

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

January 23, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Stacey Area

Briefly

Police chief says: Lock your vehicles!

Norton Chief of Police Pat Morel reminds everyone to lock their vehicles when parked. Unlocked cars are being taken and found parked in various places around town, and things of value have been taken. Chief Morel said the police department is working on finding the person(s) responsible for the crimes.

Blood drive set for Jan. 28 here

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the National Guard Armory in Norton on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from noon to 6:30 p.m. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

On today's Opinion Page:

- ✓ Tom's Column
 - ✓ Sonya's column
 - ✓ Thumbs Up...
 - ✓ And a lively mix of letters
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Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before midnight. Cloudy with a low around 13. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. Snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible. Saturday - A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a high near 25. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. Saturday Night - A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a low around 12. East wind around 10 mph. Sunday - A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a high near 24. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Kingham report:

Tues., Jan. 20..... Low 24, High 56
Wed., Jan. 21 Low 28, High 60
Thurs., Jan. 22..... Low 32, High 62
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, free us from any bitterness that remains in our hearts. Amen

Where there's smoke . . .



Firefighters worked to put out a grass fire on Thursday afternoon. The fire was in a field west of Kansasland Tires. Details were not available at press time, but Rural Fire Department Chief Steve Otter said he believes the property was owned by Ted Hanchett. It is unknown what ignited the fire. More details will be provided in Tuesday's Telegram. -Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Wally Burton appointed to vacant city council seat

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Norton Mayor David Corns nominated Wally Burton to finish out the unexpired term of former city councilman Ron Briery at Wednesday night's council meeting. There was no discussion and all council member voted unanimously to accept Mr. Burton onto the city council.

Mayor Corns said this will only be until April, when the election will determine who will sit on the city council.

"All of those interested were very qualified," said Mayor Corns. "I want to thank you all for applying, and I wish Joe Leroux and Tim Bashford the best of luck in the (April) election."

Mr. Burton was sworn into the council, and thanked the mayor for appointing him and the council for voting for him.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she will not seek re-election this year, citing personal reasons. "Hopefully, there will be many that jump up to run for election for this seat," said Mrs. Mann.

Here's how the rest of the council meeting went:

Mayor Corns authorized lights being installed at the city building to illuminate the American flag so it can fly at all times; he notified the council that there will be a retirement party for Head Librarian Kay LeBeau on Feb. 10 from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and thanked her for her 33 years of service; and also of the International Motor Contest Association awards on Saturday at 4 p.m. at O'Brien's.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker delivered her semi-annual report. She said under the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, economic development had received 12 applications, 8 of which were approved; told the council about the Demolition Program which offers \$2,000 to cities to help with demolition costs; the Store-Front Renewal Project, which will pay 50 percent up to \$1,000 to upgrade store fronts; and asked the mayor to sign a proclamation designating Feb. 1 through 7 as Buy Local Week.

"There will be in-store special promotions and a scavenger hunt," said Miss Becker.

Tim Bashford asked Miss Becker how the Moffet Station project is coming along. Miss Becker said they are waiting to hear back on a grant, and should know on Feb. 6 whether it was awarded or not, and that R.W. Yeager has made a beautiful stained-glass piece to hang inside the station when it opens.

Councilwoman Mann noted that the report included all the projects economic development has considered, not just the ones that have succeeded, and she urged everyone to read the report.

"It's a very good report," said Mayor Corns. "It's amazing, all the projects, not just in Norton, but in other towns [in Norton County] as well."

In City Administrator Rob Lawson's report, he asked the council for a utilities committee meeting to discuss the rates and loan of the water utility fund.

He also told the council:

The Washington Street sewer plant lift station's lifts are in and will be replaced, using the revolving loan fund to pay for it, and he will meet with engineers today to discuss sludge thickeners and a belt

press for the sewer plant.

He received a letter from BRB Construction on a proposal for the waste water plant lift station. One pump has been upgraded, it had seal failure but was still running. Mr. Lawson said the problem was that the pumps were Myers brand, and could be replaced with Flyght brand pumps. He said the cost would be \$40,000 to upgrade the pumps, and that BRB Construction would cover half that cost if the city decides to replace the pumps. Mr. Lawson said the Flyght pumps were in the original and approved plan.

Councilwoman Mann asked if he knows of other experiences with other sewer plants and the pump brands. Mr. Lawson said no, but that the controls that run the pumps were designed to work with the Flyght brand, and that only two pumps will be replaced, and one will be on standby. Mr. Lawson said he recommends approving the replacements, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment approves of the move. The city did approve the change.

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Latest area election update

(Filing deadline is Tuesday noon)

Norton City Council
3 seats up for election, plus mayor.
Current Norton Mayor David Corns has filed for re-election.

Ward 1, currently held by Kim Snyder. Ms. Snyder has filed for re-election.

Ward 2, currently held by Elaine Mann. She will not seek re-election.

Ward 3, Wally Burton has been selected by the mayor and city council to fill out the unexpired term of Ron Briery. Two others, Joe Leroux and Tim Bashford have filed for the April election. Mr. Burton had indicated earlier he would not run for the post.

Almena City Council
3 seats up for election:
Monte Montgomery
Kevin Sides

Lenora City Council
Two city council seats are up for re-election, plus the mayor's position.
Mayor's seat is held by Raymond Heikes

Seat held by Dan Mannell
Seat held by Loyd Schoen

Edmond City Council:
All four city council seats are up for re-election, plus the mayor's seat. Currently on the Edmond City council are:

Mayor Jim Akers
Norma Riley
Bob Anderson
Jeremy Hallam, who has filed to run for re-election.
Don Knigge, who has filed to run for re-election.

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Band concert Sunday afternoon

The Norton Community High School Band will present their annual Winter Concert on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium. There is no admission charge.

The band has chosen a variety of music to try and appeal to a wide range of musical tastes, according to David Will, director. The selections include marches, both traditional and lighter, a contemporary fanfare, a musical adventure in the snow, a classical piece, a hymn tune setting, a Broadway medley, and a symphonic rhapsody of "America the Beautiful." Composers of those pieces include Sousa, Elgar, Sakai, La Plante, Ricketts, Revelli,

Brown, Smith and Curnow.

Some students will be recognized for their participation in the KMEA District Honor Band, the UNK Honor Bands and the KMEA State Band.

The band, said Mr. Will, would appreciate your attendance at this concert. Public support is important to show the young musicians of the community their efforts are appreciated. Mr. Will also believes the students play better for a good audience.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals, the concert will be broadcast on KQNK radio for those who are unable to attend.

Talent show on Almena calendar

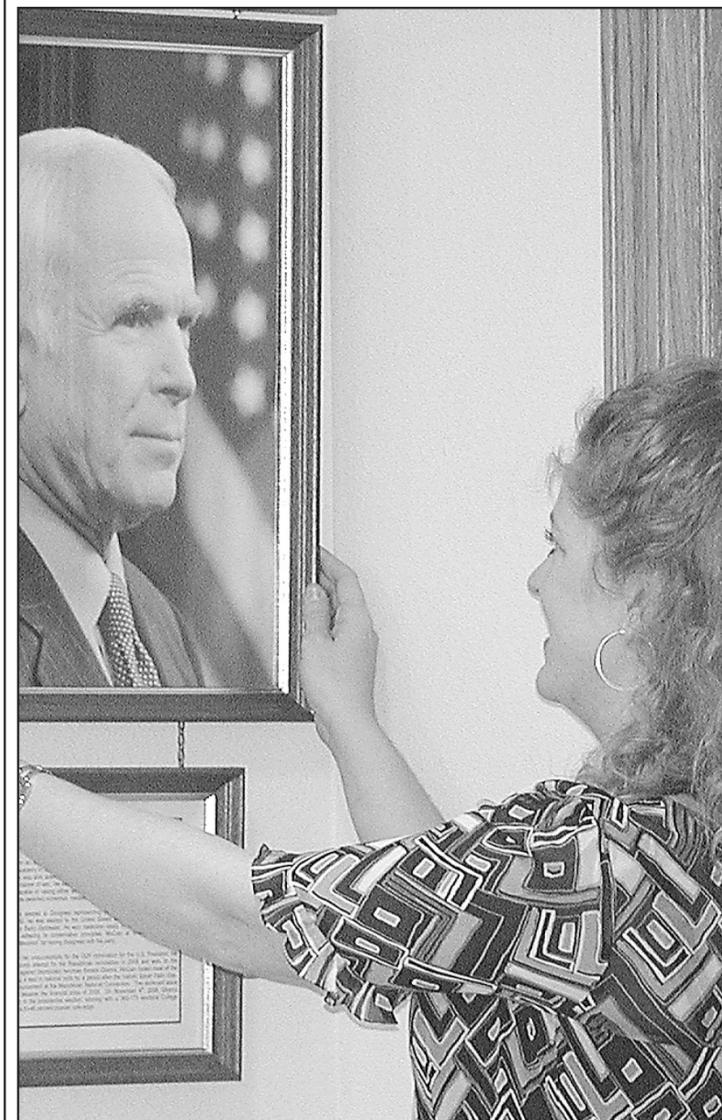
Saturday, Feb. 7, Almena will be holding a community talent show at the Northern Valley High School. This event is a fund raiser for the Northern Valley High School Music Department to take a trip to Kansas City in May.

Home-made soups and cinnamon rolls will be featured at the soup supper, from

5:30 to 7 p.m. Free-will donations will be accepted.

At 7 p.m., the community will show their talents, including dance, music and variety acts. If you would be interested in performing, contact Jeremy Wetter at 871-1600 or Sue Ann Stutheit at 874-4358.

He 'Also Ran'



"They Also-Ran" curator Lee Ann Shearer inducted Senator John Sydney McCain III into the gallery shortly before President Obama was sworn into office Tuesday morning. The First State Bank, which houses the gallery, held an open house with refreshments for the induction.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux