

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES



Friday

January 9, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of R. W. Yeager

Briefly

Soccer sign up today, Saturday

Norton AYSO Soccer Region #1365 has embarked on its 2009 Spring Soccer registration. Registration sessions will be held at the Prairie Land Electric basement located at 1101 W. Hwy 36. Registrations received after Jan. 31 will be placed on a waiting list. The first game will be on March 28. Early registration is being held today from 5-8 p.m., and on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. The cost for the early registration is \$35 per child. Lenora Registration is Jan. 14 from 5:30-7 at the Lenora Community Building. Final registration will be held on Jan. 31 from 1-4 p.m. The cost for the final registration is \$40 per child. Several board positions need to be filled and coaches and referees are also needed. Contact the following: Toby Kuhn 877-2275, Julie Baughman 877-2678 or Deena Wentz 877-5235.

High school winter concert Jan. 25

The Norton Community High School's winter concert will be held Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Stull Gymnasium. The event was not on the school calendar.

Wrestling matches free this evening

No admission will be charged for the Norton versus Mill Valley high school wrestling dual in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium, which will begin at 6 p.m. this evening.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 14. Blustery with a north wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Saturday - Sunny with a high near 43. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 19. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Sunday - Partly sunny with a high near 50. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 21. Monday - Mostly sunny with a high near 40. Monday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 15. Tuesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 42.

Kingham report:

Tues., Jan. 6..... Low 14, High 48
Wed., Jan. 7..... Low 23, High 50
Thurs., Jan. 8..... Low 25, High 64
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, give us hearts to celebrate your gift of grace in all its forms. Amen.

Fat focus



Sydney Kleinschmidt, middle, pretended to be a "fat food," and tagged Liberty Tallent, right, during physical education class on Thursday afternoon at Eisenhower Elementary. The game was purchased using grant funds from the Norton County Health Department, and teaches kids what happens when they eat too much fat — they had to put "fat" (yellow balls) under their "skins" (jerseys) when they were tagged by the "fat foods." Nathan White, left, tried to keep away from the "fat foods," but ended up with quite a few "fats" under his "skin" as well.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

City council meets

Resignation, thanks, sales tax among items

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Norton City Council approved Ron Briery's resignation during Wednesday's meeting, leaving his seat open for an appointment by the mayor to fill. (See accompanying boxed story.)

Dan Bainter, Norton City employee, thanked city council members on behalf of all city employees for the four-day holiday weekends and for the 3 percent cost of living raises the council approved.

Mayor Corns reviewed sales tax receipts collected by the city and county. In December 2008, the city collected \$23,648.87 in sales tax; the county collected \$15,944.93, for a total of \$39,593.80. The year-to-date sales tax was \$468,470.14; 2007 total was \$425,301.45, and 2006 receipts totaled \$396,926.95.

Mayor Corns told the council that the Downtown Restoration Committee will possibly be holding a poster contest for high schools in Norton County. The posters would be what the students think downtown Norton will look like 10 to 20 years in the future. He said it hasn't been finalized yet, and they are still working on a prize for the best poster.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she thought that was a good idea, that it would stir interest with the students in Norton's future. She also mentioned that Diane Becker, Director of Norton City/County Economic Development, will be at the next city council meeting to give her semi-annual report.

Chief of Police Pat Morel gave council members a statistics sheet for his officers with year-end totals on them, and told the council he will be giving a program at the Andbe Home on Jan. 16.

City Administrator Rob Lawson asked the council to adopt Resolution #2-2009, to join the Kansas Municipal Energy Agencies Mutual Aid Program. The program is an agreement among a group of municipalities to provide assistance to one another if one loses electrical power

due to severe weather. Norton joins this program every year. He then requested an executive session at the end of the council meeting to discuss non-elected personnel.

Councilwoman Kim Snyder said she thought she would be coming to the council meeting with good news, but the news had changed. Mrs. Snyder said she had a promoter interested in being the race promoter at Elmwood Park Speedway, but that the promoter was told by someone that the city had already found a local promoter, and so backed out of the job. There have been no other applications for the job, which will remain open until it is filled.

