

**TV LISTINGS**

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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Kids should be allowed to be kids  
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**Tuesday**  
January 23, 2007

**Norton, Kansas**  
Home of Justin Carter

*Briefly*  
**ID class will help spot the fakes**

All businesses that deal with the issue of selling age-restricted products might want to send a representative to a Retailer Identification Training program from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Norton City Offices. This free program is designed to help staff spot falsified identification. Call 877-5000 for details.

**Surplus food to be distributed**

Government surplus food will be distributed to persons of all ages in Norton County by Norton County Senior Citizens, Inc.

Included in this month's distribution will be cereal, peanut butter, apple juice, beef stew and green beans.

In Lenora, distribution will be from 2 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 24 at the Senior Center.

On Friday, Jan. 26, distribution will be from 2 to 4 p.m. in both Alma and Norton at the respective senior centers.

Saturday, Jan. 27, distribution will be from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Clayton Library.

**Program to teach energy efficiency**

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is sponsoring a program to help consumers learn how to save electricity. Energy Efficiency Night will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the basement at Prairie Land Electric. Call 877-3323 for more information.

**Teleconference on biodiesel set**

Norton County Economic Development invites everyone to attend a teleconference on biodiesel efforts in Norton County at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The teleconference will be held in the conference room of First State Bank. For more information call Verla at 874-4816.

*Weather*  
**Forecast:**

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with lows around 18. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 30s. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly clear with lows around 14. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 30s.

**Kingham report:**

Friday ..... Low 9, High 30  
Saturday ..... Low 10, High 29  
Sunday ..... Low 16, High 28, 8" Snow  
Monday ..... Low 6, High 27, 1" Snow  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

*Prayer*

God, thank you for your gift of love expressed in families, in friendships, and in time and help given to those in need. Thank you for the comfort of your presence in our lives. **Amen**

## One for the money, two for the snow



Using the wide open spaces for a playground, Greg Vanover, on horseback, pulled one of his sons, Kegan, on a sled through the fresh snow. The Vanovers live two miles east of Norton. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Hospital board isn't thrilled with bylaw violation

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital Board is not in compliance with its bylaws regarding board members.

At Wednesday's meeting, the board welcomed its two newest members, Reva Benien and R.A. "Doc" Peterson, who were appointed recently by the Norton County Commission.

But, the board also wanted to recognize that with the election of two more Norton residents, it is in violation of its bylaws.

The bylaws say that no more than a simple majority, or four members, can be appointed from Norton. With these two

newest members, the board has five who live in Norton and another two who live in the Lenora area.

The board wanted it on record that it was in violation and passed a motion to take the minutes of the meeting to the commissioners and file a copy of its bylaws with the county clerk.

The hospital board is using outside legal council to work through this, since there is a variation in legal advice.

In other business, the board:

- Appointed Board member Von Fahrenbruch as the board's vice president.

- Approved the purchase of the patient lift.

- Paid bills.

• Heard that in December, the hospital had 381 patient days; 61 admissions; 2 births; 10 surgeries; 3,912 out-patient procedures; 1,089 Doctor's Clinic visits; and 978 in-patient procedures, which made the year-to-date totals 1,857 patient days; 339 admissions; 18 births; 125 surgeries; 24,652 out-patient procedures; 6,898 Doctor's Clinic visits; and 4,320 in-patient procedures.

- Reviewed the charge schedule for the Doctor's Clinic. The board had previ-

ously voted to increase charges by about 2 percent.

- Approved the write-offs and sent the uncollected charges to a collection agency.

- Heard an update on personnel matters.

• Approved a new employee group health insurance plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The new plan will be a more traditional plan, rather than the self-pay plan the hospital previously had in place. The plan will increase the hospital's cost by \$19,400, which will be paid for with the interest earned on an account the hospital has.

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## 4-H'ers prep for Favorite Food Show

Norton County 4-H members will be preparing their favorite recipe and showing off their best hostess style as they present the Favorite Food Show this Saturday at the 4-H Building in Norton.

This program has been a tradition to allow 4-H members an opportunity to try out a favorite dish of theirs and lay out a place setting with their own touch. The dish the 4-H'ers may do can range from a simple snack to an entree or a dish as a part of a main course meal.

The 4-H members will begin entering their projects at 1 p.m., the consultation judging will be done from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and the exhibits will be open to the public from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

The 4-H'ers will visit with the judges about the preparation and serving suggestions with their recipe. They will also share nutritional and food safety topics with the judge.

## Police department nears full strength

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton Police Department is well on its way to being up to full strength again.

Police Chief Lynn Menagh told the Norton City Council at its last meeting that he offered one of the open police officer positions to Larry Land, who accepted. Chief Menagh said Mr. Land's first day was Jan. 19. Mr. Land was at the meeting to meet the council.

He said Curtis Black was also offered a position, which he accepted. At the Jan. 3 council meeting, the council met and

other new hiree, Andrew Wahlmeier.

Chief Menagh said he planned to offer the assistant chief position within a few days.

"If that position is accepted, we'll be back up to full strength," he said.

In other business, the council:

- Sent a letter of support to Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, which is applying for the money and approval to replace its fleet of vehicles in the next fiscal year.

- Heard from Attorney Karen Griffiths that Home Street, between Waverly and

Wilton streets, has never been vacated by the city, even though the street has never been opened. She said she would talk to the land owners in that area to make sure they are not opposed to the city vacating the street. Mrs. Griffiths will meet with the finance committee for further discussion.

- Heard from City Administrator Rob Lawson that Chris Miller, the city's engineer from Miller and Associates who is working on the water plant project, received approval for the project's plans from the Kansas Department of Health.

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## Norton hospital is going wireless

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital Board took the next step towards making the hospital's records totally electronic.

Pam Cuthbertson, with the hospital's information/technology department, said installing a wireless network at the hospital is the next step towards electronic records. With the wireless system, she told the board, nurses will have the ability to chart patients' information at the bedside. She said the mobile carts can be used everywhere the nurses need to be, including the emergency room, obstetrics and surgery.

She said the wireless network allows the nurses to focus more on the patient, rather than doing a lot of paperwork. The network will give the doctors and nurses instant access to patient charts, improve time management with the nursing staff, create less billing and charge errors, improve accuracy in charting, and help with the recruitment and retention of the medical staff. Basically, she said, developing a wireless network will improve the existing information system.

She said they received two proposals from Nex-Tech for the network. The first proposal of \$26,199 is to set up the net-

work and the second proposal of \$24,163 is for the carts and computers.

Toby Boller with Nex-Tech said they will be putting the laptops on the carts, which will have a battery.

He said almost the entire hospital will be "hot" and have access to the network. And, he said, the hospital will be able to grant access or restrict access to certain people and areas. Patients will be able to access the Internet if the hospital wants to allow them to, but they won't be able to get into confidential information.

Julie Campbell, director of nursing, (Continued on Page 5)