

Auction helps advocates

By VERONICA MONIER

It was a chocolate lover's dream, but the first, hopefully annual, Chocolate Auction was much more than that as well.

The auction, which was held Saturday in Phillipsburg at the Huck Boyd Center, was a benefit for the court appointed special advocate (CASA) program in the 17th Judicial District, which covers Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Graham, Smith and Osborne counties.

Board member and event co-chair Elaine Mann said they raised over \$7,000 from the live and silent auctions held. About 150 people came to show their support for the advocate program and sample the chocolate.

She said the program was started in the district in 1992 with the help of Judge Charles Worden. The program matches a volunteer with a child who needs a voice in a court situation. The case judge decides whether the child needs an advocate. If so, the advocate meets the child and everyone in his or her life, including doctors, teachers and family members, and then writes a report and sometimes testifies in court as the voice of the child.

Mrs. Mann said they plan to have the fundraiser next year and hope that it will become a yearly event.

"The board feels that this was a tremendous success," she said.



The Court Appointed Special Advocates Chocolate Auction was a big success and so was the chocolate fountain. Board member and event coordinator Joan Mann demonstrated the popular fountain with a strawberry. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

"We're never sure how something will go the first time, but this went very well. We've had a lot of people comment on whether we were going to do it again next year."

She said the idea was to come up with a fundraiser that people could count on every year. Since both grant and government money seems to be drying up, she said this fundraiser, as well as a no-show tea which will be held next month, is very important.

The money raised, she said, will go toward training more volunteers and helping to pay volunteers' mileage.

Another purpose for the auction

was to honor both the volunteers and the judges. The judges honored were District Judge Bill Elliott, Hill City, and magistrate judges Deb Anderson, Norton County; Barbara Stites, Graham County; Jacqueline Thornton, Osborne County; Bonnie Leidig, Phillips County; Mike Kirchoff, Smith County; and John Bremer, Decatur County.

Mrs. Mann said that about 135 donors also made the event possible, giving everything from Nascar truck race tickets to prints, jewelry and dinner and theater tickets.

Jan Volgamore and Anna Foley catered the hors d'oeuvres, while

Dru Potter brought the popular chocolate fountain. Jane and Amanda Wahlmeier, Kim Munyon, Bennet Lowry and Morris Engle provided music, and Monte Jessup and his wife Kim took care of the live auction.

Other people helping out were Marlin Bernard, Chris Huginin, Kirk Schweitzer, Wayne Bump, Sharla Hudson, Katie Lix, Julie Miller, Paul Reinert, and John and Penny Simmelink.

Board member Joan Mann was the other event co-chair.

For more information call Elaine Mann at 877-2019 or Joan Mann at 877-5618.

Businessman asks about development

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

A businessman visited with the Norton County commissioners last week about economic development and asked them to discuss rumors he had heard.

Gail Boller of Natoma Corp. said he doesn't know a lot of people on the new economic development committee and asked who decided to set it up.

Commissioner John Miller said that the committee is a joint venture between the city and county. The city has two council members and two at-large members and the county has two commissioners and two at-large members. The small cities can join and have a representative if they want to, he said.

Mr. Boller said he is interested in the committee because he has a big stake in Norton and its economic future.

He asked if anyone from Rural Telephone or Prairie Land Electric had been asked to join the committee.

Mr. Miller said that both companies have economic development arms and they preferred not to be on the city/county board because they funnel money into economic programs separately.

"That was their preference," said Commissioner Dean Kruse.

Mr. Boller said that he wondered why the county had ceased to support Norton Development.

Mr. Miller said that the development group did not want to make all its books public. In order for the county to put money into a project all accounting has to be open for

public inspection, he said. "It's very specific in the law because of an attorney general's opinion, if you take public money you have to have full disclosure," Mr. Miller said.

"Everything we do has to be in the open," said Commissioner Leroy Lang.

The city/county attorney has been sitting in on the committee meetings to make sure we are doing things legally, Mr. Miller said.

Another problem with Norton Development was it was set up to help the City of Norton only, Mr. Miller said. The county commission has to make sure all the county has a voice.

Mr. Boller asked about former Chamber of Commerce Director Carolyn Applegate and why she left her job in Norton.

"She chose to go to Sherman County," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Boller asked if she would be considered for the economic development directory's job and Mr. Miller said yes, if she puts in her application.

However, he said, the group has not started taking applications yet.

Mr. Boller said he had heard a lot of rumors.

"My concern is what happens when the city council members are gone and you folks are gone," he said. "I want it to go on."

The commissioners said that they are going slowly to see that things are done right.

"It will take more than a year or two to get things done," Mr. Miller said. "This will not take place overnight."



Doughnuts and hot coffee brought customers into Roy's Sales and Service Thursday. Owner Roy Skrdlant showed his appreciation for his customers with an open house. His mother, Vivian Skrdlant, kept things moving as employee, Fred Welter, (center) talked with Ervin Volgamore. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Courthouse, banks to close for holiday

As with many federal holidays most retail and service businesses will stay open while financial institutions and government offices will be closed for Presidents' Day on Monday.

All Norton banks and the credit unions will be closed. Also closing will be the post office, Norton County courthouse and Norton County Health Department.

Norton schools will have classes as usual, but Northern Valley, Lenora and Jennings will not have school that day.

For grocery stores, restaurants and other businesses, it will be business-as-usual.

The Norton City office will be open.

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Wrestlers prepare for regionals

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's No. 1 state ranked Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team will compete in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday in the Trego Community High School in Wakeeney.

With six of the top 10 ranked Class 3-2-1A teams in the state of Kansas competing, it should be the toughest regional tournament in the state.

In addition to Norton, ranked teams will be St. Francis, No. 3; Hoxie, No. 4; Oakley, No. 5; Thomas More Prep, No. 8; Cimarron, No. 9.

Other teams in the tournament will be from Atwood, Hill City, Kinsley, Lakin, Montezuma, Deerfield, Oberlin, Plainville, Quinter, Sublette.

Out of 84 state-ranked wrestlers, 32 are on teams which will compete in this tournament.

The defending state champion Blue Jays have had a great season so far. They have compiled a 15-0 dual record, which includes the dual championship of the Mid-Continent League. In addition, they won the championship of the Hoxie Invitational, the Goodland dual tournament, Mid-Continent League Tournament and Panther Classic tournament in Phillipsburg.

Their biggest victory was their championship of the prestigious Newton Tournament of Champions. Norton was the first team smaller than Class 5A to win the

championship in the long history of the tournament.

The Blue Jays also placed second in the Clay Center Invitational Tournament.

Norton's state ranked wrestlers are sophomore Logan Keiswetter, No. 3, 103; junior Clay Madden, No. 1, 112; sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, No. 3, 119; junior Jon Harding, No. 6, 130; junior Jeremy Harding, No. 4, 135; junior Lance Roe, No. 3, 152; senior Michael Sprigg, No. 1, 275.

Other state-ranked wrestlers expected are: Zach Cemen, Phillipsburg, No. 4, 103; Trevor Richard, St. Francis, No. 3; Gage Reichert, Oberlin, No. 6, 112; Matt Michaelbrink, Atwood, No. 1; Paul Owings, Plainville, No. 2, 119; Dylan Lloyd, St. Francis, No. 1; Tyler Baker, Hoxie, No. 2, 125; Tait Weatherbee, Thomas More Prep, No. 1; Brandon Kaup, Phillipsburg, No. 4, 130;

Levi Younkin, Oakley, No. 1; Cale Farber, Hoxie, No. 2; Jonathan Richards, Oberlin, No. 5, 135; Michael Schamberger, Hoxie, No. 1; Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley, No. 2; Brand Rachow, Phillipsburg, No. 6, 145; Spencer Burns, Cimarron, No. 2; Scott Miller, Oberlin, No. 4, 152; Courtney Nightengale, Cimarron, No. 1, 160; Derek Ross, St. Francis, No. 3; Jeff Dennis, Oakley, No. 6, 171; Tyler Wiesner, Thomas More, No. 2, 189; Aaron Racette, Oakley, No. 4, 215; Nick Appell, Lakin, No. 3; Gabe Walz, St. Francis, No. 6, 275.

"This is definitely the toughest

Class 3-2-1A regional tournament in the state," said Coach Johnson.

"No matter how our wrestlers are seeded, all must wrestle well in order to place.

"Records do not matter in this tournament. You must prove who is the best on this weekend."

Four wrestlers from each weight will qualify for the state tournament in Hays.

Norton wrestlers

103, Logan Keiswetter, 25-6; 112, Clay Madden, 25-3; 119, Nathan Broeckelman, 23-6; 125, Kent Mann, 20-9; 130, Jon Harding, 25-9; 135, Jeremy Harding, 23-5

140, Luke Pfannenstiel, 23-3; 145, Blake VanEaton, 22-13; 152, Lance Roe, 30-1; 160, Corey Look, 8-10; 171, Davvid Stanley, 22-15; 189, Shane Stanley, 5-5; 215, Blake Hillebrand, 15-15; 275, Michael Sprigg, 28-0

Tournament schedule

Wrestling will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday with the championship quarter-finals around 5 p.m. The first round consolation matches will begin at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, the semi-finals will start at 11 a.m., followed by the consolation quarter-finals around 1 p.m., consolation semi-finals about 3 p.m., consolation finals around 5 p.m. and the championship finals at 6:30 p.m.

Admission on Friday will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Saturday's admission will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission on Saturday evening only will be \$4 and \$3.

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