

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

January 16, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Carol Mayo

Briefly

4-H Favorite Food Show Saturday

Norton County 4-H members will be preparing their favorite foods for the Favorite Food Show on Saturday, at the 4-H Building in Norton. Members will begin entering their projects at 12:45 p.m.; the consultation judging will be done from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The exhibits will be open to the public from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited to watch the 4-Hers, their leaders and their parents at the show.

Girl Scouts Cookie Kickoff Saturday

The Girl Scouts will be conducting a Cookie Kickoff on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton. Girl Scouts will begin taking orders for cookies that day, until Jan. 31. There are eight varieties of cookies: Carmel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Shortbread, Thin Mint, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Thanks-A-Lot, Lemonades and a new cookie, Daisy Go Rounds, which contains five 100-calorie packs.

\$250 scholarship applications ready

The Norton Teachers' Association will be giving 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 877-5113, Eisenhower Elementary, or 877-3672. Applications must be returned by April 24 to Pam Menagh, 902 W. Holme, Norton, Kans. 67654.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 25.
Saturday - Sunny with a high near 45. Windy with a northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to 30 mph.
Saturday Night - Clear with a low around 23. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 54. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 24.
Monday - Sunny with a high near 50.

Kingham report:

Tues., Jan. 13..... Low 9, High 54
Wed., Jan. 14 Low 27, High 28
Thurs., Jan. 15..... Low 5, High 16

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for your promise to be with us always. Give us the faith to trust you and to walk courageously with you through all our days. Amen



Lee Ann Shearer, curator for the Gallery of Also-Rans, makes sure everything is in tip-top shape for Senator McCain's inauguration into the gallery on Tuesday. Senator McCain's photo and a short biography will be hung next to John Kerry's portrait before President-elect Obama's inauguration. The gallery, which is on the mezzanine at the First State Bank, will hold an open house on Inauguration Day, and will serve refreshments. Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Making way for Senator McCain

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Tuesday, Jan. 20 marks a big day for America. President-elect Barack Obama will be inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States, and the first African American to so serve.

It will also be a big day for Norton, as Arizona Senator John Sidney McCain III will be the 59th member inducted into "The Gallery of Also-Rans," in the mezzanine of the First State Bank. Until 1980, the gallery used pictures of every party's candidate that ran. Now, they just use the two major parties.

Lee Ann Shearer, curator of the gallery, wrote letters to both the presidential hopefuls last July, asking for photos of them.

"McCain responded in two weeks with an autographed photo," said Mrs. Shearer. "Obama didn't respond to either of the two requests."

The photo of Senator McCain was too dark, so she searched through the internet and found one on the website "Flickr." Mrs. Shearer asked Ken Rutherford, owner of Ken's Photography in Edmond, to enlarge the photo to 16 by 20 inches, the same as the rest of the gallery photos.

The "inauguration" of Senator McCain will take place at 10:30 in the gallery. The bank will be holding an open house to the public, and will be serving refreshments.

A television will be hooked up in the mezzanine and will show President-elect Obama's inauguration.

"The Hays Daily News will have a reporter there to cover the event, and Channel 12 [CBS station out of Wichita] said they might send someone as well," said Mrs. Shearer.

The Telegram will have its reporter

there, as well.

The Gallery of Also-Rans was started in 1965 by William Walter Rouse, a former president of the First State Bank, who saw it as an opportunity to attract tourists to Norton. Mr. Rouse was on the committee that helped bring the replica of Stage Coach Stop 15 into Norton. He read Irving Stone's book, "They Also Ran," became interested in the 19 men in the book who lost presidential elections, and set out to collect their portraits from the Library of Congress.

Mr. Rouse, with the help of Mrs. Mable Eighmy Davis, wrote most of the biographies that hang below the photos. When Mr. Rouse died in 1981, his daughter, Ann Hazlett, took over as curator. Patsy Barnard and Diana McGee followed Mrs. Hazlett as curators, prior to Mrs. Shearer.

"I wanted to know why Mr. Rouse was inspired to start such a unique museum," said Mrs. Shearer. "I purchased the Irving Stone book so I could read about these political figures. I immediately understood why the first runners up should not be forgotten, but be displayed with honor and integrity as they had been instrumental in shaping our country into what it is and what it will be."

Mrs. Shearer also has a picture of Mr. Rouse on display in the gallery.

After doing some research on a few of the "almosts," Mrs. Shearer came across something she's not sure even Mr. Rouse knew about. She found out that another one of the men with a picture hanging in the gallery had ties to Norton. John C. Fremont, who is remembered as "The Pathfinder," mapped out the west with the help of Kit Carson and many Native American Indian guides. He was also the first white man to ever be recorded

in this area in June of 1843, according to the Norton County Historical Museum's website. He mapped and named the Prairie Dog River, which passed through Norton County territory one half mile east of Norton. She found out through Wikipedia (an online encyclopedia) that Mr. Fremont was the first candidate for the Republican Party in 1856. He was defeated in 1857 by James Buchanan, the 15th President.

"The best part about taking care of the gallery is meeting the people who pass through," said Mrs. Shearer. "We've had visitors from Germany and South America this past year, and people from New England to Idaho."

The Gallery of Also-Rans has been in the news, especially recently. An article entitled "Remembering the Runners Up" ran in the American Profile Magazine on Oct. 26. Colleen Williams from NTV news stopped in to document the gallery on "The Road Less Traveled" in November 2007. The night before the 2008 elections, Mrs. Shearer was on a live telephone interview with Ms. Williams during the 5 o'clock news, while footage from the 2007 segment was running. The morning after the election, Debbie Goodrich from KMAJ Radio in Topeka had Mrs. Shearer on the morning talk show, speaking about the gallery.

"It seems that people away from Norton are more curious about the gallery than the residents themselves," said Mrs. Shearer. "A big thank you goes out to Erin Manning's Junior High News Crew. Since they made a visit to the gallery, the community has learned more about the collection and has had the opportunity to see it from their living rooms through Nex-Tech's local channel."

Two eye vacant city seat

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Timothy Bashford, one of two residents interested in filling the vacant city council seat occupied by former councilman Ron Briery, sat down for an interview earlier in the week. The other Ward 3 resident with an eye on the seat is Joe Leroux.

Here is Mr. Bashford's interview:
Q. Tell us about yourself.

A. I am 30 years old, and grew up here, went to Norton schools, graduated from Norton Community High School. After high school, I joined the Marine Corps as a helicopter repairman and was stationed in San Diego. For six months, I was stationed in Japan. I met my wife, April, in San Diego and we returned to Norton in 2002.



Tim Bashford

I currently work for Garrett's as a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning technician, and am in the Kansas Army National Guard as a heating and air specialist. I am a federally certified Environmental Protection Agency technician and am working on my North American Technician Excellence certification, which requires one year of experience in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, plus choosing a specialty area and taking a test on it. My specialty will be heat pumps.

While in the National Guard, I was deployed to Baghdad in 2005 for one year. I have been to Iraq, Kuwait, Ireland, Germany, Iceland, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Mexico and Japan with the military. Australia was my favorite out of all of the countries I've visited.

My wife, April, runs a daycare center
(Continued on Page 5)

Joe Leroux

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
carolynp38@hotmail.com

Joe Leroux has filed to finish the term and fill the vacated seat of Norton City Council member Ron Briery. Mr. Briery recently retired from the council. The seat will be up for election on the April 7 ballot.

Mr. Leroux said, "For years, I have considered running for public office. It took us settling in one place for me to get involved in a community."



Joe Leroux

Mr. Leroux said his first impression of Norton was that it was a town where "kids had a place of importance". He said when his family was considering the move to Norton in 2004, they came for a weekend to look the town over. He said when they drove into town, heading north on State Street, they were amazed to see the street lined with placards and signs showing the community's support for the school's athletic team that was headed to some state competition. "Our children are the central part of our lives. We knew it would be a good fit for our family to come to a community where everyone feels the same," he said.

Mr. Leroux graduated in 1988 from a high school in Windsor Locks, Conn. At age 17, he joined the Connecticut Army National Guard because summer boot camp sounded like more fun than his previous summer jobs: picking cotton and a newspaper route.

He served with the guard for three years then went on active duty with the U.S. Navy for two years. After leaving the Navy he pursued a career in law enforcement. He was a police officer in Ohio before accepting a position in Kansas with the sheriff's department in Great Bend.

It was after making the move to Kansas that he met and married his wife, Brandy.

(Continued on Page 5)

School board receives list of needs

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

The Norton school board went over possible capital outlay projects for the 2009 fiscal year at Monday night's meeting.

If every proposed project was done at once, the total cost would be \$246,300. Superintendent Greg Mann handed out a list of the proposed projects with their costs and asked each board member to circle their preference and to return the sheet to his office before Feb. 4.

The proposed projects are:

- Replace some playground equipment, such as the slides, at Eisenhower Elementary. Cost — less than \$10,000.
- Replace asphalt blacktop at Eisenhower Elementary with concrete. Cost — \$73,000. This project could be done in halves or thirds over two or three years.
- Purchase drum sander and supplies for the junior/senior high wood shop. Cost — \$3,800.
- Purchase music library shelves for

junior/senior high. Cost, \$5,000.

- Install air-lock doors at south end of the south Eisenhower Elementary hallway. Cost — \$3,500.
- Install a wheelchair-accessible bathroom at Stull Gym lobby. Cost — \$8,500.
- Create wheelchair seating in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. Cost — \$30,000.
- Create handicap seating area at Stull Gym and install hand rails in walkways. Cost — \$20,000.
- Upgrade intercom systems and clocks at Eisenhower Elementary, the junior high and the senior high buildings. This is also a project that can be done over a period of two or three years. Once finished, the buildings would be able to use the intercom from building-to-building, including the unified office.
- Replace Snapper riding lawnmower. Cost — \$10,000.
- Install wheelchair-accessible sinks, urinals and fountains. Cost — \$15,000.
- Purchase and install additional secu-

rity lights for the north end of Eisenhower Elementary parking lot, where faculty and staff park their vehicles. Cost — \$5,000.

- Purchase and install auto flushers and sink shut-offs in the south bathroom at Eisenhower Elementary. Cost — \$5,000.
- Purchase and install new entry doors for Stull Gym. Cost — \$15,000.

Superintendent Mann recommended only \$85,000 to \$95,000 be spent for the projects.

Also on the hand-out sheet was a list of projects that were completed in 2007 and 2008. The Stull Gym parking lot concrete was replaced, the area on the north side of the junior/senior high was reconfigured, the outdoor freezer at the junior/senior high was replaced, new wood shop and metal shop equipment was purchased, science tables for 5th and 6th grades were purchased, and a tankless hot water system was installed at the junior and senior high.