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Tuesday

November 16, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Gale Schulze

Briefly

Boosters to take
two weeks off

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will not meet for the next two weeks.
The meeting notice in the Community Calendar on Monday was incorrect.
The next meeting will be the winter pre-season meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the high school cafeteria.
Kevin Jilka, head girls basketball coach; Doug Reusink, head boys basketball coach and Bill Johnson, head wrestling coach, will give fans 2004 season previews.
Refreshments will be served.
All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

Commodities
distribution set

The Norton County Senior Citizens will be distributing government surplus food for low income persons of all ages in Norton County next week.
The food includes peanut butter, orange juice, pork 'n' juice, vanilla pudding cups, potato flakes and raisins.
Distribution will be from 2-4 p.m., Wednesday at the Norton Senior Center and the Lenora Senior Center; 9-11 a.m., Wednesday at the Almena Senior Center; and 2:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday at the Clayton Library.
For more information, call Ramona Pabian, 877-5352.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Areas of fog. Lows in the upper 40s, with southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Cloudy with a slight chance of rain then showers likely in the late morning and afternoon. Areas of fog in the morning with highs in the upper 50s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the north 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of showers 60 percent. **Wednesday Night** — Cloudy with rain likely. Areas of fog with lows in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent. **Thursday** — Cloudy with rain likely then a chance of rain in the afternoon. Cooler with highs in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph with chance of rain.

Howell report:

Friday High 50, Low 29
Saturday High 49, Low 35
Sunday High 48, Low 34
Monday High 58, Low 44
Week ago High 68, Low 48
Month ago High 49, Low 39
Year ago High 67, Low 34
November precipitation65 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 23.05 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm
10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Loving Creator, give us a new understanding of your commandment to love our neighbors. Help us to honor each one as one of your "flowers."
Amen



Visitors flock
to look over
holiday fare

Cindy Sattler, Oberlin, (left above) admired wreath ornaments on display at the 4-H Building during Norton's annual arts and crafts fair. Mary Kay Woodyard, (seated right) and Erin Manning, operated a Big Brothers Big Sisters booth during Saturday's craft fair. They distributed information, gave away homemade brownie samples and sold chocolate chip cookie mix. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Commissioners look at changing health insurance

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commissioners talked to Kathy Zimmerman, Norton, and Renee Spesser, Selden, of Bridges Group about county health insurance.
The commissioners have been talking to insurance companies for the past several months in hopes of finding an insurance as good or close to what employees

have today with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The cost of health insurance has gone up so much over the last couple of years the commissioners feel they have to make a change — either in coverage or to a different company.
The county's health insurance comes up for renewal in January.
Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom

Brannan told the commissioners that he has been looking at windscreens for the landfill. Mr. Brannan said he has looked at what several area landfills have done to stop trash from blowing.
The county will need 20 of the screens, the framework can be made out of pipe, which will cost about \$1,800, he said.

He suggested the frame work be done in the county shop and then they can be put together on site. He said he wanted to make the screens so they can be skidded from place to place.
A fabric, which could be wire mesh, will be stretched between the frames, he said.
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Southwestern book leaves out a few bells

It's little, yellow and used as a reference for phone numbers, but the latest issue of the Southwestern Bell Norton-area phone book is missing something. In fact, it's missing several somethings — phone numbers.

The most noticeable were the numbers for Norton County. In the phone book, there is a listing for Norton-County with the address of 105 S. Norton and a phone number of 877-2946. This is the county's court trustee office.

Also listed incorrectly was the Norton Senior Center. It was listed as Norton County Senior Center with an incorrect phone number and also listed as Norton Senior Center and Norton Senior Center Cares, which had the wrong address.

Senior Center Director Ramona Pabian said it should have been listed as Senior Citizens Center, 208 W. Main, 877-5352 and then been followed by Meal Site, 874-4223; Norton CARES, 877-2131; Public Transportation, 877-5352. The meal site, Norton CARES and public transportation can all be found at 208 W. Main.

Norton County phone numbers

Clerk of the District Court, 877-5720	K-State Research/Ext., 877-5755
County Appraiser, 877-5700	Community Corrections, 877-5760
County Attorney, 877-5143	EMS Administration, 877-5784
County Clerk, 877-5710	Noxious Weed Dept., 877-5730
County Commissioners, 877-5725	Register of Deeds, 877-5765
County Health Department, 877-5745	17th Judicial District Judge, 877-5770
County Shop and Engineer, 877-5740	Sheriff, administrative, 877-5780
County Treasurer, 877-5795	Solid Waste, 877-5790
Court Services Department, 877-5775	Animal Control, 874-4294
District Magistrate Judge, 877-5735	Parks and Cemetery, 874-4295
Emergency Preparedness, 877-5750	

Ms. Pabian said the 2003 Nex-Tech directory lists the numbers and addresses correctly.
Sue Urban, customer service coordinator for the Norton Nex-Tech office, said Southwestern Bell buys its directory list from Nex-Tech and that Nex-Tech also buys Southwestern Bell's directory list. She doesn't know how the mistakes were made.
Bob Mueller, spokesman for South-

western Bell yellow pages, said he checked with the publishing company and found that when the county switched phone providers, that provider failed to give the county's phone numbers to Southwestern Bell.
He said they are working with the county to make sure all of the numbers that got missed are listed in directory assistance and that they get in next year's book.

School
to return
payments

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School Board is giving back part of a health insurance refund to its teachers.

At last Monday's meeting, Superintendent Greg Mann said the district got a \$151,000 refund check from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

"We've been really lucky with our insurance in the past several years," he said.

To figure out how much of the refund the teachers would get, he said he took the total premium, subtracted what the board paid and then figured out what each teacher paid for their plans. He said teachers who are eligible to get the refund are those who were members of the group from Oct. 1, 2003, through Sept. 30, 2004, the period the refund covers.

He said the teachers share was 42.3
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City, county
look to fill
economic job

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

"Can the city and county work together on (economic development)?" Norton County Commissioner Leroy Lang asked during a joint meeting Monday night.

Members of the city council's finance committee, under the direction of Councilman Jim Williams, along with Mr. Lang and county commissioner John Miller met to discuss economic development.

The leaders were looking, not just at economic development but at hiring a person to be a full-time development director.

Committee members agreed on goals for the job, the need for a job description, accountability and the need to find money in both city and county budgets to pay a director.

The group decided to form a committee of two commissioners, two council members, two business people and a rep-
(Continued on Page 5)

Chamber plans
for Christmas

The board of directors of the Norton County Area Chamber of Commerce is planning its Christmas promotions, Santa's House and the holiday dinner.

Santa will make his first appearance at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26, and will be at the Ginger Bread House Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m., until Christmas.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed upcoming ribbon cuttings for Western Pest Control, Geeks and a Mouse and Engels Napa.
 - Talked about the annual banquet and possible speakers.
 - Discussed the manager's comp time report.
 - Discussed a new hunting guide posted on the website.
- The next meeting will be at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Chamber office.

School to refund insurance money

(Continued from Page 1)
percent, and the refunds would range from \$127.74 to \$2,920, depending on each teacher's plan. Mr. Mann said he would like to give the refunds with the November checks.

The remaining amount, which goes back to the district for its contribution to the insurance plan, is a little over \$91,000.

Mr. Mann said the district could put the money in capital outlay or another special fund, but not in the general fund or local option budget; could return the money to Blue Cross Blue Shield to buy down future rate increases; or could use the money for a future self-insurance program.

Board member Jeff Nielsen asked if they should give the money back to the teachers like they did last year.

Mr. Mann said they did that last year because it was a much smaller refund where some of the teachers would only be getting back a very small amount and the district thought it should supplement those refunds with the rest of the money. This year's refund is much bigger, he said.

Board member Elaine Lofgreen said she was of two minds about it. "We fulfilled our obligation to the teachers by paying their part of the insurance plan," she said. "But at the same time, we told them we would pay a certain amount and this refund is part of that amount and so should go to the teachers."

Board members Gary Lacy and Chris Harting both said that the board fulfilled its obligation and that it should keep the money for something needed.

Mr. Mann said the \$91,000 will just about cover the price of a mobile computer lab, which the district will need sometime in the near future.

The board decided to give the teachers the 42.3 percent refund with the November pay checks, but decided to wait and think about what to do with the board's portion.

In other business, the board:

- Was given a priority grid for what to do with the remaining Tansill Trust money that had been earmarked for construction. Mr. Mann asked the board members to fill it out and return it to him.

Mr. Harting said he feels that even though the board has the money, it doesn't need to spend it.

He said there might be something that needs fixed in the future, like last summer when the roof over the Eisenhower Elementary library needed to be fixed.

- Heard that Mr. Nielsen and board member Pam Shelton will work with Mr. Mann to look at how to evaluate the superintendent. The board felt the current method is too long and didn't seem as clear as it could be.

- Reappointed Don Jones to the Norton Recreation Commission board for a four-year term as the district's representative.

- Heard from wellness curriculum chairperson Joan Bolt on a new program called Enjoy the Game, which she is putting in for the kindergarten through sixth grade. The program focuses on sportsmanship and respect. She said there are four parts and the students have already learned the first one.

