

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES



Friday

March 19, 2010

Briefly

Benefit scheduled for Norcatur man

A whole-hog benefit will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, at the Norcatur City Building for cancer victim Randy Allen. Allen was diagnosed with colon cancer in December and underwent surgery in Denver in February. He had planned to donate a kidney to Ron Temple, who is on kidney dialysis, but the cancer was discovered when he was undergoing tests for the transplant in Omaha. Allen, a handyman and carpenter, has no medical insurance.

The supper is being sponsored by Temple, the Norcatur Commercial Club and the Rebekah Lodge of Norcatur. Hogs have been donated for the meal and others are asked to bring salads and desserts. Donations also may be sent to The Bank, Box 156, Norcatur, Kan., 67653.

Larry Henderson and Lee Ann Shearer will be singing throughout the evening.

For questions, call Jerry Wescott at (785) 871-7863.

Orientation to be held for freshmen

An orientation session for parents of eighth graders (freshmen next year) will be held in the music room of the junior-senior high school on March 25 at 7 p.m. Counselor Shane Miller will host the meeting which will cover Kansas Board of Regents Qualified Admissions requirements, Norton Community High School graduation requirements, the enrollment process, school policies and expectations.



Pat Pomeroy, emergency medical technician, and Jane Wyatt, Norton County Emergency Medical Services director, demonstrated standard emergency medical services procedures on medical technician Bryce

Marble. The new ambulance was funded through grant money and is housed in the new ambulance barn on the western edge of Norton.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

County gets new ambulance, building

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

Norton County Emergency Medical Services put its new ambulance into service last week, shortly after moving into their new ambulance barn on the western edge of town.

Norton County Emergency Medical Services Director Jane Wyatt said being on the edge of town hasn't been an obstacle.

"Situated here, we have better access

to the county," Wyatt said.

She said they are near three main arteries into Norton, including Highway 36, Washington Street and Lincoln Street. She said their response times haven't decreased at all.

"We've got such good access into town," said Pat Pomeroy, Emergency Medical Services technician.

"I'm so glad we're out here. This is the place to be," Wyatt said.

The building has 6,420 square feet,

2,400 of that space is dedicated to the ambulance bay. She said the new bay is bigger than the one in their old building.

"We were really packed. Here we have plenty of room," she said.

The facility also has space for an office and training area and a 2,000 square foot basement. The increased office space has allowed Rhonda McDowell, Emergency Medical Services biller, to have an office in the new building. She had been located in the courthouse.

Wyatt said having everyone under one roof has been an advantage for the department.

"It's made a huge difference," she said.

"I think we're a lot more efficient," Pomeroy said.

The training area has been used since emergency medical services moved into the building, and the facility will host two training sessions in the coming weeks.

(EMS - Continued on Page 5)

City council to pursue grants for two projects

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

The City of Norton is pursuing grants for possibly two upcoming projects including a new fire truck and curb and gutter repair.

Corina Cox, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, spoke to the city council Wednesday night about community development block grants. She said cities can apply once a year for different categories. There is a \$16 million dollar allotment.

"They always get more applications

than money. It's nation-wide and extremely competitive," she said.

She said the limit is \$400,000 for each application.

There are requirements to the grant application, the biggest one being the percentage of low income people in the county.

"Everything is contingent upon meeting that requirement," she said.

Norton County did a low moderate income survey in 2006.

Cox discussed the fire truck as well as curb and gutter repair.

"You can get a fully equipped fire truck," she said.

She said an engineer would have to be hired for the curb and gutter project, but that would count as matching funds.

She said it would take two years to complete either project.

"The first thing we need to do is pull those low income surveys," said Rob Lawson, city administrator.

Cox told the council funds are based off 2000 census figures because the 2010 numbers won't be back in time for the grant application.

"It's imperative people in the community fill it out and mail it back," said Mayor David Corns.

The council will continue discussing the grant options.

In other council business:

- Snyder reported that six applicants were interviewed for the Public Works Maintenance I position. A motion was made to offer the Maintenance I position to Denny Nickell at a starting pay range of 5-A. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to advertise for

(Council - Continued on Page 5)

County hospital has top digital imaging technology

By AMY GRIFFEY
Special to The Telegram

Computerized tomography (CT) is one of the most popular tools used by medical professionals to diagnose illnesses and injuries quickly and efficiently. Compared to older imaging technology, CT performed by Norton County Hospital's new General Electric CT scanner is brilliantly detailed, allowing health care providers to see tissue as well as bone in ways that were never before possible.

CT scans combine the power of X-ray technology and computers, allowing physicians to view wafer-thin cross-sections of internal anatomy (commonly called "slices") without the need for surgery. Where other facilities in the area may have two or four slice CT units, Norton County Hospital's new machine captures 16 slices at a time, and those slices are thinner than a business card. The equipment's exceptional speed makes it pos-

sible to scan the entire torso in about 13 seconds, or one patient breath hold.

"The faster the scan, the less blurring there is from motion," said Norton County Hospital Director of Radiology Mitch Bartels.

Speed isn't the only advantage to the new equipment. The machine's greatest benefit lies in the enhanced ability to assess the patient's health. The ultra-thin slices reveal details of internal structures, such as extremely delicate blood vessels, that cannot be seen on two or four slice CT scans. Advanced computer technology at Norton County Hospital allows information from individual slices to be combined into realistic, three-dimensional images to further enhance patient diagnosis. The CT scanner is used for a full range of exams, including cardiovascular, colon, lung, neurological, chest, abdomen, pelvis, angiography and

(Scanner - Continued on Page 5)



Norton County Hospital Director of Radiology Mitch Bartels ran a diagnostic scan on the new General Electric CT scanner. The scanner allows providers to see better images and is a new addition at the hospital.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
March 19, 2010

CORN
\$3.38

SOYBEANS
\$8.91

WHEAT
\$3.90

MILO
\$2.99

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow before 1 a.m. Saturday - Partly sunny with a high near 36. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 19.

Kingham report:

Friday, March 12 Low 33, High 46
Saturday, March 13 Low 30, High 51
Sunday, March 14 Low 29, High 45
Monday, March 15 Low 35, High 50
Tuesday, March 16 Low 24, High 58
Wednesday, March 17 .. Low 25, High 54
Thursday, March 18 Low 26, High 72
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O Lord, speak to us, and give us strength to share your word with those around us. Amen

