



THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday January 29, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Clair Rumford

Briefly

Roast to help Jennings man

A community benefit hog roast will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 for Mike (Possum) Tacha at the Jennings Sunflower Senior Center. Donations of baked goods for the food sale are welcome. Mr. Tacha was injured in a farm accident several months ago and the benefit is to help with expenses.

Boosters meet on 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 their team's recent competition and preview upcoming contests. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend. You do not have to be a member of the Blue Jay Booster Club to attend the meetings.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 12. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. **Wednesday** — Partly sunny with a high near 35. South wind around 10 mph becoming east. **Wednesday Night** — A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy with a low around 14. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 28. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Thursday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 11. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 41. **Friday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 15. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 41.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 15, High 47
Saturday Low 27, High 48
Sunday Low 26, High 54
Monday Low 35, High 62
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Help me, O Lord, to move from being self-centered to being selfless in my walk with you. **Amen**



4-H'ers bring their best dishes

Norton County 4-H'ers were busy Saturday, cooking their favorite dishes, creating table displays and explaining their choices to judges during the 4-H Favorite Food Show at the Norton County 4-H Building. Judges consulted with 184-H'ers about meal preparation techniques and the nutritional value of their favorite foods, how the favorite foods fit into a menu and the food guide pyramid, and the presentation of the food in a table setting. The judges this year were Alli Burns, Phillipsburg; Nadine Holmes, Smith Center; and Kathy Serfick, Ogallah. The 4-H'ers selected table linens, place settings and centerpieces for their displays to represent a table setting for a meal or snack where their "favorite food" entree or dish would be served. Judges met with each 4-H'er to evaluate the table setting, the food product and nutritional information, and food safety issues about the entree or dish they prepared. The level winners of this year's show were — Kailey Gill, Mini Dessert Pizzas, Blue, Level One; Molly Maddy, Frozen Peppermint Cheesecake, Purple, Level Two; Megan Wentz, Chicken Pitas, Purple, Level Three; and Bryce Lof (Continued on Page 5)

Judge Alli Burns tried out Tyson Gill's Sloppy Jose's at the 4-H Favorite Food Show Saturday. She said she liked the flavor the beans added and thought Tyson's costume made the display more interesting. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Democrats to gather for caucus

By TOM DREILING
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All registered Democrats in Norton County are invited to join other Democrats in Senate District 40 to help pick the party's nominee for President of the United States at a caucus on Tuesday, Feb. 5. That's the word from Tim Peterson of Monument, caucus chair, who said the caucus will take place at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, 703 W. 2nd, Oakley. The doors will open for registration at 6 p.m., Mr. Peterson said, with the caucus to begin at 7 p.m. "In order to participate in the process, you must be registered Democrat (you can register or change your registration status at the door), and be eligible to vote on Nov. 4, 2008," he said. Mr. Peterson said once inside the caucus, voters will break into groups supporting each candidate. After groups are formed, members of any non-viable candidate groups (those that are comprised of less than 15 percent of the total attendees) are (Continued on Page 5)

Program will give homes a face lift

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton City Council will be looking at a "Paint the Town" program at its next meeting. Jeff Wolf, the city's health code inspector, said at Monday's Finance Committee meeting that with the program, the city can look at rehabilitation instead of condemnation. The program is designed for city homeowners who are at 80 percent of the median family income for the county. He said each homeowner will receive a voucher for up to \$250 of paint that they can use at local stores. That will get them about 10 gallons of paint, he said. If that doesn't cover the whole house, he said the owners will be responsible for buying the

rest of the paint to finish the project. He said homeowners who are eligible can get the paint from April 1 to Sept. 15. They will have six months to paint their homes. Mr. Wolf said he would be checking on their progress. If they pick up the voucher, but don't paint their house, after six months they will have to give the money back to the city or it will be assessed to their taxes, he said. "This will give them (homeowners) an incentive to get started," he said. "Hopefully, there will be a snowball effect and people who see how much better their neighbors' houses look after being painted will want to paint theirs too." Councilman Ron Briery asked if it was for renters too. Mr. Wolf said it was just for homeown-

ers. Mr. Briery said there were a lot of rental houses in Norton. City Administrator Rob Lawson said they could try the program for a year and see how many people do it. Then, he said, maybe they could look at something for the rentals. Mr. Wolf said the people who qualify for the paint can pick any color they want. The only stipulations are that it is not lead based paint and that it is used on the exterior walls of the houses. Mr. Lawson said the money for the program will come from the general fund. They would like to cap it at \$2,500 for the first year. Mr. Wolf said that would cover 10 (Continued on Page 5)

City decides what to do with rescue unit

By VERONICA MONIER
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The City of Norton has a couple of choices on what to do with an old rescue unit. City Administrator Rob Lawson said at the last Public Safety Committee meeting that the rural fire department was interested in putting in a bid for the unit. There was uncertainty at first, because the rural fire department is in the process of using grant money to buy a new pumper truck, which is being built for them. They didn't want buying the rescue unit to interfere with the grant.

Rural Fire Chief Steve Otter said they contacted the grant people, who told them that it would be okay if they put in a bid for the rescue unit. The rural fire board will be getting the city a bid, he said. City Fire Chief Mitch Jones said they had a second option for the rescue unit. He said the fire department in Hays has an ariel truck with a 55-foot stick they would be willing to trade title for title. A stick, he said, is an ariel ladder with rails on the side. "This would give us another level of fire protection," he said. "It would let us get up in the air to put water down on

a fire." Hays, he said, has had the truck since it was new and has since had it refurbished. "It would be a good trade," he said. "And, it would help our fire rating." Chief Jones said if they made the trade, they would need to have the ariel checked about every three years, which costs about \$500. The committee also discussed a new pumper truck for the city fire department. The city had scheduled the department to get a new truck in 2005, but it didn't. (Continued on Page 5)

Happy 147th Birthday, Kansas