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performing very well," he said. "I believe those elite programs have a lot in common with the Norton FFA. Year in and year out, the Norton FFA competes at a very high level.

"To have elite programs in basketball, it takes a variety of things and I think the same is true of the Norton FFA.

"You have to have an administration and fan base that is proud of the tradition and does whatever it takes to keep that tradition alive. Next, you have to have a great coach. The Norton FFA has a great coach and when I talk about Mr. B, you know exactly who I am talking about.

"In basketball, you can have the best facilities, the best fans and best coaching staff but, without great players, you are not going to have an elite program. The same is true for the Norton FFA Program. Year in and year out the Norton FFA has great students who compete at a very high level.

"But, you also have to have a special player/coach relationship. There are days when the players aren't feeling like doing what it takes to compete at that high level and that's where the right coach can get the maximum out of the players. I'm sure there are days when the coach isn't having his best day either and that is when the players support the coach.

"A true elite program also equips their players to succeed in life. The coach knows the time he has with his players is limited. Mr. B and the Norton FFA are also aware of this limitation and have positively impacted many young people during the time they have."

Mr. Richmond read to the audience special comments from two former Norton FFA members regarding what they had learned from Mr. Beydler.

One of them enrolled at Kansas State University intending to become a veterinarian but words from Mr. Beydler prompted him to check out the milling science department. He decided the milling science was more of a fit for him and graduated in 1992 in milling science.

"Because of Mr. Beydler, I am in a career tied to agriculture that I love," he said. "I have met many people of other cultures and had many wonderful experiences that I would not change.

"FFA, through advisors like Mr. Beydler, gives young men and women opportunities to become leaders. You learn about teamwork, managing resources, taking risks and important life lessons.

"I am thankful Mr. Beydler was an important influence. I would not be where I am today without him."

The other NCHS graduate said, "Mr. Beydler is largely responsible for any success I experience and I owe him more than a few lines of praise. What stands out the most from my relationship with him is a time during my sophomore year when he gave me the criteria for making decisions.

## City agenda Timbercreek Dr. ordinance to be presented

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intersection at E. Waverly and N. Archer, and comments from departing council members.

Additionally under new business, Ordinance #1574, accepting dedication of Timbercreek Drive as a public street will be presented; appointment to the KMEA Board of Directors will be made; City Administrator Rob Lawson will give his report; the Public Works Committee's report will be given by Kim Snyder; and Donna Foley will give the Public Safety Committee report.

Building/Demolition permits will be considered from Beth Heikes, \$996.24 to install a carport at 401 N. Norton Avenue; Kowpoke Supply, \$65,000 to construct an addition to building at 415 E. Holme; Jason Davis, to install a steel storage box at 308 N. Grant; and Sara Smith, demolish trailer at 407 South Street.

The meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Beydler told me to always ask three questions when I was making a choice. Would this be okay with my parents, would this be okay with Mr. Beydler and would this be okay with God? He said if I can honestly tell myself the answer to each question was yes, I should go all out for it.

"If I was short one yes or more, he said I should probably rethink whether or not to continue. That's likely the best advice I've ever received."

Mr. Richmond closed by thanking the administrators and fans (parents, alumni and other boosters) for choosing to support the Norton FFA, the coaches (advisors) for choosing to invest their time and energy in our young people, the players (students) for choosing to be part of this elite program and the former students for their positive comments.

### Awards presentations

The senior officers presented appreciation awards to the many parents, alumni and other volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

Bryan Keiswetter, president of the Norton FFA Chapter in 1980, presented a U.S. Savings Bond to Christopher Maddy as his prize for selling the most FFA fruit. Keiswetter noted that it was Maddy's second straight year to win the fruit selling competition.

Representing the Norton County Farm Bureau, President Brian Thompson presented awards to the senior FFA members.

Mr. Beydler presented proficiency awards to the following FFA members: Levi Ninemire, ag mechanics and Nikki McVey, placement. Ninemire also won District and State awards in ag mechanics.

He also presented these Star awards: Troy Bainter, Star Greenhand; Levi Ninemire, Star Chapter Farmer and Tim Becker, Star Chapter Agribusinessman.

High Point Chapter member was Christopher Maddy and High Point Greenhand was Kegan Vanover.

The Star Greenhand Record Book award was won by Kyra Fulton and the Star Chapter Member Record Book award went to Jessica Gilgenbach.

Gilgenbach has also earned the State Farmer Degree this year.

Wes Georgeson is the current District Treasurer and Hannah Fulton is a candidate for District President/Vice-President.

Scholarship awards went to the following: Tim Becker and Levi Ninemire, Mary Lou Adrian Memorial Scholarship, presented by Brandon Schulze; Tim Becker, Sara Campbell, Wes Georgeson, Alumni Scholarships, presented by Spencer Braun, Norton FFA Alumni treasurer; Wes Georgeson, Norton FFA Scholarship, presented by Mr. Beydler; Sara Campbell, William F. Campbell Memorial Scholarship, presented by Nancy Hager; Tim Becker, Lucas Maddy Scholarship, presented by Patsy Maddy.

The seniors and Mr. Beydler exchanged gifts and the officers presented an appreciation plaque to Mr. Mitchell Tegtmeier, student teacher from Kansas State University.

Mr. Tegtmeier gave verbal roses to the Norton FFA and thanked

everyone for the "great experience".

### Honorary members

The officers inducted Stacy and Trent Richmond, Peggy and Jim Ninemire and Ann and John Becker into the chapter as honorary members for their efforts in support of the Norton FFA Chapter.

Mr. Beydler gave special recognition to the FFA members who have been Pals Mentors to local third grade students. "They were true role models for the students and helped build their self esteem," Beydler said.

Mr. Beydler also recognized the FFA members who have earned at least 400 points this year. They are: Tim Becker, Ryan Blecha, Carson Braun, David Cressler, Cody Cook, Samantha Cook, Ashley Esslinger, Jesse Gallentine, Wes Georgeson, Emily Juenemann, Christopher Maddy, Chance McMullen, Levi Ninemire, Caleb Vanover and Kegan Vanover.

### Keynote speaker

Keynote speaker was Bethany Bohnenblust, a graduate of Labette County High School and freshman at Kansas State University majoring in agriculture communications. She showed pictures on the screen of special events from her family album when her family members "shined". She said the Norton FFA members have "shined" many times this past year and that they have worked hard in taking journeys through the many challenges they have faced. In the end, she reminded everyone that the destination is the important thing and that Norton chapter members have done a good job of reaching their destinations.

To reach their destinations, Bohnenblust said Norton FFA members had to be willing to "take the leap" which involves making relationships with others. "All this chapter has accomplished would not have been possible without the willingness of the chapter members to take the leap," she said.

She praised Chapter Advisor Garrett Beydler for guiding the FFA members and doing an outstanding job of assisting them in progressing towards their many achievements. Mr. Beydler received a loud round of applause.

She also wished the seniors well in the journey of life they will soon be taking.

Bohnenblust told the audience that she had traveled 17,000 miles in Kansas visiting FFA chapters since being elected president of the state organization.

### It's been a busy year

Bohnenblust's peppy speech was followed by a video slide show of Norton FFA members participating in activities throughout the year. The video was prepared by Wes Georgeson.

New FFA Chapter officers were sworn in by this year's officers. They are Hannah Fulton, president; Emily Juenemann, vice-president; Christopher Maddy, secretary; Jessica Reeves, treasurer; Kyra Fulton, reporter; Ashley Esslinger, sentinel; Caleb Vanover, historian.

The new officers concluded the banquet with the closing ceremonies and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Life Line Screening scheduled

Norton residents will have an opportunity to be screened to reduce their risk of stroke.

Life Line Screening will be at the Norton County 4-H Building on Saturday. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. Screenings help identify potential health problems such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease.

A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. To register for the screenings call 1-800-697-9721. You may also go to the website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). The Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm is \$159.

All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Questions can be directed to the above phone number.

**Hannah's**

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Departs Norton, Phillipsburg, Athol, Smith Center and Mankato

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# Council: website discussed

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would not be chip sealed, and that the city would be responsible for getting the road open after snow and the homeowners would be responsible for opening their own driveways.

Following the discussion, Ron Briery made a motion, seconded by Elaine Mann, to accept Timbercreek Circle and have the city attorney prepare the legal documents required for the project. The motion was approved.

A discussion concerning a local website also surfaced. Mayor David Corns said he knows that the website, [toby4Norton.com](http://toby4Norton.com), was probably put together with the best of intentions, but there were some tasteless comments posted on it. Jeff Otter, who was successful in his election bid to the council at the April 1 election — winning over incumbent Jerry Jones — thought everyone has the right to express themselves. Mr. Kuhn, who also won election to the council on April 1 defeating Wally Burton, said his original intent was not to have negative comments posted, but as the administrator of the site, he didn't think it was his responsibility to censor people's opinions. His felt it was important to have some type of open forum for discussion.

In other happenings at the meeting:

— A motion was made by Kim Snyder and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal third reading and adopt Ordinance #1572 increasing the Mayor and Council compensation to an amount of \$350 per month. The motion failed. Voting yes were Kim Snyder and Jim Williams, with Jerry Jones, Donna Foley, Elaine Mann and Ron Briery voting no.

— A motion was made by Donna Foley and seconded by Elaine Mann to waive the formal second reading of Ordinance #1573, designating a stop intersection at E. Waverly and N. Archer, stopping southbound traffic on N. Archer Street. The motion carried.

— A motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Elaine Mann, to approve purchase of a sign to be installed in front of the Norton Public Library at a cost not to exceed \$3,000, with the money coming from the Hansen Foundation. The sign would be brick to match the exterior of the library and will follow KDOT regulations. Motion carried.

