

Tuesday
March 2, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Bill Manning

Briefly
State officials
to be in Norton

State Senator Stan Clark, representatives John Faber and Dan Johnson and Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline will be visiting Norton and Almena on Saturday. The men will discuss the issues being considered in the Kansas Legislature. Everyone is invited to attend. The legislators will be in Norton from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Town and Country Kitchen and in Almena from 5-6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Boys advance
in substate play

The No. 3 state ranked Norton Community High School boys basketball team defeated Beloit 57-44 in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament on Monday in Norton. In other first round games last night, No. 1 seed and No. 4 state ranked Minneapolis outscored No. 8 seed Russell 81-51, No. 3 seed and No. 6 state ranked Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays defeated No. 6 seed Belleville 51-46 and No. 4 seed Phillipsburg beat No. 5 seed Oakley 65-45.

Semi-final and final contests will be played at Beloit, the host team. Norton will play Thomas More Prep at 6 p.m. and Phillipsburg will play Minneapolis at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the semi-finals. The winners will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday for the championship and a berth in the Class 3A State Tournament next week in Hutchinson. **Norton girls play tonight** The Norton Community High School girls basketball team will open Substate Tournament play at 7 p.m. today versus Beloit in the Beloit High School Gymnasium. The semi-finals will be on Friday and the championship final at 6 p.m. on Saturday, all in Beloit.

Weather
Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 40. **Tonight** — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers after midnight. **Wednesday** — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. **Thursday** — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain.

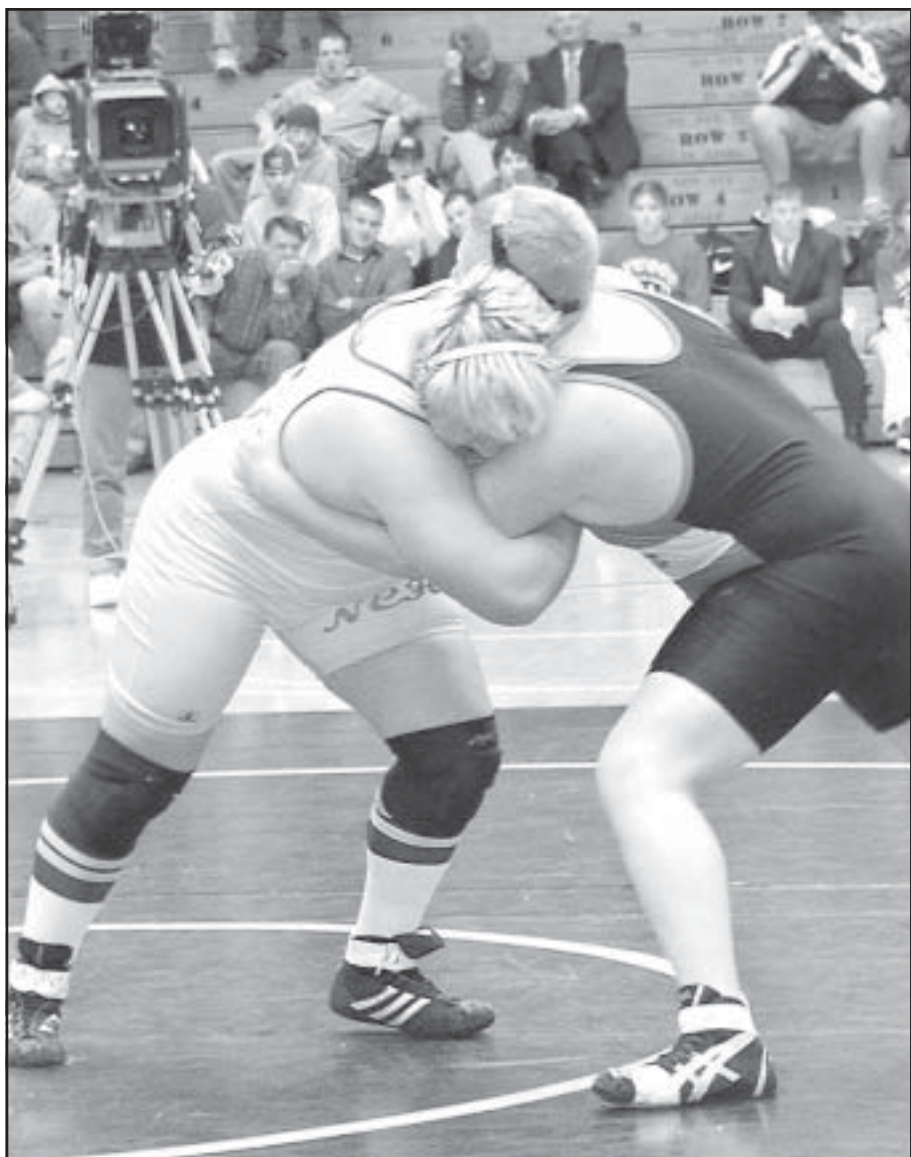
Howell report:

Friday	High 62, Low 43
Saturday	High 59, Low 46
.....	.95 of an inch of precipitation
Sunday	High 47, Low 31
Monday	High 41, Low 22
Week ago	High 60, Low 26
Month ago	High 32, Low 3
Year ago	High 46, Low 20
March precipitation	1.55 inches
Year-to-date precipitation	2.10 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

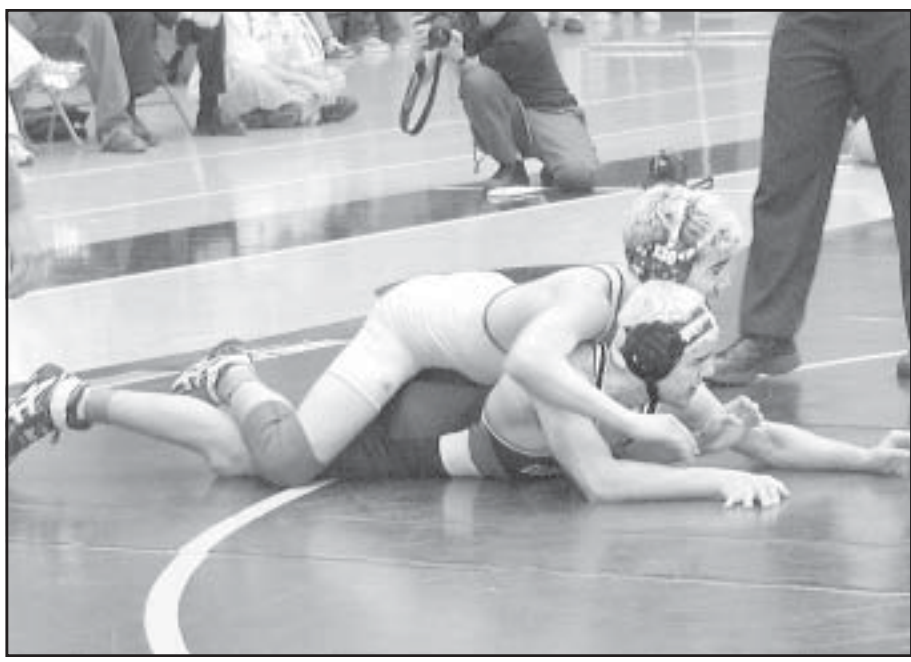
Prayer

Lord, give us grace to trust you for strength for the next step, knowing that with you we can conquer every mountain. Amen



Junior Michael Sprigg (above) beat Ryan Honas, Ellis, for the 275-pound championship. Senior James Annon (below) scored two points in his 9-6 decision over Simon Orozco, Ellsworth, to win the 130 pound championship. Sophomore Clay Madden (below right) scored a 14-1 major decision over Kyle Cook, Hoisington, in the 112 pound championship semi-finals.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



No. 1

Jays
soar
to the peak
Wrestlers take state

By DICK BOYD
On a scale of one to ten, the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championship won by Coach Bill Johnson's ten Norton Community High School wrestlers on Friday and Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays was a "perfect 10". Norton edged two-time defending state champion Hoxie 175.5 to 172.5 to win the

team championship. Each of the ten Blue Jays who competed by virtue of qualifying in the regional tournament the previous weekend in Norton, contributed points to the exciting victory but it was not decided until 275 pound junior Michael Sprigg won an overtime decision in the final match. It was a two-team battle between (Continued on Page 10)



Retarded could lose homes in budget crunch

By VERONICA MONIER

The Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas may have to close the doors of its two homes in Norton if things don't change.

Individual Program Coordinator Sondra Graham said money is going to be cut from the Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, but "new money" has been found to upgrade the waiting list.

Ms. Graham said Norton has two homes in operation — the Eisenhower

House, which has six women, and the Grant House, which has six men. Both houses provide 24-hour care for severely disabled people. The Norton homes employ 35 full and part-time people, which covers maintenance, secretaries, direct care personnel and managers.

"This doesn't make sense," she said. "If the homes are closed and the people moved, then new staff will have to be hired and trained, and new homes established, which is only going to cost money. Why not just stay with the established

homes already in operation?"

Most of the people the agency serves have been together since they came to the Norton homes in 1988, when several state hospitals closed, she said. Several of the staff have been there for just as long.

"It would be like breaking up families," she said.

Ms. Graham said the agency's main objective is to get every person to be as independent as possible. But with the continual loss of money, they may have to take back some of the independence that

has been earned, so someone else can have a chance.

"It's not right and it's not fair to the people who have overcome huge obstacles," she said.

Since being in the Norton home, some of the women have learned to walk, to feed themselves and to dress themselves, she said. When they first arrived, they couldn't do any of these things.

The men have become less destructive, she said, because they've learned other (Continued on Page 5)

Travelers to suffer delays
during work on U.S. 36

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Travelers driving west of Norton should anticipate a delay in their driving plans later this spring when the Kansas Department of Transportation will begin widening a portion of U.S. 36, building new bridges and repaving.

On Feb. 18, the construction contract to build the new 5.8 miles of highway was awarded to Venture Corporation of Great Bend for \$5,765,643.

"The contract has not yet been signed," said Department of Transportation Public Involvement Liaison Tom Hein, "But that is just a formality we'll accomplish later when we have the pre-construction meeting."

The stretch of new highway will begin at West Street in Norton and run to the junction of U.S. 36 and K-383. The project is slated to take two years to cold recycle the surface, overlay it with new

asphalt, and widen the roadway to 12-foot driving lanes and 10-foot paved shoulders.

"We will also be replacing two bridges during the project," Mr. Hein said.

Since the renovation will occur on present alignment, there will be a slight delay in driving time as pilot cars escort traffic through the work zone.

"The good news is the road will remain open during the work, so drivers won't have to deal with a detour," he said.

Hein pointed out that lights will halt traffic when the bridgework is being completed. He said the bridge just west of town would be replaced with a box culvert.

Plans are still in the early stages, but construction work could begin soon.

"It will be sometime this spring when the work begins," said Hein.

County commissioners
look to save banking fees

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County commissioners don't want to pay bank fees but aren't sure of the best way to go about it.

A couple of weeks ago the county received a letter from First Security Bank saying that the bank was going to start charging the county for wire transfer services.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that First Security is the only bank the county uses that charges the county service charges.

"You're not looking at any great amount of money," Mr. Wyatt said. "It's about \$5 for anything you do."

Mr. Wyatt said that the clerk's office would probably run up a \$30 to \$40 bill each month for transfers. He said that the auditor had said it was ridiculous

that First Security charges service charges with the amount of money the county keeps there.

The commissioners decided to look into the service costs and see how much they are but also noted that First Security usually provides the best interest rate for both loans and investments. At this time the county has about \$2.5 million in First Security.

First Security Bank Executive Vice President Joe Herman visited with the commissioners at their meeting on Feb. 23.

Mr. Herman said that he couldn't change the rules on the NOW account, from which the county pays most of its bills. However, he said he could help.

"I can show you a way to knock that (Continued on Page 5)

Take care when overseeding crops

With many wheat fields still looking suspect, farmers may be wanting to overseed or replant with a spring crop.

Make sure not to use a winter barley, triticale or wheat as you will be disappointed with the results. The best time to plant these spring crops for our area would be now through March 25 using a seeding depth between 0.75-1.5 inches. Spring oats and barley should be planted between 40-64 lbs/A while spring triticale and wheat should be planted at 50 to 70 lbs/A.

Typically, spring barley, wheat and triticale are not grown in our area because they do not perform as well as a winter type. Winter barley, triticale, and wheat will typically mature earlier than the spring counterpart, which will allow for more grain fill before the crop shuts down due to the heat in June. However, with many fields of poor winter wheat, spring crops may be more appealing.

Because spring barley, triticale and wheat are not normally grown here, finding yield information for the different varieties will be difficult, but seed dealers may have some information. To find a university crop performance test on these, the closest information comes from Nebraska, and a web link to this entitled "Spring Small Grain Variety Selection" is located at www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2.

If a farmer would like to overseed his winter wheat with a spring wheat, there is some concern about whether the wheat will be taken, so they should check with their local elevator.

Ron Koehn, general manager of Midwest Coop, has said in the

County hopes to save banking fees

(Continued from Page 1) down to zero," he said.

The NOW account, he explained has per check charge after the first 30 each month and an 8 cent charge for each check deposited from another bank.

However, the county could get a regular business account and if it keeps at least a \$20,000 balance there would be no service charges on it.

He said that no one from the county has ever asked about service charges before.

"Business people ask all the time," he said.

The commissioners asked Mr. Wyatt and Treasurer Cynthia Linner to sit down with the auditor and figure out the best deal for the county before moving or changing any accounts.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked to Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan about the hearing he had attended in Phillipsburg about a tax appeal on road maintenance. Mr. Brannan said that he should hear how the case turns out within 30 days.

- Heard that the county road crews are replacing missing or damaged road signs.

- Were told by Sheriff Troy Thomson that it was probably time for the commissioners and city council to get together on the dispatch contract. Sheriff Thomson said that he has done all he can to further the contract and now the two entities need to get together to iron out the details.

- Held a 15 minutes closed session with Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Came together with county employees at a meeting with Blue Cross and Blue Shield representative Charles Krull to discuss changes the insurance company has made to the county's medication copay contract. After talking with employees the commissioners decided to turn the problem over to their lawyer.

- Agreed to forward a contract for work on a bridge on the Norton-Decatur county line to the Decatur County commissioners. Decatur County will pay 45 percent of the costs up to \$20,790.

About ag Brian Olson, K-State agronomist



past, "Midwest would be willing to take spring wheat if the producer let them know what type of wheat it was. As for a mixed load of spring and winter wheat, the coop will likely take it, but there may be a discount".

Unlike spring barley, triticale and wheat, spring oats is regularly grown in this area. Varieties that did well at the K-State Research and Extension Center in Colby were Jim from Minnesota which won the test with a yield of 67.9 bu/A. The rest of the top five was Blaze from Illinois at 66.7, INO9201 from Indiana at 66.2, Don from Illinois at 65.0, and Rodeo from Illinois at 64.4 bu/A. Other yields from commonly grown varieties were Bates from Missouri at 59.7 and Jerry from North Dakota at 46.6 bu/A. The average yield for the test was 58.4 bu/A.

Nitrogen is needed by all of these crops for optimum growth; however, lodging can occur when excessive amounts are present.

For oats and barley, applying one pound of nitrogen/A for every bushel of expected yield is a good guideline. However, putting on more than 40 to 60 pounds of nitrogen/A may cause significant lodging and increase the potential for high nitrates in the forages.

For spring triticale and wheat applying the same amount of nitrogen as if you were growing winter wheat would be acceptable.

For more information, a publication entitled "Small Grain Cereals for Forage" along with the a report entitled "Winter Cereals for Forages" will be very useful. These can be downloaded at www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2 under the "Production and Pests" page or visit your county extension office to acquire a hard copy.

Please e-mail me at bolson@oznet.ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic.

Norton could lose group homes

(Continued from Page 1) ways to express themselves.

Ms. Graham said these improvements have happened because of the dedication of the staff. If the Norton homes close, then that stability will be shaken.

"We need help," she said. "The best thing the residents of Norton

County can do is to write Governor Sebelius — plead with her, beg her, whatever it takes — to put back the 10 percent cut, put the \$2 million from the waiting list back into the Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

"If the community wants to keep us here, to keep \$1.2 million in the

local economy, then it has to get involved in our cause."

Norton County Commissioner John Miller said the commissioners are gathering information and will see what they can do to help.

(See Letters to the Editor on Page 4)



Hop, skip for fun, for heart

Students in Joan Bolt's physical education classes were learning the finer points of rope jumping last week. Some were jumping for both physical fitness and for the American Heart Association. Several students collected pledges for their hopping and skipping in the association's annual fund raiser, "Jump Rope For Heart". Jumpers earned prizes depending on the amounts they raised. —

Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



Oberlin to hold home show

Oberlin will have a home show on Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21, at The Gateway.

The show will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Manager Glenva Nichols said they already have 23 booths signed up, including banks, appliances, air conditioning and heating, hardware, gardening and computer and phone lines.

There is still time to register for a

booth, she added, noting that they would like all registrations in by Friday. To register, call the chamber office at (785) 475-3441.

Mrs. Nichols said the show is a great way for homeowners to see the new line of products that are available and also a way to visit with professionals.

The Gateway staff will be running a concession stand both days.

The home show is free for spectators.

Urgent news for people who have used WELDING RODS

Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with **Parkinsonism** (like Parkinson's disease) and **manganism**. Symptoms include **shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors**. If you have experienced any of these problems, **call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation** to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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