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Tuesday
January 3, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of David Davis

Briefly

Quilters gather in Long Island

The Heritage Quilt Club will meet at 7 p.m., Monday at the Long Island Community Building. Because of the cancellation of the December meeting, members are reminded to bring a wrapped gift for Robber Bingo.

Hostesses for the meeting are Margaret Breathower, Pauline Poage, Janette Callaway and Vickie Brungardt.

Blue Jay Boosters meet Wednesday

The first Blue Jay Booster Club meeting of the new year will be Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Norton girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka, boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson will give fans an update on competition by their teams and preview this week's contests.

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

Veterans aide to be in Norton

A service representative from the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday to assist veterans and their families with matters pertaining to veterans' benefits.

Paper needs weather watcher

For 10 years Paul and Pat Howell recorded the daily temperature highs and lows for *The Norton Telegram*. Following Mr. Howell's death in November, Mrs. Howell has continued the daily reports. However, she feels it is time for someone else to take over.

If you are an interested weather watcher and would enjoy keeping those records, please call *The Telegram* at 877-3361.

Weather

Howell report:

Friday	High 51, Low 31
Saturday	High 56, Low 34
Sunday	High 47, Low 33
Monday	High 53, Low 34
Week ago	High 64, Low 33
Month ago	High 34, Low 21
Year ago	High 34, Low 22
January precipitation	0.00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ...	00.00 inches

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

Prayer

O God, thank you for your mercy and forgiveness. Remind us to forgive one another as you have forgiven us. Amen



Clutching the flag Boy Scout Chris Maddy (above) was ready to help raise the colors during Norton's Memorial Day ceremonies. A little Indian girl (right) was one of many who dressed up and roasted hot dogs during the annual Halloween Parade and Weiner Roast in October.

— Telegram photos by Cynthia Haynes and Charlotte Stephenson



Norton moved forward in 2005

By VERONICA MONIER

It wasn't a year of great excitement — no tornadoes or volcanic eruptions — but Norton County and its cities and citizens were busy moving forward and trying to improve things.

City and County

• After more than three years of wrangling with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Norton County finally got the state's seal of approval and was able to open a landfill in October. The county dug the first pit in January and has since had to do several tests, including water well testing, before approval was granted.

• The Norton County Emergency Medical Service started work to get a new building in April. That month, the service

began the process of getting low to moderate-income surveys filled out by 80 percent of county residents. The surveys were used to apply for a Community Block Grant to help pay for a new building. The service's volunteers and personnel ended up going door-to-door to get the needed surveys filled out.

Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen said the service needs more space. The present building has no room for classrooms, showers, bunks or storage. They could also use more room for the ambulances.

Once the surveys were filled out, the Norton County Commissioners agreed to put up a \$150,000 match for the grant. The ambulance service should know later this month if it received the grant for the new building.

• Norton County and the City of Norton, Almena, Lenora, Clayton and Edmond formed a joint board for economic development to help with job creation, downtown development and housing. After a long search, the board hired a director in October.

• Norton's electrical rate went up after the city signed a new contract with Sunflower Electric in September. Renovation of the city's water and sewer plants due to new state and federal regulations has also raised rates.

• New playground equipment was purchased and installed in Elmwood Park after several mothers asked what could be done about the safety of the old, outdated equipment. The new playground items were installed in May with the help of city

crews and Lions Club volunteers. The Lions also purchased some equipment.

• The Norton City Council decided to give Sunday alcohol and liquor sales a go after the state opted to let cities choose for themselves. But, several residents passed a petition to put the matter on the ballot. The city dropped the issue saying a special election would be too costly and it could go on the next scheduled ballot.

Community

• In February the state closed the county's Social and Rehabilitation Services office to make way for regional offices, including one in Phillipsburg. The new regional offices were suppose to save the state money but all employees were offered jobs at the new offices.

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Newspaper gets new editor, publisher

A veteran northwest Kansas journalist has assumed the duties of editor/publisher of *The Norton Telegram*.

Tom Dreiling, former publisher of the *Colby Free Press*, took over the post held by co-owner Cynthia Haynes of Norton West Newspapers on Tuesday.

"I look forward to serving the fine folks of this community, county and area," he said. Mr. Dreiling took up residence at 408 W. Woodsfield.

"There's no place like Northwest Kansas," said the Hays native who got his start in the newspaper business in 1959. He served as a reporter for *The Ellis County Star*, a weekly based in Hays, later being named city editor of *The Hays Daily News*.



Tom Dreiling

From there it was on to Goodland as editor of *The Goodland Daily News/Sherman County Herald* (now *The Goodland Star-News*). He then ventured into Wyoming to become editor of the daily *Sheridan Press*, and then as publisher of the *Colby Free Press*, his last job in the business before retiring on Aug. 31, 2005.

