

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

Tuesday
October 19, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Mike Luft

Briefly

Auxiliary to send boxes to military

The Norton Eagles Auxiliary will send holiday boxes to service men and women stationed in Bosnia, Iraq, Kuwait and Pakistan. The auxiliary will pay for the contents of the boxes and for the shipping. If you would like your military person to be included please give their names and addresses to Kathy Heikes at 877-2587 or Laura Gilhousen at 877-3665. To reach the soldiers by Christmas, the boxes need to be shipped by Nov. 1.

Booster club

to hold meeting

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Norton Community High School football coach Bruce Graber, volleyball coach Jill Lively, tennis coach Bill Johnson and cross country coach Deyton Hager will report on early season competition by their teams. Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton Community High School athletics are invited.

Recreation Board needs director

The Norton School Board is looking for someone to serve on the Norton Recreation Commission Board of Directors. The term will begin Dec. 1 and run through Nov. 8, 2008. The recreation board is responsible for the oversight, direction and policies of the programs and activities sponsored by the Norton Recreation Commission. Anyone interested should submit their names to the board of education office at 105 E. Waverly, by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3. Those interested must be at least 18 and live in the school district to be eligible. The position will be appointed at the Monday, Nov. 8, school board meeting.

Weather Forecast:

Tonight — Areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the mid 40s. Wednesday — Areas of fog in the morning with highs in the upper 60s. Wednesday Night — Cloudy with lows in the mid 40s.

Howell report:

Friday High 49, Low 39, Prec. .15
Saturday High 62, Low 44
Sunday High 67, Low 50
Monday High 73, Low 49
Week ago High 66, Low 48
Month ago High 100, Low 69
Year ago High 90, Low 51
October precipitation92 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 22.39 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, you are the source of all love, power, and strength. Help us to live trusting in your love for each new day. Amen

Write-ins put up fight in primary election

By VERONICA MONIER

Some of the county's incumbents will have some competition during the general election this year, but several are running unopposed.

In fact, everyone who had opposition in the primaries is again fighting in the general election as two men have started write-in campaigns hoping that in the larger voter pool they can do better than in the primaries.

Up for election are the second and third-district commissioner seats and the jobs of register of deeds, county treasurer, county attorney, county clerk and sheriff.

Running for the third district commissioner seat are incumbent John Miller, Norton, Republican; and Robert Clydesdale, Edmond, Democrat.

In the second district, incumbent commissioner Leroy Lang, Norton, Republican, doesn't have any Democratic opposition. However, Ivan Kingham, Norton, also a Republican, is running a write-in campaign for the seat. Mr. Kingham was defeated by Mr. Lang in the primary election, when only registered Republicans could vote.

Republican incumbent Troy M. Thomson, Norton, will be the only name

on the ballot for sheriff but Travis L. Smith, Norton, is running a write-in campaign. Mr. Smith was also defeated in the Republican primary and has decided to try again in the general election.

Register of Deeds Wanda M. Vincent, Republican; Norton; County Treasurer Cynthia Joan Linner, Republican; and County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt, Republican, are all unopposed on the ballots.

Karen L. Griffiths, Norton, Republican, is running for the county attorney position, which is now held by R. Douglas Sebelius, her law partner. She is the attorney for the City of Norton.

Mr. Sebelius chose, instead, to run for the state representative seat for the 120th district in the Kansas House of Representatives but lost the election to the incumbent John Faber of Brewster.

At the state level, Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, Republican, and Tim Peterson, Monument, Democrat, are challenging each other for the 40th District State Senate seat. Mr. Ostmeyer defeated Dan Rasure of Goodland in the Republican primary.

Bob Strevey, Norcat, Democrat, is running against Mr. Faber, who is

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Brownie Troop No. 197 leaders Tammy Ball (second from left) and Lois Rostek (right) gave last minute instructions to their daughters Carmen Ball

(far left) and Valery Rostek before the girls call on some of their friends and neighbors for magazine sales.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Girl Scouts will begin fund-raising

Girl Scouts in Norton will be selling books, cassette discs, and magazine subscriptions until Oct. 28 as part of their fund-raising activities.

