

Election controversy boils over

(Continued from Page 3) tions.

"You listened and responded to (the Gassmanns) letter without a single call or any type of notification to myself."

"I believe, and so do the Norton County commissioners, that some type of corrective action is needed from (your) office to make this right. The election staff and poll workers throughout Norton County did a great job, and to be slapped in the face with two insulting letters like this is unnecessary. I have lost my trust in the secretary of state's office and feel that your action is very degrading to the election officials of Norton County."

Mr. Bryant called Mr. Wyatt that day, and Mr. Thornburgh wrote back that his office's intent was not to criticize or undermine a county election officer.

Mr. Thornburgh wrote that Norton County's election procedures seemed to be exactly in accordance with state law. The letter answering Mrs. Gassmann, he said, was for Mr. Wyatt's information only so that he could check and revise his procedures if needed. It was not meant as an attack on the Norton County election process.

The secretary of state's office sent a follow-up letter to Mr. and Mrs. Gassmann telling them that no irregularities had been found.

However, Mr. Thornburgh said on Wednesday, he still felt that he needed to visit Norton and tell people here that he thought they were doing a good job.

He said that poll workers put in 12 to 15 hours for less than minimum wage, and they do an excellent job.

"I think Robert Wyatt is a great county election officer," he said. "His ability to run an election is second to none in the state."

One problem in the August election, he said, was a change in the law allowing political parties to say who could vote in their primaries.

The Republicans decided that Republicans and those who are not affiliated but declare themselves to be Republicans at the polling place could vote.

The Democrats said that Democrats and anyone not affiliated with another political party could vote in their primary.

This caused some confusion,

Mr. Thornburgh said, but in all cases the voters had to be registered two weeks before the election. It was not possible to register at the polling place. This is an anti-fraud measure, he said.

Mrs. Gassmann, reached later at her home, said that she and her husband had read about the secretary of state coming to town but did not know why he was coming. They would have attended the meeting if they had known, she said.

She said that she and her husband were not satisfied with the information they had received.

PITCH TOURNAMENT

By JAKE DURHAM

As the faithful signed in for the March Pitch Tournament, they were declaring winter to be at an end and that the ground hog had missed his forecast of six more weeks of winter.

As had been expected, the Blue Jay wrestlers had created February Madness with their back-to-back state championships and now March Madness was in the air.

The clock was approaching 7 but there was one team short when a pair of traveling clowns from Barnum and Bailey Circus claiming to be on vacation entered through the south door. They were immediately given the last even number and the Brown Eyed Girl shouted to "begin to commence", and 44 launched into battle.

The pushers were bidding to the limit seeking the trump advantage but it was a struggle all the way as everyone seemed willing to go up one more and as the scores were posted, the highs and lows were in the majority as the Windmill Jockey and the Ground Crew took the initial honors and the lead.

The Muddy River Boys took the honors on round two, but it was the Windmill Jockey and the Ground Crew who were still on top.

Fig and the Mail Man had gotten lost on the route but made it back on round three with the honors as the gong rang for the first break. As the scores were posted, the Windmill Jockey and the Ground Crew were still in the lead.

The Chairman of the Board and the Vice President were in second, the Bomber Pilot and Navigator were in third, Fig and the Mail Man were in fourth and rounding out the top five were the Honeymooners.

As round four got underway you could sense confidence as the bidding got underway.

The Chef and the Waiter took the

honors on round four as the Chairman of the Board and the Vice President moved into the number one spot. The halfway mark was approaching with round five and as those low on the board were aware that it was either move up or move out.

The Blue Dogs and the Hound Dawgs were facing off at table number six and the howling reached a high pitch but the Windmill Jockey and Ground Crew took the honors on five and regained the lead.

Team Double Z had taken the honors but the Windmill Jockey and Crew remained on top. Figero and the Mailman were tied for second with The Pilot and Navigator were third and The Chef and the Waiter were in fourth.

Pencils and paper and pocket calculators were the items of interest during the break as teams were figuring formulas for success over the next four hands.

The seventh and eighth rounds were coming up and now the bidding seemed more deliberate and teams were using every ploy to gain an advantage.

As round seven came to a close, the Redneck and the Black Hat Kid were shaking their heads but the Chef and the Head Waiter were dancing up to the scorers table with their double.

But, the board still showed the Windmill Jockey and the Ground Crew were still in the top spot. The Oil Baron and the Secretary captured the honors on round eight but it was too little, too late.

The Chairman of the Board and the Vice President captured the honors and moved into the lead with a two-point margin. The Windmill Jockey and Crew were in second, two points ahead of the Chef and the Head Waiter, who were two points ahead of the La-

lies from Lyle, who were two points ahead of the Edmond connection.

The tenth and final round got underway with the possibility of several teams taking the prize. The usual sounds of elation above the moans of despair filled the room as round ten was played out and as the scores were posted.

Top ten teams in order were: 1. Weldon Brooks and Elden Vincent; 2. Doug Gallentine and Jake Durham; 3. Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier; 3. Todd and Doyle Brooks; 5; Junita Eckhart and Kathryn Van Meter; 6. Ed and Cynthia Glennemeier; 7. Myron Meh and Dick Hemphill; 7. Duane McEwen and Jack Barnard; 9. Coy Christy and John Hildebrand; 10. Kay Harman and Julia Roeder; 10. Kay Mechser and Dave Sheley; 10. Joyce Sumner and Eleanor Jensen. Winning score by Brooks and Vincent was 120 points for an average of 12 points per round.

High round winners were Doug Gallentine and Jake Durham; Coy Christy and John Hildebrand; Fig Millan and Dan Hazlett; Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier; Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; Dee and Thelma Bushnell; Elden Vincent and Weldon Brooks; Todd and Doyle Brooks. Highest single round score was 20 points by Coy Christy and John Hildebrand and Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier. Double high round winners were Doug Gallentine and Jake Durham and Darren McMullen and Bill Glennemeier.

Teams not previously mentioned were: Larry Harman and Tony Hildebrand; R.D. Thronton and Donna Millan; Margaret Magers and June Jolly; Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; Staci Breiner and Austin Brooks; Jason Breiner and Rusty Goss; Justin and Karen Carter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

March Norton County Bills

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, April 8, 2005. (1T)

Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at the Norton County Courthouse March 31, 2005 to allow the following bills: K.S.A. 19-228. An itemized copy of this report is available for public inspection in the County Clerk's Office.

Table listing bills with categories like \*Juvenile Services Accounts, County General, Road & Bridge, etc.

Table listing bills with categories like Hutchinson Community, Hyatt Regency Wichita, Infinitic, etc.

Table listing bills with categories like Prairie Land Electric, Pre-Paid Legal Serv Inc, Pro Printers, etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

County Election Canvass Date

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, April 8, 2005. (1T)

NOTICE OF COUNTY CANVASS DATE

In compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-3104, notice is hereby given that the official canvass of the General election returns for Norton County will be Monday, April 11th, 2005. The canvass will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room.

In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this 4th day of April, 2005. Robert D. Wyatt Norton Co. Election Officer

Advertisement for 'You're Invited to the...' Last Marketing Meeting You Will Ever Have To Attend! Monday, April 11, 2005 - 7 P.M. PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS. Tuesday, April 12, 2005 - 7 P.M. NORTON, KANSAS. FREE ADMISSION. 866-433-4371

LODGE NOTICES

A.F. & A.M. Norton Lodge 199 Reg. 7:00 p.m. Second Wed., 7:00 p.m. Specials on Fourth Wed. Gerald Speer, W.M. LeRoy Brown, Sec.

American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63 Second and Fourth Monday Jake Durham, Commander

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288 Second and Fourth Wednesday, 8 p.m. John Mann, President Bill Nelson, Secretary

Sons of the American Legion Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m. Alan Hale, Commander Aaron Hale, Adjutant

Veterans of Foreign Wars Reg. 7:00 p.m. First Mon. of each month Jerry Bruinekool, Commander Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

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