

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday
March 11, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Todd Boller

Briefly

Students to see African acrobats

The "African Acrobats" will perform at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Logan Grade School Auditorium. The group is made up of six people performing juggling, limbo, gymnastics, balancing, hoop diving, contortions and human pyramid building. The acrobats have performed at Walt Disney theme parks, colleges, circuses and on national television. The group's performance is sponsored by the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program and offered to the public at no charge. To learn more call 785-689-4846.

Andbe Home holds meeting

The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of the Andbe Home. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday. Election of the board of directors will be held that night.

Coaches train on Thursday

The Norton American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) will be holding training for all new coaches at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church. Coaches will also receive their soccer equipment and team uniforms that night. For more information, call Deena Wentz at (785) 877-5235.

Boosters meet on Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Norton girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on their team's season ending competition. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 34. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 65. **Wednesday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers before 4 a.m. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 58. **Thursday Night** — Slight chance of rain showers.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 5, High 26, Trace of Snow
Saturday Low 12, High 59
Sunday Low 20, High 54
Monday Low 16, High 59
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, open our hearts and minds to your word. Give us wisdom to make good choices as we walk the narrow path. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Football star inspires students

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Ray McElroy, a former National Football League player for six seasons, spoke to high school and junior high school students from Norton and Northern Valley in an assembly Monday afternoon.

Sponsored by Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mr. McElroy spoke to the students about choices. "We're not born winners or losers — but choosers," he said.

He shared how when he was 7 years old he saw his first NFL football game on television. He knew then what he wanted — he had a vision. He said from that day on he made choices in his life to achieve his vision. But, he had an obstacle to overcome. He said it was himself.

One obstacle, he said, was his football team. From Chicago, he said his high school varsity team only won one game out of his two years on the team. "Our games were so bad," he said, "even our parents wouldn't come to our games."

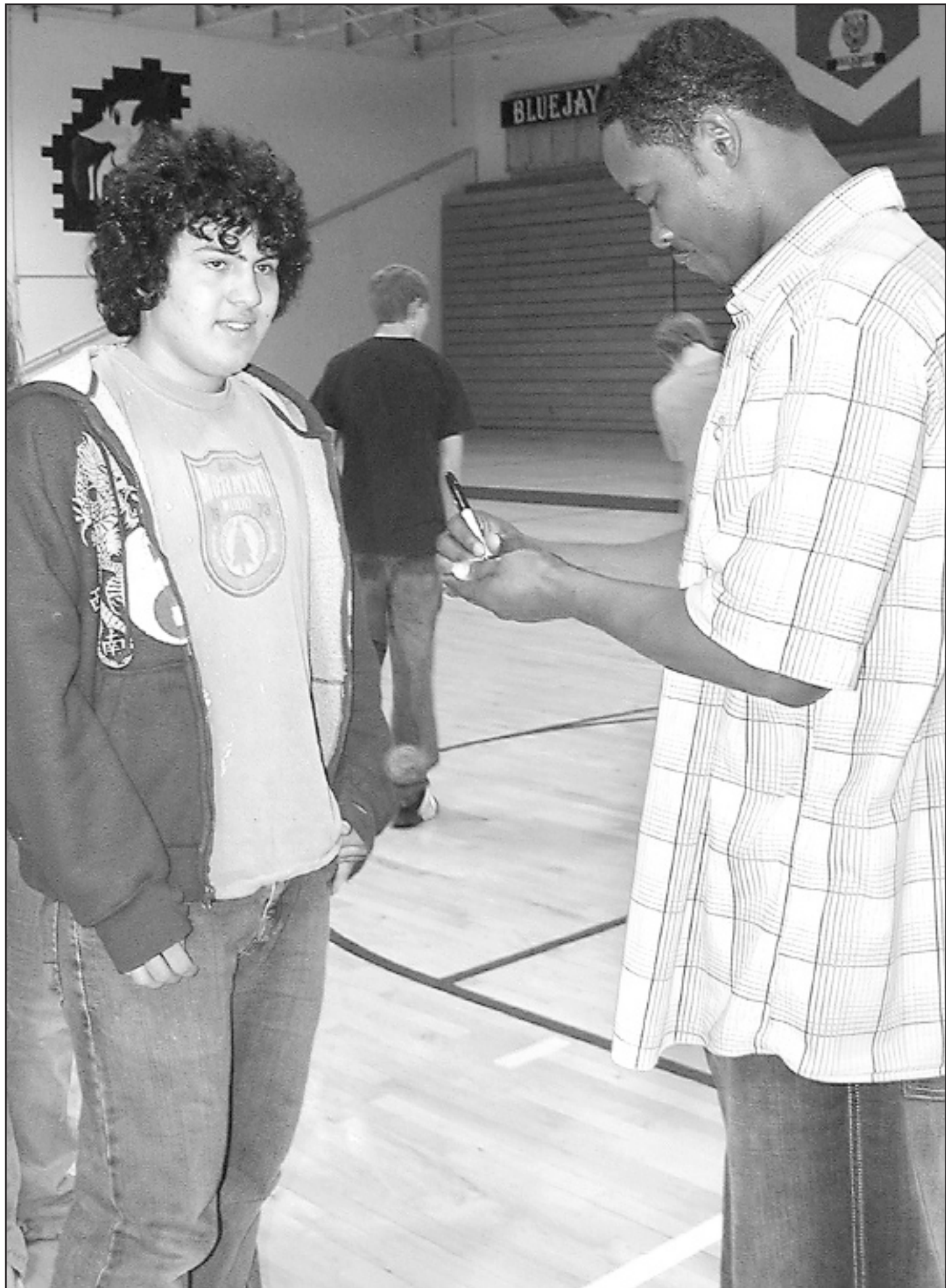
But he had made a choice — he was going to succeed. If not in football, it would be in something else.

Mr. McElroy told the students that alcohol is the No. 1 misused drug in America and is the No. 1 killer of young people. When he asked the students, "Do you know somebody who drinks?" Virtually,

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Matt Ramos, left, a sophomore at Norton Community High School, waited while former NFL player, Ray McElroy, signed his football card. Mr. McElroy spoke to a student assembly Monday afternoon about the choices they make.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



Council approves renovation project

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton City Council is giving Norton County Economic Development a chance to do something with the old gas station on State Street that was scheduled for demolition.

Development Director Diane Becker told the council at an abatement hearing for the property last Wednesday that they would like the city to not demolish the property, allowing economic development to renovate what they can. The property, 205 S. State, belongs to the Moffets.

Abatement means to take something that's considered a nuisance away or repair it, said City Attorney Karen Griffiths. So, she said, as long as it's no longer a nuisance or needs demolishing, then it

no longer needs to be abated.

Ms. Becker said there are several reasons why the council should agree to the project. The station has a long history and has value architecturally, and so could be a point of interest for tourism in Norton if it was fixed up. Also, a project like this builds community capacity and community pride. There will be less waste in the landfill and it takes less energy to rehabilitate something than to tear it down.

The Moffets, she said, have agreed to gift the property to economic development for this project.

She said if the council approved of the project, economic development would see to it that the south end of the station, which used to be a cafe and was deemed structurally unsound, would immediately be torn down, filled in and made into a

parking area.

Then, they will rehabilitate the north end, which used to be the station. The first thing they will do, she said, would be to paint the outside, improving the looks greatly.

The county commission is generally supportive of the project and will help with demolishing the south side.

The costs, she said, include having a survey done to separate the station property from that of the historical house behind it, which economic development will be paying for, and the cost of paint. She said they received a bid of \$736 for paint and materials; they are planning on raising money to pay for it.

This project will benefit the city in the short term and long term, she said. In the

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Commission discusses walking trails

By VERONICA MONIER
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Walking trails were discussed at the Norton County Commission meeting Monday.

Economic Development Director Diane Becker said she had three groups interested in making walking trails. The latest, she said, is several people from Norton.

A Lenora group is also interested in doing a walking trail and has been for some time. She said she spoke with representatives from a trail council and is trying to get one to go to Lenora in an advisory capacity. If they can get someone to go to Lenora, she said she would like to get the Norton group to go down there for it.

Also, she said there is interest in putting a trail outside of town. The Norton group would like to see one in Elmwood Park.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said people walking in the street can sometimes be dangerous and having a trail where they could walk instead would be a good thing. A lot of times, he said, people walk on the wrong side of the road or in the middle of the road and often wear dark clothing, which could cause an accident.

"It's dangerous and is a serious situation," he said.

Ms. Becker said she would speak to the Norton Public Safety Committee about it and would keep the

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BB gun team going to state shoot

By DICK BOYD

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The Kansas State BB Gun Championships will be held Saturday in Alma and the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team will do their best to defend last year's state championship and once again live up to Norton's championship tradition.

With 13 brand new shooters out of 23 on this year's squad, the young Blue Jay marksmen will have a challenge but have history on their side.

Norton BB gun teams have won 37 of 42 state championships during the program's existence. Norton did not compete in 1982 because there was no Jaycees chapter. The team is in the fourth year of sponsorship by the Rotary Club since the Jaycees chapter disbanded.

BB gun teams consist of young people from 8 to 14 years of age.

The three top teams in each state shoot

qualify to compete in the Daisy/Jaycees International BB Gun Championships and Norton has won eight international championships, more than any other team in the world!

Three Norton teams will enter the championships in Alma on Saturday and a top three finish will again guarantee Norton a spot in the internationals, which will be held again this year in Bowling Green, Ky., on July 4-6.

This year's Yellow Team members are: Brady Tien, 14; Alexis Lively, 13; Lane Archer, 12; Erin Archer, 10; Alec Otter, 10. Alternates are Kaitlyn Campbell, 13; Trenton Sprague, 9.

Cameron Archer returns as the head coach and the Yellow Team coach.

Shooting for the Blue Team this year will be: Gabe Bird, 12; Michael Smith, 12; Cameron Heikes, 10; Andrew Bashford, 9; James Berry, 9. Alternates are

Tyler Kuhn, 11; Jena Risewick, 9. Blue Team coaches are Steve Otter and Tim Bashford.

Members of the Red Team are: David Smith, 13; Zach Bird, 12; Kaleb Tuxhom, 10; Micheala Sorenson, 9; Cody Campbell, 9. Alternates are Landon Slipke, 11; Evan Chambers, 9. Coaches are Mike Campbell and Cole Archer.

Mike Campbell and Tim Bashford return as assistant coaches.

Rules state that a shooter is not allowed to compete in the international shoot two years in a row unless he or she is an alternate. For that reason, teams change dramatically each year.

Despite the overall inexperience of the Norton team, two members of the Yellow Team do have international experience and four of the five have competed previ-

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