More than 50 girls in seven troops are involved in the program. It is not a door-to-door campaign, so if you would like a Girl Scout to stop by your house, call Debbie Graham at 877-2250.

The theme for this year's sale is "Catch the Reading Bug".

Graduation requirements changed

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School Board changed the graduation requirements for the class of 2009.

Superintendent Greg Mann said the requirements are partially being changed by the state and partially by the district. He said the state added three more credits to graduation requirements — one math, one science and one fine arts — but left the total number of credits required to graduate at 21.

The Norton district is increasing the total credits number to 23, so the students will not lose any electives.

Mr. Mann said the state average of graduation requirements is 24 with some school districts requiring up to 27.

He said the district still has to figure out if it wants to add another lab class for the science credit and is still looking at its options concerning math.

Board member Jeff Nielsen asked if the administration team needed more time before the board voted.

Mr. Mann said no, they preferred it to be voted on as soon as possible because nothing is going to change in a month.

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Rural Telephone wants to install in-bound call center in Norton

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A representative of Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech talked to the Norton County commissioners on Monday about putting an in-bound call center in Norton.

Tony Poore, a representative from Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech laid out a plan he called, "Revitalizing Rural America".

He said the plan has been recently adopted by Medicine Lodge.

A corporation that would secure major, national companies has proposed that rural communities would be the ideal locale for national call centers, he said. The company is looking for towns with independent phone companies, like Rural Telephone.

The plan would create 11 jobs in each town they select and would be supporting only in-bound calls from the U.S. There would not be any out-bound calls placed or any overseas traffic. Mr. Poore suggested that Norton could be one of six communities along with Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Stockton, WaKeeney and Hill City.

A call center would support a nationally known company. All calls pertaining to

their products or services would be routed directly to the center, which would be staffed with four people at all times. The center would operate 12 hours a day on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends for 432 operating hours per week. If each full-time employee worked 40 hours, the call center would employ 11 residents of the community.

Mr. Poore's proposal included asking the city, county, local businesses or other municipalities to share the \$15,000 cost of the survey to determine the feasibility of the plan in the county.

He also outlined how the plan would payback the initial survey costs with estimates of annual income to the community of over \$65,000, plus what the employees make. Mr. Poore concluded his

presentation by adding that the companies involved intend to sign five to ten-year contracts.

Alvin Mapes the county's emergency preparedness manager, reported to the commissioners on the Mitigation 20/20 plan. Mr. Mapes said in order to complete the plan, a resolution would need to be completed and signed by the commission, a Norton County incorporated document needed to be signed and the cities within the county would also need to sign a jurisdiction document.

The commissioners asked how the county would pay for the updates required in years to come. However, the commissioners decided they needed the resolution in case of a natural disaster so that the

(Continued on Page 5)

Jennings schools superintendent accepts new job

The Jennings School District will have a new superintendent starting Monday, Nov. 1, as its part-time leader moves on to a new job.

With the resignation of Superintendent Dave DuBois, Emery Hart, now the part-

time superintendent at Utica, was hired. He is the former superintendent in Morland.

Mr. DuBois was re-hired for the position as a part-time superintendent at the beginning of the school year. He told the

board he has accepted a job as the chief of staff with the Center for Civic Education in Los Angeles. He starts in early November.

Jennings School Board gives options as enrollment drops

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Around 50 citizens joined the Jennings School Board on Thursday night to hear what options the district has as enrollment continues to drop.

This year, the district saw a decrease in the fulltime-equivalent of 31.5 students, leaving 31 enrolled. Enrollment has been declining for some time, but the drop accelerated this year.

Superintendent Dave DuBois said he had invited John Rasmussen, a lawyer with the Kansas Association of School Boards, to come out to talk with the group about options.

Mr. Rasmussen said the district basically has five options, including continuing with fewer students, negotiating cooperative agreements with other districts, disbanding, consolidation with another

district, or trying to draw new students with a virtual or charter school.

No decisions were made at the meeting, but the board is scheduled to meet on Thursday, Nov. 11.

The first option he went over was cooperative agreements, where the district enters into a contract with another district or districts to send students there. Agreements need to cover things like transportation,

he said, payment of costs and expenses and the authority and responsibility of the boards.

