

Find out everything you need to know about school before hitting the books in Norton.

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Tuesday
August 3, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Carolyn Withington

Briefly

Black historian

to give portrayal

Angela Bates-Tompkins is a black historian. She will be portraying Stagecoach Mary Fields at the Norton Public Library at 2 p.m. Thursday. Ms. Bates-Tompkins, from Nicodemus, portrays other black women of the west such as Kathy Williams, buffalo soldier; Biddy Mason, California pioneer; and Aunt Clara Brown, Colorado pioneer. Her program will be informative and entertaining to children and adults of all ages.

Widows plan trip to Nebraska

Members of New Chapter, a group of Norton County widows, are planning a trip to the Beaver City Senior Citizen Center on Monday where they will eat lunch at noon. The menu is smothered steak at \$3 per plate. Dee Wolfe is coordinating the drivers. Call her at 877-2503. The group will leave from the parking lot of the First United Methodist Church at 11:15 a.m. All widows in Norton County are invited.

Veteran's help available Monday

A service representative from the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton Social Rehabilitative Services Office from 1-2:30 p.m., Monday to assist veterans and their families with matters pertaining to veterans' benefits.

Weather
Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 80s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday Night through Friday Night: Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 80s. Lows in the mid 60s. Saturday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s.

Howell report:

Friday High 87, Low 66
Saturday High 93, Low 67
Sunday High 100, Low 66
Monday High 103, Low 72
Week ago High 84, Low 60, Prec. 1.65
Month ago .. High 90, Low 60, Prec. 1.10
Year ago High 93, Low 66
August precipitation 0 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 16.43 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Father, your word says you can bring good out of what appear to be unlikely situations. We ask you for faith today to believe that. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Faber hangs on as Republican choice

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

In a repeat of their race two years ago, voters backed incumbent John Faber in the 120th District for the state House of Representatives with 3,404 votes to 2,375 for challenger Doug Sebelius of Norton.

Two years ago, Rep. Faber won a much closer race with 2,160 to 2,002, a margin of just 158 votes. This year his margin



John Faber

was 1,029.

As he did two years ago, Rep. Faber will face Democrat Bob Streyev of Norcatur in the general election.

Rep. Faber received 444 votes in Decatur County, 646 in Cheyenne, 699 in Rawlins, 779 in Norton and 836 in Phillips. Mr. Sebelius failed to carry a single county, with 301 votes in Decatur, 250 in Cheyenne, 389 in Rawlins, 673 in Norton and

762 in Phillips.

Reached at home Tuesday night, neither man had heard the final tally for the election.

Rep. Faber said he felt great about the election. He said he was humbled and honored to win the primary.

Next he will meet Mr. Streyev, who he said he has a lot of respect for. With the contentious turn the election took, he said, he hopes the Republican party can come together and put this behind him as the

nominee.

If elected to another term, he said, he would like to get more money for education and bring money back to the small school districts. It will be a real challenge, he said.

He said opening the school finance formula scares him because rural areas have fewer and fewer votes in Topeka. Rep. Faber said he feels he is the best person for the job, he has the connections and is (Continued on Page 5)

Officials hold on to offices

More than 1,600 voters turned up at the county's polling places to cast their ballots in the primary election in Norton County on Tuesday.

The 44.9 percent of the 3,651 registered voters topped 2000's primary election numbers by about 400 people.

Those 1,641 voters chose the elected officials that they wanted to go on to the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Running unopposed for county positions, incumbents County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt received 1,284 votes or 35.2 percent of the total registered voters in the county, County Treasurer Cynthia Linner got 1,313 votes or 36 percent, and Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent garnered 1,341 or 36.7 percent.

Only 32.1 percent of the county's registered voters cast their ballots for Karen Griffiths, who will be the new county attorney. She took in 1,172 votes for the open position, which was vacated when Doug Sebelius opted to run for state representative.

