Local athletes begin practice

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Practices began the first of the week for fall sports in Norton, Northern Valley and Logan high schools and junior highs.

Norton

The Norton Community High School football team practiced twice a day this week through today and will have a scrimmage on Saturday morning, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Blue Jay gridders' practices beginning Monday will be after school from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Returning head Norton football coach is Lucas Melvin.

Lady Jay volleyball squad members have also been practicing twice a day this week and next week will begin once daily practices from 3:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Their head coach again this season is Peggy Cox.

Norton's high school cross country team is practicing daily from 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. Returning head coach is George Rossi.

The Lady Jay high school tennis team is practicing daily from 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. The head coach again this year is Jim Green.

The Norton junior high head football coach again this season is Shane Miller. They are practicing daily during the week from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

New head coach of the Norton junior high volleyball team is Ashley Wegener. Their practices are daily during the week from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Northern Valley

The Northern Valley High School football team also practiced twice daily this week from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will have one practice Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Next week, they will also practice twice daily on the same schedule with another Saturday morning practice only.

Head Husky football coach again this season is Chuck Fessenden.

The Lady Husky high school volleyball team is practicing weekly between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Practices are held in the gym in Long Island.

Northern Valley head volleyball coach again this season is Chuck Zimmerman.

The Northern Valley junior high football team also began practice this Monday and has practiced daily at 9 a.m. They will practice next week at 9 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday. Monday, Aug. 30 will be their last 9 a.m. practice since school begins on Tuesday. The team is practicing in Long Island.

Head Northern Valley junior high football coach again this year is Jim Cole.

The Northern Valley junior high volleyball team also began practice at 9 a.m. on Monday morning in Long Island and is following the same schedule as the football team.

Lady Husky junior high head volleyball coach again this season is Kirsten Baird.

Logan

Logan High School also began practices on Monday. New head football coach is Cody Hilburn. His team has practiced all week from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and again from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

The Logan High School volleyball team also has had two a day practices this week prior to the start of school. They have practiced from 6:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Returning head coach is Robin VanLaeys.

The Logan junior high football team has been practicing daily since Monday from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. Their head coach again this season is Conrad Corman.

Robin VanLaeys is also returning as the Logan junior high head volleyball coach. Practices started Monday and are being held during the week from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Chapter added to Redmen best seller

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

After the completion of the 2008 football season, the Smith Center High School football team had won their fourth straight state championship and had the longest current winning streak in the nation.

Joe Drape, an award-winning New York Times reporter, had moved with his wife and son to Smith Center to live in the community and chronicle the 2008 season. He did so in a book "Our Boys . . . A Perfect Season on the Plains with the Smith Center Redmen".

The book was on the New York Times Best Seller List for many weeks.

In 2009, the streak finally ended at 79 straight victories when the Redmen lost the state championship game 20-12 to Centralia in overtime!

Since that loss, the book has been reprinted in soft cover with an additional chapter describing the 2009 season and the emotions of the players, coaches, parents and other relatives and fans.

In this book, the reader quickly discovers the beauty of the story isn't wins and championships earned by the team but rather how the team builds community and sustains this tiny, hard-working town located in the heartland of America.

The Redmen have achieved their prodigious accomplishments by embracing a philosophy of life taught by their legendary erstwhile head coach Roger Barta. His mantra of "Respect each other, then learn to love each other and together we are champions" is his hallmark and words that resonate throughout the town.

Since the original book was written, it has prompted positive comments from many well-known football figures.

"It's a great read for all but even more so for big-city readers to get a taste of the quality of life and genuine caring of this small community and its revered teacher, mentor and coach Roger Barta," said Bill Snyder, head football coach at Kansas State University.

"It is not so much a story about football but about the true meaning of Midwestern values, family life and the spirit of small town Kansas and its special people. I couldn't put it down."

"Our Boys is about far more than football," said Penn State football coach Joe Paterno.

"It's an inspiring story about how a coach and a community are building young men with the simple values of love, patience and hard work. This is a great book."

The book, including the "Afterword: One Year Later" chapter, is now available at book stores nationwide. Suggested price is $14.99 each.

Smoky Hills sport show starts

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Beginning this evening, the Scoreboard Show on Smoky Hills Public Television will kick off the upcoming high school sports season with four pre-season specials.

Smoky Hills Public Television will showcase high school football teams throughout central and western Kansas on 30-minute specials. A panel will discuss and predict which teams they feel will finish at the top of their leagues and be state contenders

The Northwest Region will be covered this evening at 10:30 p.m. and the South Central Region will be featured, beginning at 11 p.m.

