

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

## Tuesday

November 29, 2011

### Briefly

#### Holiday concert set for Dec. 3 in Oberlin

James Aaron Fowler will present a vocal Christmas concert with guitar accompaniment at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Gateway Civic Center in Oberlin. He will be performing four winter celebrations: Christmas (sacred), Christmas (secular) Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. He will include songs and stories from these traditions, as well as some new songs. This is an Oberlin Arts and Humanities season ticket event or \$12 for adults and \$7 for students grades 1-12 at the door. For details, call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

#### Cookie walk set for Wednesday, Nov. 30

United Methodist Women will be holding their Cookie and Candy Walk on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Norton Community Center.

#### Living Nativity set for Sunday, Dec. 4

The Living Nativity will be held at the Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 6-8 p.m. Viewers can drive their vehicles through the area around the church where people and animals will depict the events of the Christian Nativity.

#### Mail box now out for letters to Santa

Throughout the remainder of the Christmas season, a mailbox will be available on the west side of the Norton County Courthouse for children to mail their letters and wish lists to Santa. The box will remain up through Christmas Day.

### Markets

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Wheat .....\$5.87  
Milo .....\$5.49  
Soybeans .....\$10.42  
Corn .....\$5.86  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday - Sunny with highs in the upper 50s. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. Thursday - Mostly cloudy and much colder. Breezy with a 20 percent chance of light snow in the morning. Thursday Night - Mostly cloudy in the evening.

### Kingham Report

Friday, Nov. 25 .....Low 31, High 61  
Saturday, Nov. 26 .....Low 34, High 45  
Sunday, Nov. 27 .....Low 18, High 44  
Monday, Nov. 28 .....Low 25, High 59  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Forgive us, dear God, when we forget how much you love us. Keep your faithfulness to us ever sure in our hearts. Amen.

## Santa brings cheer and family fun



The annual Santa visits kicked off Friday evening on the lawn of the Norton County Courthouse. Sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, the evening featured Santa visits, sleigh rides and treats for local children and their families. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be visiting Norton on the following Thursdays: Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. Sleigh rides will also be available on those evenings. Norton County officials have also reported that due to contractor delay, lighting and decorations on the Norton County Courthouse have been delayed, but barring any further delay, the courthouse should be lit up for the next Santa visit this Thursday. Pictured at left, children and their families enjoyed a sleigh ride Friday evening at the courthouse.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

For more photos, see page 3.

## Norton County authorized to sell tax credits

In a move that will help promote business growth in the community, the NetWork Kansas organization announced recently that Norton County has been selected as a NetWork Kansas E-Community and has been awarded \$125,000 in tax credits to create a revolving loan fund.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported that with the designation, interested tax-payers can purchase tax credits, which gives the taxpayer a tax deduction and helps establish a revolving loan fund. Sproul said that about 25 percent of the tax credits have already been spoken for and the credits are offered at a 75 percent value.

Norton County is required to sell the tax credits by Dec. 15. Sproul explained that anyone interested in purchasing tax credits should contact Norton City/County Economic Development at 785-877-3361.

The NetWork Kansas E-Community designation came about in Norton County when the county assembled a local leadership team of representatives from throughout the county to apply for consideration during the 2011 competition round. The team includes Jon Boxler, Diana Smith, Gloria Nelson, Maggie Ellis, Wally Burton and John Milnes.

To apply, the team submitted a written application in August and after

an interview and application approval, Norton County was designated as an E-Community.

The funding generated from the sale of tax credits will be available beginning in January to be awarded to local businesses as matching funds. The funds will be administered through the state's Center for Entrepreneurship after businesses apply and are approved for funding.

The Entrepreneurship (E-) Community partnership, now in its fifth year, emphasizes development of community resources to create a flourishing entrepreneurial environment. During the first four years of the E-Community partnership, more

than \$4.7 million have been raised. These funds are estimated to generate more than \$33 million of investment in rural businesses across Kansas. The E-Community partnership is based on two fundamental principles. In order for rural and distressed communities to survive, they must grow from within by fostering local leadership; and organizations involved in community development need to empower businesses with the assets they need to succeed, including education, expertise and economic resources.

