

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

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**Tuesday**  
March 4, 2014

## Briefly

### Booster club holds meeting Wednesday

The semi-monthly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the cafeteria of Norton Community High School.

Speaking to fans about latest Norton sports action will be head wrestling coach Bill Johnson, head girls basketball coach George Rossi and head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

### Wrestling champs honored Wednesday

There will be a recognition ceremony for the 2014 3-2-1A State Champion Wrestling Team and their coaches on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and it will be held at the East Campus gymnasium. The entire Norton Community is invited and encouraged to attend.

### Fundraiser set for this Thursday

A potato bar fundraiser for Caleb Vanover will be held on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Norton Senior Citizen Community Center.

### Town hall meeting scheduled Saturday

Sen. Ralph Ostmeier and Rep. Couture-Lovelady will hold a legislative town hall meeting on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Town and Country Kitchen. The public is encouraged to attend.

### Benefit movie for Relay for Life

There will be a Relay for Life benefit movie showing of "Son of God" and "Mr. Peabody and Sherman" on Saturday, March 8 at 2 p.m. Admission of \$3 per person or other monetary donation is requested.

## Weather

Wednesday - Cloudy early and becoming mostly sunny in the afternoon with a high of 47. Wednesday Night - Generally fair with a low of 28. Thursday - Partly cloudy skies with high near 62. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening with more clouds for later at night and a low of 36. Friday - Cloudy with a high of 42. Friday Night - Cloudy with rain and snow showers in the evening. Light snow overnight.

## Markets

MARCH 2014

Wheat .....\$6.61  
Milo.....\$4.28  
Soybeans.....\$13.31  
Corn.....\$4.44  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Prayer

Dear Giver of all gifts, help us to use our gifts and talents for you and to be available always to do your will. Amen.



The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured in Gross Coliseum in Hays on Saturday evening following their fourth Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championship in the past five years. They are, from left, front row: Skylar Johnson, Branson Addington, Jared Tallent, Toby Nickell, Mike Kasson; second row: manager Jordyn Gosselin, manager Lindsay Addington, head coach Bill Johnson; back row: assistant coach Shane Miller, assistant coach Doug Ray, Alec Hager, Kolton Harting, Cole Renner, Jacob Green, manager Austin Hager, Kendall Miller, assistant coach Tony Fiscus.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Printing of this photograph proudly sponsored by Friends of Norton Wrestling.

# Norton wins state wrestling title

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School wrestling team had a 74-70 lead over Rossville for the Class 3-3-1A state wrestling championship on Friday evening, found the back door open, "cowboyed up" and charged through the door on Saturday to win their fourth championship in the past five years!

Rossville scored 11 points on Saturday but the Blue Jays, with eight of their ten wrestlers coming through the back door, tallied 53 more points on Saturday to win going away.

Norton finished with 127 points, followed by Rossville, 81; Beloit, 80; Effingham-Atchison Co., 78; Hoisington, 75; Phillipsburg, 67; Silver Lake, 66; Fredonia, 63; Smith Center, 56 and Marysville, 54 for the top ten out of the 67 teams competing.

Among area teams, Oberlin placed

11th with 49.5, Hoxie was 13th with 37, Plainville, placed 14th with 35.5, Atwood was 23rd with 26, Oakley placed 26th with 25, Ellis was 30th with 21, Hays-TMP finished 45th with 11, St. Francis was 52nd with 4, Hill City tied for 54th with 3, Trego tied for 54th with 3 and Stockton finished in a tie for 67th with no points.

Two Norton wrestlers qualified for state championship matches on Friday but only one won a gold medal on Saturday evening. Senior Branson Addington at 113 pounds handed Ty Nienke of Ellis his first loss of the season when he edged him 3-2 for the championship!

Senior Alec Hager was the other Blue Jay going for a gold medal. He wrestled Brogan Humphrey of Fredonia, who had only one loss for the season, and lost a hard-fought 15-6 decision to the very quick Humphrey.

Three Norton wrestlers placed third in their weight classes. They were sophomore Skylar Johnson, 106; junior Jared Tallent, 145 and freshman Jacob Green, 220.

Senior Toby Nickell came through with a sixth place at 132 pounds as did senior Kolton Harting at 195.

Also competing for Norton and scoring points to help the team score were sophomore Mike Kasson, 152; junior Kendall Miller, 160 and senior Cole Renner, 170.

Needless to say, Norton head coach Bill Johnson was happy with his team's championship performance.

"We started out a little rocky on Friday when we didn't wrestle well but we came back on Saturday and really turned it on. We wrestled really well on Saturday.

"As an example of our wrestlers toughness, Toby Nickell and Kolton

Harting wrestled five matches on Saturday to get medals and that's tough to do.

"On Friday night, I looked at the brackets and told our wrestlers they needed to take care of business on Saturday and we did. We won matches on Saturday that many people wouldn't believe we could win.

"I'm really happy the way we wrestled. Everybody came out, put it on the line and scored points for our team. We won all three third place matches and weren't favored in any of them. We weren't favored either in our two first place matches and we won one of those."

Coach Johnson stated, as he has before, that he entered his team in very tough tournaments such as the Clay Center Tournament and Newton Tour-

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# Sheriff's department has more problems

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Sheriff Troy Thomson had nothing but bad news for the Norton County commissioners when he visited them on Friday.

The sheriff said that things weren't going well with his 911 voice system, he has two dead computers and medical problems in the jail.

When he visited them a few weeks ago, he told the commissioners that his 911 voice system had died. The cost of repair would be \$9,000 but a new one, that will work with the expected upgrade in the system, would cost \$24,000.

At that time, the sheriff had a loaner and the salesman thought he could get the county a leased machine for a year

for \$3,000. That would give the county enough time to see if it needed the new expensive machine or if the 911 system would be going regional and a new machine might not be needed at all.

However, the sheriff said on Monday, the company has said the cost of a one-year lease will be \$9,000.

"If it's too high, we'd be stupid to put that money out," the sheriff said liking the cost to renting a house for more than the eventual cost of purchasing it.

He said that he feels the county has no other option but to purchase the \$24,000 system because the emergency systems in the county need it.

But again he warned the commissioners that the state 911 council could decide that each county doesn't need a new expensive system and go with a re-

gional one, which would make the new machine unneeded. However, timing is the problem.

The council controls the money the county gets from the phone tax, the sheriff said, and it isn't even planning to meet before April 1. Then it will take time for everything to be decided and worked out since the members of the are all volunteers with other jobs.

"I don't think we can just sit back," the sheriff said, adding that he is betting that it will take about two years to get a regional system set up especially since it will be for the entire state.

"I'm guessing," he said, since the 911 council has not said that this is what it will do.

"I don't think we have any choice," the sheriff said.

The county got \$50,000 from the 911 council last year, he said, but that doesn't pay for what is needed. The 911 phone lines alone cost the county \$1,200 a month or \$24,000 a year and that doesn't include the computer system, upkeep or employees.

The sheriff said while the county still has the loaner, he doesn't know how long that will last because he figures the company has already provided Norton County with \$1,000 of free service since it came.

Besides the cost of the system, which could be bought on a five-year lease from the company or bank financed, the maintenance agreement is expensive.

The first year is free, he said. The second cost \$3,466, the third \$3,709, the fourth \$3,969 and the fifth \$4,247.

"Can't we get a bumper to bumper warranty," County Clerk Robert Wyatt asked with a smile.

"Nope," the sheriff replied. "In five

years, you're paying for the machine again."

The sheriff suggested that the commissioners might want to start putting money into the 911 fund because there is just not enough money coming in to pay all the bills.

Mr. Wyatt noted that 15 years ago the county was getting in enough money to pay for the system with some left over. Now texting, photos and video are all required of the system and everything is much more expensive.

"Unless we pay or they regionalize it, we can't continue with this," the sheriff said.

The commissioners decided to check with local banks to get a loan to buy the system, which serves the ambulance service, fire departments, sheriff and police officers in the county with all radio and telephone traffic that goes with the dispatch office.

In his second bit of bad news, the sheriff said that one of the department's computers went down in September and he got a used one to get by but it needs replacing.

The other day, however, a power surge fried another computer in his office so now he's down two computers, which will cost around \$1,000 each.

The sheriff said that the dead computer was connected to a power strip with the best spiking surge protector available but it still got burned.

"Now do you want the bad news?" the sheriff asked.

He requested a 15-minute closed session with the commissioners, Mr. Wyatt and County Attorney Doug Sebelius to discuss a medical problem with a prisoner in the jail.

After the session, the sheriff said that he is expecting a large medical bill.

## Kansas weather spotter meeting is scheduled

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Goodland and Norton County Emergency Management invite you to attend a Storm Spotter Class in Norton. This year's training will be held Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 pm CDT at the Prairieland Electric Coop, downstairs (1101 W. Highway 36).

The class is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in High Plains weather. This program is conducted only once a year by National Weather Service meteorologists, so consider attending this fun and edu-

cational training in Norton. The class will discuss Wireless Emergency Alerts, new Impact-Based Warnings, thunderstorm organization and evolution, associated clouds and their meaning, thunderstorm hazards, safety, and what and how to report. For more information, contact the Goodland National Weather Service at (785) 899-7119. A complete listing of the 2014 Spotter Training Schedule across the Tri-State Area is available on the Goodland National Weather Service web page: [weather.gov/goodland](http://weather.gov/goodland).

