

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday
March 8, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Dee Wolfe

Briefly

Boosters to meet on Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson will update fans on the Blue Jays' Class 3-2-1A state championship.

Norton girls coach Kevin Jilka and boys coach Doug Reusink will report on the Blue Jays' season-ending play in the sub-state tournament.

Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton sports are invited.

Spotter training set for March 14

A basic storm spotter training class will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Prairie Land Electric meeting 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.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest after midnight. **Thursday** — Breezy and partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph increasing to north 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 30 mph increasing to 40 mph in the late morning.

Howell report:

Friday High 70, Low 32
Saturday High 69, Low 39
Sunday High 70, Low 39
Monday High 50, Low 31
Week ago High 55, Low 27
Month ago High 30, Low 14
Year ago High 57, Low 37
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

Lord, thank you that you are completely trustworthy. Help us to trust you with everything about our life. Amen

Security money less than before

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County won't be getting as much money from Homeland Security as it did last year.

Norton Sheriff Troy Thomson, who is also the county emergency preparedness officer, told county commissioners on Monday that he expects to get \$66,000 for things the county uses for security. Last year the county got \$104,000.

Sheriff Thomson said it looks like all the counties west of Salina have had their money cut.

"It looks like they gave more to the big cities," Commissioner Leroy Lang said, noting that Johnson (Kansas City) and Sedgwick (Wichita) counties seem to have done well.

Sheriff Thomas said that his department is starting to suffer this month as officers try to get in their 40 hours of required continuing education before the state's June 30th deadline.

Since the department is short handed and has officers taking training, the sheriff said he expects to have to pay more

overtime.

Although he has received several applications for a new deputy and for an opening in the dispatch department, the sheriff said he has had fewer than he would like.

He said he thinks that is because the county's starting pay is lower than other places with similar jobs.

"How do we compare with other jurisdictions?" Commission Chairman Dean Kruse asked.

Sheriff Thomson said that he was talk-

ing to an officer from Gove or Logan county and they start new deputies at more than \$1/hr more than Norton County does but they aren't getting any applications either.

The sheriff said the county needs to pull people in who want to come home or are disgruntled in another area. He said that the county probably won't get anyone from the Norton Correctional Facility since the state has a higher pay scale and no on call.

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Officials talk about education

By VERONICA MONIER

Both the Kansas House of Representatives and the Senate have come up with plans to fix the school finance problem, but it is yet to be determined if either plan will be enough to satisfy the state's Supreme Court.

Both State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and House Representative John Faber touched on this issue when they were in Norton Saturday afternoon as part of a legislative town hall meeting sponsored by the Norton County Farm Bureau.

Sen. Ostmeyer said he's spending the majority of his time on education and that the Senate ended up with a little better plan than the Houses.

He said the Senate's plan can pay for one-year. It started out as a three year plan, but money is only available for the first year.

"There is no way we can fund this in the second and third years without a tax increase," he said. "The House plan can probably work without a tax increase."

Rep. Faber said the House plan is a little less expensive, putting a formula in place for the next few years. He said they were looking at a \$90 million increase.

"I'm not sure we can make that amount," he said. "But, if the plan passes, we'll have to."

He said there were some things about the House plan that he didn't like, including increasing the local option budget to 30 percent. He said Johnson County won't pass the plan without the increase.

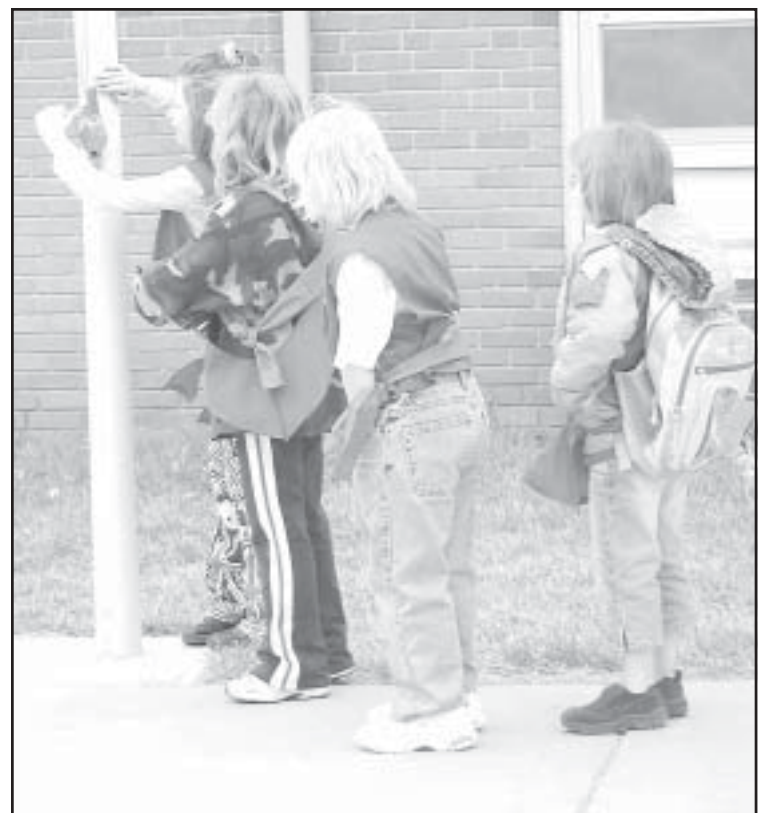
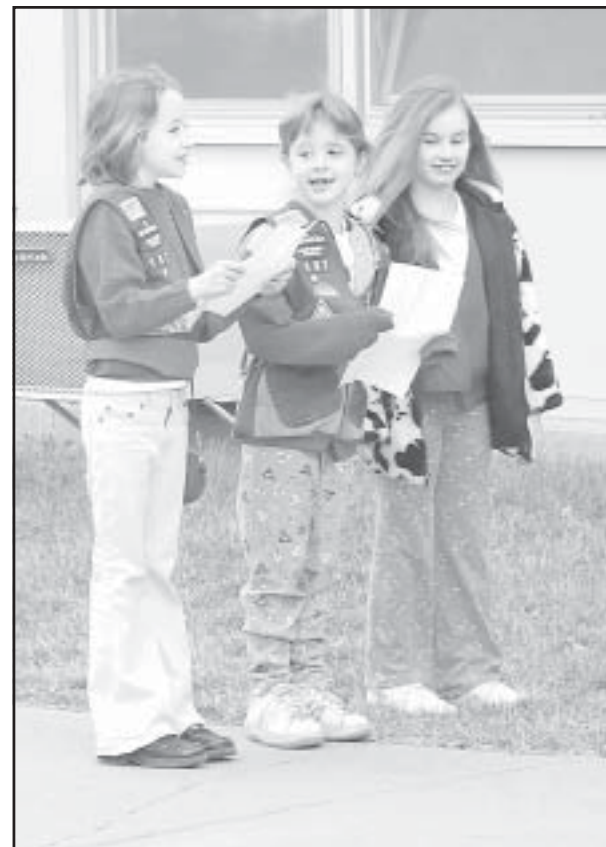
"I don't think Johnson County knows

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The members of Norton Brownie Troop 197, including Leader Lois Rostek, Raenee Patterson, Shelby Mulford, Adriana Ankeman, Morgan Griffey, Zoe White, Carmen Ball, Hailey Branek, Valery Rostek, Lexi Voss, Brooke Sumner and Kortney Cunningham, each did their part (above) to raise the American flag Monday morning as a way to kick off Girl Scout Week. Raenee Patterson and Shelby Mulford (bottom left) were in charge of reading instructions to the honor and color guard, while Adriana Ankeman watched. Kortney Cunningham (bottom right) tried to get the rope undone with the help of Brooke Sumner, Lexi Voss and Zoe White, the other members of the color guard.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



Easter Bunny will be in Norton soon

The Easter Bunny and his helpers will be on hand for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 26, on the lawn of the Norton County Courthouse.

In addition to hunting eggs, children can get their photograph taken with the Easter Bunny. Each photo will be \$3 with proceeds going to support the annual hunt. The photos with the Easter Bunny will be available throughout the event, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be sponsored again this year by the Norton American Association of University Women Child

Study Club, whose members will be assisting.

So parents with more than one child can enjoy seeing all their children participate, the starting times for the four age groups will be staggered at five minute intervals. Children will be divided into 0-3 year olds, beginning at 2 p.m.; preschool 4-5 year olds, 2:05 p.m.; kindergarten and first graders, 2:10 p.m.; and second and third graders, 2:15 p.m.

Each group will hunt in separate areas so arrive early to find the signs for the age group. Areas will be roped off and par-

ents' are asked to respect the barriers.

A scavenger hunt planned for fourth, fifth and sixth graders will begin at 1:30 p.m. Teams will have one hour to locate items on the list. To enter the contest, a team must have no more than four members and meet on the east side of the courthouse steps.

In case of bad weather, any changes will be announced on KQNK Radio.

Norton Shop and Save, Jamboree Foods, Dairy Queen, Adventures in Eating and Pizza Hut have donated prizes for

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Specialist Garry Lowry

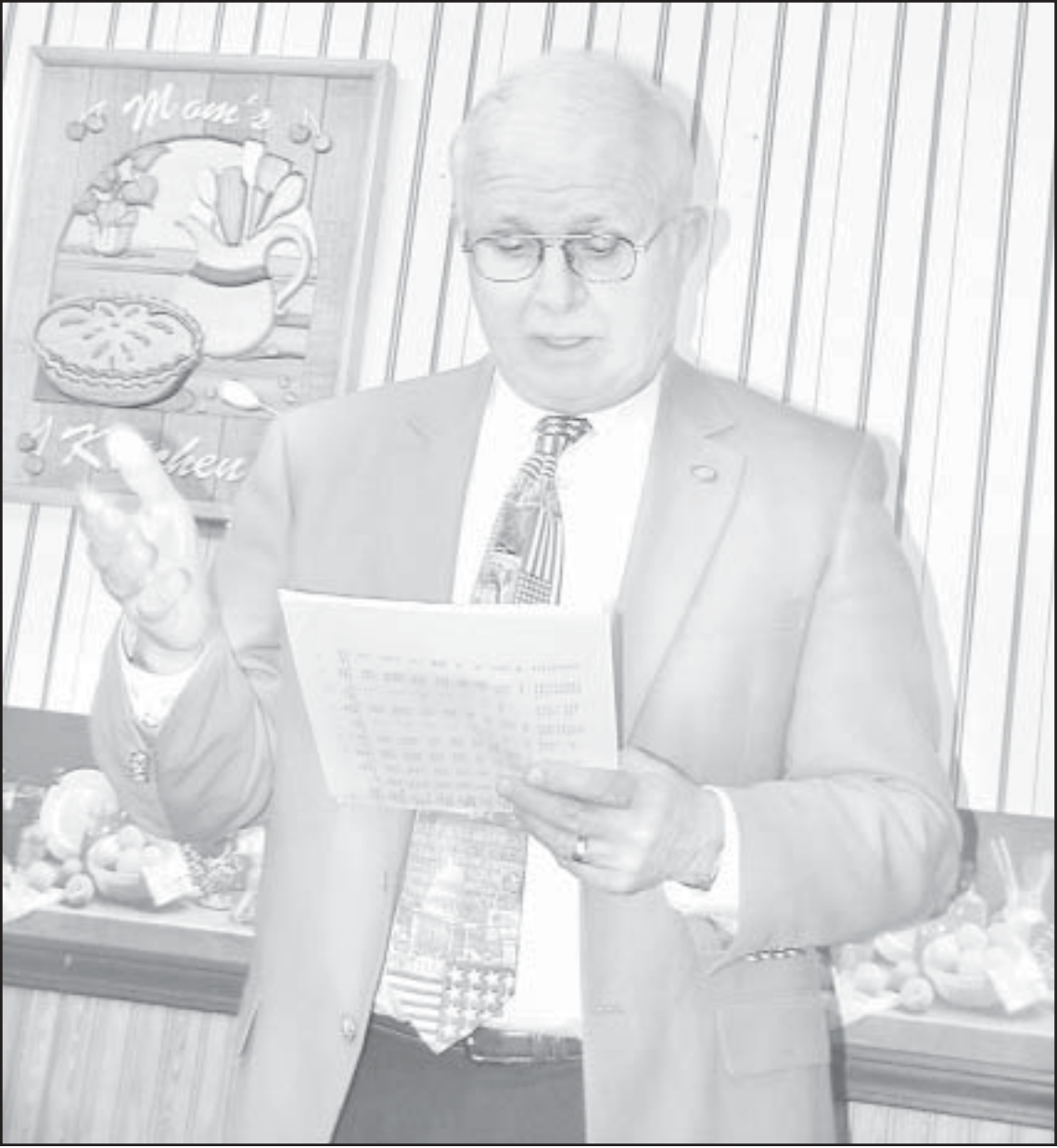
Almena graduate serves in Iraq

Specialist Garry A. Lowry, the son of Bill and Susan Lowry, Almena, is serving in Iraq with the 891st Battalion.

He graduated from Northern Valley High School with the class of 2000.

During his high school career he was a top athlete receiving several

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State Senator Ralph Ostmeier (above) and State House of Representative John Faber (below) were both in Norton Saturday as part of a "town hall meeting", sponsored. Both Sen. Ostmeier and Rep. Faber talked about school finance.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Senator, Representative talk about school finance plans

(Continued from Page 1) what a threat the LOB (local option budget) is," he said.

"I think the people in western Kansas will just have to vote for it to get some money out here."

Sen. Ostmeier said both the Senate and the House have formed a commission to look at the education funding formula and the inequity from the larger school districts to the rural districts.

"Our kids do just as well academically with a handful of options," he said. "Back there (in eastern Kansas), there are more options. Here you may have four math classes, while there, they'll have 24 math classes. We have to be able to control it."

Norton Schools Superintendent Greg Mann said he hoped that people understood that the money coming into the district is based on this year's enrollment, not next year's.

"Even with the increases from the House and Senate, it isn't as much as we're losing from the loss of enrollment," he said.

Mr. Mann said he didn't think either bill would pass muster with the state Supreme Court and that the disparity is just going to keep getting larger from east to west.

Sen. Ostmeier said he wasn't saying that this wasn't a big deal. But, he said, he thinks something will come out of this.

"I think both plans are addressing the base state aid," he said. "It's going to be in the middle somewhere. The formula has to be fixed, so small school's aren't punished."

Sen. Ostmeier also talked about:

- The possibility of both the House and the Senate repealing destination sales. Once it's repealed, the state will wait and see what the federal government is going to do. He said they tried to repeal it last year, but nothing

came of it.

"It's hurting some mom and pop companies," he said.

- That the marriage amendment will be on the ballot in the April election.

- Looking at getting strobe lights on top of older buses. He said newer buses already have the lights and it will possibly cost around \$80 to \$85 to put them on the old buses.

- Making it harder for methamphetamine producers to make meth by putting a main ingredient, Pseudoephedrine, behind the counter. He said the bill was based on one implemented in Oklahoma, where it has been working well.

"I think this is a good start," he said.

- The committees he is on. Sen. Ostmeier said he is vice-chairman

of the Natural Resources Committee and is serving on the Agriculture, Education, Federal and State Affairs, and Administrative Rules and Regulations committees.

Rep. Faber talked about:

- A bill, which failed, that would have dealt with the inspection of dog breeding facilities by increasing the inspection fees 50 percent.

- Trying to get a resolution together that deals with closing the country's borders to Canadian cattle to prevent the spread of disease.

- The committees he is on. Rep. Faber is serving as the vice-chairman on the Transportation Committee and is also serving on the Education, Insurance, Information Technology and Special Claims Against the State committees.



Lady Trojans end season at sub-state

The Logan Lady Trojans ended their season last Thursday when they were defeated 55-32 by Brewster in the semi-final round of the 1A Sub-State Basketball Tournament.

"We faced a tough, aggressive Brewster team on Thursday," said Coach Linda Nighswonger. "We played well at the beginning of the game, but we stopped being patient passers against their press."

"As a result of that frustration, we were not very confident when we shot the ball. We could not get our shots to fall early in the third quarter and the game really got away from us."

Michaela Berg led scoring with

8 points, followed by Candace Thompson, 7; Lanea Webb, 5; Megan Brumbaugh, 5; Kati Chestnut, 3; Melanie Berg, 2; and Shelley Kemper, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Michaela Berg with 6, followed by Chestnut and Webb, 4 apiece; Jenny Noel, 3; Vanessa Van Diest, Brumbaugh and Thompson, 2 each; and Melanie Berg, 1.

Brumbaugh led assists with 4, while Michaela Berg and Thompson both made 1.

Making steals were Melanie Berg with 2, and Brumbaugh, Noel and Thompson with 1 apiece.

Michaela Berg made the team's only two blocks.

Brewster 55, Logan 32
Score by quarters:

Logan	6	12	6	8	32
Brewster	13	17	20	5	55

Logan
Michaela Berg 3 0 2-2 8, Thompson 3 0 2-1 7, Brumbaugh 1 1 0-0 5, Webb 2 0 2-1 5, Chestnut 1 0 2-1 3, Melanie Berg 0 0 2-2 2, Kemper 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 11 1 10-7 32.

Brewster
Andrea Horney 7 0 2-1 15, Jalyn Reid 4 1 2-2 13, Megan Allen 4 0 0-0 8, Caitlan Rush 3 0 2-2 8, Avery Schultz 3 0 2-1 7, Sarah Flanders 1 0 0-0 2, Amy Carpenter 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 23 1 8-6 55.

Sheriff's department trying to fill open dispatch, deputy positions

(Continued from Page 1)

Commissioner John Miller suggested that Sheriff Thomson run figures on what it would cost to raise the pay for officers and dispatch personnel.

Mr. Miller said the sheriff would also need to talk to the City of Norton because it would affect them, also.

Sheriff Thomson said that there isn't much wiggle room in the 2005 budget for raises but he could do an adjusted budget for the commissioners to study.

"What you're wanting is an adjusted budget as to what it would cost to increase those wages," the sheriff clarified.

The one big advantage the county has is its health insurance benefit, the sheriff said. But, he said, he has to tell prospective employees that he isn't sure what the county will have next year.

"We can't let the law depend on what kind of insurance we have or what we'll have next year," Commissioner Kruse said. "We need to offer them a decent job."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard about a computer program to bill for solid waste at the landfill from Kathy Hardy, who works in the road and bridge department and helps with secretarial work for solid waste. The program from Star Programming out of Danville would cost \$3,250. However, the county would also have to replace the computer and printer at the landfill, since the system is more than five years old.

- Visited with Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area Coordinator Darla Juhl, who handed out information on the program, which helps counties get grants for community development, water conservation and land conservation and management in Norton, Graham, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks and Smith counties.

- Talked with Dan Sturgill, a licensed psychologist at High Plains Mental Health and board member Rich Miller, and met Community

Case Managers Peggy Marine and Amanda Davis.

Mr. Sturgill said it is too soon to see if the closing of the Social and Rehabilitative Services office in Norton will increase the workload for his office but he expects to see some.

"People who are less likely to access services because of the distance issue," he said. "It's still pretty early to see."

- Were told by Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan that his crews are taking out a bridge in Alma. The bridge, which was in disrepair, will be replaced with a tube.

Mr. Brannan said that his crews have been busy removing trees, which have been shading some roads and keeping them from drying out.

"I could keep the excavator busy for a month just doing trees around the county," he said.

- Learned that the Road and Bridge Department is starting work on a new five-year program for bridge replacement.

Disaster assistance deadline draws near

The deadline for the Farm Service Agency to accept applications for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for this year's crops is Tuesday, March 15.

The deadline applies to sorghum cane, vegetable and melon crops, amaranth, chestnuts, cotton, pecans, pumpkins, safflower, sesame, squash and walnuts.

Crops eligible for the program's benefits are those not insurable and are produced for food or fiber. Sorghum cane for forage and graze, floricultural, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops, seed crops, and aquaculture, including ornamental fish, are all eligible crops.

Farmers and ranchers who want to participate in the disaster program must visit their local Farm Service Agency office to complete an application and pay the fee. Fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of the program and start at \$100 per crop per county and should not exceed \$300 per producer per county with a \$900 maximum for multicounty farmers and ranchers.

The program's coverage entitles eligible farmers and ranchers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity in a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater.

Those who participate are lim-

ited to \$100,000 in benefits per person per crop year, must not exceed the \$2 million gross revenue provisions, and must comply with conservation compliance provisions in order to be determined eligible.

For information on the disaster assistance program in Norton County, contact the county's Farm Service Agency office at 877-5156 or stop by the office at 11640 Pineview Dr. in Norton.

Northern Valley graduate serves country in Iraq

(Continued from Page 1)

awards in football including being named to All State in Class 1A by *Kansas Sports Magazine*; the leading tackler in 8-man football in 1999 and second in 2000; and named to All Area in 2000 by the *Hays Daily News*.

He attended and played football for Sterling College for a year.

He was going to school at Fort Hays State University, with only one semester left, when his unit was called up. He was the assistant football coach for Victoria High School and was going to be the head junior high football coach until he was called for active duty.

At Fort Hays he was awarded "Major of the Year" in the human performance department.

He has refereed many junior high and high school basketball games over the last few years.

He has three sisters Amanda, Andrea and Olivia.

His Address is: SPC LOWRY, GARRY A., HSC, 891ST ENGR.CBT BN HVY APO, AE 09331.

Easter Bunny brings hunt, eggs

(Continued from Page 1)

the scavenger hunt.

The child study club is for mothers with children 12 and under. The club is involved in community activities and supports children's events. Anyone who would like to help the club with cost of candy and eggs may do so by making their donation to Treasurer Kim Harrington, 408 N. Graves, Norton, Kansas 67654.

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