

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES



Friday

April 11, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Tom Miller

Briefly

Health program set for Wednesday

A program designed to develop awareness of healthy lifestyle choices, will be presented in Norton at the 4-H building on Wednesday, April 16 at 10 a.m., by Tranda Watts, Multi-County Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety Specialist. Participants will become familiar with heart disease risk factors, as well as physical activity guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American College of Sports Medicine and My Pyramid Education Network. Registration is due by Monday, April 14. Five registered individuals will be necessary to warrant the program. Additional information is available at 877-5755.

Sixth grade parent night scheduled

Parents of students entering Norton Junior High in the fall are invited to a Sixth Grade Parent Night at 7 p.m., Monday, in the junior high music room. Principal Larry Mills and school counselor Melissa McClain will address topics like enrollment, activities, rules, expectations, courses offered and academic guidelines.

Pizza purchases aid Kid-Link program

If you dine at the Norton Pizza Hut from 5 p.m. to closing, on Thursday, April 17, 20 percent of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to the Kid-Link program funded by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc. Kid-Link provides full early intervention services to children ages birth through two years in their own living environment. These services are for those who have a diagnosed disability, are delayed in two or more areas, or are at risk of developmental delay.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a low around 30. Blustery with a northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph with gusts as high as 45 mph. **Saturday** — Scattered showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 50. Windy with a north wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 27. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 57.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 32, High 54
Wednesday Low 32, High 53
Thursday Low 36, High 37, 1.70 Rain
Friday Low 31, 3" Snow
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, we place our lives in your hands. Guide our steps as we go forward in our journey. **Amen**

And what are they up to?



A little to the left....perfect. Karlynn Kent, left, and Stephanie Shepard adjusted the placement of arches that are part of the decor for Saturday night's Junior-Senior Prom at Norton Community High School. This year's theme is "I Could Not Ask for More." The public is invited to view the decorations in the junior high gym from 1 to 3 p.m. with the promenade in Stull Gymnasium at 6 p.m.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

'Week of the Young Child' set

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

Young children in daycare will have an entire week dedicated to them and their daycare providers.

Holly Puga, owner of Holly's Play House in Norton, said the 'Week of the Young Child' will be from Sunday through Saturday. Mrs. Puga is the event organizer for the week.

"We are very excited for this week. It is a great way to show support for the daycare providers, head start programs, preschool programs, and any person who is a positive role model in the life of a child. I hope the community of Norton will try to make it to at least one event this week," said Mrs. Puga.

Before next week's activities, participating daycare providers have been busy with their children coloring paper grocery bags. So next week when you're at the grocery store make sure to ask for paper and not plastic. Also posters have been decorated and will be hung in downtown Norton Saturday. Decorative table top-

pers have been put together to take to restaurants in Norton.

The week's activities are for all children in daycare, even if their daycare providers haven't participated in the scheduled events.

This will be the third year daycare providers in Norton County have participated in the Week of the Young Child.

Mrs. Puga said the week is a time to recognize the importance of a child's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. The opportunities of children is everyone's responsibility, she said, and the week allows people to recommit themselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early learning environment — at home, at child care, at school and in the community — that will promote their early learning.

This week's activities include:

• Monday — A balloon launch will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Travis Field in Elmwood Park. Afterwards a hot dog stand will be operated by the daycare providers

and/or their husbands. The profit will go to start a savings fund for future Week of the Young Child activities.

"Hopefully, in years to come, we may be able to offer a scholarship to a high school senior going into the field of early education. This is a big goal for us to accomplish. This will also help to make next year even better," said Mrs. Puga.

• Tuesday — Craft Night, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Norton United Methodist Church. Each participating daycare provider will have a space in the room with craft materials. Children are welcome to work on any craft projects.

• Wednesday — Play Night, 6:30 p.m. at Elmwood Park. Parents are encouraged to bring their children for a time of family fun.

• Thursday — Side Walk Chalk. The children will be coloring the side walks around the courthouse with chalk starting at 6:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the date will be changed to Saturday after the track meet.

(Continued on Page 5)

With money on their mind...

Brothers, Sisters, kids to meet in the 'alley'

By MARY KAY WOODYARD
Special Contributor

Soon you will hear the requests of children, adults and even the neighborhood dog, cat or iguana to raise money for the youth of Norton County.

As one of the major fund raisers for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County, the drive is on to make the 2008 Bowl for Kid's Sake the most successful ever. All money raised in Norton County stays in the county to recruit mentors and match youth with positive role models.

