

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

December 9, 2011

Briefly

Football banquet set for this Sunday

The annual Norton Community High School Football Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club, will be held on Sunday at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

A carry-in meal will precede presentations by head football coach Lucas Melvin. All fans are invited and are asked to bring a main dish and side dish or dessert and their own table service. Drinks will be provided.

Hoops tournament set for Jan. 21-22

The McCook, Neb. Optimist Club will hold the 21st annual MAC Attack youth basketball tournament Jan. 21-22. The tournament includes grades 4-8 in both boy and girl divisions. The deadline for registration is Jan. 9. Entry forms can be picked up at the Sports Shoppe in downtown McCook or online at www.McCookOptimistClub.org. Forms should be returned to McCook Optimist Club at 208 Norris Avenue, McCook, NE, 69001. For more information, contact Bob Elder at 308-345-4296.

Veterans Affairs set to host presentation

The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs will hold a benefits presentation on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. at Whispering Pines in Norton. The presentation will include information pensions, survivor benefits and household benefits. Anyone who is interested in learning more about veteran benefits is welcome to attend, free of charge.

Along with the presentation, a Kansas Commission of Veteran's Affairs officers will be set up in the parking lot of Whispering Pines from noon to 5 p.m. to help veterans and their families fill out forms or answer any questions they may have.

Markets

Tuesday, December 9, 2011

Wheat	\$5.98
Milo	\$5.51
Soybeans	\$10.49
Corn	\$5.88

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with areas of freezing fog. Lows around 14. Saturday - Sunny with areas of freezing fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s. Saturday Night - Mostly clear with lows in the lower 20s. Sunday - Sunny with highs in the lower 40s. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with lows in the 20's.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Dec. 6	Low -5, High 22
Wednesday, Dec. 7	Low 5, High 35
Thursday, Dec. 8	Low 15, High 32

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, may our hearts be open to hear you and joyfully respond in faith. Amen

Norton Junior High band performs



The Norton Junior High school band performed an instrumental concert for families and friends Tuesday evening at the junior high gym. The concert featured a selection of seven different songs, whose composers come from a variety of time periods and demographics.

Director by Mr. Don Mordecai, the concert is one of several band and vocal concerts planned for this month across the

school district. There will be a junior/senior high school vocal concert next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium and on Dec. 19, Eisenhower students will present a winter concert at the east campus at 6:30 p.m. The fifth and sixth grade bands have already held concerts this month.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

City appoints a committee for possible reconstruction

By Carleen Bell
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Amid some disagreement and unanswered questions about the potential project, the Norton City Council voted Wednesday evening to form a citizens committee to recommend a design for what could be a new swimming pool for the city. The nine-member committee was appointed by a council vote with council member Jerry Jones opposing the move.

At Wednesday's meeting, Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson outlined a report from representatives of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc., who recently visited Norton to evaluate the condition of the current pool and make recommendations for possible renovation or replacement of the pool.

According to the report, one of the most pressing concerns with the pool is the city is losing more than 2.7 million gallons of water each season because of water leaks in the pool shell and pipes that circulate water. The negative affects of the leaking, the report states, include unusually cold water, environmental concerns, cost of energy expenditures, chemical waste and the loss of sub-grade materials that support the pool structure.

The report cites numerous other concerns, including the erosion of support material from the ground beneath the pool, brittle and porous concrete, and cracking of the pool shell. Because of those problems, one end of the pool has settled more than five

inches below the other end and as a result, the water isn't filtered and cleaned properly through the pool's gutter filtration system.

The report from Aquatic Design also cites problems with the facilities at the pool, including the wading pools and the bathhouse, particularly in regards to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Because of the problems cited, Aquatic Design has recommended that the city construct a new pool and facilities around the pool at an estimated cost of \$3.2 million to \$4.1 million, depending on the size and features of a new facility.

The committee appointed Wednesday evening is charged with coming up with a possible design for a new pool, but council members emphasize that the decision to explore options for a new pool does not reflect a decision to move forward with new construction.

"I don't doubt that we are losing water, but how much and where is it going?" asked council member Jerry Moritz. "The water is taking aggregate material with it and there is no indication of where that water and material are going. Do we have enough facts to take this to the public? I think there are some things we can do in the interim to buy us some time."