- Decided to leave the March board meeting on the second Monday, even though it will be during spring break.

- Heard an annual report from Frank Otter, the district's representative to the Northwest Kansas Technical College Board. He said the college has a couple of new programs, including respiratory therapy, which will begin next fall. The college will hold an open house for juniors and seniors on Wednesday and will also have one this spring for sixth and seventh graders.

- Appointed Annette Overlease to fill the vacancy in the High School Site Council. The position was filled by Kathy Smith, who moved.

- Learned from Mr. Mann that he will be going to a public safety meeting on Nov. 29 to discuss the city's wish to halt parking except for buses on Wilberforce next to East Campus.

- Heard that asbestos samples have been taken from several roofs. Mr. Mann said he thought they would have a report back by the board meeting, but it hasn't come yet. He said the inspector was confident the district didn't have asbestos in the roofs.

- Heard that training for SiPS, the district's new computer system, will not be held until this summer. Mr. Mann said he was hoping to have the training in January, but that month has already been booked.



A potluck dinner at the Norton American Legion Thursday evening, ended a long day of events for veterans and their families. Entertainment at the banquet was provided by the Jay Singers and the High School/Junior High barbershop singers. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Landfill needs screens

(Continued from Page 1)
"We need to get started building on it because it will take a month or so," he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard about a trip Mr. Brannan took to the Caterpillar plant at Peoria, Ill. The trip was paid for by Martin Tractor of Colby.

- Were introduced to Toby Prine, the Northwest Kansas regional coordinator for the Kansas Department of Emergency Management, which is under the auspices of the Homeland Security Department. He works out of the army in Hays and works with counties, county health departments and hospitals.

- Told Mr. Mapes that the county attorney is drawing up a proposal for his salary and benefit package.

- Applied for money that was sent back to the state from the juvenile justice system. This money will be reallocated to the counties as grants.

- Said they will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

City, county look at economic job

(Continued from Page 1)
representative from Lenora and Almena.

Bringing businesses, jobs, and people to Norton County was at the top of the priority list. Ethanol plants, location sites for development and tax abatements are also important.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths suggested that advice be sought from Phillips County.

Mr. Miller warned that there is a lot of turnover in the job.

"Being the director of economic development is a hard job," he said. "The average time span for a rural economic development di-

rector is 18 months."

Mr. Williams will present the committee's finding to the city council at Wednesday's meeting.

Everyone agreed, it was time to make something happen.

"If we aren't moving forward, we're going backward," Mr. Lang said.

Weddings, funerals, engagements, and births. You'll find it all in...

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Extension Council to hold annual meeting

The executive board of the Norton Extension Council will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Norton County 4-H Building.

The meeting will include reports of Extension Educational Program, a business meeting and the presentation of a new executive board for 2005.

Of special interest will be comments from Dr. Brian Olson, multi-county agronomist, and Tranda Watts, multi-county food, nutrition, health and safety specialist. Mr. Olson and Ms. Watts work with Norton, Decatur, Sheridan and Gove counties.

Members of the 2004 Extension Council are Brock Ellis, Dan Skrdlant, Dwight Sprigg, Robby Mapes, Frank Hillebrand, Eric

Thompson, Nancy Kent, Joan Hale, Carol Riemann, Connie Miller, Jeanette Lacy, Darlene McEwen, Staci Briener, Darrell Barnett, Kara Maddy, Angie Juenemann, Samantha Fulton, Alice Barnett, Steve Herrs, Linda Esslinger, Jeff Callaway, David Davis, Brenda Mann and Robert Wiltfong.

Newly elected members for 2005 are Eric Thompson, Chris Cuthbertson, Spencer Braun, Sue Ann Skrdlant, Dave & Lisa Donovan, Michelle Bohl, Alice Barnett, Sue Hillebrand, Lavonne Otter, Brenda Mann, Becky Smith and Amy Carlton.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Lenora City Water Notice

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, November 16, 2004. (1T)

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Monitoring or Reporting Requirements Not Met by City of Lenora
The city of Lenora public water supply system violated a drinking water standard. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 8/1/2004 to 8/31/2004, we did not complete all required monitoring or testing for coliform bacteria and therefore cannot be sure

of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

We are routinely required to test for coliform bacteria no fewer than two times a month. Additional samples are required following a coliform-positive or rejected sample. We collected one valid usable sample in August 2004.

There is nothing you need to do at this time. Since it is our desire to provide the safest water possible to our consumers, we have taken the action of increasing monitoring, resumed sampling, and begun a closer surveillance of our sampling program and daily record keeping to prevent future violations.

For information regarding this notice, please contact Ron Washburn at Lenora City Office, 785-567-4860.

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