

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES



Friday

February 6, 2009

Norton, Kansas

Home of Greg Overlease

Briefly

County Spelling Bee Wednesday

The Norton County Spelling Bee will be on Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium.

The top spellers from Northern Valley, Lenora Elementary School, Norton Community High School, Norton Junior High School and Eisenhower Elementary will be competing for top prize and the chance to go on to the State Spelling Bee in Great Bend.

Senator Ostmeyer on tv this evening

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, 40th District, and Representative Deena Horst, 69th District, both Republicans, will discuss the past week's activities at the statehouse when Smoky Hills Public Television's public affairs series, "The Kansas Legislature 2009" airs live at 8 p.m. tonight.

Chapman Rackaway, associate professor of political science at Fort Hays State University in Hays, will serve as moderator.

Viewers can speak directly with the legislators during the program's call-in segment. The telephone number for calls is 1-800-337-4788.

The station is on channel 9, Nex-Tech in Norton.

Opinion Page

Prisons are on the minds of Steve and Tom

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Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 31. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 60. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Saturday Night - Increasing clouds with a low around 29. East wind between 10 and 15 mph. Sunday - A chance of rain and snow before noon, then rain likely.

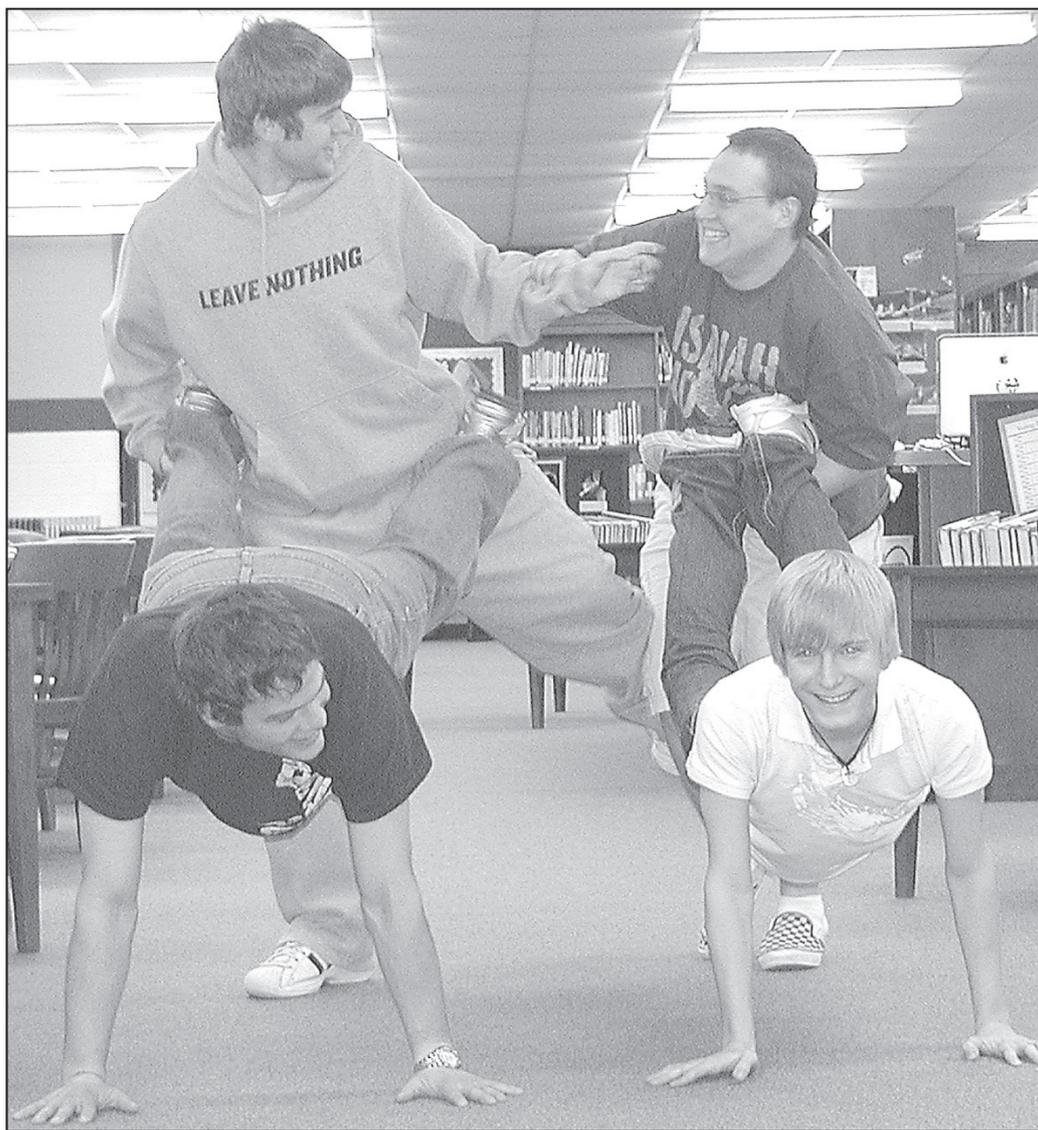


Kingham report:

Tues., Feb. 3..... Low 16, High 37
Wed., Feb. 4..... Low 14, High 54
Thurs., Feb. 5..... Low 25, High 64
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, help us to see our opportunities, and give us the words to proclaim your good news. Amen



Four of the six candidates for Mr. NCHS had a wheel-barrow race Wednesday afternoon. They are Brock Lauer, bottom left, Zac Dreher, top left, Jacob VanSlike, top right, and Josh Gallentine, bottom right. Brock Nuzum and Kyle Mindrup are the other two contenders. The Mr. NCHS competition will be Sunday at 3 p.m. in East Campus Auditorium.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Competition will determine 'Mr. NCHS'

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Brock Lauer. Jacob VanSlike. Josh Gallentine. Kyle Mindrup. Brad Nuzum. Zac Dreher. What do these six high school seniors have in common?

They're competing against each other for the title of "Mr. NCHS," a pageant which will be held on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the East Campus Auditorium. Admission is \$1.

"We started this last year as a way for senior guys to have more to do within KAYS," said Trudy Stockham, one of the KAY sponsors. "This is just a fun way for the guys to get involved."

It took about a month for the students to plan and prepare for the show. They asked all the senior guys in KAYS to be in the pageant, and six said yes.