"Retirement is a funny thing. Some people are cut out for it, some not. I wasn't," Dreiling said, explaining that one of the pitfalls is "not being totally prepared."

He said there are so many things to consider when retirement beckons, but unfortunately his list was a short one, headed by "I owe it to myself."

"Boy, that's really being selfish," he said.

Born and reared in Hays, he was educated in the parochial school system through grade 12. Prior to becoming a member of the United States Air Force (Feb. 1, 1955-Jan. 31, 1963), he stud-

ied at Fort Hays State University, with an emphasis on communications.

He was a member of the United States Air Force Security Service, spending much of his time at Misawa, Japan.

"We were sky snoopers back then," he said, recalling that one of their prime missions was to track around the globe the Russian launched spacecraft Sputnik, a cold war feared craft.

Dreiling's sons are Lance (in his 15th year in the air force with rank of T/Sgt. and homebased at Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Wash.), and Todd, engaged in a family business in Aurora, Colo., and daughter, Denise, semi-retired in Centennial, Colo. Their mother died of leukemia in 1975. All three children were educated in Goodland.

He has four grandchildren — Alyssa, Caleb, Grayson and Samantha.

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Emergency service plans to teach class

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County Emergency Medical staff will be busy teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes.

Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen and Assistant Director Ruth Schillig told the Norton County commissioners on Tuesday that they will be teaching CPR classes in Lenora, Hill City and Hays for Natoma, a Norton business.

Mr. Nielsen said that he, Mrs. Schillig and three other instructors will be giving four and eight-hour classes for four days in Lenora, two in Hill City and four in Hays to get all Natoma employees certified.

He said that the company would be paying for the instruction and that another

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Highlights of 2005 in Norton

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- *Prairie Dog Press*, a small volunteer newsletter-style paper in Almena, was recognized for outstanding leadership in community journalism by the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development in March. The paper printed its first edition in 1994 and has since put out a paper every other week.

- *The Norton Telegram* won 11 awards from the Kansas Press Association's Better Newspaper contest for 2004. The paper was in the top three in several categories, including photography, agricultural coverage, headline writing, investigative reporting, and a special section honoring World War II veterans.

- The Haven, a house for families visiting inmates at Norton Correctional Facility, opened in December. The house was furnished with donated items and is operated by volunteers.

- Lenora graduate and journalist Doug Yocom revisited the past when he wrote the book "A Matter of Chastity", detailing the murder trial his grandmother and the speculation it caused in different parts of Norton County. Mr. Yocom came to Norton for the book release and signings in October.

- Norton has welcomed several new businesses over the past year, including a wireless phone company, a day spa, several beauty and barber operators, a bar and grill, a limousine car service, a locksmith, and a youth center.

- The Norton Rotary BB Gun Team Museum opened in June as part of the international club's centennial. The new museum recognizes the honors the county's teams have achieved.

- People cringed when gas prices started climbing this summer and didn't stop until they topped \$3 per gallon. The rise in fuel prices was blamed on hurricanes along the Gulf Coast.

- Norton citizens, as well as many others, banded together to send relief items to the victims of



Austin Hager, (above left) son of Craig and Nancy Hager, worked to untangle a halter rope during the Norton Horse Show. Adrienne Hager (above center) reached for an egg during the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the courthouse lawn. Trenton Sprague (right) carried all he could to put the collected food on the right table during the annual Boy Scout and Cub Scout food drive for God's Pantry.



Norton firemen rushed to get a blazing garage put out after a fire spread from a travel trailer in May. To help with the effort, firemen cut a hole into the roof (above) of the garage to shoot water at the fire from another angle.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Veronica Monier

hurricane Katrina in early September. There were several drives, including some sponsored by churches and others that organized by private groups.

School

- The Norton School District, and every other district in the state,

wondered how the Kansas Supreme Court would rule regarding how much money was needed for the Legislature to meet its obligation to finance education.

In the end, the district received more money this year, but it is still not sure of what will happen in the

future.

- This is the Jennings School District's last year. Declining enrollment has led to the district's decision to close. This year, high school students went to either Oberlin, Hoxie or Norton, while grade school students stayed in

Jennings.

The district's land will be divided between the three neighboring districts—Oberlin, Hoxie and Norton — by the state Board of Education.

- Baseball struck out in Norton after the school board decided it

would be too expensive.

The expense of transportation, drivers and equipment and having to add a girls softball team in addition to baseball to meet state and federal requirements caused the decision.

Publisher joins staff

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"I look forward to meeting as many people as possible," Mr. Dreiling said. "And I urge and invite you to please stop by *The Telegram* office at any time. I have always had and continue to have an open door policy."

CPR training to be taught

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Norton business is also interested in getting all of its employees certified in CPR.

The commissioners agreed that it was a good thing to do as long as the service was reimbursed and as long as Mr. Neilsen thought his people were up to the challenge.

Mr. Neilsen said that he had already figured out the logistics since there will have to be two and three instructors for each class because one person can only teach 12 people at a time and most of the classes will be 20 or more.

Mr. Neilsen also gave the commissioners a list of ambulance runs for 2005 broken down into where the ambulance went. The service was called out 434 times in 2005 compared to 462 runs in 2004, he said.

Robert Waller, the new state board of Emergency Medical Services administrator and the state inspector will be in Norton on Wednesday, Mr. Neilsen said. The administrator is trying to visit every ambulance service in the state, he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Met the new *Norton Telegram* publisher, Tom Dreiling.

It was an exciting year for Norton County sports

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High wrestling team managed a repeat performance taking its second straight Class 3-2-1A state championship in 2005.

- Coach Bill Johnson's team beat second-place St. Francis by 51.5 points in the state contest in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays for the championship. It was the first time for a Norton team to win back-to-back championships.

All nine Norton state wrestlers earned medals. State champions were senior Michael Sprigg, 275 and juniors Clay Madden, 112 and Lance Roe, 152.

Norton also won the regional tournament and was undefeated in duals and tournaments except for a second-place in the Clay Center Tournament. Norton was the champion of the 48th annual Newton Tournament of Champions and was the smallest school to ever win that tournament.

The Blue Jay wrestlers were Mid-Continent League champions for the tenth year in a row and won the league tournament for the sixth straight year.

The high school wrestlers weren't the only champions either.

- The Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports archers swept the state tournament in April and then went on to compete in the national competition in June. At the state, the archers made the top five 16 times individually and also took first place in the barebow, Olympic and open team shoots. At nationals, Shine Fischer took 11th; William Wilhite, 25th; and Jake Kramer, 20th. As a team, they earned third, fifth and seventh in the team competitions.

- Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team tied for second in the Mid-Continent League, placed third in the league tournament and finished second in the Topside

Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Norton was seeded No. 1 in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament in Cimarron but lost, 50-47, in the semifinals to Thomas More Prep of Hays.

- Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team won an undefeated Mid-Continent League championship, won the league tournament, placed third in the Topside Tipoff and were ranked in the top ten in the state.

In the Sub-State Tournament in Cimarron, Norton, which was seeded No. 2 lost, 44-36, to No. 3 seed Holcomb, who won the tournament championship.

- Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School boys cross country team won the Mid-Continent League championship, placed second in the 3A regional meet in Ellsworth and sixth in the state meet in Wamego. It was the first time a Norton cross country team had qualified for the state meet.

Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird was the only Lady Jay to qualify for state. She led her team to a ninth-place finish in Ellsworth with a fifth individually and was running in fifth place at state meet when she fell and was unable to complete the race.

- Coach Bill Lowry's Northern Valley girls cross country team placed tenth and his boys finished 12th in Class 1A in the state meet in Wamego. It was the first time that both girls and boys cross country teams from Northern Valley had competed at state.

To qualify for state, the Lady Huskies placed second and the boys third in the regional meet in Grainfield.

- Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson was named 2005 Head Coach of the Year in Kansas by the National High School Wrestling Coaches Association and was also one of 18 coaches and boosters of

high school wrestling named "2005 Man-of-the-Year" by *Wrestling USA Magazine*. The awards were presented on Oct. 29 at the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association in Salina.

- Michael Sprigg completed his wrestling career in Norton by placing fourth at 275 pounds and earning All-American honors in the NHSCA Senior National Wrestling Championships on March 30-April 2 in Cleveland, Ohio. Among the wrestlers he defeated in the tournament was the nation's No. 1 ranked heavyweight.

- Neal Philpot, a 6-foot-4-inch,

254-pound senior quarterback from Norton, was named to the NCAA Division II second team All-America Team by Don Hansen's Football Gazette for his play at Pittsburg State University.

Philpot was the first quarterback in Division II history to rush and pass for over 1,000 yards in a season for three seasons. He ended his four-year career with 10,168 yards of offense to become the all-time leader in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association history.

- Gary Ulmer, a 1966 Norton Community High School graduate and 32-year teacher and wrestling coach at Olathe North High

School, was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on Nov. 6 in Topeka. Ulmer was a member of Norton's 1965 state championship wrestling team and placed second at 112 pounds.

- The 1951 Norton Community High School state champion boys basketball team held a two-day reunion and was honored at half-time of the Norton-Ellis basketball game. The former players and their families enjoyed cheering for Norton as the Blue Jays beat Ellis. The 1951 team was the last Norton boys team to win a state championship until the 2003 team accomplished the same feat 52 years later.



Norton's Troy Bainter winds up to throw a fast ball during the 21 and Under baseball team's doubleheader at Colby this summer. Norton lost 5-4 to Colby but shut out Goodland 2-0.

— Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson