

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

14 PAGES

Tuesday

December 29, 2009

Briefly

Area businesses to be open for holiday

New Year's Day will find most businesses open but operating on Sunday hours. All government offices and banks will be closed for the holiday. Dairy Queen will be closed on Jan. 1.

The Bank will be open until 4 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Closing at noon on Dec. 31 include; First Security Bank, First State Bank, Almena State Bank; United Northwest Federal Credit Union; Norton Public Library.

The Doctor's Clinic will close at 2 p.m.

Almena Market will be closed on New Year's Day. Open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Lenora Country Corner will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 and closed on Jan. 1.

Telegram will not publish on Friday

The Telegram will not publish a newspaper on Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

The advertising deadline for the Extra is noon on Wednesday, Dec. 30. The deadline for the Jan. 5 issue is noon on Dec. 31.



Celebrating Christmas



(Above) Norton residents helped themselves during the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce's 26th Annual Christmas Dinner. The meal began at noon on Dec. 25 at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall with a full holiday meal being provided.

- Courtesy photo

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
December 29, 2009

CORN	\$3.99
SOYBEANS	\$9.67
WHEAT	\$4.54
MILO	\$3.75

314 W. North Street
Norton, Kansas
785-877-5188

weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly cloudy. Low 21 with winds SW at 7 miles per hour. Wednesday - Mostly Cloudy with a high of 33. Winds NW at 8 miles per hour. Wednesday night - Mostly cloudy with a low of 14. Winds NW at 7 miles per hour. Thursday - Partly Cloudy with a high of 28. Winds W at 5 miles per hour. Friday - Partly cloudy with a high of 17 and a low of 5. Winds NE at 10 miles per hour.

Kingham report:

Tuesday.....Low 26, High 31, 5" Snow
Wednesday.....Low 24, High 30, 5" Snow
Thursday.....Low 12, High 19
Friday.....Low 3, High 17, 3" Snow
Saturday.....Low 11, High 23, 3" Snow
Sunday.....Low 18, High 31
Monday.....Low 17, High 34
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Perfect Father, you reveal yourself to us through your word. Help us to see you more clearly as we read it and live by its wisdom. **Amen**

Schools vote for lawsuit Project continues

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Schools for Fair Funding will pursue litigation against the state of Kansas in an attempt to ensure schools receive necessary funding. The group includes over 70 school districts from across the state, including Norton Community Schools and Northern Valley Schools.

Norton Schools Superintendent Greg Mann said the group voted to re-open the Montoy case at the Dec. 18 meeting.

Mann said re-opening Montoy would be faster, more focused and more cost effective.

"It should reduce any litigation time, and it will reduce costs for school districts and the state," said George Griffith, Northern Valley Schools superintendent.

Mann hopes the Legislature would

be directed to increase funding levels to no less than \$4,433, the level agreed to in 2005.

"According to the law currently on the books, we should be receiving between \$4,492 and \$4,597 per student this year," Mann said.

He said funding needs vary from district to district.

Mann said the funding problem was made worse by the economy. He said there was no revenue attached to the increase when it was passed in 2005.

"Spending state surpluses was the only plan the Legislature had. It could easily be seen that by 2007 the State would be obligated to spend more than was being taken in, yet the Legislature continued to pass tax breaks and tax exemptions," he said.

Mann said 18 exemptions were passed, totaling \$44 million during the 2009 Legislative session.

"Since 1995 tax breaks enacted by the State Legislature have resulted in over an accumulated \$12 billion of lost revenue and \$1.2 billion in annual revenue," he said.

Montoy vs. Kansas was dismissed in 2006 when the court ruled the state had an obligation to fund schools appropriately. The Legislature adopted a three-year funding plan to increase base state aid per pupil. In 2008, base aid was \$4,433 but cuts have been made due to state budget concerns.

Mann said base aid was cut to \$4,492 before the governor cut funding to \$4,012 at the end of November.

(Funding - Continued on Page 5)

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton City/County Economic Development will continue the Storefront Renewal Project again in 2010 after a successful response from community members.

At their Dec. 15 meeting, the Norton City/County Economic Development Board of Directors approved the application and allocated \$15,000 for the project. The deadline is set for March 31, 2010.

In an interview after the meeting, Norton City/County Economic Development

(Renewal - Continued on Page 5)

Christmas baskets delivered by Lions to needy families

The Norton Lions Club delivered Christmas baskets filled with food and toys to 104 needy families all over Norton County on Dec. 19.

The Norton Lions Club initiated the Christmas Basket Project in 1954 with assistance from numerous community organizations and individuals. The baskets contain a ham and other food items needed to prepare a traditional Christmas dinner as well as age appropriate toys for each child in the family.

Project Chairman Tom Baumann said that the response from the community was fantastic again this year.

More than \$2,000 was spent in local stores to purchase food and toys for this project.

In addition, several hundred dollars

worth of food and toys were donated to the project. In this 56th year for the annual project, several dozen local Lions worked at the Valley Hope Corporate Office sorting food and toys; filling and delivering baskets.

Lion President David Davis thanked all Lions who assisted with the project as well as the many individuals, businesses, clubs and organizations for their donations of toys, food and cash as well as the use of their time and facilities.

Turn to the Lions, advertisement on page 3 of today's Norton Telegram for special thanks from the Lions.

"It is always great to see the way the community works together to serve those in need during this time of year," Baumann said.



Lions Club members Otis Howard and Ed Witt unloaded items for their Christmas basket project. The baskets went to 104 needy families in Norton County this year.

-Courtesy photo

