brent 620 Graincart with Rollover Tarp</small>	 <small>1983 Peterbilt Truck, Cat Engine, 13-speed; 1979 Timpte 42' Grain Hopper</small>

TRACTORS: 1978 JD 8630, Dualls, 3-pt., 4-WD; Dangleman 14 ft. Dozer for JD 8630; 1978 JD 4840, 9,440 Eng. Hrs., Dualls, 3-pt., Recent Overhaul; 1973 JD 4630, 10,320 Eng. Hrs., Dualls, 3-pt.; 1969 IHC 1066, 3-pt., 2-hyd.; 1964 JD 4020, 3-pt., 2-hyd.; Yanmar, 16 1/2 HP Diesel, Ft. Wheel Assist, Rotovator.

IMPLEMENTS & HEADERS: Ford 1441 38' Disc; Miller 18' Offset Disc; Old Kewanee Disc; Buffalo Cultivator, 8-row, 30"; Krause Cultivator, 8-row, 30"; Acura-Trac Guide; Buffalo Scout Guide; JD 9300 40' Hoe Drill; Crustbuster 32' Hoe Drill; (2) JD LZ-8-12 Hoe Drills; 1992 Sunflower 9-5's Sweep Plow w/Pickers; 1996 Sunflower 42' Fallow King w/Pickers; Flex King 48' Rodweeder; Calkins 42' Rodweeder; (2) BluJet 9-shank Ripper w/NH; IHC 5-18 Rollover Plow; Massey Ferguson 8-18 Pull-type Plow; Noble 38' Harrow; JD 20' Rotary Hoe, 3-pt.; Yetter 20' Rotary Hoe, 3-pt.; Orthman Bean Rod, 10-row, 30", Hyd; (2) Beline Granular Applicators; Blumhardt Sprayer, 60", 3-pt. w/Foam Marker; JD 590 Draper Swather, 36"; IHC 15' Oneway; Noble Sweep w/Pickers, 3-6' Blades; 15' Flail Stalk Chopper; Westfield Auger, 10" x 71' PTO w/Swing-away Hopper; Gravity Wagon w/Electric Auger for seed; Flex King 32' NH, Chisel; 1993 JD 893 8-Row Cornhead; JD 853A 8-Row Rowhead; JD 215 15' Header w/12' Pick-up Attachment.

TRAILERS: J.D. Skiles 6000 Gal. Fertilizer Trailer; Bumper-pull 18' Flatbed Trailer; Gooseneck 18' Flatbed Trailer; Gooseneck 16' Flatbed Trailer; Header Trailer; 1978 16' Diamond Stock Trailer.

VEHICLES: 1972 Freightliner, Cabover; 1976 Chevy 3/4 Ton Pickup, 2-wheel Drive, 350 Eng.; 1975 IHC 4300 Truck, 20' Steel Box, Twin Screw.

MISCELLANEOUS: 82 EZ-On 90 Loader; 12' Brillion Packer; Gleaner Model "C" Combine (junk); Heavy Duty Waldon Hitch; Homemade Drill Hitch; Several 2 1/2 inch Toolbars; Perkins 354T Irr. Engine; (2) Ford 534 Irr. Engines; Ford 428 Irr. Engine; (2) GMC 702 Irr. Engines; Hog Panels, 20 or more; Sioux Valve Grinder; Cabinet with Asst. Tools for Sioux Grinder; Tumble Bug Bale Mover; Trailer items - Misc. Shop Tools.

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Tuesday last day to renew 'S' tags

Tuesday is the deadline for the renewal of tags for those persons whose last name begins with or business name that begins with "S".

When renewing your vehicles, remember to include proof of insurance. Vehicle Identification Number, policy number and expiration date will be verified.

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