

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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## Friday

# Early morning fire displaces daycare

November 26, 2010

### Briefly

#### Annual bake sale to be held Dec. 1

The United Methodist Women of Norton are sponsoring a Cookie and Candy Walk 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1 at the Norton Senior Center, 208 W. Main.

The cookies and candies are provided by church families. Cookies are \$5 a pound and candy is \$6 a pound. Homemade cinnamon rolls and coffee also will be available for purchase.

Proceeds go to mission projects

#### Newspaper mailed because of holiday

The Friday, Nov. 26 edition of The Norton Telegram was mailed to all subscribers. Home delivery of newspapers will resume Monday, Nov. 29 as usual.

#### Library to be open Saturday afternoon

The Norton Public Library will be closed November 24 to 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday. It will be open on Saturday, Nov. 27, 1 to 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 29 the movie, "Disney-nature: Oceans" will be shown at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

#### Contact Legion to be added to list

Please let it be known that neither Jake Durham nor Gil Otter was responsible for the listing of names in the Veterans Day special tab that was put out on 11-16-10.

Neither Mr. Durham nor Mr. Otter is to be contacted for complaints or additions. Contact your local American Legion to be added to the list.

We are sorry for any omissions, we did not intentionally omit any names.

### Markets

Wednesday, November 24, 2010  
Wheat . . . . . \$5.76  
Milo . . . . . \$4.41  
Soybeans . . . . . \$11.45  
Corn . . . . . \$4.73  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

**Tonight** - Scattered flurries before midnight. Mostly cloudy with a low around 9. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Thanksgiving Day** - Mostly cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing with a high near 27. Breezy with a northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 35 mph. **Thursday Night** - Clear with a low around 6. West wind around 10 mph. **Friday** - Sunny with a high near 46. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Friday Night** - Clear with a low around 18. **Saturday** - Sunny with a high near 48.

### Prayer

Dear God, give us truly thankful hearts. May we live each day in awareness of your generosity. Amen

By JUDY SHERARD

[jsherard@nwkansas.com](mailto:jsherard@nwkansas.com)

An early morning fire damaged a structure being used as a daycare.

Cause of the fire has not been determined.

Thirteen firemen and three fire units from the Norton City Fire Department were dispatched to 303 E. Lincoln at 7:14 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 after a report of a fire at the northwest corner of the building, said Kirk Nuzum, assistant fire chief.

Nuzum said the Norton City Police Department assisted at the scene with dispatching and directions. The Norton County EMS was placed on standby.

"By the time we got there, all the people were out. We were advised it was empty," he said.

Firemen knocked down an exterior wall of the home and entered from the front. Three firemen entered with air-packs with three firemen also with air-packs backing them up.

The fire did extensive damage to the northwest corner of the building, he said.

Nuzum said firemen could hear smoke alarms going off inside the building. He said it's a good reminder to people to make sure they have working smoke alarms.

He thanked the Norton Police Department for their help at the scene as well as the Norton city electric crew for getting to the scene and getting the electricity to the building shut off quickly.



Firemen from the Norton City Fire Department were called to a structure fire on Lincoln Street early Tuesday, Nov. 23. Damage was confined to the northwest corner of the building.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Commissioners say there will be lights at Santa house

By JUDY SHERARD

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There will be lights at Santa's house on the Norton County Courthouse lawn this holiday season.

Norton County Commissioners and County Clerk Robert Wyatt discussed lighting that area during the Commissioners' meeting Monday morning.

Earlier this month, Wyatt and Commission Chairman Richard Thompson and Commissioner John Miller decided not to hang lights on the courthouse itself because of damage to the marble from drilling holes to install the lights, and damage to the concrete and water system

from the trucks used to install them.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate wasn't present at the meeting when the lights were discussed and expressed concern for the safety of children visiting Santa in his house on the corner of the Courthouse lawn.

However, Miller and Thompson said their earlier decision won't affect the lawn area where Santa's house is located.

"They are planned to be there for Friday," Applegate said as the discussion concluded.

Wyatt said he is working on getting outside electrical outlets installed, so

that area will be lighted for youngsters visiting Santa.

"They will have lights for the Santa house," Wyatt said.

Jim Frack met with commissioners to discuss maintenance of roads in the northern portion of the county. Commissioners told Frack they understand his concerns.

The Commissioners approved a resolution to issue and sell revenue bonds for building the new medical clinic adjacent to the Norton County Hospital. The estimated cost is \$2.5 million.

Norton County Hospital Administrator Rich Miller reported that construction

is on schedule; the structure should be enclosed in a month or so.

Sandy Smith, road and bridge administrative assistant, updated commissioners on equipment repairs. Commissioners directed Smith to make up a specification sheet for businesses interested in bidding on new motor graders. Bids for the graders will be opened on Dec. 13.

Shawn Mortenson, Mortenson Computer Services, told the commissioners he had met with department heads to discuss training. He will continue to have quarterly meetings with them. He also agreed to update the county website and keep it current.

# Norton Cares fills residents' need for transportation

By JUDY SHERARD

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Whether a Norton or Almena resident needs a ride to church or transportation to an out-of-town medical appointment, Norton Cares can help.

The organization was founded in 1997 by Enid Roe. Roe had seen the Faith in Action, a national program of volunteer helping each other, while visiting a relative in Hawaii.

After coming home, she saw a need in Norton for the service. A grant from Faith in Action helped get the program started.

Korla Griffey is the only remaining charter member; however, Clair Rumford is a long time member of the organization.

Ramona Pabian, has been director of the program for six years. Pabian also serves as director of the Senior Citizens Center and Meal Site and dispatcher for the general public transportation van.

Currently the organization has about 20 active volunteers who serve as drivers for those who have a need.

It's made up of community members, and serves not only Norton residents, but Almena as well.

"We're always hunting volunteers," said Jaynell Matzek, one of seven members of the governing board, which meets every other month.

"We get most of them by word of mouth," Pabian said.

While some passengers ask to be driven to local churches or the beauty

salon, 90 percent of the requests are to drive people to out-of-town medical appointments.

The service operates with money from donations, memorials and fundraisers. The most recent fundraiser was a potato bar at the Senior Center last week.

The organization averages 20 medical trips a month to Hays or Kearney. Though they have taken passengers to Salina, Wichita and North Platt, the majority of the trips are to Hays and Kearney.

Approximately 50 people a month use the service. In addition to their other trips, volunteers go shopping for the Andbe Home residents once a week.

Some weeks several of the residents need items, other weeks few do.

Patrons of the service can be all ages. However, children need to be accompanied with an adult.

"We have taken a parent and child to a dental appointment," Pabian said.

Three people currently require rides on a regular basis. Of those, one person goes to Hays three times a week for dialysis. A second person will be riding three times a week after the New Year.

There are no income guidelines.

"It's a free service to any person who needs it," Matzek said.

Drivers get paid for their mileage, and must drive their own vehicles. However, the service does have access to a privately owned handicapped accessible vehicle when needed.

Anyone needing assistance can call 877-2131.



Clair Rumford, a Norton Cares board member and volunteer, holds the vehicle door for Carol Woodmansee on Saturday morning. Woodmansee travels to Hays three times a week for dialysis. She often uses Norton Cares volunteers to drive her.

—Telegram photo by Judy Sherard



## RJ Metcalf Needing Houses to Sell.

Contact Agent Duane McEwen at 785-877-3032 • Kris Randel, Broker