

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday
March 9, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Wanda Stephenson

Briefly Recycling class set for Friday

A program on recycling will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the Norton County 4-H Building. The topics will include reducing household waste through "environmentally friendly" shopping, how to reduce waste in recycling, how to prepare products for recycling and how to safely recognize and handle hazardous waste. Gove County Extension Agent Cathy Musick will be the speaker. Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald will be on hand to answer questions about the local recycle program. The program is free but in order to have enough handouts please call the Norton County Extension office at 877-5755 by Thursday if you are attending.

Free self-defense class at museum

A self defense class is being offered to the public, free of charge, by the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, in the Hansen Community Room. The class will be taught by Kansas State Trooper Joe Vajgrt, a 26 year veteran of the patrol. No registration is necessary. For information call (785) 689-4846.

Almena PRIDE to hold supper

The Almena Community PRIDE is holding a benefit pancake and sausage supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Almena Community Center. Donation proceeds will be used to further the renovation of the historic jail.

Weather Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 30s. Wednesday — Partly cloudy and breezy with highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday Night — Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the mid 20s. Thursday — Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 50s. Thursday Night — Mostly clear with lows in the upper 20s.

Howell report:

Friday High 49, Low 32
Saturday High 68, Low 30
Sunday High 57, Low 37
Monday High 70, Low 33
Week ago High 41, Low 22
Month ago High 40, Low 20
Year ago High 31, Low 11
March precipitation32 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 2.42 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God of hope, help us to find the strength to face each day's challenges in your constant love. Amen



Reading the ceremony Erin Terrell (above) helped with a flag ceremony at Eisenhower Elementary on Monday. Raising the flag (top front left) were Shelbi McKenna, Sady Keilig, Caitlyn Patterson, Carmen Ball and Kamilla Jones.

— Telegram photos by Cynthia Haynes

Girl Scouts observe 91 years of history

Norton Girls Scouts raised the flags over Eisenhower Elementary School on Monday to help celebrate their week. The girls were all encouraged to wear their uniforms to church to show support for Girl Scout Sunday. Next Tuesday the Scouts will go to Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted Living Center for a game night with the residents and on Saturday, March 27, girls will attend a Junior Scout event in Phillipsburg. "During Girl Scout week, we renew our commitment to making sure every girl in Northwest Kansas has the opportunity to grow strong and realize their own potential. But we need your help," says Linda Mills, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts Sunflower Council. "We invite everyone over 18 in the Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council jurisdiction

to volunteer with a local Girl Scout troop or council program. You don't have to be a troop leader — even if you can only donate one hour of your time once a year, you'll be making a great difference in the lives of Northwest Kansas girls." Girl Scout Week commemorates the 1912 founding of girl scouting in the U.S. by Juliette Gordon Low. In the 91 years since, the organization has helped more than 50 million women. Girl Scouting cultivates values, social conscience and self-esteem in young girls, while teaching them life skills. The Sunflower Council serves more than 900 girls and 400 adults in the 16 counties it serves. It is a United Way agency. For more information about Girl Scouts go to www.girlscouts.org. In Norton call Treva Patterson, 877-5227.

City still working on dispatch dispute

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council and County Commission have still not ironed out problems on a new dispatch agreement. The city agreed to the terms of the agreement but wanted some changes. At the March 3 meeting, Councilman Jerry Hawks said the finance committee got the proposed contract about three weeks ago. It wasn't that much different from the first contract, he said, but there were three areas of concern. The county wants to remove the \$44,000 cap. If that is done there was no way to ensure the safety of the city's budget. The committee proposed that the budget that the sheriff gives to the city for the upcoming be the maximum amount the city pays for that year.

The termination notice was changed from one year to six months. The city would like to see it stay at one year. "There's no reason to have it at six months," Mr. Hawks said. And, there was no beginning date on the contract. The committee would like a Jan. 1, 2005, starting date. Mr. Hawks said after the committee looked at it, they gave it back to the sheriff so he could take it to the commissioners. "They said 'no' to the changes," he said. "We were shocked." "We thought the city entered into these negotiations in good faith conditions. With the commissioners saying no to the changes, we felt the door has been slammed in our face."

City Attorney Karen Griffiths suggested the council vote on the agreement with the changes in place, giving the commissioners another chance. "I hope the commissioners will come around," said Mr. Hawks. "I've been working with these guys for 20 years now and was devastated when they said they wouldn't work with us." "I hope the commissioners will negotiate in good faith and consider making these changes, because none of the changes will cost the county any money." In other business, the council: • Agreed to send a letter supporting Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas to the governor and legislators. Sondra Graham, who was present on behalf of Development Services, said if the Norton homes are closed because of bud-

County worries about jobs

Commissioners learn agency may lose cash

The Norton County Commissioners are trying to find out what is happening with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, which has received word that its state money may be cut. During their meeting on Monday afternoon they held a conference call with agency President Jim Blume. Mr. Blume said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is proposing a 10 percent budget cut in the program the agency has for the most severely handicapped. If the cut goes through, he said, then the Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded in either Norton or Russell will have to be closed. He said the homes are funded with the same money as the two state hospitals, but the hospitals didn't have any cuts to their budget. He said the hospitals have a \$240 million budget, while there was only an \$18 million budget for the small-bed homes. Commissioner John Miller wanted to know why the agency had opened two new homes recently when there were impending budget cuts. Mr. Blume said the new homes were opened because some of the people they are required to serve are sex offenders. Other are people in crisis. He said they opened the homes in Catherine, a small community outside of Hays, because they had to find a place away from families. "We had to have these new homes to protect the community and to serve the people on the waiting list who are in crisis," Mr. Blume said. "These would not be the kind of people you would want in Norton." Also, he said the new homes were replacing two that were closed in Hays. Mr. Miller asked how many people were hired and where the money came from for the new houses. "I'm asking these things because I just want to be prepared," he said. "If I can think of these questions, then so can someone else." Mr. Blume said he understood that, and would get the figures together before he met with the legislature on Wednesday. He said Gov. Sebelius wanted to put \$6 million into the waiting list, but then wanted a \$2 million cut to the facilities serving the severely handicapped. He wants her to put \$4 million towards the waiting list and take out the \$2 million cut. "I think we can get this turned around if we keep pressure on the governor's office," Mr. Blume said. "We need to make her realize she is hurting rural communities in Western Kansas with this cut." Mr. Miller said he planned to be in To-

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Man killed on U. S. 36

A retired Norton man was hit by a car and killed while crossing U.S. 36 at 5:54 p.m., late Monday afternoon. Robert E. Brown, 76, died at the scene after being struck by a car at 5:54 p.m. A 1995 Chevy Monte Carlo was traveling west and the driver, Tami Kay Black, Norton, said she did not see Mr. Brown because the sun was in her eyes. Mrs. Black was taken to Norton County Hospital for possible injuries. Enfield Funeral Home, Norton, is in charge of arrangements.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Sportscaster apologizes for poor taste

To the Editor:
My Dad began taking me to kid wrestling tournaments while I was in kindergarten or first grade. It goes without saying that I really had no idea at the time just how big of an influence this early exposure to our wonderful sport would have upon my life.

I was able to experience a bit of success along the way and I still fondly recall my days of competition. But, over time I eventually came to the realization that the most beneficial influence for me was not the 15 seconds of fame. Instead, it was the influence on character development provided by the coaches, fans and friends that impacted my life so greatly during and after my days of competition.

With this revelation in mind, it became important for me to find a way to give back to the sport that had done so much for me. Upon my relocation back to Northwest Kansas in 1998, I was presented with such an opportunity to give back and additional opportunities soon followed. Included was the opportunity to provide color commentary of live television coverage of the 3-2-1A state wrestling tournament.

But after several years of attempting to provide a positive impact on our sport, I now realize I am responsible for an error in judgment that caused a disservice to our sport. During this weekend's state tournament, I, in poor taste, identified some officiating efforts that appeared in my mind to be questionable. Not the least of which came in the 112 pound state final bout between Norton's Clay Madden and Plainville's Paul Owings. During an exchange late in the match, Owings was able to score a takedown on a well executed headlock. In the exchange, it appeared to me as though the lead official, Kevin Hewitt (who I incorrectly identified as Mark Hewitt) signaled a two count while watching for near fall exposure points.

Based on my perception, I referenced my observation on air when near fall points were not awarded. And during an instant replay of the exchange I felt I found confirmation of the apparent near fall. To make matters

worse, following the match I continued my series of errors by making commentary indicating that Clay Madden's second state title was surrounded in a bit of controversy. Obviously, this entire episode was inappropriate for a number of reasons.

Upon reviewing Mr. Hewitt's account of the event posted upon a popular Kansas high school wrestling website and upon my subsequent viewing of the videotape, I found my assessment was wrong. After watching the exchange on videotape several times Monday evening, I was able to confirm Mr. Hewitt did signal a one count in near fall criteria with his right hand, but criteria was broken prior to his achieving a second count. He then signaled a two-point takedown with his left hand before once again indicating a second, but separate, one count with his right hand. In short, I mistook Mr. Hewitt's signal for the takedown to be a second near fall count.

Mr. Hewitt, regardless of whether my observation had been accurate or inaccurate, my commentary during and after the match was inappropriate. And because of this I find it necessary to apologize to you and any other official who was negatively impacted by my commentary while they provided a necessary, but often times thankless, service to our wrestling community. This was an inconsiderate and inappropriate act on my part and I am sorry.

Secondly, my commentary was inappropriate and inconsiderate because it detracted from the joy associated with the accomplishment of a second state title for Clay Madden and the accomplishment of a state team title for the Norton Blue Jays. For this I extend my heartfelt apology to Clay, his family, the entire Norton wrestling community and the fine Norton merchants who provided underwriting support for this telecast. I have nothing but my reputation to support this statement, but please know my act was an error in judgment and not an intentional act intended to discredit your title winning performances.

An apology is in order to the entire wrestling community, regardless of team affiliation, and

also to the Kansas State High School Activities Association. I am sorry if my commentary tarnished this year's outstanding version of the state 3-2-1A wrestling tournament.

Next it is also obvious that my commentary was an injustice to the merchants across central and northwest Kansas who provided underwriting support for the telecast. Without their support, continued coverage of the tournament will not be possible. I can only hope that my acts will not prevent their future support of this important and unique telecast coverage.

Finally, I need to apologize to the fine folks at Smoky Hills Public Television and to my broadcast partner, Rich Epp. Smoky Hills Public Television expended a great deal of effort to bring this event to live television and I am sorry my commentary has caused some to voice displeasure with them and with Mr. Epp. With this in mind, I would urge each of you to recognize the acts were my own and not those of Smoky Hills Public Television or of Mr. Epp and, as such, I would ask that you avoid any retribution toward them — it was not their error, it was mine.

Ours is a close-knit community — one that is largely supportive of everyone associated with the sport. I can only hope any division caused by my acts will be short lived.

In closing, I can assure you of three things. The content of my commentary was not meant to be a malicious or intentional act; it was simply a case of poor judgment. Secondly, I can assure you that I will continue to do all I can to support and promote our great sport. And lastly, given the opportunity, I will provide the same knowledgeable and insightful wrestling coverage, that I have become known for — but next time with an emphasis on wrestling not inappropriate commentary.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this incident, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Apologetically,
Les Brown
835 South Grant Avenue
Colby, Kansas



Lois Rostek, helped stack 50 boxes full of good, clean, used clothes she and other members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, collected over recent weeks to send to needy people all over the world through the efforts of Orphan Grain Train.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Churches collect clothes to send to world's needy

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

How much grain could a grain train haul if a grain train could haul grain?

Actually the grain train we refer to is not really a train, it's trucks. Lots and lots of container trucks. And they're not filled with grain.

Sports card, toy show ready to go

Hundreds of collectors and hobby fans are expected in Norton on Saturday, March 20, for the 16th Annual Toy and Sports Card Show at the National Guard Armory from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Norton Methodist Men's group with support from the Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event.

Dealers display everything from sports cards to automotive, farm, trucking, construction and other toys of all sizes both new and antique.

Proceeds are used to pay for mission activities, student scholarships and public benefit contributions such as fire department smoke helmet apparatus.

A food stand will be available featuring the famous pies baked by the women of the church.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

Admission is \$1 for adults and free for children under 12 with an adult.

At least not in the sense of wheat or rice. They're filled with clothing, materials and food.

The Orphan Grain Train is a ministry founded in 1992 by the Rev. Ray S. Wilke and Clayton Andrews along with the support of members of Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Neb.

The Rev. Wilke had visited Riga, Latvia, and saw the need in countries of the former Soviet Union. Since 1992, Orphan Grain Train has sent more than 10,000 tons of supplies to people in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. That was more than 700 semitrailer truckloads as of October.

Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, have been accumulating good, used, clean clothing for quite some time. Last week members sorted, boxed and stacked more than 50 boxes of clothes in preparation for shipping.

First the boxes will be sent to

Phillipsburg where grain train workers will store the marked boxes in a regional warehouse. Other churches from around the area are also sending in their contributions. The plan calls for all the warehoused items to be shipped out by the end of March or early April.

There are those who wonder if the clothes really get to the people who need them.

A young man from a small community in Nebraska had helped his church with clothing donations for an Orphan Grain Train.

Several months later, he was on a short-term mission trip to a remote village in Africa. One day, as he was walking down a dusty street he met a little boy wearing a much too big shirt, emblazoned with the name of a small Nebraska town. It was a shirt he had donated.

If you want to learn more about the Orphan Grain Train call the Rev. Rick Rostek at 877-2430.

Commissioners worry about job loss

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peka on Thursday and would go a day early to attend Mr. Blume's meeting with the legislature.

"We don't want to lose the jobs in our community and we don't want to disturb the residents," he said. "I know many of them from when I worked at the state hospital and know that they are very content where there are. We'll do anything we can to help. We don't want the Russell homes to close either."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a telephone conference call with the Adams County commissioners in Idaho, who called about Norton County's incinerator.

tor. Adams County is thinking about purchasing an incinerator to burn its trash and had been working with the same supplier which sold Norton County its incinerator in 1995.

County Commission told their counterparts in Idaho the history of the Norton incinerator and why it is closed.

- Spoke with Gail Boller with Natoma Corp. on a proposed expansion of his business. Mr. Boller said that an application has been submitted for a 20,000 sq. ft. addition which will allow for growth in sale and production. He is asking the county to support a tax exemption status for his expansion.

He also had questions about

taxes on the equipment he is moving to Norton from another operation.

The commission asked County Appraiser Alan Hale to review the machine value to estimate the taxes. The commission agreed several months ago to support the expansion with a 10-year exemption status and told Mr. Boller that the offer was still good. They asked that the proper paperwork be filed.

- Reviewed a mutual aid agreement for disaster management with Gove County. County Attorney Doug Sebelius advised the commission not to sign until more information can be obtained.

- Authorized Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan to purchase two Mack semi trucks from a dealer in Houston, Texas, if the price is right and the trucks meet the county's specifications.

City works on agreement for dispatch services

(Continued from Page 1)

get cut, then Norton would lose 35 jobs and a large amount of money in the local economy.

- Gave the animal control officer a 5 percent raise.

- Heard from Councilman George Jones that Fire Chief Mitch Jones has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency money for new safety equipment. The agency would pay 90 percent and the city would need to pay about \$2,500.

- Left parking on the 300 block of N. First as it is. Mr. Jones said Pam Hoover met with the Public Safety Committee and asked that parking be allowed on one side of the street.

Police Chief Lynn Menagh said the street is only 26-feet wide and if parking were allowed on one side, two cars could pass, but it would be close. The council decided it was safest to leave it as it is.

- Heard from Councilman Jim Williams that the city employees

would like Good Friday off as a holiday. Mayor David Corns suggested giving them an additional holiday next year, but reducing the cost of living raise by an appropriate amount.

Councilman Ron Briery said the employees were just given a discretionary day last year and if they wanted Good Friday off they could use that day.

The council voted down the motion with everyone but Mr. Williams voting no.

- Approved John Liddle's request for 68 feet of sidewalk replacement at 301 S. Wabash. The city will provide the labor and Mr. Liddle will pay the cost of materials.

- Received a report on sales taxes from Mayor David Corns, who said the city received \$19,547.94 in January of city sales tax receipts and \$13,803.58 of county sales tax receipts for a total of \$33,351.52. The year-to-date collections total \$57,317.80.

ACREAGE FOR SALE



ACREAGE IN KANSAS — Approximately 5 Acres with Highway 183 frontage. Two bedrooms with lots of closets and hardwood floors. New 30 year Heritage shingles. New wood stove, 4 new ceiling fans, new Pergo floors in kitchen and laundry, new furnace and central air, new insulation, new 32x32 metal building. Job transfer necessitates sale. Still needs some finish work etc., but a rare opportunity.

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Some restrictions apply, see store for details. Offer ends March 31, 2004