



**Tuesday**

**February 12, 2008**

**Norton, Kansas  
Home of Bill Mathes**

*Briefly*

## Kid's carnival set for Sunday

The Norton Child Study Club is sponsoring the First Annual Kid's Carnival from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16 at the Norton National Guard Armory.

The club will have fun games for all kids 12 and under. The one rule — all children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per child.

## Health fair to be Feb. 27

The Norton County Health Fair is scheduled for Feb. 27 at the National Guard Armory in Norton from 4-8 p.m. In preparation for the fair, blood screenings will be held on Feb. 25 from 7 a.m. to 12 noon, a joint effort of the Norton County Health Department and the Norton County Hospital. Questions can be directed to the health department at 877-5745. Complete details will be available in an advertisement in The Telegram on Friday, Feb. 15.

## 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.

## Disaster loan deadline Feb. 15

Farmers and ranchers in Norton and Phillips counties have until Feb. 15 to file an application for Emergency Disaster (EM) loans.

Farm Service Agency loan manager John Vogt advised those needing farm credit to make their applications at the agency's office in Norton. To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family-size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere; and must have suffered a qualifying loss from the disaster.

*Weather*

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 19. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 51. **Wednesday Night** — Increasing clouds with a low around 25. **Thursday** — A 30 percent chance of snow.

### Kingham report:

Friday ..... Low 27, High 43  
Saturday ..... Low 24, High 49  
Sunday ..... Low 9, High 24  
Monday ..... Low 13, High 45  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

*Prayer*

Holy God, fill our hearts with love so we can reach out to embrace the strangers among us. **Amen**



Norton County Republican Chairman Steve Berry, left, used a laptop to verify registered Republican voters (top photo) while Joe Ballinger, center, looked through the list of names. Searching for his name was Lynn Colip, Norton. Alex Beim, Phillipsburg, (right photo), delivered a passionate speech for his candidate, Ron Paul, and why he's proud to be an American. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Republicans pick Huckabee

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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On Saturday, the first Republican caucus in Norton County in 20 years was held at the American Legion.

Attendance started out slow, but gained momentum as the 10 a.m. start-time drew closer. Eventually, about 150 staunch Republicans assembled to voice their opinions about the presidential candidates and cast their vote for their favorite.

Norton County Republican Party Chairman Steve Berry said, "I was glad to see the turnout we had. I had some concerns after Romney dropped out — I thought that might take the wind out of some peoples' sails. I was really glad to see so many come from other counties."

Voters came from Norton, Sheridan, Graham, Decatur, Phillips and Smith counties.

Following the welcome and prayer to bless the proceedings, Chairman Berry explained the process. Each candidate would be allowed 10 minutes to present their platform. Since no candidate was present, letters from the candidates were read. They were read by Rebecca Wetter, Central Committee vice-chairman, and by Ruth Lofgreen, member of the Norton County Republican Party. Three candidates — Alan Keyes, John McCain and Mike Huckabee — sent letters.

After the letters were read, speakers from the floor were recognized to speak on the candidates behalf. They were allowed one minute each. More time would be permitted if no one else was waiting to speak. Mr. Berry said the only criteria to speak was no criticism of other candidates. If someone was speaking for one candidate, he could not "bash" another.

In the absence of a letter from Ron Paul, Alex Beim from Phillipsburg was allowed to make a statement on Mr. Paul's behalf.

Speakers from the floor who spoke on behalf of John McCain were Fleta Hanlon, Almena, Dick Ahlberg, Oberlin and Dr. Karen Aldrich, Hill City. Ruth Lofgreen and Vesta Hobbs, both of Norton, spoke up for Mike Huckabee.

Even though Mitt Romney has suspended campaigning, Mr. Berry asked if anyone wanted to speak for Mr. Romney. Beverly Bethune and Vern Kendell, Norton, shared their thoughts as did Steven Adams, Logan.

After all the speeches, Mr. Berry instructed everyone to vote for one candidate on their ballot, place the voter sticker they received when signing in on the ballot and turn the ballots in.

The results of the Norton Caucus were: Huckabee, 55; (Continued on Page 5)



## Airport board stalled with lack of quorum

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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Without a quorum, the Norton City/County Airport Board could not conduct any official business. Members present were Eldo Graham, Gail Boller and Ron Briery.

Vice-Chairman Gail Boller delayed the meeting for several minutes in hopes other board members would show up.

In a general discussion, airport manager Delvis Miller did say that the concrete work is expected to begin in March. It was also learned that the grant money for the project has been approved.

On a personal note, Mr. Miller told the members present he was notified by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture that he has to build a containment pad at his hangar. He asked if at least two members of the board would meet him at the airport to discuss where he can put the pad.

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 10 in the basement of City Hall.

## Community room getting face lift

By VERONICA MONIER  
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Bids will soon go out for the Washington Square project, which includes repairing water damage done to the Norton Public Library and the Norton Recreation Center.

Jay Connelly, the city's engineer for the project, told the Norton City Council Wednesday that he had put the specifications for the project together and will be sending them out next week. He said he'll be sending out bid packages to local contractors.

"It's important that local people get the opportunity to bid on this," he said.

The bids will be out for three weeks,

he said. After the council accepts bids, it will take about four to six weeks to finish the project.

One of the requirements included in the bids is that contractors will have to bring in a sample of the carpet and tile.

Also, he said there is a slight difference in the color and texture of the new ceiling tiles and the old ceiling tiles in the community room. He said he can add a new ceiling for that room to the bid specifications and then the old tile, which is still good, can be saved for when ceiling tiles need to be replaced in the library, since they match.

Mr. Connelly said the bids are separated by area and each has alternates, so

that the city can stay within its spending limit.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said they have about \$44,000 of the bond money left.

Mr. Connelly said he had just done a walkthrough of the existing project, which included replacing the heating and air conditioning in part of the complex, with Ted Sanko, owner of Garrett's Plumbing, Heating and Electric.

"I liked what I saw," he said. "There are still a few things that need to be done, but Garrett's is working on it. Ted and his crew have done a very quality job, and have done a few extra things, like add-

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## Commission updated on hospital's plans

By VERONICA MONIER  
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The Norton County Commission received an update on the Norton County Hospital at its Feb. 4 meeting.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller, Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stover and board members Dennis Gilhousen, Warren White and Reva Benien were at the meeting to give the commission a quarterly report on the hospital.

Mr. Stover reported on the hospital's first six months of the fiscal year and said the total operating revenue for those

six months was \$4,040,439. Operating expenses were \$4,238,318, giving the hospital a net loss of \$197,879. With the non-operating revenue added from the tax appropriations, contributions, interest income and grant income, which added \$313,464 to the operating revenue, the hospital is showing a net gain of \$115,585.

Mr. Miller spoke about the hospital's plans for renovating the lower level. He said they held a pre-construction meeting and contractors are showing a lot of interest. He said they are still reviewing

plans for the surgery and Colby Community College nursing school areas. They have been looking into a possible off-site location for the nursing school.

He said their long-term goal is to have the hospital completely renovated. The Doctor's Clinic, he said, is scheduled to have some renovation done with the possibility of building an addition to it. The clinic grounds are big enough that an addition could be done without having to move the clinic.

Mr. Miller and the board wanted to (Continued on Page 5)