

Sports:

The Norton Blue Jays took on the Oakley Plainsmen in the first high school football game of the season.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Pigskin Pick 'ems:

Pick the winning teams and win.

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Tuesday,
Sept. 7, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Kurt Mann

Briefly

Tailgate party to be on Friday

The Blue Jay Boosters annual tailgate party will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. Friday at the Norton livestock barn. Membership dues include the meal. Dues are \$10 for a family and \$5 for a single.

Ice cream social set for Saturday

The Almena Congregational Church will host its annual ice cream social from 5-7 p.m. Saturday at the Almena Community Building. Also on the menu will be sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, Jello salad, potato salad, baked beans, cake, coffee and tea.

Blue Jay Boosters meet Wednesday

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton Community High School football coach Bruce Graber, volleyball coach Jill Lively, tennis coach Bill Johnson and cross country coach Deyton Hager will report on early season competition by their teams.

Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton Community High School athletics are invited.

Sweet Adelines looks for singers

The Hi-Plains chapter of Sweet Adelines International is having a guest night, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., next Tuesday at the United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin, Colby.

All area women who like to sing are invited to come and try out the fun of singing barbershop style. No special singing skills are required, just the love of music. Larry Patterson, Norton, is the group's new director.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Clear with lows in the lower 50s. Wednesday — Sunny with highs in the 80s.

Howell report:

Friday High 92, Low 67
Saturday High 95, Low 67, Prec. .18
Sunday High 82, Low 52
Monday High 85, Low 51
Week ago High 97, Low 58
Month ago High 81, Low 61
Year ago High 94, Low 62
Sept. precipitation18 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 16.76 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Ask to be forgiven today. Then forgive yourself. Amen



Wildlife photographer Bill Bussen held a copy of his best-selling picture, a bald eagle, which he photographed at Sebelius Reservoir.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Wildlife, cameraman just click

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Some people never get to have a job they enjoy. Wildlife photographer Bill Bussen isn't one of them. He loves his job every day.

Bill began as a stock boy at Woolworth's in Moberly, Mo., while he was still in high school. At 19 he was transferred to the St. Louis store as the assistant manager.

His management career was interrupted in 1953, when he was drafted. The Korean War ended in July of that year and Bill was sent to the Panama Canal. After his hitch in the Army, he went back to Woolworth's in St. Louis and worked his way up through the ranks, eventually managing three stores in Dallas.

The hours were long and he came to realize that no job was worth his health so he switched to the grocery business, but soon came back to retail. This time, with the Ben Franklin store chain, helping to (Continued on Page 5)

Norton schools enroll fewer students

By VERONICA MONIER

It looks like the Norton schools will have 52 fewer students to educate this year and 31 fewer to count for future state aid.

On Friday, Superintendent Greg Mann said last year the official head count was 755 students with a full-time equivalency of 679.2.

The full-time equivalency is important because the state only pays for the time students are in class. Therefore, students like kindergarteners, who only go half time, have to be counted as part-time students.

As of Friday, the preliminary numbers for this year are 703 students and a full-time equivalency of 648.

The projected loss of 31.2 countable students won't affect this year's budget, he said, because the district built the budget based on last year's numbers.

Next year, he said, the district may have a problem, however, when it comes to counting heads and making ends meet with fewer state dollars.

The state allows districts to use a three- (Continued on Page 3)

Two contestants pick 10 right in football contest

By DICK BOYD

LeeRoy Schuckman, Hays, turned in a perfect entry to win the first weekly Pigskin Pick-Em Contest of the season in *The Norton Telegram*.

He'll receive \$15 in scrip money as his first prize.

Brad Killian, Lincoln, also had a perfect entry but Schuckman beat him on the tiebreaker game and Killian will receive \$10 in scrip money for second.

Colorado defeated Colorado State 27-24 in the tiebreaker game. Schuckman picked it 28-22 or a total of just three points off the actual score.

Killian chose Colorado by 27-20 or four points off.

Sixteen fans missed one contest and were in the running for the third prize of \$5 in scrip money. Gail Bailey, Norcatur; Mike Hammond, Long Island and Georgie Rorabaugh, Norton, tied on the tiebreaker. Bailey picked Colorado by 28-21, Hammond chose Colorado by 31-24 and Rorabaugh had a 28-21 score, all four points off. Hammond was declared the winner by a drawing.

Also missing just one game and points off the tiebreaker game were: (Continued on Page 5)



Miltech machinist Zach Russell (above) was fixturing parts for an aerospace company. Scott Tien (above right) checked a part using a coordinate measuring machine in the quality control room.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



Machine shop settling into expanded work space

By VERONICA MONIER

Although Miltech Machine Corp. isn't expanding at the moment, future plans may have it in store.

John Milnes, owner of the Norton business, said they moved to the new building on West Washington in November because they needed more space. He said the new space gives them the opportunity to grow.

"We outgrew the other building," he said. "There was no where to expand. This building had 40 to 50 percent more floor space and more land to expand to."

He said they have already used up the available floor area they have with equipment and will probably have to expand again. In addition to the main floor, a second floor was added last year for offices,

a programming room and a conference room.

Mr. Milnes said they will probably continue to expand, but only a little at a time like they've been doing since the company was started in 1997.

He said Miltech began with two computer numeric control machines and then added two more at the end of 1998. In 2000, two more machines were added and then one more in early 2003. They moved to the new building in November. This year, Miltech bought two new machines in April and another in August.

"We've been continuously growing," he said.

He built Miltech in Norton because it's where he lived and he didn't want to leave. (Continued on Page 5)

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open a store in Kansas City. From there he went to Ponca City, Okla., for six years as a district manager; then to McCook, Neb., where he oversaw stores in southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas and Colorado.

Next, he went to Colby for three years and then bought the Norton Ben Franklin store in September of 1969. Misfortune struck and the store burned in 1973, and was declared a total loss.

Bill regrouped, though, and bought the Montgomery Ward catalog store in 1973. He owned that store until the company quit the catalog business in 1986.

He went to work later that year for Daffer Construction in Norton as a carpenter. He did this work until last year.

He had taken pictures all his life. But in the low days during his divorce in 1992-'93, he would go to Sebelius Reservoir to watch wild turkeys and take pictures. He enlarged some of his shots and had them framed. One thing led to another.

Someone saw the prints; offered to buy them from him; and Bill said to himself, "Maybe there's something to this."

That's when he bought a bigger camera and lens from a buddy in Great Bend and began to get serious about photography. He credits Mary Luehers from the Norton Public Library with giving him the final push. She asked him to create a display of his work at the library and his new-found profession took off from there.

A picture of wood ducks was his first professional photograph. But a close-up of an eagle is still his



Wildlife photographer Bill Bussen looked over one of his most popular scenic prints, the adobe house at

best seller. Bill said he is selling more and more scenery pictures. Especially popular are windmills and sunflowers.

Another turning point in his early photography career came when *The Norton Daily Telegram* asked to use some of his deer and pheasant pictures in *The Reservoir News*, a publication highlighting Sebelius Reservoir.

The paper asked for more and more pictures, until now, no issue of *The Reservoir News* would be complete without several of Bill's pictures.

"It is gratifying to have my pictures in *The Reservoir News*," he said.

While he rarely enters photo contests, one time he did, and it earned him a \$500 prize. Not bad, when you consider he was competing against 3,000 other photographers. The winner was a picture of Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park.

What began as a kind of therapy during a bad time turned into a full-time career. Now, a well-known and widely respected wildlife photographer, he said he didn't even know what some of the birds were when he first began taking their pictures.

"I have hunted and fished all my life," he said.

He has learned a lot by studying

Sebelius Reservoir during a lightning storm.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

wildlife and bird books. And he has met a lot of interesting people in the 14 states he has traveled to for his photography work.

Every year he goes to Corpus Christi, Texas, to see the whooping cranes.

Still, seriously endangered, there are only 175 of the big birds left. But Bill has captured them forever on film.

He goes to Colorado three or four times every year. But one place he never goes is out of the house without his camera.

His marketing plan for his business, OutDoor Images, is simple. He works out of his home with his front room as his gallery/show-

room.

His motto is simple, "If the pickup is here, I'm open."

He is matting and framing his work now and waiting for a new mat cutter to arrive. He said lots of his customers are impulse buyers.

Women, especially, wait until the last minute to buy a birthday or anniversary present for their husbands.

To see his photos on display, stop by his house at 708 N. Second in Norton or call 877-2415 and set up an appointment.

He hopes to continue taking pictures as long as possible.

"When the good Lord says it's time, I guess I'll quit," he said.

Machine business thriving

(Continued from Page 1) even though he had offers to go elsewhere. Before opening his own business, Mr. Milnes worked for Natoma Corp. for 15 years.

Right now, he said Miltech is working on ISO-9000 and AS-9100 ratings. The ISO-9000 is a world-wide standard quality rating, while the AS-9100 is a quality rating for the aerospace industry.