For example, he said, the Jennings District could agree to send students in grades 7-12 to another district and maintain its grade school, as the Lenora district does. Lenora high school students attend Norton Community High

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Commissioners speak about emergency coordinator's salary

By VERONICA MONIER
The Norton County Commissioners spoke with Norton County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes about his salary at its Oct. 12 meeting.

Mr. Mapes said that his mileage reimbursement wasn't with his paycheck. He said County Clerk Robert Wyatt had told him they can't pay mileage to and from work.

"I've been paid that way for 11 years," he said.

Mr. Mapes said it would have been better for the commissioners to explain to him what was going on rather than dropping it on him like they did.

Commissioner John Miller asked him if he has called the state yet to get the emergency preparedness manual to find out about mileage.

Mr. Mapes said he hadn't talked to state officials, but did get a copy of the manual off of the website. He said the manual was 157 pages long and it didn't list anything about mileage.

Mr. Miller told Mr. Mapes that he needed to document his mileage, so the county could reimburse him for it. He said they've talked about this before. He said Mr. Wyatt talked to the

county's attorney about paying him mileage to and from work.

Mr. Wyatt said the Fair Labor Standards Act says that no one gets paid mileage to and from work. He said the federal law supercedes everything else.

Mr. Miller said when Mr. Mapes documents his mileage, he needs to say where he went, what day he went there, and how many miles he drove.

"Every workshop we go to tells us that we have to document, document, document," he said. "You don't have to say what you talked about, but you do have to document going somewhere so we can reimburse you."

Mr. Miller told Mr. Mapes that the county couldn't pay him to drive to and from work, but it could reimburse him for all of his miles associated with work.

"It's a pain, but it's necessary," he said. "We all have to do the same thing."

Commissioner Leroy Lang said they have to account for all the tax payer dollars.

We have to account for every cent, he said.

Ed Witt, who is Mr. Mapes assistant, said he wouldn't be taking over Mr. Mapes' position if he decided to step down. He said, if he does step down, the county will

need him to show whoever takes his place where everything is and what to do.

Mr. Miller said they needed to speak with the county's lawyer to see what they can do about compensating Mr. Mapes for part of his insurance since he's a full time employee and then they need to sit down with him to get his salary worked out.

Mr. Witt said he would also like to see Mr. Mapes get quarterly raises or something for all the work he does.

Mr. Mapes said he thinks things can be worked out.

"I think this (working for the county) is in everyone's benefit," he said. "If we can get this ironed out, things should be good."

Mr. Miller said they just needed to sit down, after talking with legal counsel to see what can be done, and re-evaluate Mr. Mapes' salary and benefits.

Mr. Lang presented Mr. Mapes with a certificate that says he is a certified emergency manager as of July 29 from the Kansas Emergency Management Association.

"We appreciate the work you've done for us," said Mr. Lang.

Jennings schools looking at a number of options for best interest of students

(Continued from Page 1)
School and Norton shares in the state aid money that Lenora receives. If the Jennings District joined in such an agreement, it would have to pay the other district to educate those kids.

There are other kinds of cooperative agreements, he said, like sharing teachers or sending students to other districts for activities.

This year Jennings is sending its high school football players to Hoxie and its junior high football and volleyball players to Oberlin.

Mr. Rasmussen said when employees are shared, usually one district employs them and the other district would re-imburse it for part of the costs.

Contracting to send students to another district is one of the simplest things to do, he said, especially if the district is looking at low numbers in the high school or can't offer all the programs students want.

Another option, he said, is consolidation in which a new district is opened from two or more districts joining. This is what the Herndon and Atwood districts did to form the Rawlins County School District last year.

An important thing to know, he said, is that consolidation takes 18 to 24 months to complete. When a new district is formed, he added, all of the teachers start over. No one has tenure.

Consolidation has to be voted on by the citizens of the combined district.

A district can simply disorganize, he said, which means it dissolves and becomes a part of another district. That would mean the Jennings District would no longer

exist and the land would be attached to another school district or districts.

The simplest way to disorganize, said Mr. Rasmussen, is for the board to petition the state Board of the Education to disorganize and attach to one or more other school districts. If the state board approves it, then there doesn't have to be an election.

The state board will disperse any property the district has, including the buildings, money, classroom gear and other items.

Disorganization, said Mr. Rasmussen, doesn't require action by the board. Citizens can file a petition with the county election officer. The petition has to get signatures of 20 percent of the ballots cast in the last board election. The item would then go to an election.

With disorganization, the district would have to pay off any debts. The district can, if the board chooses, assume some of the debt of the district they are attaching to.

If the district decides to disorganize before July 1, the budget will stay the same for two years, he said. If it is done after that date, it will only stay the same for one year.

For a virtual school, which would mean the older students would take class via the Internet,

the program has to be approved by the state Department of Education, he said, and there are some personnel requirements. Jobs required include a program director, certified teachers, student and parent communication liaison, technical support staff, testing facilitator, data entry, training staff and counseling and interview services. One person, he said, can do more than one of the jobs.

Mr. Rasmussen said another option is a charter school, but he doesn't think that kind of school is supposed to be the sole offering in the district. He said he thought charter schools are supposed to be an alternative.

It seems, he said, that a lot of charter schools are based around themes, like a dance school or music school.

The board, said Mr. Rasmussen, has to do what is in the best interest of the students and what gives them the best education.

There were some questions asked about eligibility in sports if the district were to join with another. Mr. DuBois said he asked the activities association, and officials said the students are automatically eligible in their new schools.

Mr. DuBois said he would like to see the board make a decision by

Norton school board increases credit requirements for 2009 graduation

(Continued from Page 1)
So, the board unanimously adopted the changes.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted the Qualified Zone Academy Bond authority offered by the Kansas State Department of Education for \$600,000. Mr. Mann said the money can be used for any kind of repair or renovation, but not for new construction. He said the district will use the money for roof repair. The money has to be paid back over 10 years without interest.
- The board then retained McLIney and Co. of Kansas City, Mo., as the district's investment banking company for up to 5 percent of the bond amount.
- Discussed what to do with the remaining Tansill Fund money that was designated for construc-

tion. There is \$22,685.10 left of the \$198,969 put aside for construction. The remaining \$208,000 is being used as a scholarship fund. The board decided to wait and see if it gets money from the state before making any decisions.

- Learned from Mr. Mann that the second grade class at Eisenhower Elementary was given a reading diagnostic test and 34 of the 37 tested were at or above grade level. He said this class has the highest percentage of all the classes in the six years that testing has been done.
- Heard that Mr. Mann has agreed to be on a Kansas State High School Activities Association committee to study the National Federation for high school wrestling requirements, which would be effective 2006-'07. He

said the requirements would include fat and hydration testing and weekly weight loss monitoring.

Mr. Mann said the students' safety is always the first consideration, but said they will need to look at it closely to see how expensive and cumbersome it will be. He said the first meeting will be in December.

- Adopted the revised math and fine arts curriculums as presented. Teachers Dale Engelbert and Vicki Robison were at the meeting to answer questions.
- Mr. Engelbert explained the benefits and problems associated with integrated math programs. He said they are still looking into how much integrated classes covered.
- Mr. Mann said if the curriculum needed to be revised, the math curriculum team would get back together and have something to propose next fall.
- Heard the results of the 2003-'04 Kansas assessment tests and of the district's mathematics mastery exams from Wellness and Accreditation Coordinator Pam Menagh. Mrs. Menagh said that most of the classes tested did well. The math mastery exams showed an upward trend from the pre-test to the post-test, she said.
- Approved changes made to the professional development council plan.
- Appointed Board Member Jennifer Terrell as the delegate to the Kansas Association of School Boards convention in Wichita on Dec. 3-5. All of the other board members were listed as alternates.

Commission hears about call center

(Continued from Page 1)
county could get federal help.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved a request from the school district for road millings for the bus barn drive and parking area. They declined, however, to deliver or level the millings saying it would be a conflict with private enterprise.
- Approved a bid from Nextech for \$2,200 to transfer equipment from the old sheriff vehicles to the new ones.
- Heard a report from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald on damage to an overhead door on the recycle building. Friday a chain came off the sprocket allowing the door to fall about four feet, damaging it. Renner Doors of Hastings has been called to repair it.
- Opened bids with Steve Berland, BG Consultants for the installation of two monitoring wells at the landfill project. Geo Core of Salina submitted a bid for \$6,400 and included a cashier's check for the bond. Since the only other bid was from Associated Environmental of Manhattan and did not include the bond check, the bid was not read nor accepted. The Geo Core bid was accepted.
- Learned the Norton County Ambulance service passed the state inspection on Oct. 12 with a good score. The commissioners also learned that Pat Pomeroy from Decatur County will conduct a class for emergency medical

volunteers and workers today on glucometers and their use in testing sugar in the blood.