If the city does decide to move forward with new construction, the matter would have to go to public vote if the project is to be funded with new or additional taxpayer dollars.

Council member Jerry Jones and other council members also expressed concern over hand-picking a committee to design what could be a new pool for the community.

"Why are we hand-picking a committee?" Jones asked. "I have concerns about a certain person not showing up and making sure the public has plenty of opportunity for input on the decision."

Council member Donna Foley, who chairs the city's Parks committee, expressed, however, that the committee represents a good cross section of the community and that all committee meetings will be open to the public for comments and questions.

"It was in (my) original motion for the committee to receive public input," Foley said. "The committee won't be dealing with funding options or whether or not to build a new pool. The committee is asked only to come up with a possible design to use if we decide to build a new pool."

In the end, the council voted to appoint a nine-person committee, consisting of Carolyn Applegate, Jill Lively, Jerry Moritz, Donna Foley, Connie Glenn, Brandie Seeman, Chase Rice, Chris Fahrenbruch and Dr. Marty Griffey.

A full report of Aquatic Design's evaluation and recommendations can be obtained at the Norton city office during regular business hours.

Christmas On Us promotion draws two more winners

Another week of the Norton Telegram's Christmas On Us promotion wrapped up Monday with two \$25 instant winners.

During the week of Nov. 29 through Dec. 5, a total of 4,816 tickets were given out for the promotion, which equates to \$48,160 spent at participating Norton businesses.

The first drawing winner was Beverly Kindler of Norton, who got her ticket at the Norton Telegram. The second winner was Amanda Majors, who got her ticket at Sander's Bed Shop.

Over the course of the six-week Christmas on Us promotion, a total of \$1,200 will be given away with one \$500 winner, one \$100 winner, seven \$50 winners, and 10 \$25 instant winners, which come from the numbers found in the advertisements in each Tuesday edition of the Norton Telegram.

Participants should check their ticket numbers against those in sponsor ads on the Christmas On Us page each Tuesday. The instant winner ticket winners will have six days to claim their prizes, which are redeemable at the Telegram office at 215 S. Kansas Avenue.

All prizes are in the form of script money, spendable only at Christmas On Us participants.

Participating businesses have posters in their windows and shoppers will receive one ticket for each \$10 they spend at the participating business and tickets can also be obtained at the Norton Telegram office with no purchase necessary. The customer will keep one copy of the ticket and the Norton Telegram will keep another copy. Tickets are collected each Monday from participating businesses.

The grand prize drawing will be held at the Norton Community Center on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Any unclaimed instant winners will be drawn at that time, as well.

Participants must be at least 18 years old and present at the drawing with the winning ticket to claim a prize. By claiming a prize, winners agree to have their photo taken and published in the Norton Telegram.

For the 2010 contest, a total of three people held winning tickets. Alvin Mapes won \$200 in script, James Seamons was the winner of the \$300 drawing and Kim Gallentine held the \$500 winning ticket.

Overall, 16,060 tickets were given out in 2010. If each ticket represents \$10 in sales, \$160,600 was spent locally during the weeks of the promotion.

Sponsors of this year's Christmas On

Us promotion are Mortensen Computer Services, Destination Kitchen, NexTech, The Bank, Moffet Drug, Sander Furniture, Mainstreet IGA and the Norton Telegram.

County works to maintain rural roads

Trying to get ahead on spring maintenance, the Norton County Road and Bridge department is in the process of reclaiming some rural road surfaces across the county, which may cause some inconvenience for travelers.

According to information from the department, the purpose of reclaiming is to pull edge material onto the road surface, which levels out the road and keeps surface material on the road. Secondly, the process pulls loose and dead vegetation out of the ditch so roads can drain properly and new vegetation can grow.

The reclaiming process, though, may pose some challenges for

motorists on the roadways. Larger pieces of grass and weeds, mud and debris may gather on the driving surface and drivers are asked to slow down and pay close attention when driving around the reclaimed material. The debris will soon break down and become part of a smooth road surface again.

The department reports that several roads across the county have already undergone the reclaiming process and as weather permits, more roads will be completed. For questions or concerns about road maintenance, any county resident can contact the Norton County Road and Bridge department at 785-877-5740.

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