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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Tuesday

December 13, 2005

Keeping Christ in Christmas



Christ's birth was depicted in living color Saturday night as the United Methodist Church put on their annual Living Nativity. Among those who could be seen in the manger were Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, angels, shepherds and wise men. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Norton, Kansas
Home of Beverly Burns

Briefly

Booster club

meets Wednesday

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

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will speak on their teams' early season results and tell about upcoming competition.

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

Authors to speak
at grade school

Children's books authors Dave and Pat Sargent, Grove, Ark., will be appearing at 1 p.m. Thursday at Eisenhower Elementary. Parents are invited to come hear how Mr. and Mrs. Sargent encourage and entertain children with their stories.

Health group
can help people

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group will come to Norton County if you need help with environmental health.

Services provided include free water well evaluations and testing for nitrates and bacteria, consultation regarding private sewer system layout, sizing and general preventive maintenance, sanitary code requirements and assistance with other environmental concerns.

To make an appointment to have a representative come to your home, call the group's Colby office at (785) 462-8636 or the Norton County Health Department at 877-5745.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Wednesday** — Mostly cloudy in the morning, then becoming partly cloudy. Colder and windy with highs in the mid 30s. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows around 17.

Howell report:

Friday High 35, Low 19
Saturday High 43, Low 29
Sunday High 46, Low 31
Monday High 50, Low 33
Month ago High 56, Low 40
Year ago High 49, Low 35
December precipitation ... 1 1/2" of snow
Year-to-date precipitation ... 22.20 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm
10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

O Lord, help us to see all that others do quietly to make our lives better, and help us to express appreciation for their gifts to us. Amen

Church volunteers portray life of Lord

Despite the chilly weather, the Norton Methodist Church put on its annual Living Nativity Saturday night.

Volunteers from the church dressed in biblical costumes and gathered around a manger to portray the birth of Jesus. As people drove by they were able to view angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus and a few well behaved animals.

Putting on this year's production were:
• Living Nativity committee — Richard and Ruth Burd, Dale Carlson, Jill Lively, Chuck Look, Kyle Look, Michelle Marsh and Randa Vollertsen;

• Music — Larry Henderson;
• Animal providers — Rick Jarvis, Gene Wiltfong and Terry Hager;
• Reception committee — Norma Howorth, Joan Knoll, Beverly Kindler, Doris Winteroth and Lila Fisher; and
• Costume coordinators — Dale Carlson, Randa Vollertsen, Michelle Marsh, Lynn Nelson, Julie Baughman, Dorothy Stuvick, Carolyn Higgason and Katie Robertson.

Donations were accepted. After driving through the scene, people were offered hot chocolate and cookies inside the church.

Local churches gear up for busy Christmas season

Area churches have a busy Christmas season planned.

The First Church of God will have a soup supper and caroling party at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Sunday will be a busy day with children's programs and cantatas.

Norton Christian Church is planning a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. with a children's program at 7 p.m.

First Church of God will have a Christmas Cantata at 10:45 a.m. and a children's program at 7 p.m.

Long Island United Methodist

Church's children's program is scheduled that day at 7 p.m.

Living Hope Fellowship is planning a special Christmas program at 7 p.m. with music and readings.

A Christmas cantata with the bell choir and children's Sunday School classes will be performed at 9:15 a.m. at the Logan United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 21, Logan United Methodist Church will also be involved in the Community Christmas Cantata at 7:30 p.m. and the bell choir will perform.

It's snow fun



Sixth graders at Eisenhower Elementary headed out to play in the snow last Friday during recess. Recent cold weather had kept the youngsters indoors. — Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson

Lions hope to fill baskets with cheer

The Norton Lions Club hopes to equal last year's distribution of 122 Christmas food baskets this holiday season.

Christmas Basket Chairman Tom Baumann said club members will meet at 8 a.m. Saturday, at the Valley Hope Information Services Building, directly north of Catholic Parish Center to assemble the baskets. He expects them to be done by noon, in time for members to distribute them in the afternoon.

"If you know someone who needs a food basket, send their name in care of Valley Hope Association, Box 510, Norton, Kan. 67654 and we will put their name on our list," Mr. Baumann said.

He also said that if anyone had a contribution of toys, groceries or money, that needs to be picked up you can call him at 877-5111. Collection sites are available at both grocery stores, United Northwest Federal Credit Union and The Norton Telegram.

Canisters for cash donations have been placed at several Norton businesses.

Stuck truck keeps county crew busy clearing roadway

By VERONICA MONIER

A stuck mid-section for a wind generator blocked two major county roads last Tuesday.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said the state was not allowing superloads to go over the new bridges west of Norton on U.S. 36 for two years and so they were being routed through the county.

Normally, he said, the contractors give the state their intended route and are supposed to also contact the county to see if

the roads are up to par to allow a load that big to get through.

In this case, no one contacted the county and the superload got stuck on ice six miles west and six miles north of Norton.

The load, he said, was more than likely 130-plus feet long and probably could have negotiated the turn in dry conditions. But, with roads icy and snow pack, it couldn't get enough traction and would have slid into the ditch.

Mr. Brannan said a local farmer notified him about the problem at around 11 a.m.

and it took the better part of a day to get it taken care of.

He said they slowly burnt and spun the ice off the road with a motor grader. They had to do that until they reached the asphalt millings so the truck would have enough traction to make the turn.

Once they got the roads cleared enough, he said they got the load turned around and back in Norton, where it stayed the rest of Tuesday and then Wednesday, waiting for the road to be driveable again. The load left town Thursday morning.

The whole problem could have been avoided, however, Mr. Brannan said, if someone had updated their map or computer since the bridge in question had its 40-ton weight restriction removed in mid-September.

Mr. Brannan said he has been on the phone with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Topeka and also is asking transportation officials in Norton for help to clear up the restriction problem.

Since it took most of a day to get the truck out, someone will get a bill, he said.

Native Kansans plan banquet for January 27

By DICK BOYD

The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas invite everyone to attend the annual banquet on Friday, Jan. 27 to help them honor country music recording artist Martina McBride as the "Kansan of the Year" and rural Kansas's best friend Marci Penner as the "Distinguished Kansan of the Year."

Both women grew up in small Kansas towns.

You do not have to be a member of the club to attend the banquet, which will be held at the Maner Conference Center, Kansas Expocentre, 17th and Western, Topeka. Social hour will be at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner and program to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Banquet tickets are \$40 per person and may be ordered from: Native Sons and Daughters, Box 546, Topeka, Kan. 66601-0546. Please order tickets no later than Jan. 20. Tickets will be available for pickup at the door after 5 p.m. on banquet day. Individual ticket holders will have open seating.

The Native Sons and Daughters was formed to preserve Kansas history, uphold our pioneer ancestors, encourage youth to embrace Kansas ideals and honor outstanding citizens.

Whether or not you are a Kansas native, you are invited to join the group. Lifetime dues are \$10. To join, simply add \$10 to your banquet ticket order or you may join outside the ballroom on banquet night.

Martina McBride

Martina was born in 1966 at Medicine Lodge, the daughter of Daryl and Jeanne Schiff, and grew

up in nearby Sharon.

Her father led a local country music band called the Schifters and Martina was raised making music on the farm. When she was 7 and little brother Marty was 5, they joined the group. With mother playing keyboards and singing, her brother playing guitar, father leading the band, playing guitar and singing, and Martina singing and playing keyboards, they played for wedding dances, in VFW halls and American Legion posts.

After high school, she worked with several bands around the state. In 1988, she married soundman John McBride and, in 1990, they moved to Nashville.

She signed with RCA in 1991 and her debut album, "The Time Has Come", was released in 1992. It was followed in 1993 by "The Way That I Am". From the second album, the single "My Baby Loves Me" rocketed up to No. 2 on the country charts and "Independence Day", a touching song with its story of overcoming adversity, became her signature song.

Martina's first No. 1 hit came with the title song to her 1995 "Wild Angels" album. Her first top 10 country album was "Evolution" in 1997 and she has delivered hit after hit on other albums, including her 2001 "Greatest Hits" album which went to the top of the charts.

She has been named Female Vocalist of the Year four times by the Country Music Association. Her latest album, "Timeless," released in October, is a homage to the music of her childhood and is

Practicing for honor choir



Eisenhower Elementary sixth-grade music students (from left) Chandler Severns, Robert Blecha, Haley Crockett and Abbey Bainter practiced for the Kansas Music Educators Association honor choir with instructor Joyce Morel last week.

— Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson

dedicated to many of the classic country artists. She produced the album herself, husband John was sound technician and brother Marty played guitar.

During her career, Ms. McBride has been honored for her work with several domestic violence groups. She is the recipient of the Recording Academy Heroes Award.

She has hosted many benefit

auctions, including those to help the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Discovery Fund for Eye Research.

Her fiery vocals have sold 15 million records and she has placed nearly 20 singles in the top 10.

The McBrides own their own music studio in Nashville. They have three daughters, Delaney Katharine, 11; Emma Justine, 7, and Ava Rose Kathleen, 7 months.

Martina has two brothers, Steve and Marty, and a sister, Gina. Her father, Daryl, still has a cabinet-making and music store in Medicine Lodge.

Marci Penner

Marci Penner grew up on the family farm near Inman. She graduated in 1974 from Inman High School. A graduate of the University of Kansas, she lettered for the Jayhawks in both basketball and softball. When injuries sidelined her, she became a coach. Then a serious head injury from a falling barbell sidelined her again. That injury brought her home to Kansas from Philadelphia to live on the family farm with her parents. Here she found herself assisting her photographer father, Milferd, with a new Kansas guidebook.

As they traveled the state, Ms. Penner and her father discovered that even the smallest towns were fascinating. Yet, when they asked the locals what there was to do and see, they were advised to drive on through.

Luckily, the Penners did not listen. And now, many years later, there is a renaissance in local rural life in Kansas.

Headquartered in a barn across the creek from the farmhouse where she grew up, the Kansas Sampler Foundation was founded by Ms. Penner and her father in 1993. She is the executive director.

The Sampler Foundation is a public, non-profit group that focuses on preserving and sustaining rural Kansas culture and networking and supporting rural communities.

Each year Marci gathers rural

leaders, small entrepreneurs and resource people for a "think tank" meeting.

At the "We Kan" Conference people come from across the state to share success stories each year.

The Kansas Explorers Club was created to encourage the exploration and appreciation of Kansas and have fun. Explorers are urged to look for the rural culture in each town — architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history and people. *The Explorer* publication sent to members six times a year tells of upcoming happenings and details distinctive features of Kansas towns.

Between 1990 and 1993, Marci co-authored three Kansas guidebooks with her father and, as a result of their research, they founded the Kansas Sampler Foundation. The past two years, she has spent time working on the most comprehensive Kansas guidebook of all. She has traveled more than 40,100 miles in two years and visited every town and most communities in the state.

The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers is a full-color 432 page book with photographs, an index and guidebook tips. It is divided into six regions and broken down by county, then community.

Ms. Penner is also co-chairwoman of the Kansas Governor's Rural Life Task Force.

Her awards include: 1996 Travel Industry Association of Kansas Distinguished Service Award, 2000 Governor's Tourism Award, 2001 State of Kansas Plains Spirit Award and 2003 Rural Leadership Award.

Norton boys basketball team beats Weskan in Goodland tournament

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High boys basketball team defeated Weskan, 51-39, Friday night in the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament to even their season record at 1-1.

Norton lost to Class 5A Ottawa in the first round on Thursday.

With only two returning starters and no other lettermen, the Blue Jays' lack of experience hurt them against Ottawa. In Friday's win over Weskan, Norton played much better from start to finish.

"Weskan's style of play was much more suited to us," said Coach Doug Reusink.

"We got a good start and played well on both ends of the floor. Not only did we get the ball inside for baskets but we also hit some shots from the perimeter.

"We got a little lazy at times defensively and a little lax at times offensively but played with a lot more confidence.

"We'll have growing pains but hopefully we'll continue to get better."

The game was tied 4-4 with 6:25 still remaining in the first quarter after junior post Nic Lewis hit two early shots for the Blue Jays. But, the rest of the quarter belonged to Norton as the defense shutout Weskan the rest of the period and the offense added 16 more points to the Norton total to put the Jays on top 20-4.

Norton's senior center Heath Vincent hit three baskets in the quarter and senior guard Nathan Morse, the Jays' other returning starter, swished a three-point and a two-point basket. Junior guard Brian Juenemann hit a field goal and free throws and sophomore guard Jared Cox swished a basket off the fast break.

Norton maintained its lead in the second quarter as both teams tallied 16 points to make it a 36-20 contest at intermission. Seven different players scored for Norton in the second period. Sophomore guard Logan Kats and junior guard Jared Engelbert each buried a three-point shot. Juenemann, Cox and Vincent each hit baskets, sophomore forward Wes Georgeson hit a basket and free

throw and Morse hit a charity toss.

The second half was more of a defensive ball game with Norton outscoring Weskan 9-8 in the third quarter and Weskan outscoring Norton 11-6 in the final stanza.

Vincent scored all 9 of Norton's third quarter points on four baskets and a free throw. The Blue Jays' fourth quarter points came on two baskets by Lewis and one from Georgeson.

Leading scorer for Norton was Vincent, who hit eight of 10 shots for 80 percent. He hit his only free throw and finished with 17. Lewis was second high scorer for Norton with 8 points on four of six from the field for 67 percent. Juenemann hit 6 points on two of three from two-point range for 67 percent and two of four free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Weskan was Laken Steele with 15 points.

As a team, Norton swished three of 11 three-point shots for 27 percent, 19 of 35 two-point tries for 54 percent and 22 of 46 overall for 48 percent.

Weskan hit one of seven from beyond the arc for 14 percent, 13 of 36 two-point shots for 36 percent and 14 of 43 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit four of eight for 50 percent compared to Weskan's 10 of 12 for 83 percent.

Norton outrebounded Weskan 30-22. The Jays had nine offensive caroms and 21 defensive boards. Weskan grabbed nine offensive and 13 defensive rebounds.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Vincent and Lewis, each with eight; followed by Juenemann, five; Kats, Georgeson, three each; and Morse, Engelbert, Cox, one each.

The Blue Jays had nine steals compared to seven for Weskan. Morse, Engelbert and Cox each had two steals. Georgeson, Lewis and Vincent had one each.

Norton had four assists and Weskan had one. Morse, Engelbert, Georgeson and Vincent each dished out one assist. Both teams had 14 turnovers.

BOX SCORE:

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A		
Norton boys 51					
Nathan Morse	1	1	1-2	6	
Logan Kats	0	1	0-0	3	
Jared Engelbert	0	1	0-0	3	
Brian Juenemann	2	0	1-2	5	
Jared Cox	2	0	0-0	4	
Wes Georgeson	2	0	1-2	5	
Nic Lewis	4	0	0-1	8	
Heath Vincent	8	0	0-1	17	
Total	19	3	3-8	51	

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A		
Weskan boys 39					
Drew Fraiser	0	0	1-2	1	
Gabe Cox	2	0	0-0	4	
Jesse Welsh	1	0	0-0	2	
Eric Young	1	0	2-2	4	
Laken Steele	5	1	2-2	15	
Shaun McKinney	1	0	0-0	2	
Jason Young	3	0	5-6	11	
Total	13	1	10-12	39	

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