

Tuesday,
January 24, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of Bruce Colip

Briefly Temperatures need recorders

The Norton Telegram continues its hunt for someone to call in the high and low temperatures each day. This was handled for 10 years by Paul and Pat Howell; however, since Mr. Howell's death, Mrs. Howell has continued carrying out this responsibility, but now feels it is time for someone else to take over.

Interested parties can call The Telegram office at 877-3361 for details.

"Performing this community service," Tom Dreiling, publisher, said, "gives you the inside track of knowing what the overnight low was and the day before's high was before the coffee drinkers get together each day to guess."

Crop program deadline set

Deadlines for the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency to accept applications under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for this year have been established.

The closing date of March 15 applies to the following crops: in general your coarse grains including sorghum forage, vegetable and melon crops plus, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash and walnuts.

Crops eligible for the noninsured crop disaster assistance program benefits, are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Included are sorghum forage, floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish, and forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvest or grazed). Producers must visit their local Farm Service Agency to complete an application for coverage and pay the applicable fee.

This is not a loan program, but an opportunity to purchase insurance on crops that are noninsurable elsewhere.

Call 875-877-2623 for more details.

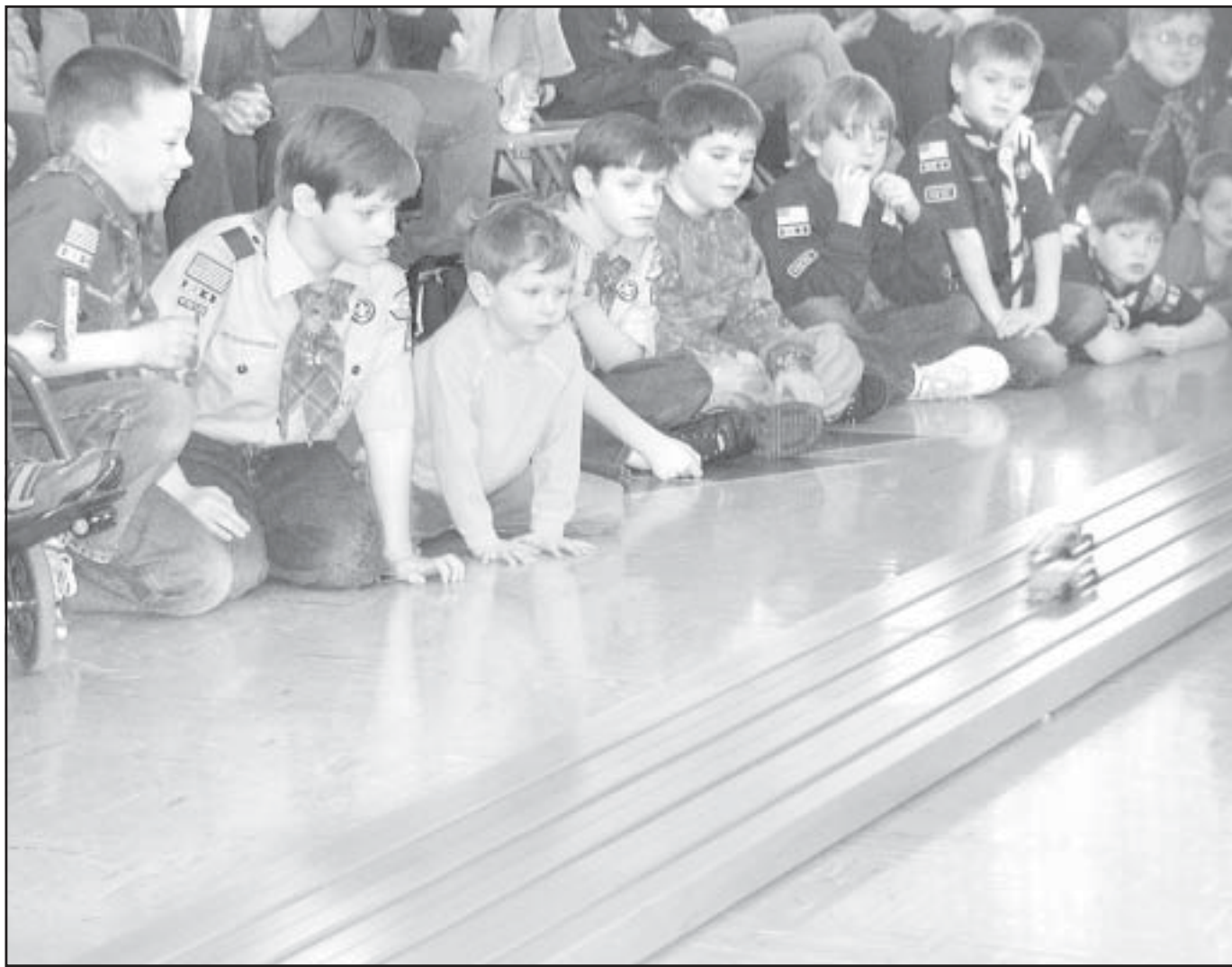
Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Clear with lows in the lower 20s. Southwest winds around 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 60s. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy and not as cool. A 20 percent chance of rain showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday** — Mostly cloudy and cooler and breezy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the lower 50s.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for those who guide us and for your everlasting faithfulness. Amen



Tension, nervousness and anxiety best describes the above picture as Norton Cub Scouts watched as their wooden cars were put to the test in the Pinewood Derby held Saturday. Weston Erbert (below) proudly displayed his one-of-a-kind racer, which won Best of Show. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Go! Go! Go!



Excitement runs high at Norton Pinewood Derby

Norton Cub Scouts found out how fast their designs and alterations made a block of wood on wheels go at the annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday at the United Methodist Church of Norton.

Each cub made a car out of a block of wood, designing and weighting them to get the maximum effect, and then watched the cars go as they were raced on a track built by Ed Witt.

Trenton Sprague's racer won the derby, with Chris Richards coming in a close second and John Risewick winning third.

Andrew Stevens received the slowpoke award and Weston Erbert got best of show for his furry critter car.

Also participating in the event were Luke Keilig, James Berry, Adam Baughman, Michael Fawcett, David New, Zachary Bird, Philip Boutwell, Chris Chambers, Nick Peterson, Nicholas Koch, Cameron Heikes, Gabriel Bird and John Renner.

The derby is sponsored by the Norton Lion's Club, whose members ran the races and did the judging. Helping out this year were Tom Brannan, Ed Witt, Jake Durham, "Doc" Peterson and Craig Heskett.

The regional derby will be held sometime this spring. All Cub Scouts are invited to participate.

Hospital has new nursing director

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital Board received an update on what's been going on in the nursing department over the past six months at its meeting this past week.

Acting Director of Nurses Marcia

Zillinger said she's enjoyed her time at the hospital, and will be staying on to help the new incoming Director of Nurses, Melissa Wachendorfer, RN, BSN, get adjusted.

"Richard (Miller) said the hospital had

an excellent staff and I agree," Ms. Zillinger said. "Everyone here knows they are accountable and that's great."

There have been several changes made over the last six months, she said.

(Continued on Page 5)

Reports and honors highlighted Conservation District holds annual meeting

By VERONICA MONIER

Reports and honors highlighted the Norton County Conservation District's 60th annual dinner/meeting Saturday at the Norton American Legion.

The annual report was given by board member Robert Clydesdale, who said the district received \$8,100 from the county and \$7,500 from the state for wages and district operations. He said the state also contributed \$2,659 to help pay for the administration and education of the non-point source pollution plan.

Mr. Clydesdale said Teresa Schulze, who won the Outstanding Conservation Educator's award last year, was nominated for State Teacher of the Year, which she won in November.

He said Norton County joined other districts in forming an area education alliance, which in turn formed the Kansas Natural Resource Foundation.

He said \$39,221 was channeled out of the district's cost sharing program for terraces, diversions, livestock wells, livestock pipelines, range seeding, and feedlot and field windbreaks. Also, he said, the

(Continued on Page 5)

Police Department will be adding four-wheel drive

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton Police Department is purchasing a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Police Chief Lynn Menagh told the Norton City Council at last Wednesday's meeting that he sent out requests for bids to three different companies for a four-wheel drive vehicle and received two bids back.

He said Engel's Sales and Service turned in a bid for a 2004 Ford Explorer with approximately 24,500 miles for \$17,200. The second bid, he said, was from Jacob's Sales for a 2001 GMC 4x4 Jimmy with 61,000 miles for \$9,500.

The bid from Engel's met more of the specifications than that from Jacob's.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the department had \$16,000 in its budget for a new vehicle and some of the capital outlay items can be juggled for the rest of it.

"We have the money for it," said Mr. Lawson. "I think we need a four-wheel drive in the police department."

Councilman Ron Briery asked if they purchased the Explorer, how much more it would cost to outfit it.

Chief Menagh said if they can transfer the lightbar from the old car to the new, then it should be less than \$1,000.

Councilman Jerry Jones asked if the

(Continued on Page 5)

Happy 104!

Clair Smith, center, celebrated her 104th birthday Thursday with cake and coffee at the Andbe Home in Norton. Her nephews Harold D. Rife, left, of Denver, and Roger Rife, Hays, helped her celebrate. She has lived through many presidents, the first being Theodore Roosevelt, who governed from 1901-1909. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



City Council to purchase new vehicle

(Continued from Page 1)

state had anything for sale.

They have pickups, Mr. Lawson said. Some are four-doors.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann wanted to know how old the police department's oldest car was. City Clerk Darla Ellis said the department had one 2001 and two 2003s.

The council approved the purchase. Mr. Jones abstained from the vote.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Mayor David Corns that the Personnel Committee will be discussing the no smoking policy on city property. He said he also asked the city attorney to look into ordinances that prohibit smoking in public places.

- Learned from Mr. Lawson that Charles Krull with Blue Cross Blue Shield gave the city a certificate for being with the insurance company for 51 years.

- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the city's new digger truck and new electric distribution truck have both been delivered. He said he'll get bids from the two companies in Norton that make automotive decals to be put on the new trucks.

- Heard the city is doing a pilot test at the water plant in an attempt to remove organics from the water supply. He said so far the test has gone extremely well.

- Learned that Mr. Lawson will be meeting with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on the wastewater treatment plant's timeline on Jan. 31 in Topeka.

- Heard that a letter will be sent out to the general public about the electric rates. He said Tony Turner with the Kansas Municipal Energy Association was supposed to do a rate study at the end of January and is now saying he won't be able to do it until late April or May. Mr. Lawson said he has been trying to get Mr. Turner here for two years. Because of the continued delays, he asked the council to rescind having the association do the rate study. They rescinded.

Mr. Lawson said he contacted Ranson Financial Consultants about doing the rate study. It will cost \$3,500, which is less than expected, he said. The study should be done within 60 days.

- Accepted the 2005 utility write-offs in the amount of \$3,867.94. The city attorney will continue to try and collect the unpaid amounts and will charge 20 percent of anything he collects.

- Went into a 20-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Accepted the new employment contract with the city administrator.

Annual Conservation meeting held

(Continued from Page 1) district cost shared \$30,193 to update failing septic systems, livestock pipelines, ag waste systems, and plug abandoned water wells.

Mr. Clydesdale said the district still remains a vendor for all types of grass, seed, trees and weed barriers for the public.

Board Treasurer Donna Hale gave the treasurer's report. She said at the end of the year the balance forward was \$2,598; with receipts of: county allotment, \$8,100; state allotment, \$10,159; miscellaneous, \$237; interest, \$130; and transfer from enterprise, \$8,500; for a total of \$27,126; and expenditures were: wages and withholding taxes, \$20,379; workers compensation and health insurance, \$3,745; dues and fees, \$200; grant expenditures, \$2,944; and miscellaneous, \$1,536; for a total of \$28,805; and a balance of \$921.

In the enterprise fund, the balance forward was \$3,409; with receipts of: sale of merchandise, including grass seed, trees, weed barrier and flags, \$67,492; annual meeting, \$3,059; miscellaneous, \$57,925; and custom drilling, \$7,385; for a total of \$135,861; and expenditures were: merchandise, \$66,382; annual meeting, \$2,726; miscellaneous, \$45,099; contract labor, \$7,790; dues and fees, \$1,185; and transfers, \$8,500; for total of \$131,682; and a fund balance of \$7,558 with savings at \$86,242 for a total balance of \$994,751.

Stan and Carol Miller were recognized as the soil conservation winners for 2005 and Phil and Gerry Loughry were recognized as the windbreak award winners for 2005.

Plaques were given out to the county's coloring and poster contest, limerick contest and essay



Ed Keith welcomed the crowd to the Norton County Conservation District's annual meeting Saturday. Phil and Gerry Loughry (above) get their windbreak award from Don Heikes. Stan and Carol Miller (below) hold up the sign and certificate that they received as the soil conservation winners. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

grade: Marc Miller, first; Marisa Maddy, second; and Teá VanPatten, third; fifth and sixth grade: Lane Archer, first; Michael Courtain, second; and Dylan Sprigg, third; limerick — Kurt Douglas, first; Miriah Farber, second; and Shylo Paxton, third; and essay — Destiny Chastain, first; Rhees Carlson, second; and Alexis Henson, third.

Nominees for the open supervisor positions were Dick Thompson, Greg Otter, Kevin Sides and Spencer Braun. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Otter were elected to three-year terms.

Board Chairman Ed Keith was recognized for his twelve years of service and was given a plaque. Mr. Keith chose not to run for reelection this year.



Ed Keith

contest winners.

The county winners were: coloring — kindergarten: Jessica Ambrosier, first; Nicole Rumback, second; and Brooklyn Baker, third; poster — first and second grade: Morgan Olliff, first; Sylvia Estes, second; and Carson Wallace, third; third and fourth



Robert Clydesdale

Norton Hospital hires new director

(Continued from Page 1)

First, they split the obstetrics and surgery departments. Now, she said, Joan Streck is in charge of obstetrics and is very qualified for the job.

Since then, she said they've trained nurses for obstetrics. Now they are trying to get licensed practical nurses back into the obstetrics department to help take care of newborns, so the registered nurses can focus more on the new mothers' care.

Also, she said, they've hired several new nurses so there can be two registered nurses on staff per shift in the different departments. It has come in handy especially for the emergency room.

They've looked into getting the licensed practical nurses trained to handle intravenous care, she said, and several are interested in taking the classes, which will be in Great Bend.

Ms. Zillinger said they are trying to get the nurses to delegate, so there is less overtime. She said she has been monitoring the overtime to see what is causing it, so that it can be taken care of.

Board member Von Fahrenbruch asked what areas still needed attention.

Ms. Zillinger said that delegating and empowering all of the staff was still needs to be worked on.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Mr. Miller that Melissa Wachendorfer, RN, BSN will be starting as the director of nurses.

"Marcia has done a great job for us," he said. "We appreciate her coming on to help us with what could have been a difficult transition."

- Made designations for 2006. KQNK was designated as the official radio station and the county's five banks were designated as the hospitals official banks.

Mr. Miller asked that the board defer on the official newspaper designation at this time. He said he talked to John McClymont, the hospital's attorney, about the legality of it and Mr. McClymont said the hospital doesn't have to designate a newspaper. It's just always been done before, he said.

He said this wasn't about *The Telegram* publishing his salary, but rather the manner in which the salaries were printed. He said several made it clear that they were not in favor of the salaries being published because it just causes problems for employees.

The board agreed and didn't designate an official paper, with Mr. Fahrenbruch voting against it.

board member Amanda Shannon couldn't be at the meeting because of a prior family engagement.

- Took a tour of the laboratory department.

- Approved the purchase of a new blood gas analyzer and blood bank refrigerator for the lab.

- Heard in December the hospital had 355 patient days for a yearly total of 2,219; 69 admissions, 356; 3 births, 28; 12 surgeries, 125; and 1,225 Doctor's Clinic visits, 7,431.

- Accepted the new Doctor's Clinic fee structure. Mr. Miller said overall, it's about a 2 percent annual increase. For example, a regular visit went from \$53 to \$55.

- Heard an architect looked at the physical therapy, surgery, nursing school and clinic areas, which may possibly be remodeled. Mr. Miller said he had some good suggestions and will have a full report soon.

- Reviewed patient surveys for the hospital and clinic.

- Heard that Charles Krull with Blue Cross Blue Shield gave the hospital a certificate recognizing that the hospital has been with the insurance company for 55 years.

- Heard that the February meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 20, rather than the third Wednesday.

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