

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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12 PAGES

Friday

October 7, 2011



Briefly

## Post office will be closed Oct. 8-10

The Norton post office will be closed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday due to Columbus Day.

## Catholic Bazaar set for this weekend

The St. Francis Society Annual dinner and bazaar will take place this weekend at the Catholic Church parish hall. Fancy work will be sold on Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. On Sunday, the dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at 12:30 p.m. will be a quilt auction.

## Church to host burger dinner this Sunday

The First United Methodist Church Board of Trustees will hold a Hamburger Feed on Sunday at the Fellowship Hall of the church. The cost is a free-will donation and proceeds from the event go to Missions and Ministries.

## Craft fair planned for Saturday at Armory

The fall home-based business and craft fair will be held at the Norton National Guard this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Farm Bureau to sponsor free movie

The Norton County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a free movie showing this Sunday at the Norton Theatre at 3 p.m. The movies showing are "The Help" and "Spy Kids 4." Admission is free to the movies at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

## Markets

Friday, October 7, 2011

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Wheat .....    | \$5.99  |
| Milo .....     | \$5.25  |
| Soybeans ..... | \$10.28 |
| Corn .....     | \$5.67  |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - Thunderstorms likely in the evening, then thunderstorms after midnight. Saturday - Cooler with thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. Saturday Night - Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain.

## Kingham Report

Tuesday, October 4 .....Low 60, High 90  
 Wednesday, Oct. 5 .....Low 54, High 82  
 Thursday, October 6 .....Low 58, High 83  
 Friday, October 7 .....Low 53, 25 Rain  
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to do your will not for rewards but because it is right and good for us to do so. Amen

# Children plant tree at Andbe Home

By Carleen Bell  
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To learn about nature and trees and outdoor activities, the students of Good Beginnings Preschool spent part of Tuesday afternoon helping to plant a new tree at the Andbe Home.

Patsy Maddy of Norton County Farm Bureau reported that this is the second year the students have helped plant a tree. The first year, Farm Bureau purchased the tree and this year the tree was donated by Reva Benien.

The students helped plant an apple tree at the Andbe Home by filling in the dirt around the tree after it had been set. Maddy said some employees of Andbe Home dug the hole for the tree and helped set it properly.

Along with planting the tree, the students learned about caring for trees and were able to create some art projects that day. Maddy explained that the purpose of the project is to help teach the students that activities like tree-planting are fun and beneficial. In addition, the students begin to learn at an early age the importance of community service.

Though no specific plans have been made, Maddy said that Farm Bureau will likely be helping to plant more trees around the community in the future while keeping local children involved in the process.

Along with the students and helpers, several Andbe Home residents and staff gathered outside to watch the planting process.

(Right) Caleb Kasper, 3, helps fill in around the newly-planted apple tree with soil at the Andbe Home Tuesday afternoon. The students of Good Beginnings Preschool were helping plant the tree while learning about nature and trees.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



# Business and Visitor's Station to hold open house

By Carleen Bell  
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To celebrate the completion of a lengthy project to bring the entities under one roof, the Norton City/County Economic Development organization and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will host an open house at their new location on Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. The reception will be held at the recently-renovated "Norton Business and Visitor's Station" at 205 S. State Street.

According to information from Chamber and Economic Development leaders, the open house/reception is intended to highlight the recent renovations and upgrades to a building that was, in the recent past, slated for demolition.

Before moving to the current location on South State Street, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce was located at 104 South State Street and Economic Development had been located at 113 North Norton Street. In 2008, the cur-

rent location, a former vehicle service station, was vacant and slated for demolition. Economic Development officials explained, however, that not everyone felt the building should be demolished.

"Previous Economic Development Director Diane Stiles and other leaders felt the building was worth saving," said Verla Grych, Economic Development Administrative Coordinator. "The initial plans were to have the Chamber of Commerce and Travel and Tourism move into the building to become a more visible location for both."

Those plans changed in late 2009, however, when the decision was made to relocate the Chamber of Commerce and Norton City/County Economic Development into the location.

In order to meet city specifications and save the building from demolition, the entities were required to immediately begin exterior renovations to improve the appearance of the property. Many volunteers came together to

clean up and paint the building, but the renovations were stalled when a vehicle accidentally crashed through the front of the building because of a driver with a medical emergency.

Actual renovations of the interior and exterior of the building began in late fall 2010 and after extensive repairs and renovations, Economic Development moved into the space on June 24 and the Chamber of Commerce moved in on July 15. The renovated space includes 1,112 square feet of functional space, three offices, a large storage closet, a small kitchenette, a handicap-accessible restroom, and a large conference/meeting space. Renovations to the exterior of the building are within historical guidelines and the building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places as part of Norton's downtown, which is designated as a Historic District from the Kansas State Historical Society.

Chamber and Economic Development officials expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the many volunteers and contributors who have helped make the transition a success for the entities, particularly the family of former Norton resident Bill Sharp.

"Mr. Sharp was a founder of New Age Industrial and he was a real supporter of Norton development," explained Scott Sproul, Economic Development Director. "Because of his vision and desire to leave a legacy of bettering the community, his daughter and son-in-law, Colette and Mick Miller, knew that he would support the renovation project and contributed their time and skills and funding from the Bill Sharp Memorial Fund. So many volunteers came together to make this project possible and we can't thank them enough."

Chamber of Commerce Director Brook Dix also expressed his appreciation for the new location and the opportunity to serve residents and visitors from the renovated space.

"It makes great sense for the Chamber and Economic Development to share this location as both have similar goals in supporting businesses throughout the city of Norton and Norton County," Dix said. "The Chamber and Economic Development teaming up and working together truly helps serve the community and surrounding area in a more efficient manner."

# County agrees to lease-purchase for former clinic renovations

By Carleen Bell  
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After agreeing earlier this year to finance a portion of the project, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Friday morning to enter into a lease purchase agreement to renovate the former Doctors Clinic in Norton to be used as a campus for Colby Community College.

The commissioners approved a resolution Friday morning stating the county's intent to "enter into a lease-purchase agreement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the purpose of providing funds to renovate and equip the existing county hospital; and authorizing the offering for sale of certificates of participation in such lease purchase agreement."

According to information from county officials and resolution #2011-19, the agreement allows ownership of the former clinic to transfer from the Norton County Hospital to the owner-

ship of Norton County. The county can then lease the property to Colby Community College and use lease income to repay the cost of renovating the facility. To acquire the initial \$200,000 cost, the county will sell "certificates of participation" to an underwriter for financing.

After the recent completion of a new medical clinic, the Norton County Commissioners agreed in July to use the former Doctors Clinic as a nursing school/satellite campus for Colby Community College. The county also agreed to fund \$200,000 of the estimated \$450,000 cost to renovate the facility to fit the needs of the school. The remainder of the cost will be paid through a grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Though no specific timeline has been set, renovation on the clinic is slated to begin later this fall and Colby Community College will begin using the facility sometime next spring.

# Walk to School day brings record student participation

By Carleen Bell  
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Citing higher participation than ever before, officials with Eisenhower Elementary reported this week that 75 percent of the building's student population participated in Wednesday's International Walk to School Day.

Eisenhower Principal Cory Roy reported Thursday that 254 Eisenhower students walked to school Wednesday morning, along with numerous parents and volunteers and many students from Norton Junior High and Norton Community High School.

"That's the highest participation we've ever had," Mr. Roy said. "We don't have a count of the total number of people, but it was more than ever. It's just awesome to see so many par-

ticipate."

To help encourage students to lead active lifestyles and participate in the International Walk to School day, the Norton Pizza Hut will be hosting a Pizza Party for the class with the most students participating. The winner of the party is Mrs. Wallingford's third-grade classroom with 100 percent of the students participating. The date for the party has not yet been set.

The classroom with the second-highest participation is Mrs. Burge's first-grade class, with 91 percent of students participating. Students in both classes will also get prize packs from the Kansas Department of Transportation for participating.

International Walk to School Day got

(Walk - Continued on Page 5)

