

Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. ??
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Blue Jay boys and girls basketball teams beat Hoisington. Norton girls end season with loss to Holcomb.

Page 8 & 10

Friday March 4, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jerry Hawks

Briefly

Blood drive

set for March 17

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held in Norton from 8:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, at the Norton American Legion.

To make an appointment call (800) 448-3543. Walk-in blood donors are also welcome.

Residents receive water letter

Norton residents received a second letter in the mail this week about the city's water woes.

The letter is almost the same as the first, which was sent out at the beginning of December, and talks about trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, which are by-products of disinfection. The only difference in the second letter is that the numbers are different.

Although the city is not in compliance with Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulations, the situation is not an emergency, city officials say.

The problem will be solved when the new water plant is built.

Congressman moves office

Congressman Jerry Moran announced the relocation of his Washington, D.C. office. Mail addressed to the old office will be forwarded to the new Rayburn office. However, due to increased security measures, Kansans are encouraged to contact the Washington, D.C. office by phone, fax or e-mail through the website to expedite requests. 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.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Clear with lows around 30. North winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday** — Increasing clouds with highs in the mid 60s. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 30s. **Sunday** — Highs around 70.

Howell report:

Tuesday	High 55, Low 27
Wednesday	High 67, Low 31
Thursday	High 67, Low 31
Week ago	High 52, Low 29
Month ago	High 61, Low 33
Year ago	High 36, Low 33
Month ago	High 61, Low 33
Year ago	High 36, Low 33

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God of all ages, help us to remain open to the new things you want to do in our lives, no matter what age we are. Amen



A Norton city crew worked to repair a break in a water line, which caused the city's water to be turned off for a couple of hours on Tuesday. Once the break was repaired the hole had to be filled in. Steve Reedy (above) steadied the concrete as it came out of the mixer and then shoveled it (below) while Mike Cliff and Ed Lively put up barricades. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Line break dries up some areas

By VERONICA MONIER

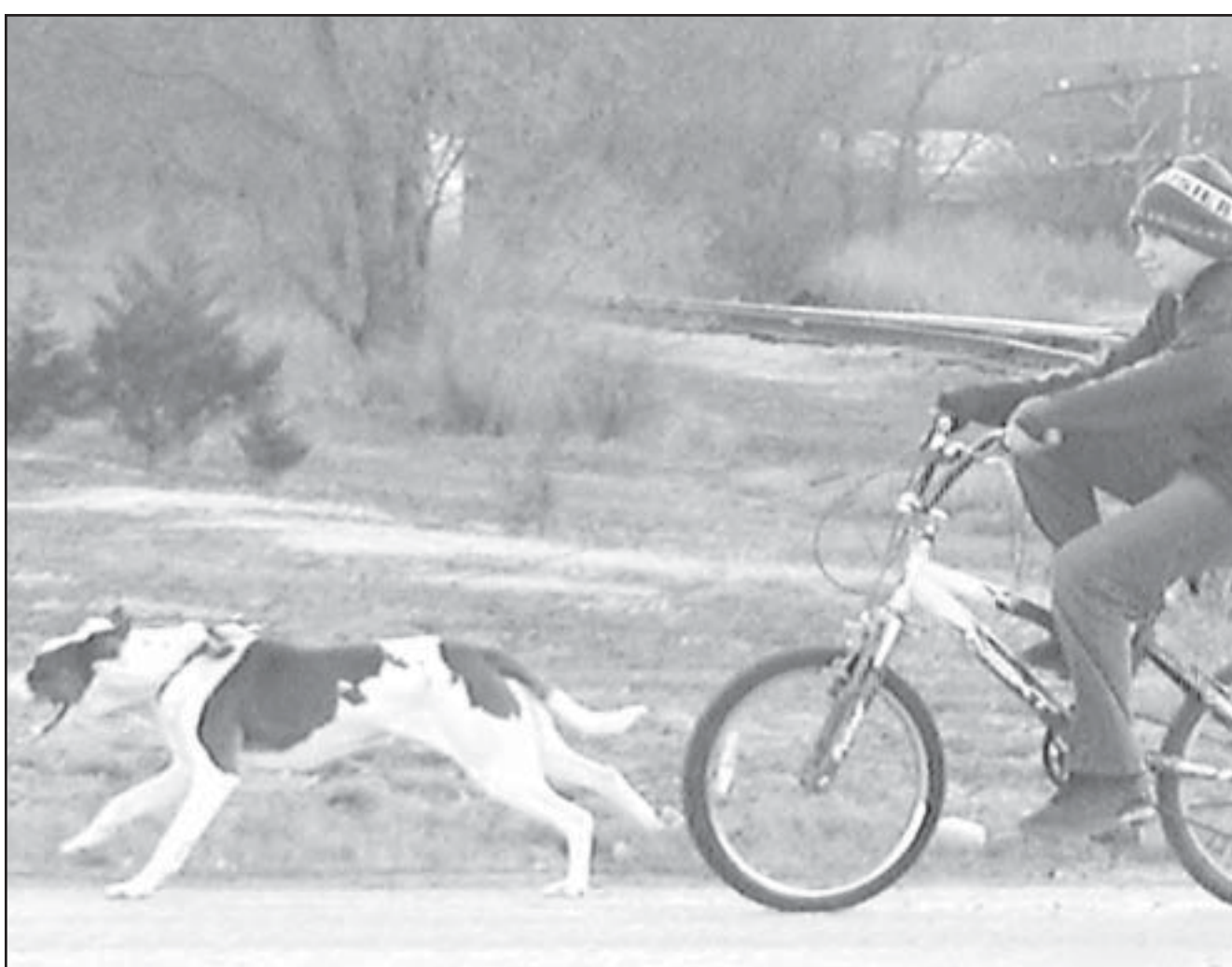
Norton got its water tower drained on Tuesday and found a couple of major waterline leaks. Getting them repaired left some folks a bit dry for awhile.

City Administrator Rob Lawson told the Norton City Council at Wednesday's meeting that the water tower was drained for inspection on Tuesday.

He said the pressure of the water leaving the tower caused two water lines to break.

He said one of the leaks couldn't be fixed without turning part of the city's water off, but, unfortunately, no one was contacted to let them know they would be without water.

(Continued on Page 5)



Elliott Conard and his dog, Charlie, were out for a spin Wednesday afternoon. Although, Charlie, who was pulling both bike and boy, appeared to be doing all the work, his spirits never flagged as he took his master down Graves Street in Norton. Elliott is a freshman at Norton Community High School. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Decrepit houses on hit list

City wants to remove abandoned, unsafe former dwellings

By VERONICA MONIER

Several dilapidated houses in Norton will be torn down if the owners can't show a good reason for them not to be.

Police Chief Lynn Menagh said he and City Administrator Rob Lawson have looked at several places that are falling down and have had complaints made on them. The houses are all in violation of the city's uniform housing code.

He said this is a regular problem. Every year the city tries to get about five houses, that are in disrepair, demolished. This year there are six.

Chief Menagh said notices were sent to the property owners, who were given a chance to respond and make repairs. Only one owner responded and they were not

(Continued on Page 5)

Storm class will teach weather lore

A basic storm spotter training class will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, in the library community room in Norton.

The class, which is sponsored by the National Weather Service and Norton County Emergency Preparedness, will cover severe weather safety at home, school and work, as well as provide an in-depth look at severe storm spotting and reporting procedures.

The class is free and open to all. Anyone interested in becoming a storm spotter or simply learning more about severe weather is invited. The session will last 2 1/2 hours.

The class will also be offered at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, at the Hill City Frontier Stage and at 7 p.m. next Thursday at the Gateway in Oberlin.

Army sergeant serves in Iraq for third time

Sgt. Bradley E. Schwarz, son of Virginia Schwarz, Norton, and Eugene Schwarz, Ft. Collins, Colo., is on his third tour of duty in Iraq. Recently, his assignment had been to guard the polls during the Iraqi election.

Sgt. Schwarz was raised in Lexington, Neb., and graduated from high school there.

He joined the Army Reserves right after the 9/11 terrorist attack. He took basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. During advanced individual training he worked as a mechanic and has also been trained as a sharp shooter.

He has two brothers and a sister in Nebraska and another sister, Kim Ellis, of Norton. His family hopes to have him home by May because he is scheduled for Airborne school in June.

Mail will reach Sgt. Schwarz at: 256 BCTDet IHHC 169th Inf., Camp Liberty, Iraq, APO AE 09326.



Sgt. Schwarz

City condemns decrepit homes

(Continued from Page 1) willing to make the needed repairs.

The chief said the council needed to adopt resolutions that will give the city permission to have the houses torn down if the owners don't show cause as to why they shouldn't be demolished.

Councilman Ron Briery said if the houses are torn down then the property values would probably go up.

He asked if the city would be reimbursed if it has to tear down the buildings.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said that expense is added to the owners' taxes, but she said she didn't think the city had ever really been fully reimbursed for tearing down junk houses.

The council passed the resolutions to condemn 409 S. Street, which has been vacant for two or three years; 510 N. Archer, which has been vacant for 10 to 15 years; 512 N. Archer; 512 1/2 N. Archer; 513 W. Main, which has been vacant for about 20 years; and 515 W. Main, which includes a small shed.

Chief Menagh said there were several other properties that they had looked at, but they try to do only a few each year to keep expenses down.

In other business, the council:

- Presented a plaque of appreciation to former Councilman Jerry

Hawks for his 19 years of service on the council.

Mr. Hawks said he started working for the power plant 12 years before becoming a councilman for the first time in 1984. He said many accomplishments have been made by the council over the years. Now that he is municipal court judge, he wants to keep the lines of communication open with the council.

He thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to serve as the municipal court judge.

- Heard from Mayor David Corns that the city sales tax receipts collected in January were \$17,246.60 and the county sales tax receipts were \$14,047.52 for a total of \$31,294.12. The year's total is \$61,962.80 compared to \$57,317.80 last year.

- Authorized Mr. Lawson to buy four portable outhouses, with one being handicap accessible, to be used in the park and other places throughout the city.

Mr. Lawson said he thinks, that used, the units will cost around \$250 and \$600 for the handicap unit with the money coming from special parks.

Councilman Jerry Jones said he would like to have a price before committing to anything. The vote passed 3-2 with Mr. Jones and Councilwoman Donna Foley voting no.



Snacks and goodies have been collected for American soldiers by the Share Your Faith classes at Norton's St. Francis of Assisi and New Almelo's' St. Joseph Catholic churches.

— Photo by Charlotte Stephenson

Toy, sports card show planned at 4-H building

Hundreds of collectors and hobby fans are expected in Norton Saturday, March 19, for the 17th Annual Toy and Sports Card Show.

Doors at the 4-H Building will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Supported by the Norton Area

Chamber of Commerce, the event is sponsored by the Norton Methodist Men's organization and is one of the longest running hobby shows in the tri-state area.

Dealers display everything from sports cards to automotive, farm, trucking, construction and other toys of all sizes both new and antique. The toy show will have many dealers with toy race cars.

Proceeds from the show are used to pay for mission activities, student scholarships and public benefit contributions.

A food stand will be available featuring homemade pies baked by the women of the church.

Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

Admission is \$1 for adults and free for children under 12 with an adult.

p.m., concert at 7 p.m.; Twin Lakes league forensics meet at Sylvan Grove, 2:30 p.m.; High School dance team practice

Wednesday — School will dismiss at 1 p.m., end of third nine weeks; High School science class field trip to CosmoSphere in Hutchinson, noon-4 p.m.; High School dance team practice

Thursday — No school, spring break; Drill and practice for mathematical fluency at Kansas City, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday — No school, spring break

Saturday — Dance team performs at state basketball at half-time of the 6:15 p.m. game

Sunday — Students leave for New York/Washington D.C. trip (March 13-March 21)

Next Monday — No school, spring break; Kansas severe weather awareness week; Post Prom meeting, 7 p.m., lunchroom, Almena; School board meeting, Almena, conference room, 7:30 p.m.

Almena Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Sausage muffin, diced pears, cereal assortment; Lunch: Soft shell taco, tossed salad with dressing, corn, fruity Jello

Tuesday — Breakfast: Cherry coffee cake, ham slice, apple juice, cereal assortment; Breakfast for lunch menu: Apple or orange juice, pancake on a stick with syrup, hash brown patty, fruit cup

Wednesday — Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, sausage patty, cereal assortment; Submarine sandwich, ranch wedges, carrots, cherry pudding pie

Thursday — No school

Friday — No school

JENNINGS:

Tuesday — GNEC Band Clinic at Damar, 1 p.m., Concert, 7 p.m.

Thursday — Parent-Teacher Conferences, 5-8 p.m.; Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Friday — No school, parent-teacher conferences, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday — Sub-state basketball games; Junior High math counts competition in Salina

Breakfast/Lunch Menus:

Daily breakfast menu: Toast, cereal, milk, juice

Monday — Crispos, broccoli/cheese, salad bar, peaches, cookies

Tuesday — Sausage patties, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn, salad bar, rolls, pears

Wednesday — Hot dogs, chili/cheese, salad bar, pineapple, cookies

Thursday — Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, peas, salad bar, rolls, fruit cocktail

Friday — Pizza, breadsticks, corn, salad bar, applesauce

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON

Senior High:

Monday — Mid-Continent League Forensics at Hill City, 7:30 a.m.; Jay Singers, a.p.; Eleventh-grade social studies assessments; Kay Board, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; Eleventh-grade social studies assessments; FFA meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Eleventh-grade social studies assessments; Reading activity, a.p.; State girls basketball tourney at Hutchinson

Thursday — Eleventh grade social studies assessments; FFA, a.p.; FCCLA, a.p.; State; State boys basketball tourney at Hutchinson

Friday — Jazz, a.p.; Eleventh-grade social studies assessments; State basketball tourney at Hutchinson

Saturday — State basketball tourney at Hutchinson

Next Monday — Cheer practice, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, a.p.; Cheer parent meeting, high school gym, 6 a.m.

JUNIOR HIGH:

Monday — Student Council, a.p.; Seventh-grade math assessments

Tuesday — Kay Board, a.p.; Seventh-grade math assessments; Vocal/band concert, junior high gym, 7 p.m.

Wednesday — Faculty meeting, 7:45 a.m.; Seventh-grade math assessments

Thursday — Seventh-grade math assessments

Friday — Seventh-grade math assessments

Monday — Pep Club, a.p.; Eighth-grade social studies assessments

EISENHOWER:

Monday — Fourth-grade math assessments; Fifth-grade reading assessments; Sixth-grade social studies assessments; Kindergarten roundup, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — Fourth-grade math assessments; Fifth-grade reading assessments; Sixth-grade social studies assessments

Wednesday — Fourth-grade math assessments; Fifth-grade reading assessments; Sixth-grade social studies assessments; Faculty meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Thursday — IEP Day; Fourth-grade math assessments; Fifth-grade reading assessments; Sixth-grade social studies assessments; Grade 3 and 4 meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Friday — Fourth-grade math assessments; Fifth-grade reading assessments; Sixth-grade social studies assessments

Next Monday — School resumes, section A kindergarten reports; Site council, 7 p.m.

ALL SCHOOLS:

Tuesday — Administrators meeting, Alice Tweed Office, 9:30 a.m.

Friday — End of third nine weeks

Next Monday — Board of Education, Alice Tweed Office, 7:30 p.m.

March 14-18 — Spring break, no school

Eisenhower Menus

Monday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, rosy applesauce, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe on homemade bun, corn, tater tots, bananas, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Cereal, grape juice milk; Lunch: Pizza roll-ups, tossed salad, peaches, cookie, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Scrambled eggs/ham, pears, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Blueberry muffin, peaches, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Golden waffles, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, peas, mandarin oranges, milk, salad.

High School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Biscuit/sausage gravy, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, peas, coleslaw, rosy applesauce or chef salad, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Breakfast casserole, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Grilled chicken patty, lettuce and tomato, corn, brownie or chef salad, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Yogurt and bagel with cream cheese, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti with shredded cheese, garden salad, French bread with garlic, pears or chef salad, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Pizza, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Burrito, Spanish rice, peaches or chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Bean tostado, corn, pineapple chunks or chef salad, milk

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — Grades 3-6, Informal World's Largest Vocal Music Concert at 7 p.m. in high school auditorium, Almena; Government class trip to Topeka; Track rules meeting at Hays, 7:30 p.m.; High School Dance Team practice; Post Prom meeting, 7 p.m., lunchroom, Almena

Tuesday — Government class trip to Topeka; Bus driver meeting in Long Island at 8:45 a.m.; Greater Northern Elementary Conference band clinic and league meeting at Damar, practice at 1

Some out of water for up to an hour

(Continued from Page 1)

The crew thought it would take about 15 minutes to fix the problem, he said, but 15 minutes ended up being about an hour.

Mr. Lawson said he had 27 phone calls on the problem.

He said he is planning a meeting with the department supervisors, where a list of people who need to be called if something like this happens again will be put together.

As for the water tower, he said it is in good shape.

It will be about five years before the inside will need to be sand-blasted and repainted.

The outside, he said, looks worse than it is. What looks like rust is actually stains from minerals in the water.

He said the outside of the tower will probably need to be redone in one to two years, but painting and possible repairs will have to be budgeted for because it is expensive.

The last time the outside of the water tower was painted was in 1989. The inside was redone about 10 years ago.

In other business, the council:

- Donated \$150 to the Post Prom committee.

Because the amount was budgeted, the council decided to donate it although Councilman Jerry Jones said he felt the city should only give \$100.

The vote passed 3-1 with Mr. Jones voting no. Councilwoman Donna Foley abstained because she is on the Post Prom committee.

- Authorized Mr. Lawson to get bids for several improvements to be made at the intersection of State and Main streets as part of the city's curb and gutter project.

Mr. Lawson said that improvements are also needed to be made to a tree well and flower beds.

Also, some flat work needs to be done and water taps put in.

Mr. Jones said if they were going to do anything, they might as well take care of it all.

He said part of the reason for passing the sales tax increase was to repair the city's curbs and gutters, but nothing had been done yet.

- Had staff contact Corey Urban about skunk trapping. The council set a \$1,000 limit for the season.

- Waived the formal first reading of Ordinance No. 1543, amending Chapter 9, Article 1 of the Norton City Code relating to municipal court costs. The ordinance will increase the court costs from \$56 to \$60.

- Accepted a bid from Norton Glass Co. for \$4,742 to replace two sets of doors for the east and west sides of the Norton Recreation Center.

Other bids were Colby Glass, \$4,235; State Glass of Hays, \$5,525; and Lexington Glass, \$6,108.54. Although the bid from Colby Glass was lower, the council decided the difference wasn't enough to go out of town to have the work done.

- Bought a \$4,255 Stanley Power Pack unit from Steffen Midwest of Kansas City, Mo., for the street department.

Bids were not taken because this is the single source for this unit. It has a one-year warranty and will replace the old power pack unit, which was bought in 1987.

- Authorized Mayer Specialty Services of Goddard to clean and vacuum 22,000 feet of sewer lines and televise 2,200 feet of cleaned sewer lines for \$12,980.

This will clean one-fifth of the city's sewer lines.

Plans are for the rest of the lines to be cleaned over the next several years.



Nobody covers the Blue Jays like we do!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Meet the 2004 President's Award Recipient

For Charles Krull, going the extra mile is standard operating procedure. He exemplifies our working philosophy at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas that no amount of effort is too much.

In an elite class of group consultants statewide, Charles was the top producer in 2004.

We are pleased to announce that Charles has earned this year's President's Award for distinguished sales achievement. His dedication and initiative are an inspiration to us all. Our company as well as our insureds are the beneficiaries of his winning attitude.



Charles Krull
2004 Recipient, President's Award



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