The other two pre-season specials will be next Friday, August 27. Pre-season coverage of the North Central Region will begin at 10:30 p.m. on that date, followed by the Southwest Region at 11 p.m.

Since the Scoreboard Show started eight years ago, parents, coaches, athletes and students have expressed their appreciation for the attention Scoreboard Show brings to their communities' high school sports programs.

This very popular Friday night 60-minute live production (with replay on Saturday mornings) covers football, volleyball, soccer, cross country and more.

The one-hour show highlights high school sports from 1A through 6A divisions across central and western Kansas.

In addition to the on-air coverage the program offers, Scoreboard Show is on-line for 24/7 viewing with access to Friday night football scores at www.smokyhilltv.org.

Notice of Hearing - 2011 Budget

Published in the Norton Telegram Friday, August 20, 2010 1(T)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The governing body of
Norton County
will meet on the 30th day of August, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. at the Norton County Courthouse Commissioner's Room for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.
Detailed budget information is available at the County Clerk's office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2011 Expenditures and the Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2011 budget.
Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on final assessed valuation.

	2009		2010		Proposed Budget 2011		
FUND	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,541,925	15.082	1,597,892	22.455	1,677,184	738,132	18.722
Road & Bridge	873,308	11.536	897,535	4.877	908,900	335,327	8.505
Special Bridge	99,400	1.196	110,246	0.319	99,700	89,775	2.277
Solid Waste	269,415		176,835		220,860		
EMS-Ambulance	320,128	1.447	418,050	6.002	510,775	291,990	7.406
County Health	493,678	1.494	400,000	1.568	425,150	60,977	1.547
Noxious Weed	222,348	1.500	225,554	1.500	235,651	59,140	1.500
Election	44,237	0.735	60,462	1.058	55,637	48,676	1.235
Economic Development	148,573	2.765	111,000	2.433	111,000	94,988	2.409
Appraiser's Cost	144,529	3.253	126,275	2.859	129,628	111,725	2.834
4-H Maintenance	10,075	0.237	11,000	0.145	10,000	4,614	0.117
Fair	11,000	0.250	10,000	0.223	9,000	7,470	0.189
Soil Conservation	11,951	0.258	11,000	0.243	10,000	8,695	0.221
Airport	13,864	0.812	68,805	0.866	37,900	33,598	0.852
Mental Retardation	52,500	1.187	52,000	1.168	50,000	42,207	1.071
Mental Health	28,000	0.637	27,000	0.602	26,500	22,254	0.564
Hospital	94,450	2.000	91,281	2.000	112,842	98,567	2.500
Andbe Home Maintenance	19,000	0.400	18,119	0.400	18,812	15,771	0.400
Extension Council	75,742	1.603	12,984				
Historical Society	4,700	0.100	4,530	0.100	4,779	3,943	0.100
Sr. Citizens Service	47,250	1.000	45,300	1.000	47,071	39,427	1.000
Employee Benefits	1,123,882	21.102	1,179,450	21.456	1,206,700	976,443	24.766
Bridge Bonds	115,500	2.621	118,100	1.673	140,370		
EMS Building Bonds	0		22,872	0.674	24,800	18,074	0.458
EMS Building COP Debt	0		40,373	1.157	45,065	35,075	0.890
Econ. Rec. Zone Bonds	0		0		20,386	17,128	0.434
Noxious Weed Deficiency	0		83		83		
911 Emergency	22,878		29,500		29,500		
Wireless E-911	2,500		33,062		33,062		
District Coroner	2,400		9,300		9,300		
Special Alcohol Programs	8,200		17,066		17,066		
Special Parks & Recreation	1,000		7,930		7,930		
Noxious Weed Cap Outlay			35,406		35,405		
County Health Cap Outlay	19,551		30,794		30,793		
Non-Budgeted Funds	1,146,337						
Totals	6,968,321	71.215	5,999,804	74.778	6,301,849	3,153,996	79.997
Less: Transfers	240,649		120,463		218,142		
Net Expenditure	6,727,672		5,879,341		6,083,707		
Total Tax Levied	2,912,374		2,912,334		3,153,996		
Assessed Valuation	40,895,909		38,947,012		39,426,932		

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2008	2009	2010
G.O. Bonds	815,000	550,000	650,000
Lease Pur Princ	139,077	94,702	632,930
Total	954,077	644,702	1,282,930

	2009		2010		Proposed Budget 2011		
Other District Funds	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
Gettis Cemetery	1,556	2.144	1,863	2.754	1,868	1,800	2.841
Clayton Cemetery	2,745	2.305	2,784	2.468	2,878	2,500	2.380
Oronoque Cemetery	1,225	1.178	1,225	1.261	1,235	1,112	1.154
Edmond Cemetery	1,931	0.366	1,925	0.427	1,934	1,846	0.453
Almena Cemetery	31,323	5.446	31,708	5.805	32,465	28,292	5.764
Almena Fire Dist. No. 1	18,000	3.006	18,507	3.203	18,807	16,504	3.183
Norton Fire Dist. No. 2	43,107	3.166	43,285	3.507	43,490	38,789	3.314
Solomon Fire Dist. No. 3	11,356	2.729	11,491	3.175	11,520	10,437	3.177
Almena Township	1,257	0.263	1,259	0.278	1,254	1,188	0.275

Assessed Valuations			
Gettis Cemetery	699,717	653,651	633,571
Clayton Cemetery	1,084,599	1,012,960	1,050,608
Oronoque Cemetery	944,209	882,006	963,919
Edmond Cemetery	5,043,716	4,323,185	4,079,238
Almena Cemetery	5,191,499	4,873,938	4,908,099
Almena Fire Dist. No. 1	5,489,566	5,152,882	5,184,402
Norton Fire Dist. No. 2	12,251,894	11,058,977	11,703,962
Solomon Fire Dist. No. 3	3,824,341	3,286,986	3,285,052
Almena Township	4,522,508	4,276,596	4,315,982

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Robert Wyatt
County Clerk

•PUBLIC NOTICE•

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF CLASS ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT OXY USA INC.

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, August 20, and Tuesday, August 24, 2010 2(T)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

David and Donna Schell, Howard Pickens, And Ron Oliver, Individually, and as Representative Parties on Behalf of a Class of Surface Owners,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	Case Number 07-1258-JTM-KMH
v.	)	
OXY USA Inc.,	)	
Defendant.	)	

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF CLASS ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT OXY USA INC.

TO: THE MEMBERS OF THE CERTIFIED CLASS

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED OR HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FREE GAS FOR HOUSE USE FROM OXY USA, INC. ON AN OXY-OPERATED KANSAS WELL, THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.

A CLASS ACTION HAS BEEN CERTIFIED IN A PENDING LAWSUIT AGAINST DEFENDANT OXY. THE CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT (THE "LAWSUIT") SEEKS A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO ESTABLISH THAT OXY OWES THE DUTY TO MAKE THE GAS USEABLE FOR HOUSE GAS USE. THE LAWSUIT IS PENDING IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF KANSAS IN WICHITA, KANSAS. THE LAWSUIT HAS BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST OXY BY FOUR HOUSE GAS USERS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THEMSELVES AND OTHER SIMILARLY SITUATED OWNERS OF THE RIGHT TO USE HOUSE GAS.

THE COURT HAS NOT RULED ON THE MERITS OF THE CLAIMS ASSERTED BY THE PLAINTIFFS, OR THE DEFENSES ASSERTED BY DEFENDANT OXY.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY

1. Why Is This Notice Being Sent To You?

You are being sent this Notice because you may be a member of the Class in the Lawsuit described below. OXY's records reflect that you may be a surface owner on an oil and gas lease that contains a right to use house gas. This Notice is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an expression of any opinion with respect to the merits of the allegations in the Complaint filed in this action. This Notice explains the claims being asserted in the Lawsuit, and also explains your right to remain a member of the Class (as explained in Section 7 of this Notice), and your right to opt out of the certified Class (as explained in Section 8 of this Notice).

2. The Lawsuit

The Lawsuit is pending in the United States District Court of Kansas and is captioned as set forth above. The Honorable Judge J. Thomas Marten is presiding over the Lawsuit. On July 29, 2009, Judge Marten entered an Order certifying the Lawsuit as a class action. On August 11, 2010, Judge Marten entered an order allowing notice to the class to proceed.

3. The Class. The Order certifying the Lawsuit as a class action defined the Class as follows:

> All surface owners of Kansas land burdened by oil and gas leases held or operated by OXY USA Inc. which contain a free gas clause.

Judge Marten's Order certifying the Class appointed the attorneys for the Plaintiffs to act as the attorneys for the Class ("Class Counsel"). The names and addresses of the Class Counsel are listed in Section 9 of this Notice.

4. What Is A Class Action?

A class action is a type of lawsuit in which the named plaintiffs bring a suit on behalf of other similarly situated persons seeking to recover relief on behalf of other persons they represent, without the necessity of each person incurring the expense of filing a separate lawsuit, or joining in the lawsuit. Class actions are brought when issues of fact or law are common, making it fair to bind all Class members to the orders and judgments in the case, without the necessity of litigating multiple lawsuits involving similar claims.

5. What Is The Lawsuit Against OXY About?

House gas use is threatened by low pressure and/or high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide which may require compression and/or treatment to make the house gas useable. The Lawsuit against OXY seeks to establish that OXY owes the duty to make house gas useable at its expense. OXY denies that it owes that duty, denies that an implied duty exists in all leases, and contends its obligations are governed by the terms of the oil and gas leases.

A more complete description of the Lawsuit, its status, and the rulings made in the Lawsuit are available in the pleadings and other papers maintained by the United States District Court Clerk for the District of Kansas located at 401 N. Market, 204 U.S. Courthouse, Wichita, KS 67202, in the file for Case No. 07-1258-JTM-KMH. Should you have questions regarding the status, rulings or issues in the Lawsuit, such questions can be submitted in writing to Class Counsel at the addresses provided in Section 9 of this Notice.

6. Who is Included?

If you are surface owner on land in which minerals are leased to OXY under an oil and gas lease containing a house gas clause, you may be a Class Member, even if you are not currently living in or renting a house to others on the land and even if you are also a royalty owner on the same land.

7. Remaining A Member Of The Class.

If you choose to remain a Class member, **YOU DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHATSOEVER**. Class Counsel will represent your interests as a member of the Class. You will not be charged for their services or costs, other than as may be deducted from any settlement amount or judgment, as approved by the Court. You also have the option of entering your appearance in the Lawsuit through your own counsel, at your sole cost, if you so desire. However, you will be bound by the result of the Lawsuit, regardless of the outcome, even if no recovery is had. Class members will be barred from bringing any separate legal action against OXY for the claims described in this Notice. If you remain a member of the Class, you will receive notices of, and may participate in, any relief obtained on behalf of the Class. For this reason, you should notify Class Counsel (in writing at the addresses provided in Section 9 of this Notice) of any corrections to, or changes in, your name or address.

8. Requesting To Be Excluded From The Class.

If you are a member of the Class, you may elect to be excluded from the Class ("Opt Out"). If you elect to be excluded from the Class, you will not be bound by the judgment and final disposition of the Lawsuit. You will retain, and will be free to pursue, any claims, you may have on your own behalf against OXY. OXY may assert any defenses or counterclaims it may have against you. You may consult with your own attorney, at your sole cost, regarding your rights as well as any defenses and counterclaims available to OXY as to your claims. To be excluded from the Class, you must provide a written Opt Out election to be excluded from the Class to Rex A. Sharp, P.O. Box 8553, Prairie Village, KS 66208. The Opt Out election must contain your full name, current address, telephone number, and the property description of the Section (or portion thereof), Township, Range, and County in Kansas where you own the surface rights to land leased by OXY, and either your signature or the signature of a person authorized on your behalf to request exclusion from the Class. Your Opt Out must be postmarked no later than midnight on the 18th day of October, 2010.

9. Class Counsel

If you do not exclude yourself as described in paragraph 8 above, your interest will be represented by the Class Representatives and their counsel, as counsel for the Class ("Class Counsel"), which are:

Rex A. Sharp	Lee Thompson	M. Moran Tomson
Gunderson, Sharp & Walke, LLP	Thompson Law Firm	111 North Main
5301 W. 75th Street	300 N. Main, Ste. 106	PO Box 310
Prairie Village, KS 66208	Wichita, KS 67202	Johnson, KS 67855
(913) 901-0500	(316) 267-3933	(620) 492-6800
(913) 901-0419 fax	(316) 267-3901 fax	(620) 492-6801 fax
rsharp@midwest-law.com	lthompson@tslawfirm.com	law@pld.com

In any written correspondence with the Class Counsel, it is important that the envelope and any documents inside contain the following case name and identifying numbers for the Lawsuit: *David Schell, et al. v. OXY USA Inc.*, Case No. 07-1258-JTM-KMH. In addition, you should include your full name, address, email address, and telephone number.

DO NOT WRITE OR TELEPHONE THE CLERK'S OFFICE if you have any questions about this Notice. ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE OR THE LAWSUIT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO CLASS COUNSEL.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OXY, THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK

ORDERED: August 13th, 2010.

S/ Karen M. Humphreys

KAREN M. HUMPHREYS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE