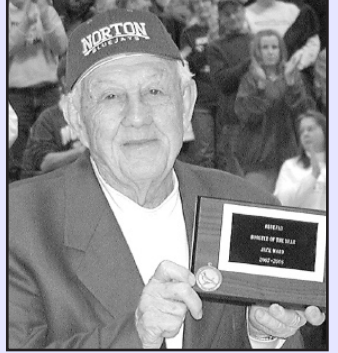




THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday January 22, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Don Stuvick

Briefly

Almena Chamber plans meeting

The Almena Chamber of Commerce will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. This is a community meeting to discuss fund raising activities for the Community Improvement Plan of Almena. If you have questions or ideas, call Glenn Brands at 785-669-2486.

Youth hunt to be this weekend

Prairie Dog State Park and the Norton Longspur Pheasant's Forever will be holding a special youth pheasant hunt in the Prairie Dog State Park.

The hunt date is Saturday and will be limited to twelve young hunters ages 11 to 15. The hunt will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 11:30 a.m.

The youth hunt is designed to encourage and recruit young hunters and should offer a quality experience with a better than average chance of success. The hunt will only be allowed in a portion of the State Park and visitor safety is of utmost concern.

The young hunters must have a parent or guardian present during the hunt, who must walk along with the hunter.

For more information, call the Prairie Dog State Park Office at (785) 877-2953.

Soccer sign-up will be Saturday

The final sign-up for the American Youth Soccer Organization will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday in Prairie Land Electric's basement. Registration will cost \$35 per child.

Registrations received after Jan. 26 will be put on a waiting list. The first game of the 2008 soccer season will be March 29.

Volunteers are needed to fill several board positions. Coaches and referees are also needed. For more information, contact, Toby Kuhn, regional commissioner, (785) 877-2275; Julie Baughman, registrar, (785) 877-2678; or Deena Wentz, secretary, (785) 877-5235.

Weather

Forecast:

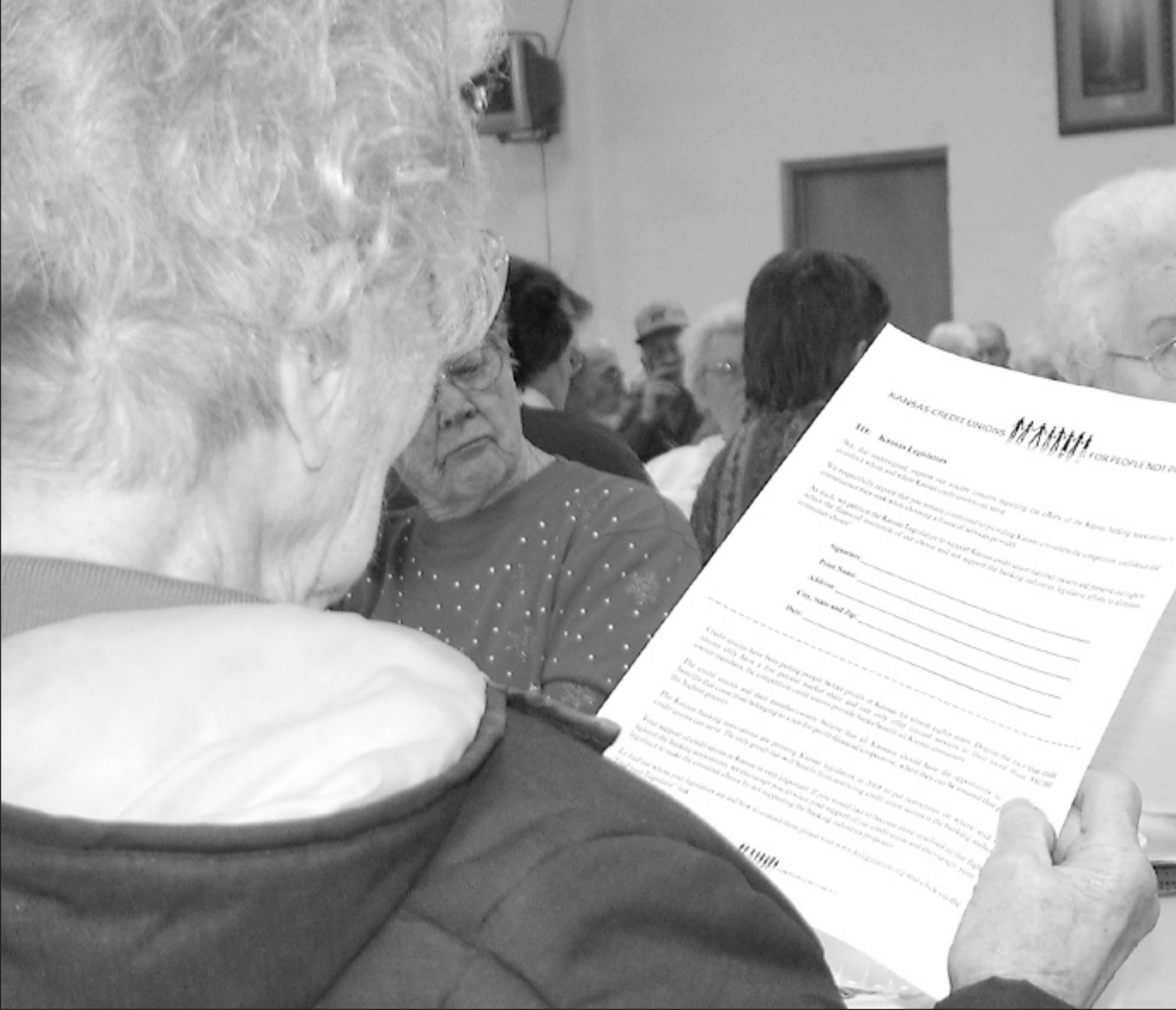
Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 10. **Wednesday** — Partly sunny with a high near 25. Blustery with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 4. **Thursday** — Sunny with a high near 32. **Thursday Night** — Mostly cloudy and breezy with a low around 19.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 13, High 26
Saturday Low 7, High 30
Sunday Low 7, High 23
Monday Low 8, High 17, 1/2" Snow
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us to run the race of faith in a way that pleases you. Thank you for fulfilling your work in us, and help us to show our neighbors your grace and love. In the name of Jesus. Amen



Nina Melroy examined a ballot offered to everyone who attended the Northwest Federal Credit Union's annual meeting Monday. Members were encouraged to show their support and oppose the banking association's efforts to regulate credit union memberships.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Credit union has successful year

By VERONICA MONIER
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The United Northwest Federal Credit Union of Norton and Oberlin had another successful year.

Board President Jim Green said at Monday's 59th annual meeting that many of the credit union's members were making use of internet banking and debit cards, two of the services provided.

Manager Mark Keilig thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to a new year.

Politically, he said, credit unions might have a fight on their hands with

the legislature over membership. He said Kansas banking associations are pressing state legislatures in 2008 to put restrictions on where and whom credit unions can serve.

Credit unions, he said, have only 5 percent of the market share; it has been 5 percent for the past 10 years. However, he said, the banks want part of that 5 percent and so they are trying to restrict credit unions.

"We aren't going to tell the banking associations how to run their banks," he said. "We don't think they should tell us how to run our credit unions."

Mr. Keilig said they have had a very productive year. Assets have shown a 12 percent increase at \$12.3 million, an all-time high. They were also able to improve their capital position this year, he said.

He said loans have increased 12 percent, expenses have decreased and they paid out almost \$600,000 in dividends.

This past year saw membership rise by 114, making the total membership 2,468.

"We will try the best we can to be as competitive as we can," he said. "But, we have to do what's best for the credit

union as a whole." Mr. Keilig thanked his staff, the board and all the members.

"Remember," he said, "everything we do, we do for you."

For the financial report, Mr. Keilig said in 2007 the financial institution had given out 1,229 loans to 684 borrowers for \$18,141,050.18 with a \$277,765.65 allowance for loan losses, and had \$5,244,161.56 in cash and investments; \$61,151.38 in land and building; \$105,048.21 in furniture and fixtures and \$1,010,367.95 in other assets for (Continued on Page 5)

City takes a good look at recycling

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton City Council is taking a hard look at recycling and the amount of trash going to the landfill.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city is scheduled to buy a new refuse truck every 10 years and is over that 10 years by a year or two. He said the public safety department is in the process of getting bids for a truck that will fit the city's needs. They are also looking at trucks that have separate recycle bins in them.

He said they are also getting bids for 90 gallon trash carts. Each household

will receive one cart to put trash into; everything else will need to go in the blue recycle bags.

Councilman Ron Briery said they need to look at enforcing mandatory recycling. Tipping fees at the landfill are going up.

Mr. Lawson said last year, they paid \$20,000 more than was budgeted for tipping fees alone at the landfill. The city just had to eat the cost last year, he said, but they don't have the extra money to do that this year.

"We need to do something to cut our costs or we're going to have to raise the rates in the future," said Mr. Briery. "City

residents recycling would be a way to keep costs down."

The city doesn't pay the landfill for recyclable goods, only trash. The more that gets recycled, the less the city has to pay in tipping fees and the longer the landfill will last.

Mr. Briery said the county is willing to help the city where it can in regards to recycling.

But, residents have to help as well by actually putting recyclable material, like paper, aluminum, and plastic, in the blue bags. It isn't even necessary to sort it as (Continued on Page 5)

Hospital revises potential plans

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Hospital is changing directions where renovation is concerned.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said he spoke with Murray Company, the hospital's contractor, and told them to go ahead with the lower level renovation project, which includes the physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation departments.

He said they will be doing a walk-through and then will be putting out bids

on Feb. 1.

Mr. Miller said they should take their time with the second floor renovation, which includes the Colby Community College nursing school area and surgery, and possibly look at the space problem at the Doctor's Clinic first.

He said he spoke with the hospital's surgeon, Dr. Ruben Silan, who was okay with holding off on renovating the surgery area for now.

Mr. Miller said he is talking to the architect about making the college area off-site, possibly putting it behind the

maintenance building east of the hospital. He said if they separate the college area and surgery projects, and hold off on surgery, then they can look at freeing up some money for the clinic. Also, he will be speaking to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation about helping to pay for the new college area.

He will report back to the board when he has more information.

In other business, the board:
• Approved the write-off accounts and sent them to the collection agency. (Continued on Page 5)

Christmas was good to the 'army'

For the first year of concentrated fund-raising efforts, the Salvation Army of Norton had a good year.

Army volunteer Sharon Leiker said over a thousand dollars was raised in Norton County this Christmas season. Ms. Leiker said, "are so grateful. For the first year of the Red Kettle Campaign, we couldn't be more pleased. And, because 88 percent stays in Norton County, that means \$902.70 will go to help Norton residents."

Ms. Leiker said the Salvation Army welcomes year-round tax deductible donations made in the form of gifts and memorials. Donations may be sent in care of Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department, 801 N. Norton, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Ms. Leiker said, "We hope people will use the 'Gift of Warmth' program."

For a Gift of Warmth application call toll-free, 1-800-336-4747, Ext. 402. Emergency assistance may be reached at the same number, Ext. 478.