



## Tuesday

### February 26, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of June Prout

### Briefly

## Quilters get ready for sale

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club are sorting fabrics, books, patterns, etc., as they prepare their contributions for the Quilters Garage Sale. This will be the feature for the March 3 meeting to be held at the Long Island Community Building.

Hostesses will be Joyce Trumbo, Margaret Breathouwer, Janette Callaway and Dorothy Chandler.

## Development to meet Thursday

The Norton County Economic Development board will be holding a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday to discuss a proposal for a Norton business center, as well as any normal and regular business that comes up. The meeting will be held at the economic development office, 113 N. Norton Ave. in Norton.

## Teachers giving a scholarship

The Norton Teachers' Association will award a \$250 scholarship to a Norton Community High School graduate who is a college junior, senior or graduate student in the field of education. Applications are available from Pam Menagh at Eisenhower Elementary. Mrs. Menagh may be reached at 877-5113 or 877-3672. Deadline to return applications is May 16.

## Boosters gather this 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 booster club to attend the meetings.

### Weather

## Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 20. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 52. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 24. **Thursday** — Partly sunny with a high near 58.

## Kingham report:

Friday ..... Low 14, High 50  
Saturday ..... Low 21, High 40, .10 Rain  
Sunday ..... Low 26, High 53  
Monday ..... Low 35, High 46  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm  
9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Father, teach us to forgive others so we may be forgiven. **Amen**



## Community helps school children in need

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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When it's all said and done, about 550 pounds of school supplies will be on their way to a school in Iraq.

Tom and Cathy Brannan's son, Sgt. Jason Brannan, is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. During his assignment, Sgt. Brannan became acquainted with children from a school in the area he patrolled. He called his parents with a request before he ships out in April — to send school supplies to help the children. Sgt. Brannan said there is a shortage of teachers with about 70 children per teacher. He said the schools have nothing and most of their supplies have been destroyed over the last four years of fighting. He said the children are the future of Iraq and any help would be appreciated.

Tom Brannan "put out the word" and help, money and supplies started pouring in.

Mr. Brannan said he shipped 20 boxes of supplies weighing 498 pounds on Saturday. He said he had reserved \$600 for shipping costs from the proceeds of a hamburger feed fund raiser and individual donations. The bill for shipping the 20 boxes was \$599.30.

Mr. Brannan said, "Two more boxes came in today (Monday). Endzone Office Supplies contributed a huge box and that will bring the total up to 550 pounds. I imagine it will take another \$60 to ship."

Mr. Brannan said he had not talked to his son in two weeks. The last time they talked, he told his son to expect 13 to 15 boxes. He said his son should be surprised to receive 22 boxes. It might take the boxes up to ten days to reach their destination in Iraq so they should be there by next week.

He said, "I told Jason when he gets home he can just plan to go on a press tour because of what the community has done for him. He needs to go talk to the kids at the grade school; he needs to do (Continued on Page 5)

Tom Brannan, Norton, unloaded 20 boxes of school supplies at the Norton post office Saturday. Mr. Brannan and his wife, Cathy, spearheaded an effort to send the supplies to their son, Jason, who is stationed in Iraq.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Walk Kansas offers low cost benefits

Walk Kansas is a Kansas State University Research and Extension health and fitness program, but a prior connection with K-State or the statewide Extension Service isn't necessary to enroll — and benefit.

The health-promoting opportunity encourages teams of six to compile miles equal to the distance — 423 miles — across the state, said Sharolyn Jackson, Walk Kansas state coordinator, who is based on the K-State campus in Manhattan.

Although introduced six years ago to encourage walking, Walk Kansas has expanded to also count 15-minutes of moderate physical activity such as hiking, biking, swimming, water aerobics or other individual and team sports as one mile toward a Walk Kansas' team goal, said Jackson, who also is K-State Research and Extension's northeast area family and consumer sciences specialist.

"Activities can vary, yet the team approach helps make this fitness program one that works," Jackson said. "A little friendly pressure from friends, family, co-workers or others may be all that it takes to encourage teammates who may be having an off day to get moving."

Being able to exercise near your home or workplace also is a plus, she said.

With Walk Kansas 2008 scheduled March 9-May 3, Jackson is encouraging:

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## Norton council gives itself a raise

By VERONICA MONIER  
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The Norton City Council is giving itself a raise.

The last time the council gave itself a raise was in 2002, when it increased its pay to \$200 a month. With annual cost of living increases, the council was making \$234 a month.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Mayor David Corns said the Finance Committee has been discussing raising the pay of the council members and asked if anyone would like to talk about it.

Councilwoman Kim Snyder said they had been discussing making the pay \$400 a month.

"If we get the pay up, maybe we'll get the interest in serving on the council up," said Councilman Ron Briery.

Councilman Jerry Jones said he once thought about looking into offering a

health plan and keeping the pay down, but it was too expensive.

After Mrs. Snyder made a motion to raise the council's pay to \$400 a month, Mr. Briery said they should make it \$500. Mrs. Snyder amended her motion to that effect.

"We've had to raise utility rates to keep the city going," said Councilwoman Elaine Mann. "I'm not opposed to a raise in the future and I know that we spend a lot of time doing this, but I don't think this is the right time for it."

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the council members spend a tremendous amount of time with council and committee meetings that most of the public doesn't know about. He said being on the council isn't just attending a council meeting twice a month. It's a lot more than that, he said, and he was in favor of the council giving itself a raise.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths reminded the council that a raise wasn't a budgeted expense this year.

Councilwoman Donna Foley said she would agree to a raise, but not one that high. Maybe increasing it to \$300 a month would work better, she said.

The council passed the raise by a 4-2 vote with Mr. Briery, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Jones and Councilman Jim Williams voting yes and Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Foley voting no.

In other business, the council:

- Heard a biannual report from Economic Development Director Diane Becker. Ms. Becker talked about what economic development has been doing for the past six months and that they are now working on creating a business incubator space. Also, she said they are looking into a demolition program that would (Continued on Page 5)

## Sunshine gets help for improvements

By VERONICA MONIER  
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Sunshine Learning Center is getting a little help from the Norton City Council.

Councilman Ron Briery said representatives from Sunshine Learning Center were at the last Finance Committee meeting to see that the center qualified for part of the Hansen Foundation grant money. He said they would like to do a few improvement projects, like painting and caulking the outside walls, installing new carpet, and putting in new vents. They have already put on a new roof.

Originally, he said he had reservations about giving them money, but then he found out a little about what they do and that they are a non-profit organization.

"I started thinking about what it would

do to the Norton community if they weren't there," he said.

Mr. Briery said he originally gave them a figure which would cover the cost of the roof, but has since revised that. He said they had the money in savings for the roof and so would be able to pay for it.

Now, he said he would like to give them \$7,000 for capital improvement projects from Hansen grant money. The money will be used to pay for the painting and caulking project, and possibly the vent work. None of the money, he said, will be used for salaries.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said the letter that came with the grant said the money was to be used exclusively for public purpose. She said if they gave the center the money, the council would be setting a precedent that non-profits are

public purpose.

Mr. Briery said he checked with a couple of other non-profit organizations to see if they would be wanting money as well. The organizations he talked to said no, he said.

Councilwoman Donna Foley said the letter also stated that the money must be used for projects that "will affect the community as a whole, not as individuals" and wondered whether this qualified as the community as a whole.

Mr. Briery said he felt it would affect the whole community if Sunshine had to close because it couldn't keep up with maintenance.

Also, said Councilwoman Kim Snyder, Sunshine accepts walk-in children, such as people who are visiting Valley Hope (Continued on Page 5)