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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Norton will send 10 wrestlers to the state tournament. Businesses and *The Telegram* honor them.

Tuesday
February 24, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Donna Hale

Briefly

Radio personality to be at banquet

A familiar voice will be heard at the Norton's annual Chamber Banquet set for 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 30.

Wyatt Thompson, voice of the Kansas State University Wildcats, will be the keynote speaker at this year's banquet to be held at the Norton American Legion. Mr. Thompson is in his second season as play-by-play announcer for football, men's basketball and some baseball games.

Tickets to the banquet are \$15 per person available at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Office, 877-2501.

Drought vigil

set for Saturday

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 814 N. Second, Norton, will hold a prayer vigil from 6 a.m. to midnight on Saturday. The public is invited to come and offer prayers and petitions regarding the drought.

The next day at 10:30 a.m., the church will conduct a prayer service in response to the drought.

Booster Club

to meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Wrestling Coach Bill Johnson will review the team's second-place finish at the Regional Tournament and preview the State Tournament.

Girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on their team's results.

Refreshments will be served.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows around 20. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 20s. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 50s. **Thursday Night and Friday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 60s. **Friday Night** — Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy.

Howell report:

Friday High 55, Low 28
Saturday High 57, Low 33
Sunday High 60, Low 26
Monday High 43, Low 23
Week ago High 47, Low 26
Month ago High 63, Low 23
Year ago High 24, Low 0
February precipitation60 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 1.15 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for forgiving our sins even though we do not deserve it. Help us to forgive as many times as necessary. Amen

One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and 10 to go



James Annon, Norton's 130 pound defending state champion, earned three points for a near fall with this move during his 19-5 victory over Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, in the championship semi-finals of the regional tourney in Norton on Saturday. Annon won the championship and Gienger placed third and also qualified for the state tourney. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ten Norton wrestlers head for state tourney

By DICK BOYD

Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team turned in a great performance on Friday and Saturday and placed just behind defending state champion Hoxie in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament in the Norton Community High School Gym.

The No. 2 state ranked Blue Jays beat

the No. 1 ranked Indians in all tournament encounters earlier this season but Hoxie edged them 193 to 187.5 for the regional title. Both teams qualified 10 wrestlers for the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday in the Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

This regional tournament was unquestionably the toughest of the four in the

state with eight of the top 10 ranked teams in the state competing and approximately half of the individually state ranked wrestlers competing. In addition, eight of the 10 returning state champions competed.

St. Francis, who is ranked No. 5 in the state, placed third with 118 points. No. 6 state ranked Oakley finished in fourth with 117 points, followed by No. 4 state

ranked Oberlin with 108. Smith Center, who is tied for No. 9 in the state, placed sixth with 95.5 points. In seventh place was Plainville with 74 and Atwood, who is tied for No. 9, was eighth with 73. No. 8 ranked Beloit finished ninth with 60.5 points.

The Trojans were followed by Phillips (Continued on Page 12)

Up on the roof top



Workmen from Knoll and Sons Roofing Co. used propane torches to heat the back of new roofing material they laid on the roof of the Carter Building, 213 S. Kansas last week. A company spokesman said they removed over 40,000 pounds of tar and rock from the old roof in preparation for the new. —Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

City works to recover loan money

By VERONICA MONIER

The city of Norton could get its money back from what appeared to be a bad economic development loan to Scheetz Motor Co.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths told the city council at Monday's meeting that an agreement is being worked out with Scheetz Motor Co.

The city and Norton Development Corp. has sued and gotten a judgment against Michael McLaughlin and Scheetz for defaulting on a revolving loan fund debt.

Mrs. Griffiths told the council that the city has a first lien on all of the parts and manuals and she has been working on a settlement agreement with Mr. Barnes, the attorney for Scheetz. Under the agreement, Scheetz will agree to turn over to the city all parts and manuals, which have been appraised at \$32,000 to \$35,000. The company still owes \$31,000 to the revolving loan fund.

She said the parts and manuals that have been purchased within the last three years (Continued on Page 5)

Treasurer would like to remodel, update office

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner would like to have her office remodeled but the county commissioners said they are worried about the cost.

Mrs. Linner came to last Tuesday's commission meeting with plan for remodeling her office for better work flow and better customer service.

She had drawings showing how the big steel front counter would be moved out and a less formal customer service area

along with a handicapped accessible desk would be set up. The office would include an area for her assistants, a space for a copier and a small private office for the treasurer.

The money, she said, would come out of capital outlay funds that are earmarked for the treasurer's office.

Mrs. Linner had two bids. One was for \$10,300 for Steelcase furniture from Eakes Office Supply of McCook and Kearney. The other is for \$8,000 for Hon

furniture from End Zone in Norton. The steel-case furniture is heavier and better built, she said.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said the furniture in his office is Hon and he is happy with it.

Mrs. Linner said there would be an additional expense to have Nex-Tech move wiring in her office.

"I really think that customers would be better served (with the new setup)," Mrs. Linner said. (Continued on Page 5)

Commissioners John Miller pointed out that this is an election year and the county has had a lot of unexpected expenses. He said he didn't think this was a good time to be redoing any offices in the courthouse whether there was money in capital outlay or not.

While the commissioners didn't actually turn Mrs. Linner down, they asked her to hold off on any remodeling projects for a while. (Continued on Page 5)

Piping up the spirit



The pep band keeps the gym jumping during basketball games and wrestling matches. Earlier in the month Pam Foley and her fellow players kept spirits up at the Norton-Oberlin basketball games. — Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

City increases pay for some

By VERONICA MONIER

Some Norton city employees will get a small raise for the first time in more than a year.

At last Tuesday's city council meeting the council members approved a 5 percent pay increase for salaried positions, which have not been adjusted since 2002.

Most city employees received raises over the past two years.

Employees receiving raises:

- The city attorney goes from \$725 to \$761.25.
- Court clerk from \$325 to \$341.25.
- Municipal judge from \$550 to \$577.50.
- The city prosecutor from \$450, \$472.50.
- Fire chief from \$420 to \$441.
- Assistant fire chief from \$210

to \$220.50.

- Fire treasurer from \$35 to \$36.75
- Mayor and council members from \$200 to \$210.
- City treasurer from \$300 to \$315 annually.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said that the Public Safety Committee has recommended a raise for the animal control officer. The job pays \$350 plus a \$150 vehicle allowance per month. The committee recommended an increase to \$450 plus the vehicle allowance.

Councilman Ron Briery asked what the justification for the pay increase was.

"My problem is that with this raise, she'll make more than the fire chief," he said. "We've raised the salary substantially from what

it used to be."

Mayor David Corns agreed, saying the fire chief is a highly skilled individual with many people under him and is responsible for keeping lives and property safe.

Councilman George Jones said the animal control officer is doing more work than the previous officer have done and will have more work to do with the new pound.

Councilwoman Harriett Gill said the animal control officer spends about 100 hours a month working.

The recommendation was sent back to committee so more information could be gathered about the number of hours being worked and the additional duties being performed.

Parts, manuals to help pay off loan

(Continued from Page 1) will be sold back to General Motors at cost. The parts and manuals over three years old will have to be sold at auction.

"We may get the full price of our loan back," she said. "Part of the agreement is that the city will go after Michael McLaughlin for any money that is still owed on the loan after the parts and manuals have been sold."

She said that Scheetz should sign the agreement soon, but needed the council's approval and authorization to sign the agreement. The council agreed with the resolution.

In other business, the council:

- Held a public meeting to discuss sewer treatment plant improvements and upgrades.. Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates, which is working with the city on plans to build a new treatment plant, was at the meeting to answer questions. The city has received a draft agreement for the state Revolving Loan Fund. He said the interest rate for February is 2.79 percent and that the state doesn't foresee the rate going down in March. Since the plant has

been reviewed and approved by the state, the city can close the loan and lock in the interest rate.

Construction of the new facility is planned for the spring of 2005 and would take about 11 months to complete.

• Heard from Councilman Jerry Hawks that there has been some confusion as to who is supposed to remove snow around postal neighborhood mail boxes. He said the post office is responsible, and that those people who have complaints need to contact them.

• Learned from Mr. Hawks that the county wants to make changes to the interlocal airport agreement and will bring those issues back to council in the near future.

• Allowed Don and Paula Bolt to have a practice race on March

13 at 3 p.m., which would allow racers a chance to fine-tune their cars and get familiar with the track before the March 14 race. No admission will be charged and no prize money awarded. Proof of liability insurance will be required.

• Learned that volunteer fireman Elmer Howell is planning to retire. He has been with the department for more than 31 years.

• Asked that a separate line item be set up in the budget for the race track expenditures.

• Heard that Jay Holste called Mr. Hawks to tell him that money is being raised for the repair of the tennis courts. Councilwoman Elaine Mann said it shows good faith that they have started raising money.

County puts office update on hold

(Continued from Page 1)

"We may need everything we have just to make it through the next few years," Mr. Miller said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked to acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen and Ruth Shillig about a possible grant to build a new emergency medical office and ambulance barn. The county must apply for any federal or state grants by Oct. 1 or go through another exhaustive survey of low to medium income

families in the county.

• Heard that Emergency Preparedness Director Alvin Mapes would like to hold a tornado drill at the end of March and that there will be a weather spotters class on March 11 at the library conference room.

• Told Mr. Mapes he needs to hold a meeting with stock raisers in the county to help them know what they have to do to prepare in case there is an animal die off to comply with state emergency preparedness rules.

• Decided to raise what the county weed department charges the state for spraying from \$31.50/hour to \$40/hour because of the increase in costs in chemicals, fuel and wages. Reggie Beckman, county weed supervisor, said that his people spend about 40 hours a year spraying bindweed and some Johnson grass for the state.

• Held a 20-minute closed session with Sheriff Troy Thomson to discuss the city-county agreement on dispatch services.

Board hears workshop reports

By KRISTEN BRANDS
The Northern Valley School Board heard presentations by two teachers at its meeting Feb. 9.

Junior High English Instructor Staci Montgomery reviewed the Accelerated Reader testing program and reported new ways the students can present book reports. Mrs. Montgomery has just attended a workshop at Fort Hays State University on the subject.

Sixth grade teacher Lynette Archer reported that her students have been working on paper dolls of themselves called "flat students". She and her class have mailed the flat students to people all over the country, and had heard back from lots of people. The class has received photographs, pictures and information about several states. The class is making scrapbooks of this project.

Almena City Clerk Twila Ingram asked the board to pass a Mitigation 20/20 Resolution which would allow the city the use of school facilities in the event of a disaster.

The board also agreed to require students to meet certain standards before enrolling for advanced placement classes.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Superintendent Bill Lowry that Aimee McClain has been hired as a paraprofessional in the high school. He also outlined the Grant Writing Workshop that he is attending.
- Approved Monday and Tuesday, March 15 and 16, as vacation days for Mr. Lowry.
- Looked at this year's balances compared to last year's figures. The board also heard the status on the employee health insurance.
- Learned that a \$1,000 grant was awarded to the junior high when Mr. Vallin attended a workshop on health curriculum.
- Heard from Lonnie Brungardt on forensics scheduling.

Cars (2) Door

2001 Audi TT180HP --- Heated seats, loaded -----	\$22,800
1999 Pontiac Grand Am --- All Power, Spoiler, CD, Loaded -----	\$6,800
1996 Mitsubishi Eclipse --- All Power, Spoiler, Sunroof -----	\$5,800
1991 Honda Prelude --- All Power, Sunroof, Spoiler -----	\$3,700

11 IN STOCK TO CHOOSE FROM

Cars (4) Door

2002 Toyota Camry LE --- All Power, Spoiler, CD, Factory Warranty -----	\$14,800
2003 Toyota Corolla LE --- All Power, Spoiler, CD, Loaded, 12,708 Mi. -----	\$13,300
2002 Olds Alero --- Spoiler, All Power, CD, Loaded, Factory Warranty, 7,026 Mi. -----	\$11,800
2003 Chrysler Sebring --- Loaded, All Power, 14,409 Mi. -----	\$11,800
2003 Chevy Malibu --- V-6, Factory Warranty, 5,774 Mi. -----	\$10,800
2003 Mitsubishi Galantes --- 13,000 Mi., Factory Warranty, CD, All Power, Auto -----	\$9,400
2001 Pontiac Grand Am --- All Power, Spoiler, Loaded -----	\$6,800
1999 Nissan Sentra --- All Power, CD, Auto -----	\$3,800

26 MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

Vans

2004 Chrysler Town &Country --- 2nd Row Quads, Rear Air, Loaded, 9,090 Mi. -----	\$20,800
2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE --- (2) Child Seats, Rear Air, Loaded, Loaded, 2,817 Mi., Factory Warranty -----	\$18,600
2002 Dodge 3/4 Ton Cargo Van --- White, 23,533 Mi. -----	\$12,800
2000 Pontiac Montana --- Loaded, Loaded, 2nd Row Quads, Rear Air -----	\$10,800
1998 Pontiac Transport --- (4) Door, Rear Air, All Power, V-6 -----	\$4,800

11 MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

SUV's

2000 Chevy Suburban --- Leather, Loaded, 26,898 Mi. -----	\$26,800
2000 Chevy Suburban --- Leather, Loaded, 55,450 Mi. -----	\$23,800
2001 Ford Expedition --- Loaded Loaded, Perfect, 29,012 Mi. -----	\$22,800
2002 Chevy Trailblazer --- Loaded, Loaded -----	\$15,800
2000 Chevy Suburban LT --- 4x4, 2nd Row Quads -----	\$15,800
1998 Chevy Blazer LT --- 4x4, Leather, Sun Roof, 66,419 Mi. -----	\$9,800
1998 Jeep Cherokee --- 4x4, 43,503 Mi. -----	\$6,800
1998 Isuzu Amigo --- 4x4, 53,214 Mi. -----	\$6,600
1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee -- 4 Door, 6 Cyl., 4x4 -----	\$5,800

27 MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

Trucks

2003 Dodge Ram 1500 --- 4WD, Long bed, Hemi, 13,000 Mi. -----	\$19,600
1998 Dodge 3500 Ram --- 4WD, Quad Cab, Dually -----	\$16,800
2003 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado --- Short Bed, Factory Warranty, 18,000 Mi. -----	\$15,400
2000 Ford F150 XLT --- 4 Door, 48,000 Mi., All Power -----	\$13,800
2000 Dodge Dakota SLT --- Ext. Cab, Auto, V-6, 38,000 Mi. -----	\$11,800
1997 GMC 1500 --- 350 Vortec V8, Reg. Cab, Long Bed, Like New -----	\$9,600
2001 Dodge 1500 RAM --- 2WD, Reg. Cab, 23,000 Mi. -----	\$9,400
1995 Chevrolet K2500 -- 4WD, Long Bed -----	\$12,800
1996 Ford F-150 --- V-6, Reg. Cab, Short Bed, Chrome Rails -----	\$5,800
1989 Chevrolet 1500 --- Silverado, 350 auto -----	\$3,800

43 TRUCKS TO CHOOSE FROM

Over 125 to choose from and many units under factory warranty

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www.ottleyautoplex.com

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

The Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas invites the public to Kansas Baseline Training on March 9 and 10, at the Norton Library Community Room.

Baseline is a program created to increase the awareness of the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on the individual, the family and the community. Baseline is a tool that assists communities in prevention efforts. The two days training is a fun and learning experience for all who participate. Manuals will be available at no charge to you for your ease in understanding the training concepts. (12 CEU's are available). The training will begin on Tuesday, March 9 and run Wednesday, March 10. Registration will take place at 8:30 a.m. with the training beginning at 9 a.m. and dismissing at 3:30 p.m. Pre-Registration is required since a maximum of 24 participants is allowed, deadline for pre-registration is March 7. There is no fee for the training, snacks and lunch will be provided. This training will be sponsored by the Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs and Juvenile Justice Authority.

For more information or to pre-register please contact the Regional Prevention Center at 785-625-5521 or 1-800-757-2180.

Reminder

Land Auction

Monday, March 1, 2004

10 a.m. CT

Graham Co. Courthouse, 410 Pomeroy, Hill City, KS

960 Acres Graham County, KS Grassland

Offering good grassland with live water running through complete pasture, with extra strong set of corrals.

All of Section 17-9-23

and the N 1/2 of Section 20-9-23

For more information, contact:

Delbert Walt, Seller

254-823-6969 or 817-832-5564 (mobile)

Norton County Forecast for Feb 24th – Mar 1st

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
42/21	50/25	58/28	56/30	40/23	43/22	48/28

Normal High 49 **Sunrise 7:12 to 7:21am**
Normal Low 22 **Sunset 6:25 to 6:32pm**

Temperatures will be in the 40's and 50's this week with precipitation chances staying south in Oklahoma and Texas. Our next storm system tracks through sometime between Friday night and Saturday night with a chance for rain or snow depending on arrival time. Weekend high temperatures will be around 40 and lows 20-25 degrees. The days are getting longer and average daily temperatures are climbing. It won't be long and severe weather possibilities will return to the forecast.

www.decisionweather.com
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