Mrs. Mann said Ms. Becker has given everyone a print-out of what she'll be going over during her report during the next council meeting, and asked that everyone go through it to be prepared for the report. Mrs. Mann commended Ms. Becker, saying, "She's done an outstanding job."

Mrs. Mann said she would like a study made of the school crossing on State

Street. She said several times this year, the crossing guard has almost been hit by inattentive drivers, and would like a study to see if adding lights would help the situation. She set a utility committee meeting for Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Corns asked Kim Snyder, co-chairwoman of the finance committee, if there was anything to report from the last committee meeting. Mrs. Snyder said there was not, and set a finance meeting for Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Snyder said she forgot to say thank you to the city employees who pick up trash. She said she had been driving around and watched several of the men pick up trash from an un-tied bag that had been strewn about by the wind. She wanted to thank them for their extra effort.

"People should have the courtesy to tie their bags securely," said Mrs. Snyder. "Please give courtesy to the guys that give it to you."

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Two want vacant council seat

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Timothy Bashford and Joseph Leroux have both expressed interest in filling the Norton City Council seat vacated when Ron Briery retired from the council during the council's year-end meeting on Dec. 30. Mr. Briery resigned his position after a dispute over the Elmwood Park Speedway issue with councilwoman Kim Snyder.

"I retired from the Kansas Department of Transportation several years ago, and I would like to enjoy my retirement," said Mr. Briery.

Both Mr. Bashford and Mr. Leroux have filed to run for the position in the election in April; however, only Mr. Leroux has given a formal letter to Mayor David Corns and the city council in regards to his interest to fill

Mr. Briery's vacant seat. Mayor Corns acknowledged during the city council meeting that Mr. Bashford would like to be considered for the vacant seat also.

To be considered to fill the vacant seat, a person must fill out an application, which can be picked up at the city office, reside in Ward 3, and be a registered voter.

Mayor Corns will appoint someone from the list of interested persons, and the city council will vote to accept the appointee or not.

Whoever fills the seat will have to turn around and run for it in the April election.

Mayor Corns said the city will accept letters or applications until the next city council meeting, on Jan. 17, when he will give the name of the appointee for the council to act on.

Blue Jay picked for Shrine Bowl

By DICK BOYD

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Zac Dreher, Norton Community High School's 6-foot-2-inch, 195 pound senior linebacker-tight end, has been chosen by the Kansas news media as a member of the West squad in the 36th annual 2009 Kansas Shrine Bowl all-star football game.

Zac will be one of 34 players on the West team which will compete against the East squad of Kansas senior players in the annual game on July 25 at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Zac was a first team All-Mid-Continent League linebacker for the past three years. He had 100 total tackles this past season, five sacks and 14 tackles for loss. He was also chosen second team tight end by the league coaches this season.

In his prep career for the Norton Blue Jays, Zac has recorded 262.5 tackles and lettered all four years.

In addition to being honored by the league coaches this season, Zac was also chosen to a number of post-season honorary teams. He was selected to the Class 3A first team defense by the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, the Class 3A first team defense by the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and to the All-Class second team by the *Hays Daily News*.

The *Salina Journal* no longer selects players for post-season honors.

Zac was also a first team defensive player on the Class 3A All-State Team chosen by the Kansas High School Coaches Association.

Zac is the son of Jamie and Ray Dreher. (Continued on Page 5)

Saturday ushers in big wrestling tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The annual J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament will be held on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Competing in addition to the Norton varsity and junior varsity teams will be wrestling squads from Atwood, Beloit, Hoxie, Leoti, Mill Valley, Oakley, Scott City, Smith Center and Cozad, Neb.

The first session will begin at 9:30 a.m. on three mats.

The second session will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m. with the third and fourth place matches on two mats, followed by honoring of former Norton state medalists around 5 p.m.

Honored will be state medal winners from 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

The pep band will play the national anthem and the cheerleaders and dance team will perform.

The championship finals will follow on one mat around 5:30 p.m.

All times are estimated and may vary according to the progress of the tournament.

It will be the 44th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 12th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed 11 years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton, the former longtime wrestling coach for the Blue Jays.

Jake's many honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

Plaques will be awarded to the top three teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight class.

An "Outstanding Wrestler" will be chosen by vote of the coaches.

"We expect a very competitive tournament," said Norton head coach Bill

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