

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Friday

April 18, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jerry Hawks

Briefly

Flower committee needs volunteers

The Norton Flower Committee is in need of volunteers to help plant, water and maintain the gardens around town. Anyone interested is invited to a salad supper next Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. at the home of Gloria Nelson, 505 Sunset Drive. Bring a salad and ideas! Call Jean Williams if you have questions at 877-2894.

Archery Club plans Kier fund raiser

The Norton Archery Club Inc., will host a *fund raiser shoot* for the Chad Kier Memorial on Sunday at the northwest corner of Prairie Dog State Park. The Trickle start is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the Chad Kier Children's Education Fund. Questions can be directed to either 877-3253 or 877-5269.

Tractor safety course sign-up due

Keith VanSki, Norton County Extension Agent/Agriculture, again reminds all interested parties of the Spring Tractor and Farm Safety Course, scheduled for May 3 at the Hill City fairgrounds. A pre-registration fee of \$12 is now due. The fee includes refreshments, breaks and student manual. Norton County is cooperating with Graham, Ellis, Sheridan, Gove, Decatur and Trego counties in offering this course. The program is for youth 14 and 15 years of age, especially those who will be doing farm work for pay, for someone other than their parents. Additional information is available by calling the Extension office at 877-5755.

Letters — Page 4

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 34. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. **Saturday** — Sunny with a high near 77. South wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 45. South wind around 15 mph. **Sunday** — Sunny with a high near 85. South wind around 15 mph. **Sunday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 45. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 64.

Kingham report:

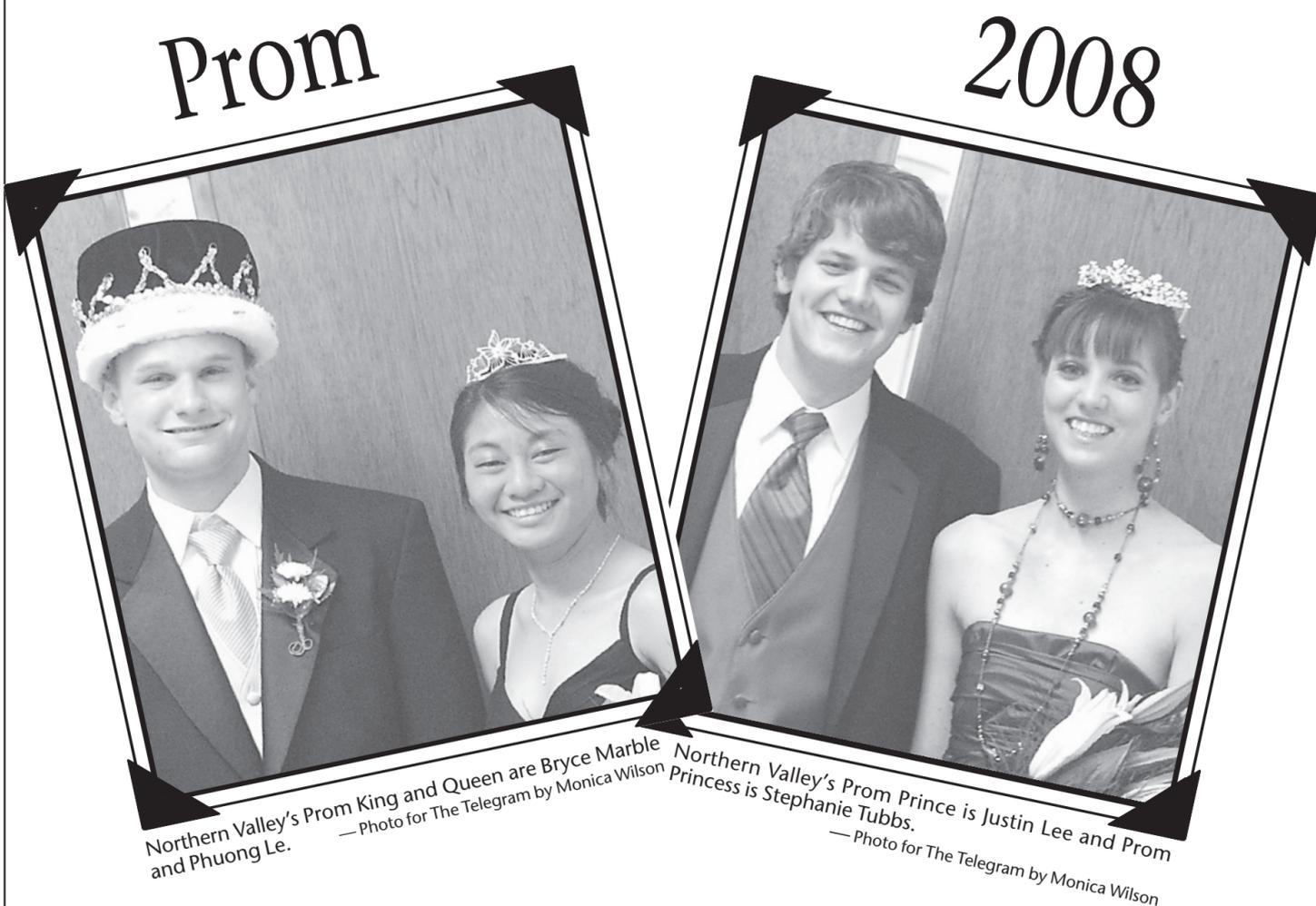
Tuesday Low 39, High 84
Wednesday Low 46, High 67
Thursday Low 37, High 40, .90 Rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of all the world, thank you for your love and your guidance, no matter where in this world we may be.
Amen

Prom

2008



Northern Valley's Prom King and Queen are Bryce Marble and Phuong Le.
— Photo for The Telegram by Monica Wilson

Northern Valley's Prom Prince is Justin Lee and Prom Princess is Stephanie Tubbs.
— Photo for The Telegram by Monica Wilson



Logan Kats and Sara Lentz (left) are the Norton Community High School Prom King and Queen, and Lacy Ellis and Todd Bolt are the Princess and Prince.
— Photo for The Telegram by Ashley Smith Maybon

Retirements total 48 years of teaching

By TOM DREILING
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The Norton School District will be losing 48 years of teaching experience when it ends the current school term in just a matter of weeks.

The *experience* noted is the result of two teachers retiring with thanks and appreciation from the school board at its meeting Monday of this week.

Sandy Worden and Joyce Lofgreen, pillars of the district's educational system, will wipe their chalk boards clean, turn off

the lights and leave behind what all good things are made of — memories.

Teacher Worden has dedicated 29 years of her life in the second grade classroom at Eisenhower Elementary, and teacher Lofgreen has dedicated 19 years of her life in the first grade classroom, also at Eisenhower Elementary.

Because they were teachers, they might enjoy knowing, from *Telegram* research, that when Mrs. Worden began her career in 1979, the big news on the world stage was Margaret Thatcher being elected

British Prime Minister, and in 1989 when Mrs. Lofgreen came on board, the Berlin Wall came tumbling down.

The resignations of the two education experts for the purpose of retirement, were accepted on 7-0 votes.

Several other resignations also resulted in 7-0 votes:

- Anne Otte, Norton Community High School Spanish teacher and assistant cross country coach, effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year;
- Erin Foley, Norton Community High School senior English teacher, head

junior high volleyball, assistant junior high track and high school forensics coach, effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year;

- Lee Smith, junior high-senior high head cook, effective April 18; and
- Erin Manning, concessions supervisor, effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

The board also voted 7-0 to approve a letter of intent with Eva Fierres as Norton Community High School Spanish teacher

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County changes overtime system

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County employees can no longer work overtime and take extra time off later instead of getting paid for it.

At their Monday meeting, the county commissioners said they have talked about eliminating the practice of compensation (or comp) time, which allows workers to take time instead of money when they work extra.

The idea sounded good when it was put into effect several year ago, Commissioner John Miller said, but has turned into a bookkeeping nightmare and has not helped the county finances like it was hoped.

The commissioners decided to pay out any accrued time, which has not already been used.

The accrued time will be paid as overtime, the commissioners said, which means employees will be paid at time and a half.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt estimated that paying the comp time out all at once will cost the county a little under \$3,000.

"That way this thing is cleaned up and done," said Commissioner Miller. "It was supposed to save money but people started using the system."

"It really cost money in bookkeeping," said Commissioner Leroy Lang.

"We have an overtime policy and that's what you get. I guarantee we'll pay out a lot less time and a half now." Mr. Miller agreed.

Department heads had been notified in early February of the expected change,

the commissioners said.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said his crew has been using their time up since then.

The bad news, Mr. Brannan said, is he found a contract signed on July 11, 1962, that says the county will take care of the road over the spillway. The road needs some work, he said, and many of the posts will have to be replaced.

"If we had had any idea that this contract existed we could have bought posts during the state sales," Commissioner Miller said.

Mr. Brannan said that he would ask to see if the state will help the county with the problem because there are a lot of posts on the road.

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What to do? Mow or spray county weeds

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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With the high cost of fuel, Norton County commissioners are trying to decide if it would be cheaper to mow or to spray weeds on the roads the county maintains.

At their meeting on Monday, the commissioners talked to both Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan and Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman.

"I can't keep doing the work I've been doing in previous years at \$3.50 a gallon

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