- Heard a proposal from Blue Cross/Blue Shield regarding the health insurance renewal quote for county employees.
- Heard a proposal from Bridges Insurance Agency regarding employee health benefits for 2005.

There is \$22,685.10 left of the \$198,969 put aside for construction. The remaining \$208,000 is being used as a scholarship fund. The board decided to wait and see if it gets money from the state before making any decisions.

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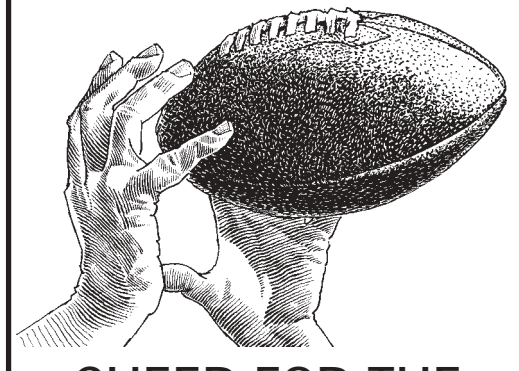
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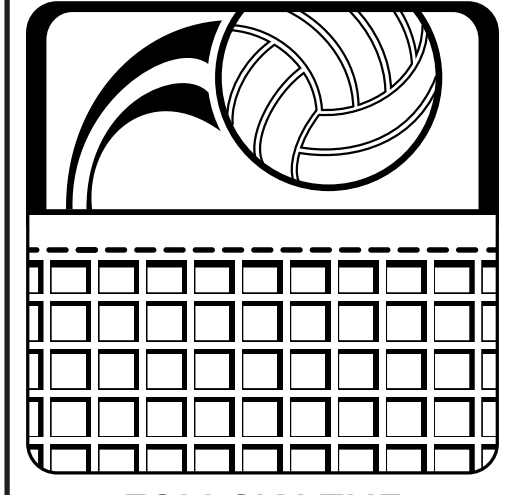
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For more information call KPA 785-271-5304

Go, Norton Blue Jays!



CHEER FOR THE
Norton Blue Jays
vs.
Russell Broncos
7 P.M., Travis Field, Norton
Friday, Oct. 22



FOLLOW THE
Lady Jays
Volleyball Team
Sat., October 23
CLASS 3-A
Sub-State Tournament
IN LAKIN
Teams Competing: Cimarron, Holcomb, Lakin, Medicine Lodge, Norton, Phillipsburg and TMP

Good Luck to the NCHS Blue Jay Cross Country Team in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet
Beginning 2 P.M., Saturday, October 23 in Lakin

SUPPORT THESE BLUE JAY BOOSTERS...
THEY ARE EAGER TO SERVE YOU!

ACCOUNTING: Zwickle's Accounting
ALUMINUM EXTRUSION: New Age Industrial Corp. Inc.
ATTORNEYS: Worden Law Office
AUTOMOTIVE-SALES, SERVICE & ACCESSORIES: Walter Motor Company
BANKS: First State Bank; First Security Bank; the Bank
DRUG STORES: Moffet Drug Store; Pamida Pharmacy
FEED, SEED, GRAIN, PRODUCE: Norton County Co-op Association
NEWSPAPERS: Norton Telegram

Write In

Ivan Kingham X

For District Two Norton County Commissioner

- Lifelong Norton Resident
- Farm Bureau Board for eight years — President two terms
- Norton County Co-op Board since 1990 — Chairman six years
- Airport Board 20 years

I want to be a commissioner for all people of the county. Lets cooperate for better government and economic growth for Norton County

Your Write-in Vote will be Greatly Appreciated

Pd. Adv. by Ivan Kingham for District 2, Norton Co. Comm., Kathy Holste, Treas.