

Pinewood Derby challenges Scouts with car design

By VERONICA MONIER
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Norton Cub Scouts found out how fast their designs and alterations made a block of wood on wheels go at the annual Pinewood Derby Saturday at The Rock in Norton.

Each cub made a car out of a block of wood, designing and weighting them to get the maximum effect, and then watched the cars go as they were raced on a track built by Ed Witt of the Lions Club.

Trent Merchants' racer won the derby this year. Michael Ball's car won the two-out-of-three tie-breaker with Cameron Heikes' car for second. Cameron placed third. In fourth was Adam Baughman.

Kyle Bell received the slowpoke award and Trenton Sprague's racer was chosen by the Lions volunteers as having the best design.

Other scouts racing in the derby were Matt Vacura, Johnathan White, Nicholas Koch, Jace Smothers, Christian Boser, Andrew Davis, Evan Chambers, and Philip Boutwell.

The derby is sponsored by the Norton Lion's Club, whose members ran the races and did the judging. Helping out this year were Tom Brannan, Bud Posson, Duane McEwen, Ed Witt and Doug Sebelius.

Anyone in Cub Scouts is welcome to participate in the derby. Cub Scouting is for boys in first through fifth grades.

Every Cub Scout is a member of a Cub Scout pack, which is a large group of boys. The pack is divided into smaller groups called dens and each den has around four to eight boys.

Norton Cub Scout Pack 181 is partnered with the Norton Lions Club and usually holds meetings



All eyes were on the finish line during the race to determine second and third place at the Pinewood Derby Saturday. Lions Duane McEwen and Tom Brannan (right) kept a close watch to catch the winner. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

at the First United Methodist Church of Norton.

Besides the Pinewood Derby, Cub Scouts do a lot of different things, including crafts and games, sports and songs, and just having fun within the den and pack. The den usually meets every week and the pack meets once a month. At both meetings, Cub

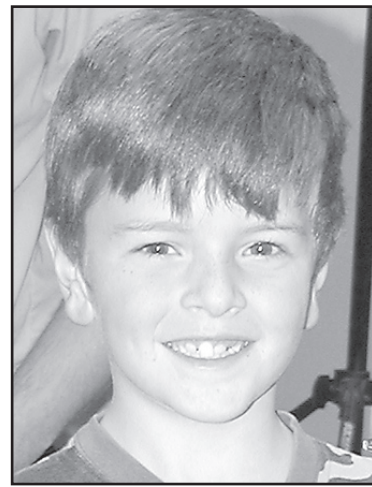
Scouts do different activities to learn and have fun.

Cub Scouts also go to events like adventure camps, day camps, field contests go camping and have other kinds of outdoor adventures and take part in community events.

The district Pinewood Derby, which will feature racers from

Norton, Phillips, Sheridan, Graham and Decatur counties, is planned for 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29 at The Rock in Norton.

For more information about Norton Cub Scouts, call Cubmaster Tim Bashford at (785) 877-2774.



Trent Merchant, First Place



Michael Ball, Second Place



Cameron Heikes, Third Place



Adam Baughman, Fourth Place



Trenton Sprague, Best Design



Kyle Bell, Slowpoke Award



Hundreds of people packed the multi-purpose room at the former Norcatur Grade School Saturday night to attend the hog roast benefit for Norcatur farmer, Ron Montgomery.

Mr. Montgomery lost his right hand in a power take-off accident six weeks ago. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Community comes together to help

Businesses and people of the City of Norcatur and Decatur County pulled together Saturday night to raise money for a man injured in a farm accident.

Ron Montgomery was injured at the end of November when his right arm was caught in a power takeoff on his family's farm.

In Norcatur Saturday night a hog roast was held to help raise money to help with medical bills. Around \$6,700 was raised with approximately 450 people served.

Everything from the cooking, to the meat to the paper products were donated for the dinner.

Doug Dempewolf, Scott Hatzog and Carl Lyon cooked the

hog donated by Joe Dawson. Members of the FFA from Decatur Community High School were the waiters, the baked beans were donated by Waddell and Reed and Creative Dimensions, Oberlin, the potato salad by Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Oberlin, the buns by the Norcatur Civic Club, chips by Chris and Karen Bailey and the paper goods, coffee and tea by Doug and Chris Dempewolf. The city donated the use of the old school.

Anyone who still wants to make a donation to help the Montgomery family can do so by dropping it off at First National Bank, Oberlin where an account has been set up or put it in the mail to Chris Dempewolf P.O. Box 32, Norcatur, Kan., 67653.

Senate passes tax relief for men, women in uniform

Washington, DC — Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) announced that late last night the Senate approved bipartisan legislation he supported to ease the tax burden on the members of the nation's military. The Defenders of Freedom Tax Relief Act passed the Senate unanimously and included a Roberts authored provision that expands affordable housing opportunities for men and women in uniform.

"As a former Marine, I understand the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make on behalf of our national security," Senator Roberts said. "At a time when many are serving abroad, it is critical we do what we can to allow them to focus on their mission without worrying about their families at home or their financial well being."

Senator Roberts is an original co-sponsor of the bill which provides \$1.2 billion in tax relief for

veterans, servicemembers, and their employers. Provisions in the legislation will:

- Make permanent a provision that allows servicemembers to count their non-taxable combat pay when determining their eligibility for the earned income tax credit.
- Provide tax relief for small businesses when they continue paying some salary to members of the National Guard and Reserve who are called to duty. Senator Roberts co-sponsored similar legislation in 2005.
- Allow all veterans to use qualified mortgage bonds to purchase their homes.
- Eliminates burdensome IRS rules for reporting of differential pay. This makes it easier for members of the National Guard and Reserve who are called to active duty to file their taxes and simpler for employers to keep contributing to

those employees' retirement plans.

- Allow the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty to contribute up to 100 percent of survivor benefits to a retirement savings account.
- Allow the families of reservists killed in the line of duty to collect life insurance and other benefits provided by the civilian employer.
- Allow active duty servicemembers to withdraw money from retirement plans and allows them two years to replace the funds without tax penalty.
- Extend a provision that gives retired veterans more time to claim a tax refund on some types of disability benefit payments.
- Make permanent a provision that gives employees in the intelligence service a longer period of time to meet residency requirements in order to exclude profits from the sale of their home from capital

gains tax, which is often necessary due to frequent deployment. As the former Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Roberts pushed for similar legislation last year.

- Allow the IRS to treat gifts of thanks from states to veterans - such as payments of excess state revenue - as nontaxable gifts.
- Expand affordable housing opportunities by clarifying the tax code so that members of the military will not have their basic allowance for housing count as income when applying to live in newly built affordable rental housing financed with tax credits or tax-exempt bonds. This provision was authored and included by Senator Roberts.

The bill now goes to a conference committee to iron out the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of the bill.

Walk Kansas information available

Tired of winter weather? Check with the local K-State Research and Extension office for Walk Kansas, 2008 registration information.

The popular, low-cost fitness program is scheduled to begin March 9 and continue until May 3, said Sharolyn Jackson, state coordinator for the Kansas State University Research and Extension program.

The eight-week fitness program encourages heart-healthy aerobic exercise and offers flexibility for

exercising at a time and place that will work with already busy schedules.

Compiling miles with friends and co-workers to equal the distance from the state's east to west borders - 423 miles - makes exercise fun, Jackson said.

More information is available at county and district K-State Research and Extension offices. The Norton County Extension office can be reached at (785) 877-5755.

Preschool screenings will be held throughout the school year for all North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative member school districts. These screenings are free and encouraged if you have questions concerning your child's development from birth through age 5. Age: Birth through 2 Yrs; 3 Yrs. through 5 Yrs.

If you need screening information or want to register your child for a screening, call: **Kid-Link (785-425-6766)** or your local elementary school

402 South State Street Norton, KS Phone: 785-874-4384

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