



Brian Luft, Norton member of the Kansas State University shooting team, expelled spent shells between rounds of trap doubles during a collegiate trapshoot at Powder Creek Shooting Park in Lenexa. — Courtesy photo from Kansas City Star

Norton graduate is key member of Wildcats trapshooting team

By DICK BOYD

Brian Luft, a former member of Norton's BB Gun Team who competed in the International Championships, has continued to use his marksmanship expertise as a key member of the Kansas State University Trapshooting Team. After his BB gun competition, Luft graduated to the Norton County 4-H trapshooting program while in high school. At the same time, he competed in league trapshooting in Oberlin.

After graduating from Norton Community High School in 2004, Luft enrolled at Kansas State University. Late in his freshman year, he learned about the trapshooting team and shot with them, but not competitively. During his recently completed sophomore year, Luft competed on the team and was one of the top trapshooters.

Shooting for the Wildcats in an Amateur Trapshooters Association sanctioned Fall Handicap Shoot in Wichita last October, Luft won singles with a 96 x 100 score, after a three-way tie shootoff. Along with the championship, he won a Remington 22 caliber rifle.

The K-State marksmen competed in the National Championships sponsored by the American Collegiate Union International at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Tex. on April 4-10 and placed seventh. Having placed 22nd the year before, the K-State team won the "Most Improved Team" Award.

"That was a big jump! Twenty years ago K-State won two national titles but we've had to revive the program," said coach Fred

Smith, who is also an instructor of accounting.

"We have about 30 shooters in our club. Half are on the recreational side and the other half compete collegiately in sporting clay, skeet and trap. We have about eight collegiate matches a year, half in the fall and half in the spring.

"For a lot of college students, money's the biggest issue to get started shooting. Competitive level shotguns can cost \$2,000 to \$10,000. When I take my team to practice at the Tuttle Creek shooting club in Manhattan, it costs club members \$5 a round and \$5 for a box of shells.

"We received \$800 from the university the past school year and we raised \$18,000 on our own. We had a lot of money raisers. We sent 12 shooters to the nationals and it cost \$500 per person.

"When I got involved with this, I was amazed at the lack of infrastructure. At the collegiate level, the NCAA recognizes rifle and pistol competition but there's nothing for shotgun sports. Until somebody comes forward and organizes this, the schools have to organize shoots on their own. Right now, it's pretty much a freelance sport."

The K-State team has received great support from Norton and the surrounding area. They have received donations from New Age Industrial Corp., Inc. and Bill Bussen, local wildlife photographer, donated a wildlife picture to be auctioned. Other local citizens have purchased t-shirts and helped with fund raisers. Scott Carlson, Atwood, has sold guns and choke

tubes to the marksmen at his cost.

Smith, 48, is a relatively new competitive shooter. He won the 2005 Trap & Field Magazine "Rookie of the Year" Award.

Smith said he knows of no college other than Lindenwood University of St. Charles, Mo., that offers scholarship aid in shotgun sports. Lindenwood has one of the sport's top programs.

Luft won his Class C in singles in a registered shoot in Wichita in April. The Kansas State team competed in the State Shoot on June 9 in Wichita and won the championship. Luft won the Class C singles championship with a score of 193 x 200.

In an ATA-sanctioned shoot in Holdrege on June 17, Luft won Class C singles with a 97 x 100 and was high overall (singles, handicap, doubles) with a score of 270 x 300. In another ATA shoot at Manhattan on July 1-2, Luft won handicap singles with a 189 x 200 on Saturday and handicap singles with a 92 x 100 on Sunday.

On July 8 in an ATA shoot in Hays, he won Class C doubles with a 168 x 200. In another ATA shoot on July 9 in McCook, Luft scored a 271 x 300 to win high overall.

In the Kansas Trapshooting Association Summer Handicap in Wichita on July 13, Luft placed second in singles with a 193 x 200.

"Brian is really a consistent shooter," said coach Smith.

"He can score in the mid-90s all the time. He works hard and has fun with it. Brian also gets involved in the fund raisers."

Luft is the son of Vivian and Mike Luft of Norton.

Norcatur man challenges again

(Continued from Page 1) and parks, he said. The lake in Norton, with its state park and state wildlife area, is short on money and it doesn't seem that the facility has legislative support at all to help keep it going.



Rep. Faber, said Mr. Bob Strevey, voted for the private prisons bill. A former employee at the prison in Norton, Mr. Strevey said he opposes the private prisons bill. This was a provision to a bill for stricter rules for sex offenders. There are a lot of jobs connected with the prison in Norton, he said, and if the state goes to private prisons, then those jobs go away.

On school finance, said Mr. Strevey, the state Supreme Court should only serve as a referee.

The court overstepped its bounds when it said how much money should be spent on the schools, he said. The legislators responded with more money and now the court needs to back off, he said.

The court needs to give the process some time to work, Mr. Strevey added, saying that he doesn't favor punishing the court

in any way. Mr. Strevey said he is unhappy that the state is borrowing huge sums of money, piling up the state debt. The Republican party continues to push for tax cuts, he said, and that is putting a tremendous burden on grandkids. This needs to stop.

The last tax cuts were for businesses buying machinery or buildings. Part of the reason this wasn't in the best interest of the state is that most of that money was then going to urban areas.

He said he has talked with the county commissioners in his district, and they have said that the counties are constantly losing money because of something the state does. The counties are being squeezed, he said. This is just a precursor to the state government saying that counties aren't doing the job and so they need to consolidate, which isn't a good idea.

Economic development, said Mr. Strevey, is important. Progress is being made across the district, he said. As the representative for this area, Mr. Strevey said, he can help with economic development, especially when a prospect needs a multi-county approach.

A good representative, he said, could be a good facilitator for economic development.

Mr. Strevey was born on a farm near Norcatur and has lived south of Norcatur all his life. He taught fifth through eighth grade for 31 years.

He and his wife Kay have three daughters. Trudi, who is married to John McCollum, lives in Missouri and has a daughter Elyssa. Wendy, married to Lauren Tien, lives in Andover and has a daughter Ivalea. Hollie is married to Justen Ricke, and they have a son Jared.

Mr. Strevey now has a farm and grows field corn, wheat, milo and has cattle.

He is a director of the U.S. 36 Highway Association, president of the Norcatur Citizens Alliance, and a member of the Norcatur United Methodist Church and the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board.

Although he and Rep. Faber differ on economic issues, he said, they usually agree on social issues.

Both are pro-life, said Mr. Strevey, and both are against gay marriage.

Mr. Strevey said he thinks it will be a close race this time, though it has been a long time since a Democrat has sat in that seat. The candidate said he gained 900 votes between 2002 and 2004, and if he gains 900 again, the outcome could be different.

Incumbent confident in abilities

(Continued from Page 1)

money to small schools, in the state finance formula. It's also important to not put a lot of burden on local property taxes, he said.



John Faber

"The state needs to fund every district equitably," he said. He said state parks are important, but the Department of Wildlife and Parks needs to work within its budget. Secretary Mike Hayden has asked for a \$5-a-year tax on all vehicle registrations to boost the park fund.

The department should be focusing on the land they have, rather than trying to buy more pri-

ivate land, Mr. Faber said.

"They need to take care of what they have," he said.

Tax cuts, he added, are something he always looks for.

"We need to attract more business so we can put more people to work," he said. "Western Kansas has abundant water and a very good work force, which is a good draw for new business."

Rep. Faber said tax breaks might be a way to get the people raised in western Kansas to come back and raise their families, boosting the enrollment base for schools.

A Rawlins County farmer and rancher, Rep. Faber and his wife Renee live on their farm in the southwest corner of the county.

Their address is out of Brewster, and he's a former member of the Brewster School Board.

The district covers Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties.

Rep. Faber will be facing Democrat Bob Strevey of Norcatur for the third time in six years in the November general election, but remains unopposed in the Aug. 1 primary. The last two times, he's beaten his Republican opponent.

"I've always been a common-sense conservative," he said. "I think I reflect the district I live in."

"When people vote for me, they're voting for experience. I know the ropes and can get the job done for us out here."

Thanks for reading...

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Norton Notice of Budget Hearing

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2006. (1T)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Norton

will meet on the 15th day of August, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at 301 E. Washington, for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, 301 E. Washington St., Norton, KS, and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2007 Expenditures and Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2007 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2005		2006		Proposed Budget 2007		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate %
General	997,451	31.839	1,191,049	35.314	1,322,398	336,512	30.796
Employee Benefit	76,039	5.239	92,600	6.112	113,600	66,254	6.063
Industrial Development	3,601	1.000	10,000	0.999	77,476	10,927	1.000
Library	71,240	5.233	75,825	5.770	79,713	65,510	5.995
Library Benefits	24,231	1.841	27,354	2.087	28,063	22,926	2.098
Bond and Interest	74,939	6.064	31,520	0.899	62,587	57,125	5.228
Special Highway	45,358		139,100		219,902		
Cemetery, Trust	9,871		12,000		10,897		
Special Parks	3,450		14,300		15,504		
Tourism	16,176		21,000		21,000		
Fire Insurance Proceeds			5,000		5,000		
Special Health Insurance	360,587		388,000		495,576		
Trees for Tomorrow	1,425				0		
Airport Bond & Interest	35,877		34,978		34,144		
Northridge Bond & Interest	5,154		5,154		5,164		
Revolving Loan Fund	30,724		35,000		40,000		
Electric	2,620,957		3,141,439		3,922,115		
Water	368,048		667,626		1,017,536		
Sewer	363,421		864,559		3,818,571		
Refuse	196,698		210,664		227,788		
Electric Replacement	78,287		--		--		
Water Replacement			--		--		
Sewage Replacement	18,867		--		--		
Refuse Replacement	0		--		--		
Totals	5,305,247	51.216	6,967,168	51.181	11,517,034	559,254	51.180
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	5,305,247		6,967,168		11,517,034		
Total Tax Levied	559,477		564,336		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	10,923,165		11,025,745		10,927,274		

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1, 2004: 589,870; 2005: 507,497; 2006: 419,927. G.O. Bonds: 0; 0; 0. Revenue Bonds: 24,830; 13,868; 2,045. Other: 149,098; 120,808; 138,684. Lease Purchase Principal: 763,798; 642,173; 560,656.

Barla R. Ellis, City Clerk

Bulletin Board

Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

Space for Rent

Wouldn't Your Ad **Look!** Great Here? Call 877-3361

Financial Service

What's yours is theirs...or is it?

Without a proper estate protection strategy, your loved ones may not receive all you've worked so hard to achieve. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help ensure your assets pass according to your plan. Call today.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

Neither Thrivent Financial for Lutherans nor its respective associates provide legal or tax advice. For complete details, consult with your tax advisor or attorney. 21384B RS-03 200301466 ©2006 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Auto Service Repair

PROBLEM SOLVED! COMPLETE COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS
Careful Attention Sets Our Service Shop Apart From Others

•TUNE-UPS •AIR CONDITIONER •BRAKES •EXHAUST SYSTEM •SHOCKS •RADIATOR REPAIR

WALTER MOTOR COMPANY
NORTON — 1-800-479-3112 (877-3112)

Air Duct Cleaning

DIVERSIFIED MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE

Air Duct Cleaning "DONE RIGHT!"

Dryer Vent Cleaning

•Residential •Commercial •Industrial

www.dlversifledmm.com

TOLL FREE **1-800-AirDuct** 247-3828

FREE ESTIMATES

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES!!

CALL . . .

Spaces Always Available:
1" per month — \$42.50
2" per month — \$76.50
3" — per month — \$103.50

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

785-877-3361