— Ron Briery displayed disappointment with the voter turnout April 1, at which only 365 people voted out of 2,042 registered. He said he might suggest, sometime in the future, that the council eliminate their compensation.

— City Administrator Rob Lawson said no bids were received for the sheetrock and painting at the library. He said city crews will remove what is on the floor and walls, but the city will need

to hire someone to sheetrock and paint. Motion by Ron Briery and seconded by Elaine Mann would allow Mr. Lawson to hire a local contractor or individual to finish the sheetrock and painting of the library building walls, with the cost not to exceed the budget remaining in the Library Bond fund. Motion carried.

— Tim Bashford said the city needs to see if grant money is available for a new swimming pool. Mayor Corns said the question on this month's city bills is just a survey to see how the citizens feel on issuing bonds to fund the construction of a new pool. Mr. Bashford also wondered if the city pays for commercial curb replacement. Mr. Lawson said the city's curb replacement policy includes residential and commercial. Mr. Bashford said the city has streets in town that are in bad shape, and in reference to Timbercreek, they are accepting another one to maintain.

— Ron Briery made a motion, seconded by Donna Foley, to approve Curt Walter's request for 98 feet of sidewalk replacement at 124 S. Second Street, with condition that the city provide labor and the property owner pay the cost of materials directly to the concrete provider. Motion carried.

— Motion by Ron Briery, seconded by Jerry Jones, to approve Tony Grysch's request for 300 feet of curb replacement at 301 E. Main, with the city paying the cost of the concrete, and the owner paying a private contractor for the labor. Motion carried.

— Mr. Lawson reported a new mower was budgeted for 2008 for the water and wastewater plant. Elaine Mann made a motion, and Kim Snyder seconded, to accept the low bid from Jacobs Service Center for a new mower in the amount of \$4,835.22. Jacobs would have a loaner available if the new mower would need any warranty work. The motion carried.

— Mr. Lawson also stated a utility vehicle was also budgeted for 2008 for the water and wastewater plant. A motion was made by Elaine Mann and seconded by Kim Snyder to accept the bid from Norton Sports Center for a Kawasaki utility vehicle, plus options, at a cost of \$9,097.45. This was the lone bid received. The utility vehicle will be used for pushing snow and traveling back and forth across the creek to the lift station

as soon as the bridge is built. It will also be used by other departments. The motion carried.

— Mayor Corns reported city sales tax receipts collected in February of 2008 totaled \$21,684.95, and the county sales tax receipts totaled \$17,805.50 for a total of \$39,490.45. The 2008 year to date sales tax receipts total \$130,272.50.

— Several change orders were approved for: the containment steps and walkover handrails at the water treatment plant at a cost of \$2,650; installation of pump controllers for the polymer pumps at the water treatment plant at a cost of \$1,197; and for installation of two motor starters for the mixers in the old chemical feed room, and installation of one disconnect for the heater in the old chemical feed room at a cost of \$4,375.

— Mr. Lawson reported that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has released the City of Norton from the Consent Agreement at the Sewer Plant. He said BRB Contractors has offered to extend the warranty period from one year after date of final completion to three years after date of final completion for leakage on the piping systems and for leakage from the concrete tanks comprising CCA No. 1 and No. 2, and the aerobic digester at the sewer plant. This warranty extension, he said, is being offered in lieu of providing documentation that these systems were treated before the sewer plant was put online. Elaine Mann motioned and Ron Briery seconded to accept the warranty extension. The motion carried.

— The following building permits were presented: Rich Meyers, \$10,000, extend garage at 710 Sun Avenue; Jeff Otter, \$500, to demolish house at 310 N. Norton Ave.; and Todd Boller, \$10,000, to construct garage at 806 N. Grant.

**Follow the  
crowds to  
NORTON'S  
stores!**

**The Norton County LEPC and Mitigation Planning Committee will be holding a meeting at the Prairie Land Electric Basement on April 22, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. Ben Brake of Brake and Associates will be there to discuss Mitigation Planning and possible grants available to Local Governments and Non Profit organizations.**

*Norton County Sheriff's Department*

Rural Telephone's Economic Development

**Hard Hat Tour and POKER RUN**

**Saturday, April 26, 12-5pm**

**Everyone Invited to Attend!**

**\$1000 in Chamber Bucks**

Visit all five manufacturers throughout the afternoon for open house tours, free refreshments and draw your poker cards.

**The Hard Hat Tour, will feature open houses at five local manufacturers:**

**Hill City**  
Wellhead Systems, Inc.  
Cougar Boats

**Norton**  
New Age Industries  
Miltech Machine Corporation  
Natoma Corporation

**FREE Bar-B-Que at the Hill City Fairgrounds at 6pm.**

**\$1000 in Chamber Bucks awarded to top four hands!**  
Must visit all five businesses to attend bar-b-que and to be eligible for poker prizes.

For more information, call or stop by your local Rural Telephone or Nex-Tech office, or go on-line at: [www.makekansashome.com](http://www.makekansashome.com).