Since 2007, NetWork Kansas E-Communities have loaned or granted \$1.54 million to businesses in their communities through this funding source and leveraged an additional \$9.5 million dollars, for a total investment of more than \$11 million dollars into businesses in E-Communities. This funding has spurred the creation or retention of nearly 350 jobs in these same communities and has immeasurable positive effects on the entrepreneurial ecosystems of these participating areas.

As an additional vehicle to encourage business growth in the community, a business "incubator space" will soon be available for new and existing entrepreneurs to help grow their business.

Sproul explained that the former Norton Area Chamber of Commerce

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## Civic organization to make holiday donations

Norton Lions Club President Karen Aldridge has announced that the 60 members of the Norton Lions Club will be conducting their annual Christmas Basket Project this holiday season and is seeking donations to help with the program.

The project was started in 1954 by Lion Dale Brunson. During its 57 year history, the project has provided thousands of baskets filled with food, toys and clothing to needy families in Norton County during the holiday season. Last year, 102 families throughout Norton County received a Christmas Basket. The baskets contain a ham, milk, fruits and vegetables for a traditional holiday dinner along with age-appropriate toys for the children in each family.

Support for this project has always been generous.

"Many local businesses, clubs, churches and individuals come together to assist the Lions with donations each year," said Project Chairman Tom Baumann. The Lions Club invites community members to help again with this project by contributing money, food and/or toys.

Boxes for donated grocery items can be found in Jamboree Foods and Main Street IGA. Canisters for cash donations have been placed in businesses throughout Norton. Organizations and individuals can also mail donations to the Norton Lions Club, PO Box 235 or Tom Baumann at Valley Hope Association, PO Box 510.

The Lions will also pickup donated food items and toys. Please contact Tom Baumann at 877-5111 or 877-3889 to make arrangements for pickup.

## Farm Bureau celebrates awards, state recognitions

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

To celebrate some recent awards and to kick off National Farm-City Week, the Norton County Farm Bureau held an open house celebration at the Farm Bureau office last Tuesday.

County Coordinator Patsy Maddy reported that at the Farm Bureau state annual meeting in November, Norton County was a finalist for earning an award at the state meeting in each of the five categories of leadership development, policy implementation, ag education and promotion, member services and public relations and advertising. Maddy reported that Norton was the top winner in member services and education/ag promotion.

Of the counties across the state, Norton County was also chosen as the overall outstanding county of all the counties in Kansas.

"We try to do a lot of things for our county and thanks go to our community for supporting everything we do," Maddy said. "Norton is just very good about supporting our organization and the things we do."

Farm Bureau's open house was celebration of the state designations, along with a way to kick off the organization's membership year. Maddy explained that a member coupon book has recently been released and now is the time for anyone interested in

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## Two applicants approved for state incentive program

By Carleen Bell  
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Thanks to legislation intended to draw people to rural Kansas, the Kansas Department of Commerce announced recently that 40 of the 50 eligible counties have signed on to the department's Rural Opportunity Zone program, including Norton County.

The Rural Opportunity Zone is a program that provides funding in the form of student-loan payoff and tax incentives for residents who move into the state. The eligible counties are the 50 that lost the most population according to the latest census figures.

The Department of Commerce reports that across the nation, 127 people have applied for the program

and, according to local officials, several of those applicants have applied for incentives to move to Norton County.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported that he has been notified of several individuals who have applied for the program and, as of Monday, two applicants had been approved for the program.

"We feel like we'll have at least five good applicants that will qualify for the program," Sproul reported. "Applicants can expect to hear back within 30 days of applying, so we may have some more applicants who are approved."

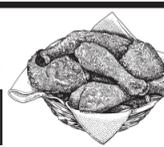
Norton County signed on to the Rural Opportunity Zone this summer.



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