

Tuesday
March 1, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of R.D. Stephenson

Briefly

Representative, senator to speak

Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Kansas Representative John Faber will be in Norton on Saturday as part of a swing through northwest Kansas. They are scheduled to be at the Town and Country Kitchen Restaurant on U.S. 36 from 1:15-2:15 p.m. Sen. Ostmeyer and Rep. Faber invite everyone interested in the issues coming before the Kansas Legislature to attend. Information on many of the issues being considered will be presented and their impact will be discussed. Norton County Farm Bureau will be serving coffee and cookies to those attending.

Kindergarten roundup set

Eisenhower Elementary School will hold its annual Kindergarten Roundup at 7 p.m. Monday, March 7. The roundup is for children who are 5 years old by Aug. 31. They are eligible to enter kindergarten next year. A special activity for the prospective students has been planned and refreshments will be served.

School news in today's paper

Norton Community High School's *The Nugget* will be in today's edition of *The Telegram* for those subscribers who get their paper delivered by carrier. People who want a copy, but don't get one with their paper, can stop by the high school to pick one up. Norton High School students will get a copy of *The Nugget* at the school.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds up to 5 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 50s. North winds 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with highs around 60. West winds up to 5 mph.

Howell report:

Friday High 67, Low 35
Saturday High 63, Low 34
Sunday High 52, Low 26
Monday High 41, Low 21
Week ago High 63, Low 32
Month ago High 39, Low 30
Year ago High 59, low 46
March precipitation 0.00 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

Dear God, help us each day to be honest in all we do, as a witness to your ways. Amen

Top spot pinned again

Nine medals = wrestling championship

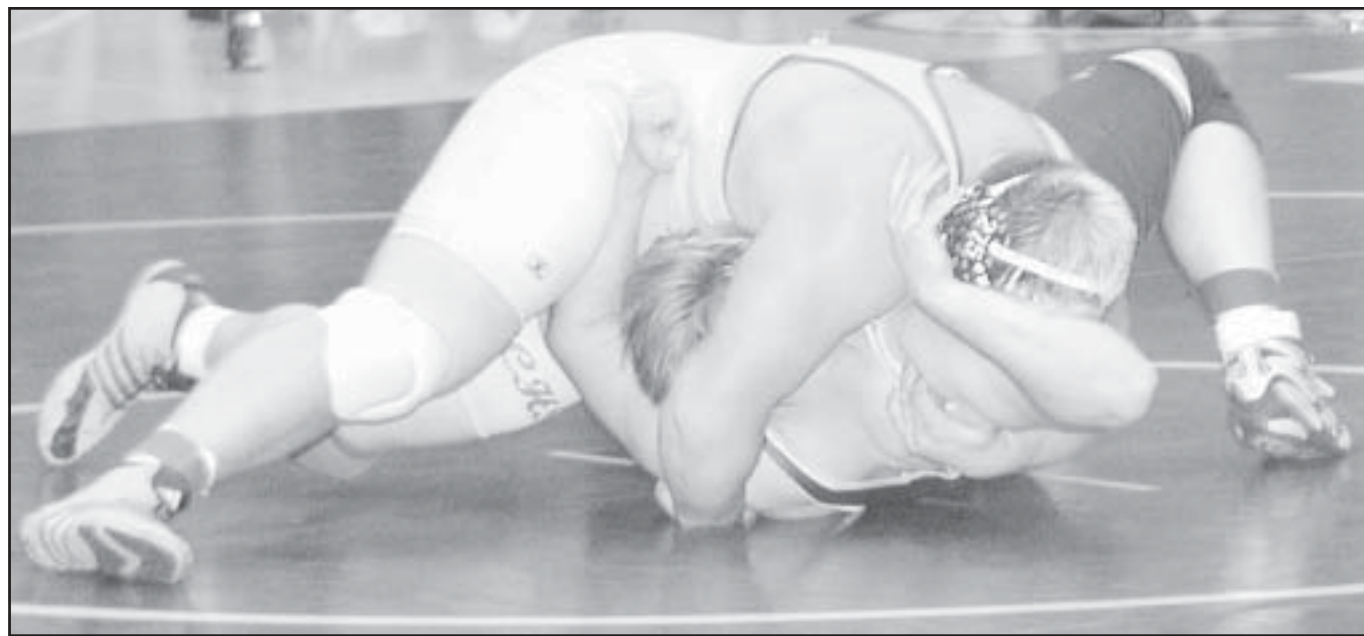


Senior Michael Sprigg (below) put the exclamation point on Norton's wrestling season Saturday when he pinned Ty Brunswig of Trego in the 275-pound championship match to complete a perfect 37-0 season. As Coach Bill Johnson raised the state championship trophy, the Norton wrestlers gave the victory sign to the large contingent of Blue Jay fans in the crowd.— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays successfully defend title

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Blue Jay wrestlers did it again with fewer guys and less stress. Nine Norton Community High School wrestlers earned medals en route to the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championship in the state tournament in Hays. Coach Bill Johnson's Blue Jays literally flew through the tournament, leading from start to finish and outscoring the second place team by 51.5 points. Last year the Blue Jays took 10 men to the tournament and only won on the last heavyweight match. It is the first time in Norton's long history of high school wrestling excellence



that the Blue Jays have won back-to-back state wrestling championships. Unlike last year, Norton did not need a 275-pound win by Michael Sprigg to earn the team title. The Blue Jays took an early lead and built on it during the two-day tournament. Three Norton wrestlers won state championships — Sprigg, a senior, at 275-pounds, junior Clay Madden at 112 and junior Lance Roe at 152. Sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, 119, took third. Junior Luke Pfannenstiel, 140, and sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 103, came in fourth. Junior Jeremy Harding, 135, took fifth and junior Jon Harding, 130, and sophomore Blake VanEaton, 145, came in sixth. Coach Johnson named all nine men "Wrestlers of the Week". Turn to the back page of today's *Norton Telegram* for more photos and the complete story on Norton's state wrestling championship.

Chamber hears message of hope

By VERONICA MONIER

There was a lot of laughter mixed in with the sober moments during Ed Hearn's speech at the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet Monday night. Mr. Hearn, the featured speaker, talked about his career as a professional baseball player and how he overcame several life-threatening illnesses. He said he has had three kidney transplants and when the doctor told him he had gained weight, he said, "Well Doc, you gave me the gift of life. I'm just trying to build up a little protection for it." Mr. Hearn said three nights after his first kidney transplant, he was lying awake in

his hospital bed having a pity party. "I was just feeling sorry for myself," he said. A night nurse came in and told him to stop feeling sorry for himself because he had been lucky. He played in the major leagues and had a beautiful wife. "Boy," she said, "you got the gift of life." Mr. Hearn said when he speaks, he tries to say something that will make a difference in someone's life. "We're all walking the same road," he said. "It doesn't matter who you are." He said people have to choose their priorities.

"There is a price to pay for success," he said. "But there is a much greater price to pay when you fail to do those things necessary for success." Mr. Hearn said people need to teach the country's youth about making decisions and that people need to start making a difference for our kids. Five years into his career as a minor league baseball player, he said he thought about quitting. But, one day turned into the next and then it was two years later and he was in the major leagues. "Don't quit," he said. "You have got to persevere and keep swinging." (Continued on Page 5)



Ed Hearn

Drought loans available

Emergency loans are available to farmers in Norton, Decatur and Phillips counties who had crop or livestock losses because of drought last year.

Applications will be accepted by at the Farm Service Agency until Aug. 29.

Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, said the agency's Farm Loan Manager John C. Vogt.

Loans for physical losses may be used to replace equipment, livestock or buildings, including homes, lost through the disaster.

Loans for production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer and livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts.

Mr. Vogt said those farmers, who need help should apply at the Norton County Farm Service Agency Office.

The Norton office is at 11645 Pineview Dr. and is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office can also be reached at 877-5156.



Plenty of people showed up at the Almena Community Room to eat pancakes and sausage Saturday evening during the Pancake and Sausage Feed, which was organized by Almena PRIDE to help pay for the wiring of the historic jail in Almena. PRIDE member Dan Engelhardt watched the grill, making sure that the 'cakes were light and fluffy for the hungry customers. Other volunteers helping at the event were Lila Engelhardt, Marge Cate, Reva Smith, Merle Hawks, Jean Leuszler, Fleta Hanlon, Laverne Graham, Eldo Graham, Carolyn Bivens, Betty Bivens, Alice Kuiper, Esther Marble and Sandra Anderson. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Inspirational speaker talks about life

(Continued from Page 1)

He said when he was traded to the Kansas City Royals from the New York Mets, he was ready to make the millions baseball players get paid. Then, he was thrown a curve ball when he tore his rotator cuff.

"After that, I went into every kid's second dream job — insurance," he said.

Then a doctor told him that his kidneys were failing and he was going to have to be on dialysis within six months. The next doctor told him that he quit breathing somewhere around 600 times a night and had to be on a breathing machine when he was sleeping.

And then, he said, another doctor told him that he has a bad immune system and would have to have intravenous treatments once a month.

For his kidney transplant, he had

to be on anti-rejection drugs that had side effects like depression.

"I ended up in my basement with a .357 magnum in my hand," he said.

But quitting wasn't his style.

"Don't quit," he said. "Now I get to be here doing things like this. I just got to coach my son for the first time in baseball."

Mr. Hearn said when you're facing challenges, it's important to find perspective. The easiest way to do this, he said, was to find someone who has it worse than you and do something good for them.

"When you help other people, it always comes back to you," he said.

"Be thankful for the shoes you've got. Lace them up, shine them and run with them. Those of us who seek and who serve will be truly happy."

During the business portion of the banquet, Chamber President Carol Erlenbusch introduced Executive Director Karla Reed, who is responsible for organizing the annual banquet, the 4th of July fireworks, the teacher's welcome and the Santa House. She is also in charge of writing the newsletter and getting out promotional information.

The Chamber's board of directors include First Vice President Scott Sproul, Second Vice President Don Kaus, Treasurer Randall Ball, Joel Duscher, Kathy Erbert, Marvin Matchett, Mary Oswald and Doug Ray. Elaine Mann is the city's representative and Robert Wyatt is the county's representative.

Hosting the banquet were chamber ambassadors Wilda and Glenn Bowman, Ruth and Denzel Lofgreen, Georgia and Lyman

Rowh, Jean and Warren White, Marcia and Richard Wiltfong, Evelyn and Chriss McDiffett, Mel Rice, Norma Howorth, Alberta Slaby, Jake Durham and Genevieve Poage and Duaine Foley.

Pastor Terry Worthington gave the invocation and the dinner was catered by The Barbecue Barn.

Sponsoring the banquet were Valley Hope Association, KQNK Radio, First State Bank, Sharp Construction, New Age Industrial Corp., Norton Valley Hope Treatment Center, Don's Floor Covering, Jamboree Foods, Hillcrest Motel, American Family Insurance, and Prairie Land Electric.

Almena State Bank, Bridges Group, and End Zone Sports and Office Supply also helped.

Ambulance crews to learn to teach

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County should soon have emergency medical technicians who can teach each other instead of bringing in someone from Oberlin or Phillipsburg for continuing education classes.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen told the Norton County commissioners on Monday that he wanted to send two or three technicians to a class in Garden City in May to learn to become teachers.

Mr. Nielsen said he was becoming a teacher but would like some help.

"That way people could take turns at the monthly meeting," Mr. Nielsen said.

The commissioners agreed that it would be a good thing not to have to bring in outside help all the time.

Mr. Nielsen also asked if it would be okay for the emergency crews and their spouses to form a softball team and play in the summer leagues.

"I think every department should do something to increase their physical activity," Assistant County Attorney Doug Sebelius said.

The commissioners agreed. "I think it would be good for public relations," Commissioner John Miller said.

Commission Chairman Dean Kruse said as long as the county has no liability and everyone pays his or her own way, he thought it would be a good idea.

Mr. Nielsen said that he had received a bid to remodel the ambulance barn that would make it cheaper to remodel than to buy a new building and outfit it.

The commissioners and Mr. Nielsen have been looking at getting a community block grant to help pay for updating the old ambulance barn by moving or remodeling.

Mr. Miller warned that he has heard that the block grant money is being reduced.

"It's how the state is looking to add money back to the state coffers

and balance their budget," he said. Mr. Nielsen asked the commissioners and Mr. Sebelius to find out what power the district coroner has over his service.

He said that his people thought that the district coroner wanted them to pick up dead accident victims. However, the ambulance service protocols are to only pick up those they help.

Mr. Sebelius said that he thought there are state statutes that cover what the coroner's authority is and he would check into the problem so that everyone would know what is expected of them.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked to a junior from Northern Valley High School, who was monitoring the meeting for a speech class.

- Learned that the lot in Almena that the county sold at auction on Monday had been cleaned up.

- Was told that the sheriff gets to retain \$1,200 in cash, which was seized in a drug bust. Of this the county attorney gets \$175 for fees. The \$175 will go into a special fund to help with law enforcement.

- Heard that the new ambulance lost its front windshield when a rock hit it on the way back from a transfer to Hays. The windshield and a scratch on the back of the vehicle have been repaired.

- Asked Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald to look into removing some junk appliances, which have been dumped along the county's right-of-way and in some streams.

- Heard that the state still requires six inches of dirt on trash at the new landfill once a week even though a substitute paper product can be used on a daily basis to keep the trash from blowing. The six-inch layer can be regular dirt or dirt mixed with wood chips or processed tires, Mr. Archibald said. Since this is for a fire break the commissioners were confused that processed tires, which are flammable, could be used.



Sheila Gaines instructed members of the Heritage Quilt Club in the fine art of hand appliqué. — Photo by Jerris McMullen

Quilt club learns appliqué techniques

By BEVERLY KINDLER

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club learned two techniques for doing hand appliqué at their Feb. 14 meeting.

Sheila Gaines, Smith Center, displayed quilts and wall hangings she has made with hand appliqué. She demonstrated techniques for doing appliqué using freezer paper and heat resistant mylar. She also assisted club members as they prepared flowers and leaves for a "Pots of Posies" wall hanging.

Twenty-seven members an-

swered roll call with "Show and Tell" items. Several displayed the tree, star and house blocks for the "Row Upon Row" sampler quilt. Members, who had participated in the chenille scarf workshop, displayed their scarves made from homespun fabric. Three quilts were also shown.

Plans were announced for a rag flower quilt workshop to be held in March and prizes to be given at the Norton and Phillips county fairs were discussed.

A workshop led by Peg Pennell

of Omaha, scheduled for April was also discussed. Pauline Poage told members the quilts made by students at Northern Valley are on display at the Almena Market and those made by students at Eisenhower Elementary will be at the Norton Public Library in March.

Hostesses for the meeting were Pauline Poage, Vicki Brungardt, Jackie Rutherford and Kay Streye.

The next meeting will be Monday at the Long Island Community Building.

Group learns how to preserve old textiles

By BEVERLY KINDLER

Jean White was hostess and Ginne Concannon, co-hostess, for the Feb. 24 meeting of the Mid-Century Federated Club.

Plans were discussed for the annual pie sale scheduled for April 7 at the Norton Senior Center.

Roll call was answered by members displaying an item from their closet and explaining why it had been kept. Items included a wedding dress, shawls, coats, sweat-

ers, a locket, dresses, suits and garments designed and made by the member.

The program was entitled, "Life's Tapestries: Securing the Past for the Future". Textiles and clothing are collected and used to commemorate rites of passage and special events. They are a vital part of our lives. These objects become heirlooms and connect us to the past.

These heirlooms need to be pre-

served.

Beverly Kindler, lesson leader, presented ideas for the display and storage of textiles, and explained how to mount them to a support frame; how to determine an unknown fiber and showed examples of materials used for storage. She also explained the processes for cleaning old textiles by vacuuming or by wet cleaning.

The goal is to extend the life of keepsakes, she said.

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