"These are really important to us," he said. "It's a pretty big deal. These ratings let customers know we're here to stay and aren't just a small garage shop."

He said, hopefully, they will have the ratings by the end of the year. Some customers look for that rating when looking for vendors to manufacture their parts.

Miltech's 20 employees mostly make contract machinery, where a company will give them a blueprint and they make it, he said. It makes everything from aerospace parts to gun parts and also does tooling from machine stamps.

The company also has its own product line called Microline Products, which produces equipment including parts for natural gas pipelines used in the north.

Mr. Milnes said Miltech ships parts all over the U.S., including Alaska, and to some foreign countries, such as Venezuela.

If the company needs to expand again to meet need, it will. But, he said, he would prefer to wait until after the new year when the spring weather will be more cooperative.

He said they are hoping to have an open house at the end of this month.

The company has two websites: www.miltechmachine.com and www.microlineproducts.com.

Readers pick out football winners

(Continued from Page 1)

Deb Thiele, Norton, 6; Rick Green, Norton, 6; Dwight Vallin, Long Island, 6; Jim Springer, Long Island, 6; Mary Ann Hager, Norton, 7; Kirsten Baird, Long Island, 16; Jennifer Terrell, Norton, 33.

Also missing just one game but incorrectly choosing Colorado State to defeat their in-state rival were: Kirk Kasson, Bob Covington, both of Alma; James Covington, Lawrence; Nancy Springer Moore, Hoisington; Aaron Husted, Norton; Jim Cole, Long Island.

Incorrect on two games were: Randy Springer, Barbara Springer, Tim Moore, Bob Moore, all of Hoisington; Christina Anderson, Prairie View; Travis Vallin, Watkins, Colo.; Sylvia Kats, Emily Vallin, both of Long Island; Jillian Stoelting, Orleans, Neb.; Linda Covington, Julie Hilburn, Marilyn Lowry, Danelle Stewart, George Griffith, Foster Brands, Sydney Brands, all of Alma; Denise Bailey, Mark Bailey, both of Norcatur; Kirk Foley, David Bainter, Rod Maddy, Virginia Carlton, Kenney Leiker, Ryan Maddy, Kevin Jilka, Tom Davis, Tammy Maddy, Elijah Schaefer, David Riemann, Gavin Sproul, Kelly Hill, Craig Foley, Elinor Wiltfong, Glen Wiltfong, Becky Smith, Jared Engelbert, Nathan Morse, Sady Keilig, Mark Keilig, Regina Beckman, Dalton Smith, Keegan Smith, Lynette Archer, all of Norton.

Entrants missing three games were: Evelyn Springer, Andy Moore, both of Hoisington; Lucas Bailey, Norcatur; Barbara Brooks, Clayton; Megan Cole, Karen Shearer, Roger Shearer, all of Long Island; Erin Foley, Lawrence; Laurel Smith, Manhattan; Brett Post, Paula Stutterheim, both of Prairie View; Miriah Florence, Karen Wenzel, Michael Callaway, Cathryn Horn, Janette Callaway, Glenn Brands, all of

Alma; Drew Ellis, Robin Sproul, Laura Washburn, Cindy Britz, Raymond Ankenman, Jake Durham, Anna Foley, Douglas Daniels, Roland Washburn, Cathy Kellerman, Derek Volgamore, Aaron Overlease, Lynn Nelson, Amber Sheley, Caitlyn Patterson, Kristy Keilig, Luke Keilig, Tom Baumann, Chriselle Thomson, Josh Jackson, all of Norton.

The second week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Friday or you may bring them to the Telegram office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em advertisement in today's Telegram for this week's high school and college games. Only one entry per person

is allowed but extra official entry blanks for other members of the family may be picked up from any sponsor.

Prizes of \$30 in scrip, spendable at participating merchants, will be paid each week. At the end of the season, the fan picking the most correct games will receive \$50 in scrip money and an engraved trophy.

Scores of this week's games were:

- Oakley 30, Norton 14
- St. Francis 8, Oberlin 0
- Western Plains 46, Logan 0
- Northern Valley 54, Triplains 20
- Phillipsburg 42, Plainville 6
- Smith Center 46, Stockton 0

- Kansas 21, Tulsa 3
- Kansas State 27, Western Kentucky 13
- Nebraska 56, Western Illinois 17
- Pittsburg State 45, Fort Hays 7
- Colorado 27, Colorado State 24.

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