

Norton wrestlers win the regional tournament and nine head for state while basketball teams prepare for substate.

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Tuesday
February 22, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Rosella Williams

Briefly

Congressman gets new office

Congressman Jerry Moran has moved his Washington office. Mail addressed to the old office will be forwarded to the new Rayburn office. However, due to increased security measures, Kansans are asked to contact the office by phone, fax or e-mail through the website. Telephone and fax numbers will remain the same. The new office is at 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515; Phone: (202) 225-2715; Fax: (202) 225-5124; E-mail: www.house.gov/moranks01.

Clinic to hold grand opening

The grand opening of the Norton Animal Health Center will be held Wednesday with a special ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. Drs. Aaron and Sarah White purchased the veterinary clinic from Country-side Veterinary Clinic. Refreshments will be served all day.

Booster club to hold meeting

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on recent competition by their teams and preview upcoming action. Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with chance of rain and snow in the evening — then chance of snow after midnight. Lows in the mid 20s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph with chance of precipitation 50 percent. **Wednesday** — Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs in the upper 30s. East winds up to 5 mph shifting to the south in the afternoon. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly cloudy with lows in the lower 20s. **Thursday** — Highs in the mid 40s.

Howell report:

Friday High 48, Low 39
Saturday High 47, Low 40
Sunday High 57, Low 30
Monday High 63, Low 32
Week ago High 67, Low 30
Month ago High 62, Low 18
Year ago High 57, Low 33
February precipitation90 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 1.40 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God, let us show love to all. In you, Lord, not in our possessions, we trust. Amen



Students, city honor presidents

Eisenhower Elementary students celebrated Presidents' Day by making cutouts (above) of the two most famous men to hold the office. The first graders did Abraham Lincoln and the second graders did George Washington. The portraits line the hall at the school. The City of Norton celebrated by putting flags up and down State Street on Monday. Ed Lively was the putter upper riding in the city's bucket truck.

— Staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Some teachers have problems with new software

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School District is not 100 percent happy with its new Pass Key software.

The district bought the software in December to help the students prepare for state assessments. It could also be used for students needing alternate educational placement.

Superintendent Greg Mann told the school board Monday night that the whole process started about a year ago, when the

district started looking for new software. "It started simple," he said, "but it grew."

The district started looking for the new software that met state standards when the system that it was using wasn't going to update anymore.

Soon, technical help won't be available.

Then, it started looking for software that had social studies and science programs in addition to the required reading and math.

Pass Key, he said, fit all the requirements.

When a special in-service day was held this month so that the teachers could train using the new software, not everyone was happy, he said.

Teachers evaluations showed 31 of 45 liked the system and 27 of those felt like they learned something.

But, he said, the training was poor and inadequate. He said he learned after they had scheduled the training day that it usu-

ally took two days, while they only had one.

Also, he said, the graphics were poor and not nearly as nice as the graphics on the previous software.

"I have some reservations," he said. "With the feedback that we got, we know that the teachers are split. K-6 didn't like it, while 7-12 did. K-6 already has a good program though, while this is new to 7-12."

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Accountant gives schools good budget audit report

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School District got a good report on its 2003-'04 budget from Mapes and Miller Accounting.

Accountant John Mapes said the district started the year with \$1.1 million; it had \$7.4 million in receipts and \$7.3 million in disbursements.

He said capital outlay dropped by about \$19,000, but special education went up about \$106,000. Overall, he said, the district went up about \$119,000 for the year, which is good.

In special education, he said the district only had enough money for one-half of a school year.

"Although you're still comfortable, it's not the best," he said.

"Some schools try to carry over enough money in special ed to cover the costs of a full year."

Mr. Mapes said the general and supplemental general funds were spent to zero, which is good.

"That shows that someone is really paying attention," he said. "It doesn't save the local taxpayers any money when you don't go all the way down to zero."

He said the district didn't have any negative balances.

In capital outlay, the district had \$668,000 to carry over. He said it's not an excessive amount, but it is still comfortable.

Unlike the general fund, capital outlay, which is used for major repairs and building maintenance, is never completely spent, he said.

The board approved the audit and authorized Mr. Mapes to file all of the necessary reports.

Mr. Mapes said the district's three-year contract with his firm has expired. The board will consider the contract at the March meeting.

In other business, the board:
• Heard from board member Pam (Continued on Page 5)

Marine joined service after attack on America

Cpl. Ben Spaulding is the son of Bob and Janel (Jacobs) Spaulding of Ft. Collins, Colo. His grandmother is Joyce (Beaty) Cooper, who attended school in Norton. His aunt is Delores Atkinson, Norton.

Cpl. Spaulding is in the U.S. Marine Corps as a sniper attached to Echo Co. 2/5, serving in Iraq.

After 9/11, Cpl. Spaulding joined the marines where he became a squad leader during bootcamp. He earned the title of being an expert rifleman and was known as the platoon's "guardian angel".

Before his military career, he worked in construction.

He is an artist. A painting he did of Denver Bronco quarterback, John Elway, hangs on the wall of his Colorado junior high school.

During high school, Cpl. Spaulding played football, wrestled, and was a



Cpl. Ben Spaulding

pole vaulter. He was active in junior high and senior high youth groups and is a member of Resurrection Fellowship Church.

Hospital to purchase new chairs

By VERONICA MONIER

Persons visiting patients at the Norton County Hospital will get a new place to sit.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller told the hospital board Wednesday that new patient room furniture was needed.

He said when the renovations of the patient rooms were being done, the hospital got new beds, but continued to use the old furniture.

Also, several patient surveys suggested that the hospital needed chairs available in the rooms, he said.

Mr. Miller said the hospital got quotes on new furniture, including recliners, upright chairs, folding chairs, and bedside tables.

Each room, he said, should have at least a recliner and an upright chair, and then should have a couple of folding chairs, which would be stored in the patient closets when they aren't needed by visiting family members.

The cost comes to \$38,236, he said.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton said the furniture will be paid for using an account that the hospital pays back with interest. The account, he said, has been used for several things.

Board member Kathy Holste asked if all these things would fit into the rooms without making them too crowded.

Mr. Miller said the staff had checked and they did so the board authorized the purchases.

In other business, the board:

• Bought new televisions with pillow remotes for the private rooms. Mr. Miller said the hospital has been getting complaints about problems with the remote controls. The universal remotes the hospital has been using in the private rooms are sometimes hard for the patients to use. The semi-private rooms already have the sets with pillow remotes.

The new television remotes will have speakers, light switches, remote on/off, channel changers and a mute button.

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 Mr. Mann said the software could have some uses in the district's upper levels, but it should look at something else for grades K-6.
 He said the district had several options including canceling the software and getting its money back.
 Before any decisions were made, he said he wanted to talk to the curriculum council and then see what else is available.
 "They (the Pass Key people) don't want to lose us," he said. "They're willing to give us the rest of the year for free before our three-year contract starts, or they'll let us keep just 7-12 at the same price."

In other business, the board:
 • Revised some policies to correspond to changes made at the state level.
 • Heard from Mr. Mann about the proposed school finance plans from the state legislature. Mr. Mann said that smaller districts haven't been holding their numbers because base aid hasn't changed and student numbers are going down.
 He said transfers are diminishing and will continue to diminish. Without general fund transfers, a lot of programs that rely on those transfers won't be able to survive. He said the legislature needs to keep that in mind when making its proposals.
 • Passed a resolution saying that the board would like to keep low enrollment weighting. The resolution will be sent to the state legislators.



One, two, three.....559. That's how many cases of Girl Scout cookies Valery Rostek counted if she counted all the cases sold by the Northwest Kansas Sunflower Council Girl Scouts during their annual fund raiser. That amounts to 6,708 boxes of cookies. Forty-four Girl Scouts from six troops took part in the sales campaign. Cookie deliveries begin immediately. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Hospital to update furniture

(Continued from Page 1)
 • Decided not to buy new board room chairs. Mr. Miller said the chairs used in the room have been there for a while and wanted to know if the board wanted to get new ones.
 Board member Dennis Gihousen said he didn't care and Mrs. Holste said she was fine with the chairs. The patients never see the chairs, so getting new ones could wait, she said.
 Board member Jenny Goldsby said she would rather see something done about the chairs in the waiting areas, because they don't really match the rest of the hospital.
 • Heard from Mr. Carlton that in January, the hospital had 312 patient days, 53 admissions, five babies, four in-patient surgeries, and 18 outpatient surgeries.
 • Discussed updating the salary schedule but decided to wait. It was last updated in March 2004 and several jobs have been added.
 • Heard from Mr. Miller that the county health department had a successful health fair and around 140 people came in for the health tests. He said the hospital's lab and county health worked well together to get everything done.
 • Will take a tour of the Doctor's Clinic to see if the registration area needs to be made more confidential. Mr. Miller said he would like to get an architect's help to design the changes, if they are made.
 • Went into a 15-minute closed session for non-elected personnel.

Will a no-till drill really get the job done?

With the advent of no-till drills, many farmers are asking themselves if they can also use their new drill to plant grain sorghum and soybeans. The answer is yes.
 By increasing the acreage covered by no-till drills, they can spread out the cost, making the expense more manageable. Drilled rows would likely provide faster canopy closure. However, seed emergence and stand establishment is typically better using a row planter.
 To evaluate this question, Rob Aiken, cropping systems agronomist, initiated a two-year study on grain sorghum and soybeans planted with either a row planter or no-till drill. The study began in May 2003 at the K-State Research and Extension center in Colby. The three planting treatments were a row planter (John Deere 7300 vacuum

About ag
 Brian Olson,
 K-State
 agronomist



planter), no-till drill (Great Plains 1005), and paired no-till drilled rows (Great Plains 1005). Both crops were seeded at a typical planting rate for the area and then 1.5 times that rate.
 Weather conditions in 2003 were drier and warmer than normal, with a bad hot and dry spell in July which limited yield. Conditions in 2004 approached normal in both precipitation and temperature.

Seeding grain sorghum by the two methods resulted in similar stand establishment. Grain sorghum stands were proportional to seeding rates in a dry (2003) and normal (2004) growing season. Seeding soybean by row crop planter resulted in greater final stands than no-till drill methods. Differences in seed set per plant generally compensated for differences in final stands, although seed set was significantly less for grain sorghum during the dry year when seeded with a row crop planter.
 Seeding rates and planting methods did not significantly alter weight of harvested seed. Yields harvested by plot combine were generally similar for seeding rates and planting methods, although soybean yield was greater for the paired row method of drilling relative to solid

seeding method during the dry year, but not different from a row planter.
 Results demonstrate that direct drilling is a feasible means of establishing dryland soybean and grain sorghum crops in this semi-arid cropping system.
 For more details on this study, download a copy of the report from the website www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/ by clicking on the production and pests icon, or visit your county extension office.
 Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail bolson@oznet.ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755



Bridges Group President Trent Richmond went over some paperwork with Office Manager Trish Fischer as Kathy Zimmerman, health insurance specialist, talks on her phone in the Norton office. — Photo by Carolyn Plotts

Insurance firm wins 'Best Practices' award

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
 The Bridges Group of Norton finds itself in good company. President Trent Richmond accepted a "Best Practices" award for the agency during a meeting on Oct. 10 in Orlando, Fla.
 The company is one of 195 independent agencies in the country and only seven in Kansas to achieve the award.
 Nominations must come from members of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America and the nominating agency remains anonymous.
 Bridges Insurance of Norton can be traced back to its founding in 1894.
 On Jan. 1, 1999, the company merged with Farmers State Agency of Winona. In October of that year, Mr. Richmond bought the agency from Don Ryan. The name was changed and is now known as the Bridges Group. The group has 10 employees and offices in Norton, Oberlin, Colby and Winona.
 The agency is licensed to write insurance in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado focusing on crop and farm insurance. The company now writes crop insurance in 20 counties in the three states.
 Other types of insurance sold

Schools get good report card

(Continued from Page 1)
 Shelton that the staff appreciation event is on hold until after spring break. She said they are still looking at having it at the Norton Theatre, except now, they are looking at having two showings, so more people could come.
 • Approved the 2005-'06 calendar as presented.
 Superintendent Greg Mann said in the calendar there are 180 student or contact days and 187 days that the teachers need to be there.
 He said the calendar plans to have four days of late starts, which can be used for teacher training, and planning and coordination of school education improvements.
 Mr. Mann said there were eight hours scheduled for training but they could fill it with 16 to 20 hours.
 He said he thought that, in the future, the district would be seeing a lot more of these late starts.
 Overall, the calendar has about 9.3 more days than required by the state.

Youngsters make baskets to win contest

The Knights of Columbus District No. 43 sponsored a free throw contest on Feb. 13 at Esbon. Twenty-nine youth, ages 10-14, who qualified on local levels from Esbon, Smith Center, Logan, Norton and Phillipsburg, participated in the event.
 Megan Cole, Long Island, and Shaley Van Loenen, Prairie View, represented their communities. They qualified to compete in the regional contest held Saturday in Tipton.

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