The winner will be determined by three members of the high school faculty. First place winner will get bragging rights, a crown and a free tuxedo rental for prom from Hall's Clothing, and second place will get a discounted tux rental from Hall's Clothing.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by the six seniors when they show off their formal wear choices, answer pageant-type questions, display a talent, and make up skits from scenes drawn out of a hat.

"The guys can pick out their formal wear, whatever they want it to be," said Mrs. Stockham. "It's the same for the talent."

The money from the admissions will go to a charity, though the club hasn't yet decided which one.

"It's been really fun thinking up the questions to ask the guys," said Alyssa

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Lay-offs, reduced work hours reported in Norton

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Natoma Corporation isn't the only business that has been affected by the economy. Miltech Machine Corporation and New Age Industrial Corporation have also had to make some changes.

New Age laid off 17 full-time employees last week.

"I'd say this is the worst it's been in a long time," said Larry Nelson, president. "I have no idea how long it will last."

New Age is a manufacturing plant. Mr. Nelson said they have no plans to

lay off more employees, and can hopefully hire people back when business picks back up.

John Milnes, president of Miltech, said, "We had to reduce work hours to 32 hours a week for most employees. But they did not lose benefits."

Miltech is similar to Natoma Corporation in that they also make parts for machinery, and most of their orders come from the aerospace industry, as well.

"New customers are hard to find," said Mr. Milnes. "The slowdown started three or four months ago, but we had enough

open purchase orders to stay busy until now."

Mr. Milnes said his company did see a major downturn after Sept. 11 which lasted about seven months, but this one is worse.

"This is the only time in our history we didn't increase sales," said Mr. Milnes. "We have our own product line, Micro-line, which makes parts for large engine support systems. That work has kept us from having to lay off employees during the slow-down times."

Mr. Milnes said there is no way to pre-

dict what will happen with the economy in the near future, but that he is thinking of steps to take to prevent having to lay off employees.

"The plan is to stay open," said Mr. Milnes. "We do not plan to close. We are optimistic about the future."

RuralTel/Nex-Tech is another major employer in the area, but they have seen a growth, not a slow-down.

"We've had tremendous growth in the last 20 years," said Larry Sevier, chief

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Workshop to aid jobless

Due to the recent lay offs in the area, Norton City/County Economic Development will be hosting a rapid response and job search workshop on Tuesday at the Economic Development Center, 113 N. Norton, located in the Nex-Tech building.

The rapid response meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The team will

present information regarding KANSAS-WORKS services, dislocated worker services and unemployment insurance.

The job search workshop will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and cover topics such as resume, job search and interview preparation and networking.

Resume preparation assistance will

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Almena talent gets ready

By BRANDY LEROUX
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How about this for an evening of entertainment: vocal music, instrumental music, comedy routines and rock-n-roll. If that catches your attention, then Northern Valley High School is the place to be Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Sue Ann Stutheit, vocal instructor, and Jeremy Wetter, band director, have organized a fund raising night of fun in the form of a Community Soup Supper and Talent Show.

Supper, which will be served in the high school cafeteria, will start at 5:30 p.m., with homemade chili, chicken noodle soup and cinnamon rolls.

At 7 p.m., the Talent Show will begin in the high school auditorium. "This is the first year we've done this," said Dr. Sue Ann Stutheit, vocal instructor for Northern Valley. "We're hoping to do it again every year." The event is a fund raiser for the Northern Valley vocal and band students.

"Every four years, the music students

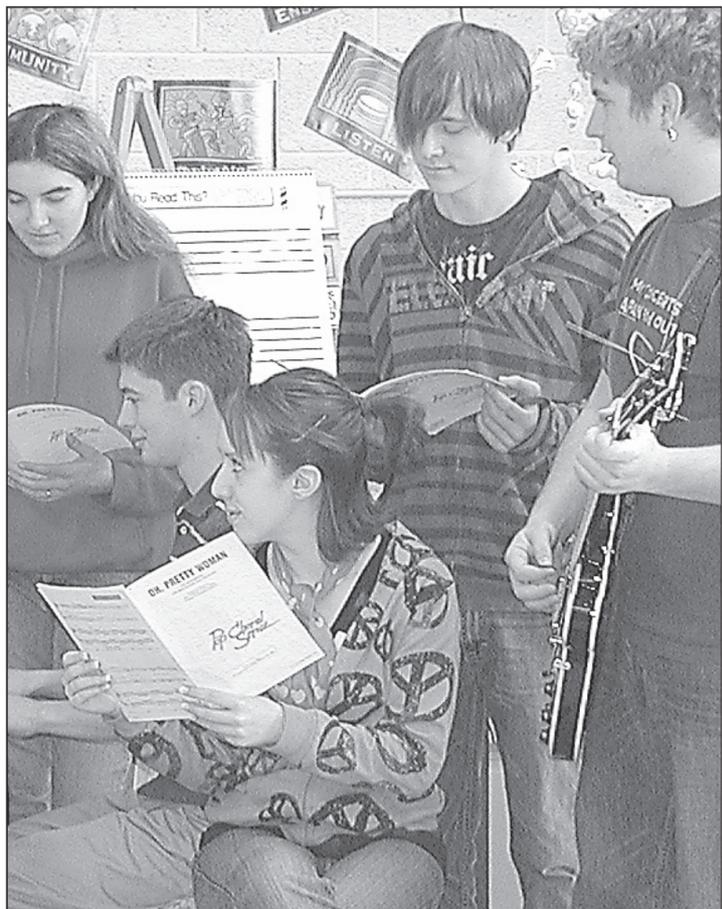
go to Kansas City," said Dr. Stutheit. "We space it out that way so all the students get to go. We might be able to go to Worlds of Fun, and some cultural events like a concert."

Dr. Stutheit said there are about 15 acts so far lined up for the Talent Show, including a student rock band, several vocal and instrumental solos, and even a comedy routine.

"I've heard the student rock band play, and they're really good," said Dr. Stutheit. "Variety is the key," she said. "We wanted to have a wide variety of performers for the show so there is a little something for everyone to enjoy."

The Talent Show has judges to determine first, second and third place, and Dr. Stutheit is getting prizes for the top performers.

There is no admission charge for the supper or the Talent Show, though free-will donations will be accepted to help fund the students' trip to Kansas City, which will take place May 19 through 21.



Hannah Hawks, Stanton Nelson, Brittney Braun, Taylor Hammond and Travis Redeker practiced for the Talent Show Thursday morning. The Soup Supper and Talent Show will be Saturday, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Northern Valley High School cafeteria.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux