

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

12 PAGES

Friday  
January 30, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Rudy Perez

Briefly

## Final registration for soccer noted

Final registration for AYSO Soccer is Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the basement of Prairie Land Electric, on west Highway 36. The cost is \$40 per child.

## Head Start now taking applications

Head Start, the nation's premier early childhood program, is now taking applications for the 2009-2010 program year.

Head Start is an income-based child and family development program for 3 and 4 year olds and their families. Program services include education, socialization, nutrition, health services, disability services, family support and community outreach. Services are at no cost to participants.

For more information, contact Head Start at 877-2213.

## C-team basketball game canceled

The high school basketball girls C-team game with Colby scheduled for Monday evening in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton has been canceled by Colby.

## Opinion Page Larry's Tribute to Kansas

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## Weather

### Forecast:

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 21. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
Saturday - Sunny with a high near 64. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 23. Sunday - A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy with a high near 40.



## Kingham report:

Tues., Jan. 27..... Low 5, High 18  
1" Snow  
Wed., Jan. 28 ..... Low 4, High 42  
Thurs., Jan. 29..... Low 18, High 41  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

God, thank you for remaining faithful even when we doubt, for delivering us from bondage, and for blessing us with all that we need. **Amen**

# Prison's future remains cloudy

By TOM DREILING  
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The fate of the Norton Correctional Facility is in limbo at present. Or so it would seem. What created an uproar of sorts in the community the last couple of days was word that the prison would close on April 1.

That assumption probably resulted from a Department of Corrections letter from the Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz, to employees of the Norton and Winfield facilities. In that letter he addressed the cuts his department is facing in the new budget and concluded that closing of some facilities might be in order.

"The Norton Facility is not going to

close!" That was the statement made Wednesday by Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-40th District) in a conversation with The Telegram. He hoped he could say the same thing for the Stockton prison too, but wasn't as adamant as he was about the Norton facility.

"Where are we going to put all those inmates if Norton was to close?" he asked. Norton has in the neighborhood of 730 inmates.

The State Senate initially passed the budget cutting bill on Wednesday. The final Senate vote was expected to come sometime yesterday.

The budget-cutting bill moved to the Kansas House Thursday with an uncertain future. Reports from Topeka indicate

Republican moderates in that body are not solid in their support.

The effect on Norton and the surrounding area would be devastating should the prison here be closed. It would mean 267 state employees would lose their jobs. Whether or not all of this becomes a reality hinges on action the House takes and then what eventually can be ironed out with the Senate — if that need arises — and then how Gov. Sebelius weighs the pro and cons.

In the letter referenced at the outset of this report from Corrections Secretary Werholtz, he told employees in part that the budget proposal provides for a 3.4 percent across the board reduction for state agencies. He said for the Depart-

ment of Corrections this reduction would be in addition to reductions previously submitted by the department. He said a 3.4 percent cut means approximately \$9.3 million.

The secretary said that "since we are now completing the seventh month of the fiscal year, it would be very difficult to realize reductions of \$9.3 million in the remaining five months... To accomplish this, reductions would have to be made in major budget areas."

Then the secretary said in his letter — and this is what caused the uproar locally, "The possible areas of budget reductions include: suspension of operations at Winfield and Norton Correctional Facilities (Continued on Page 5)



Norton Telegram sports writer Dick Boyd worked on still another story when this photo was taken Thursday afternoon at the office. Mr. Boyd has been named 2009 recipient of the Oscar Stauffer Award, annually given to the state's top sportswriter. Mr. Boyd's been covering Blue Jay sports since 1970.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Telegram's Dick Boyd best sportswriter

Dick Boyd, longtime Norton newspaperman and former owner of The Norton Daily Telegram, has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Oscar Stauffer Award for Sportswriting.

Mr. Boyd took over ownership of the daily newspaper in 1970 and has, since that time, spent considerable time focusing on Norton Community High School athletics. When he sold the newspaper to Steve and Cynthia Haynes in 2002, Mr. Boyd stayed on to exclusively cover Norton Blue Jay sports.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association recently informed Mr. Boyd of his selection. This coveted award is given annually to a sportswriter in recognition of excellence in covering high school athletics.

Mr. Boyd was nominated for the award by Norton School Administrators in recognition of his many years of covering

NCHS athletics and for the consistent high quality of his work.

Mr. Boyd will be recognized and presented a plaque commemorating this honor at an upcoming state high school tournament of his choosing.

"The USD211 Board of Education congratulates Mr. Boyd on this well deserved honor and thanks him for the tireless coverage of Blue Jay athletics he has provided over the years," said a news release from Superintendent Greg Mann.

"There is only one Dick Boyd. Period," said The Norton Telegram's publisher Tom Dreiling.

"Dick is unique in the world of sports writing. He strives for perfection and comes mighty close to achieving that unachievable goal. Every period and every comma has its place. Choice of words, complete sentences — you name (Continued on Page 5)

## Award recipient comments

"I was very surprised and very appreciative of receiving this award. I've been writing high school sports for almost 50 years and have always felt privileged to do something I love and get paid to do it.

"I grew up in a journalistic family that emphasized the importance of reporting positive news about our community. I have always used this philosophy in reporting all my news stories, including sports.

"Having played athletics while growing up, I know the sting of defeat in addition to the joy of winning, but, also that you can always find a positive note of encouragement. It's been a pleasure to report more wins than

losses by our 'Fighting Blue Jays.' Hopefully, I've been able to include some positive news in stories about their few losses.

"Our young people are the future of our country and sports help teach them lessons for life, such as teamwork, good sportsmanship and citizenship, living a wholesome life physically and mentally and learning the value of competing for a goal.

"It's fun for me and rewarding to see our young people aspire to reach lofty athletic goals and then see them continue on to win in life, as well.

"I thank those who thought enough of me to nominate me and select me as the recipient of this award."

# April 7 board/council election line-ups finalized

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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These are the names you'll see on the ballots during the city council/school board elections on April 7. A primary election will not be held.

### Norton School Board:

District #1 — Incumbent Craig R. Renner and Joseph D. Durham

District #2 — Robert D. Wyatt (the seat is currently held by Elaine Lofgreen, who is not seeking re-election)

District #2 — Incumbent Scott R.

Ellis

### Northern Valley Schools:

District #1 — Clint Lowry (the seat is currently held by Blaine Marble, who is not seeking re-election)

District #1 — Curtis Lowry (the seat is currently held by Glenn Brands, who is not seeking re-election)

District #2 — none

### Lenora School District:

Position #4 — Incumbent Nicole Rhea

Position #5 — Incumbent DeAnn

David

Position #6 — none, the position will be filled by the person with the most write-ins. (The seat is currently held by Jim Ninemire)

### Norton City Council:

Mayor — Incumbent David Corns

Ward 1 — Incumbent Kim Snyder

Ward 2 — none, the position will be filled by the person with the most write-in votes. (the seat is currently held by Elaine Mann)

Ward 3 — Tim Bashford, Joseph Ler-

oux (the seat is currently held by Wally Burton)

### Almena City Council:

Incumbent Monte Montgomery

Incumbent Kevin E. Sides

Incumbent Lonnie Shearer has not filed to run for re-election.

Brian Schreiber

Tracy Stutsman

Camela S. Cox

### Lenora City Council:

Mayor — none, the position will be (Continued on Page 5)