

Tuesday,
January 18, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Brad Braun

Briefly

Girl Scouts to sell cookies

Girl Scouts cookie sales will begin Friday with the girls going door-to-door. If, for some reason, you are not called on and would like to order cookies, call Lois Rostek at 877-3493 or Debbie Graham at 877-2250.

Retailer training set for Monday

The Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs is offering free training to all Norton County alcohol and tobacco retailers from 5:30-8 p.m. on Monday at the Norton City office.

Retailers, who carry products used as methamphetamine precursors, such as pseudoephedrine, are also invited to attend.

The free seminar will provide information on Kansas laws and regulations concerning the sale of alcohol, tobacco products and items like coffee filters, lighter fluid, rock salt, and medication containing ephedrine that is used in the production of methamphetamines.

Pre-registration is required. Contact the Regional Prevention Center by noon Friday.

Former priest to be remembered

Memories of Msgr. Armand Girard are being accepted by *The Telegram* until Thursday. As many as possible will be printed on Friday. Send memories to *The Norton Telegram*, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654; e-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com; or fax to (785) 877-3732.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. West winds around 10 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly clear with lows around 30. West winds 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s.

Howell report:

Friday High 15, Low 5
Saturday High 21, Low 7
Sunday High 33, Low 20
Monday High 30, Low 21
Week ago High 31, Low 17
Month ago High 52, Low 33
Year ago High 49, Low 30
January precipitation50 inches
Year-to-date precipitation50 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Jesus Christ, you are the giver of life, the Son of the living God. Help us remember that our steps can be sure when we acknowledge your holy presence in every moment of our day.
Amen



The Norton City Fire Department put out a car fire Saturday night after the engine caught fire because of an electrical problem.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Blaze pulls firemen out into cold

A car fire had the Norton City Fire Department out in the frigid cold Saturday night.

Fire Chief Mitch Jones said the engine compartment of a 2000 Toyota Celica, belonging to Gary Coffman of Lenora,

was completely engulfed in flames when his crew showed up at 509 N. Jones six minutes after getting the call at 9:10 p.m.

The 14 firemen and two trucks were on the scene for about 30 minutes. Once the flames were put out, he said the car was

determined to be a total loss.

Chief Jones said the cause of the fire was electrical. Considering the cold temperature, he said, nothing unusual happened and there were no problems with the pumps freezing up and no injuries.

Credit Union looks back on great year

By VERONICA MONIER

The United Northwest Federal Credit Union of Norton and Oberlin had a good year.

Board Chairman Steve Mathes said at Monday's annual meeting that 2004 was one of the best years the organization had ever had.

He said the company had an increase of over \$2 million in total assets, its best ever. Over the past five years, he said assets have increased by more than \$12 million, well over 100 percent.

Mr. Mathes said the credit union added 50 new members in 2004 and have added 557 over the last five years.

"Management and the board of directors will continue to do everything we can to make sure the credit union does well," he said. "Hopefully, we'll have more good news to give next year."

Manager Mark Keilig went over the financial and manager's reports with the more than 200 customers, who attended the meeting.

Mr. Keilig said, in 2004, the financial



Denise Bailey was recognized for her 25 years of service to the United Northwest Federal Credit Union at the group's annual meeting. Mark Keilig, the credit union's manager, presented her with a mantle clock as an appreciation gift.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

institution had given 1,021 loans to 649 borrowers for almost \$14 million with a \$247,000 allowance for loan losses, and had \$7.5 million in cash and investments, \$76,000 in land and building, \$46,000 in furniture and fixtures, and more than \$318,000 in other assets for almost \$21.7 million in total assets.

There were \$70,500 in liabilities, \$19,600 in shares deposited, and \$2 million in reserves for almost \$21.7 million in liabilities and owners equity.

He said the credit union had a gross income of \$1.2 million, expenses were \$532,000, and almost \$321,000 was paid (Continued on Page 5)

Man wins big television

Richard Martin won a 51-inch color television from Nex-Tech as part of the company's holiday open house celebrations. Mr. Martin was one of nine cable subscribers to win the big screens. He said that he and his wife, Roberta, enjoy watching travel programs, movies and sporting events on their new television.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



Landfill gets closer to opening

By VERONICA MONIER

The landfill is getting closer to being done.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the Norton County Commissioners a week ago Monday that he had talked with engineer Pat Cox of BG Consultants, who in turn had spoken with Geo Core, the company that is drilling the monitoring wells.

Mr. Archibald said Geo Core was drilling the two monitoring wells, which are required by the state.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said the county has to drill the wells and then have them pumped for 60 days. He asked what would happen if the wells failed to have a clean test after the 60 days was up.

Mr. Archibald said he didn't know but didn't think it would be a problem.

"We have to have some optimism here," he said.

Commissioner John Miller said the county had a monitoring well at the old landfill and never had any problems with it.

Mr. Archibald said the new pit is progressing well. He said Whitney Construction is nearly finished digging the first cell, which is 380 feet by 180 feet and will be 20 feet deep when finished.

He also brought in a sample of netting that could possibly be used for wind screens at the landfill. He said the screens are custom sized so they will fit the frames made by the Road and Bridge Department. He said for about 20 screens it will (Continued on Page 5)

State radios too costly for county

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Undersheriff Rich Wenzl is not sold on the state's plan to have the counties go over to a 800 MHz system.

At the request of Sheriff Troy Thomson, Deputy Wenzl attended a meeting about the new system, which the state highway patrol is using.

"There's some really neat things about the 800 MHz radio system but it's horribly expensive," Deputy Wenzl told the commissioners at their meeting on Monday.

He said if the system were set up right you could talk to anyone in the state from anywhere in the county. However, it's not set up properly, he said.

The state has spent \$36 million to set up towers for the new system but they need another \$30 million to get it where it needs to be, he said.

The state is proposing a 10-year lease program for the counties.

"They would buy the radios, install (Continued on Page 5)

State radio idea costs too much

(Continued from Page 1) them and repair or replace them," he said.

The cost would be \$250 per radio to program and \$600 per radio to lease per year.

Deputy Wenzl said he did a rough estimate of 30 radios in the county between the sheriff, ambulance and fire departments.

He said he did not include radios used by the City of Norton or the rural fire departments. Also each repeater radio will be an additional \$250, he said.

Commissioner John Miller said that would cost about \$18,000 a year.

"Including Almena and Lenora, I came up with a dollar figure of over \$44,000 a year," Deputy Wenzl said pointing out that's just rent.

It would cost at least \$2,500 to buy a mid-level radio and you would still have to rent the tower space, he said.

"I was shocked," he told the commissioners.

"I didn't think it would cost nearly this much."

Mr. Miller said he was afraid the state will make the counties change within the next year or two.

Deputy Wenzl said he's afraid that even if the counties all accept the system and it gets perfected,

changing technology will make it outdated in 10 years or less.

At this time, he said, the state is not requiring use of the new system.

"Bottom line down there, they said this is not something the state is going to make mandatory," he said. "I don't know whether they are telling the truth.

"Having said this, the state may not require it but the FCC may come in some day and make you do it.

"I didn't understand all of this," he said of the meeting, "but, I did understand the dollar amounts."

The system the county has now cost it \$40,000 to install, he said. With the new system it would cost \$44,000 every year.

"What's your advice? Drag our feet?" Commissioner Kruse asked.

"Oh yeah," the undersheriff replied.

"Even the new 911 money won't pay for this," Mr. Miller observed.

"They aren't sure you can use that terrorist money for this," Deputy Wenzl said.

"I'd drag my feet on it. If the FCC comes out and says you have to, you do it.

"But, I'm hoping it takes a very long time."

Long-awaited landfill gets closer to completion

(Continued from Page 1) cost around \$2,000.

He said the netting will last seven to ten years and has a warranty that can be prorated for seven years.

The netting is used at landfills, driving ranges and soccer fields and everyone who uses them seems to have pretty good luck with them, he said.

Mr. Archibald said he has gotten quotes on three types of netting, but one was discounted because he broke it with his hands. The sample he brought to the commissioners Monday couldn't be broken by hand.

"It's similar to the stuff Phillipsburg uses at their landfill," he said. "It looks pretty good to me. The main thing is to make sure it's strong and will last awhile."

Mr. Archibald said the orange netting that the commissioners had asked about before is weather resistant, but doesn't come in the sizes needed for the frames.

Mr. Kruse asked if there was anything that was better or comparable.

Mr. Archibald said he would check into a few more types of netting.

"This stuff really caught my eye," he said. "It's strong enough to catch stuff, especially tumbleweeds and it lasts awhile."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Adopted a memorandum into the Norton County Handbook which says that full or part-time staff, or volunteers, with the Norton County Emergency Medical Service are considered as having "safety-sensitive positions" and so will be subject to drug screenings.
- Signed two checks for the ambulance department. One was for fuel for \$74 and the other for the

replacement of petty cash for \$96.15.

- Met with Noxious Weed Department Supervisor Reggie Beckman. Mr. Beckman gave the commissioners an itemized list of the billings and spraying done by his department in 2004. The billings were broken down to separate labor and chemical purchase.

Mr. Beckman said spraying the right-of-ways for the county's road and bridge department was \$16,400 and spraying for the Kansas Department of Transportation was \$1,800. He said 164 private sales were made for chemical to 85 customers. The county staff sprayed 58 jobs.

He said the main areas of concern continue to be bindweed and musk thistle.

- Kept the county's depository banks — First Security Bank and Trust Company of Norton and Lenora, the Bank of Norton, First State Bank of Norton, and Almena State Bank of Norton, and Almena — the same.

- Changed the reimbursable mileage rate to 40.5 cents/mile from 37.5 cents/mile. The three cent increase was set in November as the new standard mileage rate by the Internal Revenue Service.

- Kept *The Norton Telegram* as the official county paper.

- Were sworn in by 17th Judicial District Judge Bill Elliott with the other elected officials. Being sworn in were Commissioner Leroy Lang and Mr. Miller, Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson, County Attorney Karen Griffiths, County Clerk Robert Wyatt, County Treasurer Cynthia Linner and Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent.

- Passed a resolution requiring additional standards for a pipeline and conduit locator system.



Charla Sprigg received a big hug and blue carnation from son Michael as father David looked on during Senior Night ceremonies at Norton's wrestling duals with Smith Center and Trego on Thursday evening. The other senior wrestlers, who honored their parents were: Blake Hillebrand, son of Susan and Frank Hillebrand;

Paul Juenemann, son of Angie and Lee Juenemann and Corey Look, son of Janet and Chuck Look. The senior managers, Kelli Johnson and Claudia Lacy, also honored their parents, Joy and Bill Johnson and Jeanette and Gary Lacy. Mr. Lacy and Mrs. Hillebrand are also pictured.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Credit Union has top-notch year

(Continued from Page 1) out in dividends, for a net income of \$364,000, an increase over last year's \$254,000.

The credit union had 2,221 members in 2004.

"It has been another successful year," he said. "But it takes the members to make it that way."

Mr. Keilig said there were a few political issues that needed to be watched, including a push from the Kansas Bankers Association to tax credit unions. This is one benefit of being a cooperative and with that we are able to offer higher savings rates and lower loan rates to our members, he said. Mr. Keilig encouraged members

to contact their legislators if this becomes an issue.

He said they are also watching bankruptcy reform, which could help credit unions slow unpaid debt.

Mr. Keilig said "Internet fishing" is a big problem. He gave the members a few tips to avoid identity theft, including destroying private records and statements when you're done with them, securing mail, safeguarding social security numbers by not placing them on checks, not leaving a paper trail by always taking your credit card and debit card receipts, knowing who you're dealing with, taking your name off marketers "hit lists", be-

ing defensive with personal information, monitoring your credit report, and reviewing credit card statements to make sure there are no discrepancies.

Bill Beale gave the supervisory committee report, saying that all of the records were in good order. He said the federal examiners gave a good report and hope that the credit union continues in the direction it's headed. He said the supervisory committee will continue to work with the employees and do business as usual.

Board member elections were held.

Mr. Mathes and Jim Green were both re-elected to three-year

terms. Also on the ballot were Joy Johnson and Alan Hale.

Special gifts were given to Mr. Keilig for his 10 years of service, Denise Bailey for 25 years and Don McClelland for 10 years as a volunteer.

Members of the board are Mr. Mathes, Mr. McClelland, Greg Engel, Bette Townsend, and Jim Green.

Making up the supervisory committee are Don McMullen, Mr. Beale and Brenda Mann. Employees are Mr. Keilig, Ms. Bailey, Sharon Black (Oberlin), Lori Duscher, Susan Gilgenbach, Jamie Applegate, Kimberly Soutter and Carissa Lacy.

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Norton County Weather for January 18 th - 24 ^h						
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
56/25	58/27	55/25	53/23	43/18	48/23	53/25
Normal High 39				Sunrise 7:54 to 7:58am		
Normal Low 16				Sunset 5:43 to 5:50pm		

Over the first two weeks of January, bitterly cold temperatures and some snow and ice, have heating bills shooting through the roof. Today skies will clear and winds will turn to the southwest finally warming us up. This week highs will be in the 50's with lows in the mid 20's. This weekend will be 10 degrees cooler, but there are no chances for moisture until towards the end of the month. We will continue to monitor the possibility for a record cold February!

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1 Year \$60.00
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Less than 6 Mo. would be \$15 per month

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