In the race for the District No. 2 commission seat, incumbent Leroy Lang defeated Ivan Kingham 271 to 238.

District No. 3 commissioner incumbent John Miller edged George Gassmann by just six votes, making the count 240 to 234. The Democratic candidate Robert Clydesdale received 68 votes.

Incumbent Sheriff Troy Thomson beat his opponent, Travis Smith, two-to-one with 960 votes to Mr. Smith's 480.

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Lanny Davis (above) stepped out of the privacy booth after checking his ballot for the 2004 primary election yesterday at the American Legion. The election covered both county and state offices. Naedean Whitney, Carol Voss, Linda Matson and Wilma Wiseman helped get Lee Altman (below) ready to vote at the Norton County Courthouse. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Incumbent wins election by six votes

In the end, the Republican primary election for the District No. 3 Commission seat came down to six people voting.

Incumbent Commissioner John Miller won the race with 50.6 percent of the Republican votes, or 240 of the ballots cast. His opponent, George Gassmann, had 234 ballots for 49.4 percent of the vote.

Democrat Robert Clydesdale, who will be facing Mr. Miller in the Tuesday, Nov. 2 general election, received 68 votes in the primary election.

After finding out the final count of the Aug. 3 election, Mr. Miller thanked the people in Norton County who voted for him and said he looks forward to their support in the general election.

"I will continue to work towards a positive Norton County," he said.

Mr. Gassmann also thanked everyone for their support.

"I tried to run a clean, honest campaign," he said. "It's been interesting. I've met a lot of new people and I enjoyed it."

Commissioner retains seat

Norton County Republicans decided to stay with incumbent Leroy Lang on Tuesday as more of them cast their ballots for him than for his opponent, Ivan Kingham.

There were 509 registered Republicans voting in the Second District County Commissioners race and 271 voted for Mr. Lang while 238 voted for Mr. Kingham.

Mr. Lang had 53.2 percent of the vote and Mr. Kingham 46.8 percent.

In November Mr. Lang will be running unopposed.

Reached after the final votes were tabulated, Mr. Kingham offered his congratulations to Mr. Lang on his re-election.

"I recognize that this is not the easiest job to do," he said. "This campaign gave the people a choice and I was glad to be part of the process."

Mr. Kingham went on to thank everybody for their support.

Mr. Lang thanked all the voters who voted for him.

"The people have spoken and the voting is over for now," he said. "I hope to continue doing a good job."



John Miller



Leroy Lang



Experience wins out over youth in state senate race

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

It was a nail-biting night for the Republican candidates for Kansas' 40th District Senate seat but, in the end, the veteran lawmaker Ralph Ostmeyer beat the rookie Dan Rasure by a little over 1,100 votes.

As the precincts came, in the vote swung back and forth between Mr. Ostmeyer, a state representative from Grinnell, and



Ostmeyer

Mr. Rasure, a fresh new face from Goodland.

Mr. Rasure had thrown his hat in the ring early in an attempt to unseat incumbent Sen. Stan Clark. However, on May 29 the senator was killed in a car wreck on I-70.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Ostmeyer, considered a conservative like Mr. Clark, announced he would run for the

Republican nomination against Mr. Rasure.

Sen. Clark's widow, Ruth, was named to fill his vacant seat, although she did not plan to run election. In the last weeks of the race, she gave her support to Mr. Ostmeyer and helped with his campaign.

Both men campaigned extensively, crossing and recrossing the 18-county district. Mr. Rasure, in campaign finance reports filed in late July, had the larger war chest and apparently outspent his op-

ponent more than 2-1. He raised most of his money in the district, but put more than \$22,000 in personal funds into the race.

Mr. Rasure, 22, called for a new way of doing things, pointing out that the population of western Kansas continues to shrink, the schools continue to close and property taxes keep going up.

Mr. Ostmeyer, 61, pointed out his four years of experience as a member of the state House of Representatives, plus time (Continued on Page 5)