

Tuesday
March 6, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of Terry Laughlin

Briefly

Blue Jay Boosters meet 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 report on end-of-the season competitions by their teams.

All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

Housing fair on Logan agenda

The Logan Community Development Foundation is sponsoring a housing fair from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 10 at the Hansen Museum in Logan.

Participating in the fair will be Pioneer Country Development Inc., Rural Telephone Company, Farmer's National Bank, First National Bank, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, McDonald Enterprises and Kansasland Realtors.

At the housing fair, persons will be able to see available housing in the area and look at plans for new housing construction. Single lots to lots with multiple acres are available for new construction. There will be persons there to guide interested persons to which type of housing loans are available to suit individual needs.

Red Cross blood drive scheduled

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 at the National Guard Armory in Norton.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Walk-ins are also welcome.

Weather

Forecast:

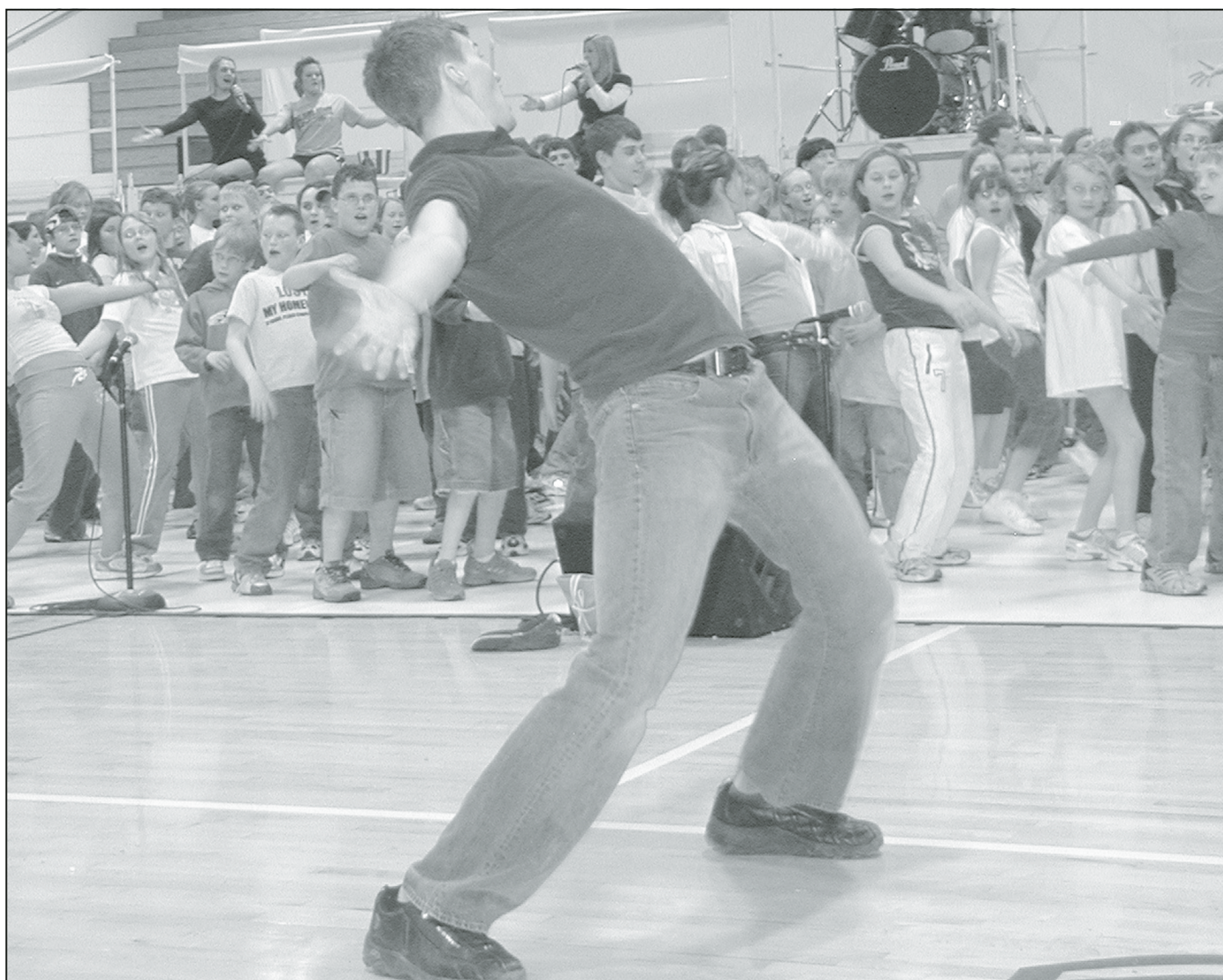
Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows around 30. Northwest winds around 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds around 10 mph.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 26, High 39
Saturday Low 21, High 44
Sunday Low 21, High 57
Monday Low 26, High 58
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of this day, thank you for life. Help us to choose life daily, both for ourselves and for others. **Amen**



A cast member of The Young Americans (above) led Norton students through rehearsal Sunday evening in Stull Gymnasium in preparation for the show to be performed tonight in the gymnasium. Nic Koch (below) practiced his part in "Take a Bow". — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

The Young Americans, locals ready!
Tonight's the night, Stull's the place

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**

Hold on! Stull Gymnasium may not be the same after tonight's musical experience!

Nearly 240 Norton students are singing and dancing their way through long, grueling rehearsals in preparation for tonight's performance with The Young Americans.

The Young Americans travel the globe bringing music, song and dance. The group performing in Norton numbers 43 representing states all across the country. There is one young person from Hawaii and one from Canada. Every three years the group tours schools, enlisting the talents of local students for a one-night production.

The group rolled into Norton Sunday afternoon and priority #1 was unloading their rental truck carrying sound

equipment and staging. Within hours Stull Gymnasium was transformed into a sound stage and rehearsal hall.

Workshops began Sunday at 4 p.m. After a dinner break, the students came back and worked from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday the students rehearsed almost all day with lunch and dinner breaks.

Today, The Young Americans rehearsed in the morning, bringing Norton students back for afternoon rehearsals.

The show will feature high school musical numbers, rock 'n roll, some chorale pieces and a "Big Beatles" grand finale.

Joyce Morel, vocal music teacher at Eisenhower Elementary, and Valerie Lee, vocal instructor at Norton Junior High School and Senior High, have coordinated local efforts to ensure as many students as wanted to could afford to participate in the workshops and evening perfor-

mance. With the aid of local businesses and individuals underwriting a portion of the costs, students were able to sign-up for \$10 each.

"This experience is more than the music," Mrs. Morel said. "The Young Americans make each kid feel so good about themselves. They want them to know they're (the students) worth every bit of the effort and time."

She said students with special needs are able to participate. She said they are immediately matched up with a "buddy" and made to feel part of the show.

The public is encouraged to attend the show at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Stull Gymnasium.

Ticket sales will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:45. Adult tickets are \$8, student tickets are \$5 and children four and under are free



Police department recruits four **Almena Fire District notified of grant funding**

By **VERONICA MONIER**

Four new officers have filled out the ranks of the Norton Police Department, including an assistant chief of police.

Hired in mid-January, Jeremy Hartwell, 32, got the job as assistant police chief because of his experience. Officer Hartwell said he worked in Larned for four years, two of which were as a sergeant, and in Oakley for two years before that.

Originally, he is from McCook. Officer Hartwell said he took the job for the advancement and also so he could be closer to his family.

Being a police officer is what he's always wanted to do.

"Early on, I always wanted to be one," he said. "I stayed because I like the job and everything about it."

So far, he said, Norton's been pretty quiet. He said he's unlocked a couple of cars and responded to a few verbal disputes, as well as other routine calls.

"It's like day and night from Larned," he said. "It's much quieter here."

He said one thing he is firm on is his zero

tolerance for alcohol violations from anyone and has been backed by the city council, chief of police and other officers.

Officer Hartwell said he likes Norton. "The people I've met seem friendly," he said. "The city staff I've worked with have been great and everyone has been very welcoming."

Officer Hartwell moved here with his wife and three children.

Larry Land, 41, was hired near the end of January.

He moved to Norton in October of 2005 to be closer to his family and because he wanted to raise his kids in a small town.

Being a police officer is fulfilling a childhood dream, he said.

"To protect and serve and help the public, it's what I've wanted to do for a long time," he said.

Officer Land said he hasn't been a police officer before, but was a corrections officer at the Norton Correctional Facility for about a year and a half. He also served seven years in the military.

He will be going to the training academy sometime in the near future, when

there is an opening.

So far, he's trained in tazer and firearms, has gone on a lot of ride-a-longs, and is gaining hands-on experience.

"I love it," he said. "I absolutely enjoy it. It's a new challenge every day."

Officer Land lives in Norton with his wife and two sons.

Curtis Black, 21, was hired in mid-January.

He is from Norton; his family lives here and he is a graduate of Norton Community High School.

Officer Black said he applied for the position because he wanted to bring his family back to Norton.

"I was interested and so I applied and was offered the job," he said.

He said he doesn't have a lot of police experience and will be going to the training academy when there is an opening.

Officer Black said he was hired on his fire and rescue experience and the training he received while he was at Hutchinson Community College studying fire science.

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Almena Fire District notified of grant funding

The Almena Area Fire District was recently informed they will receive \$28,994 in Federal Emergency Management Agency's assistance to firefighters grant funds for personal protective equipment for its 20 volunteer firefighters.

The grant will allow the fire district to purchase 20 helmets, coats, pants, gloves, hoods and boots, allowing every firefighter to have a complete set of bunker gear that meets codes.

The district will provide \$1,526 (5 percent) of matching funds towards the total project cost of \$30,520.

The Almena Area Fire District provides fire protection service covering a 175 square-mile area, which includes the city limits of Almena, the Norton Correctional Facility, and four Townships in Norton County.

The grant application was prepared by the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, Hill City.