Sunday, May 4, bowlers and non-bowlers will gather at Rainbow Lanes in Norton to turn in pledge sheets, bowl if they want, all while surrounded by good food. Bowl for Kid's Sake pledges may be gathered directly, be billed or made online, whatever is most convenient for the donor.

Each person who turns in a pledge sheet

with \$125 or more will receive a free Big Brothers Big Sisters shirt that day as well as being eligible for other gifts, prizes and even trophies all awarded on May 4.

Anyone wanting to form a bowling team or receive a pledge sheet may contact Mary Kay Woodyard at 785-874-4200.

A new item this year is the "Pet Bowl". Your dog may not receive the Westminster Award, but he/she can still be a winner. You can be the spokesperson for your pet and the two pets with the most pledged funds will receive trophies and special gifts. Owners (or their pets) with \$125 in pledges also will receive a free T-shirt.

Last year Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County expanded into the surrounding counties of Decatur, Graham and Phillips. Mary Kay Woodyard serves as Affiliate Director for the four county

region and is assisted by Case Manager Courtney Barnes. Each county raises and retains any income made within their own county.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County, formed in 2000, made its 100th match last summer. There are currently 20 active matches with almost an equal number of children waiting for a volunteer to be assigned as their mentor.

The positive results of the program have been well documented over the years. Children with a Big Brother or Big Sister are less likely to start using drugs or alcohol, or resort to violence to solve problems and less likely to skip school. If you would like to make a difference in a child's life, through becoming a Big or helping with Bowl for Kid's Sake we welcome your support.

Please call Mary Kay Woodyard for more information at 785-874-4200.

Ballots canvassed; election woes heard

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Norton County Commissioners canvassed the ballots of last week's city elections in Norton and Lenora with County Clerk Robert Wyatt on Monday.

There were 14 provisional ballots for the commissioners to authorize or reject.

Of those nine were counted. People who had changed their address but still lived in the same ward in Norton or had not moved out of Lenora had their ballots counted as those who changed their names but not their address, as in the case of married women.

Those not counted included those who had moved to a different ward or who had not registered by March 17, the last day to register or re-register for this election.

Only about 16 to 17 percent of Norton's registered voters and 10 percent of Lenora's turned out to cast their ballot.

In Norton 14 percent, or 93 out of 686, voters cast their ballot in Ward 1, where Jeffery G. Otter defeated incumbent Jerry Jones. In Ward 2 only 20 percent, 130 out of 660, voters helped keep Donna Foley on the council instead of electing Charlotte Stephenson. In Ward 3 it was 14 percent, 96 or 696, voters who authorized Toby Kuhn to go on the council instead of Wally Burton.

In Lenora there are 217 registered voters. Only 20 cast their ballots for the three people running for the three open seats. Elected were Phil Rule, Larry Shepard and Deborah Anderson.

Mr. Wyatt then talked to the commissioners about some of the problems during the election, including voting machine failure. "My paper ballots and No. 2 lead pencils were better than all this new stuff," he said adding that he didn't have to worry about back-up batteries, generators, voting machines, and supplies with the old system. "One size does not fit all," he told the commissioners. "This system is not working (for us.)"

Commissioner John Miller noted that people do not have to use the machines and that all paper ballots are scanned anyway.

However, he noted that the voting machines are very expensive, have a lot of upkeep and set up problems and having them is really hard on small counties especially those with low populations like Gove and Wichita counties.

"It's overkill," said Commissioner Leroy Lang.

"It's quite a job to set all this equipment up anymore, testing it and making sure it's working," Mr. Wyatt said. "I cannot imagine one of these counties with 300 or so of these machines.

"One machine, when I was testing it, it failed. It would not work. The IT guy said it didn't have an update."

Mr. Wyatt said that on election day one of the other machines came up with the same problem. He said he doesn't know who is responsible for putting in updates or even who is supposed to tell him when updates are needed.

He said he didn't know who was supposed to do the updates.

Norton singers to be part of concert

Four Norton men are members of the Prairie Statesmen Chorus to perform Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the McCook City Auditorium. Clair Rufford, Jeff Porter, Phil Lesh and Rory Harshbarger will be performing with the Tumbleweed Chorus from Colby, when they join forces to present the "Doo Wop Barbershop Concert." The combined chorus will total about 45 men singing nine songs.

Guest quartets will be performing. Headlining the evening will be the quartet known as Nexus. A female quartet called "Wine" will also perform.

Admission is \$10 for balcony seating; \$12 for floor seating; children 12 and under admitted free with a paid adult.