

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
February 24, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Rod Maddy

Congratulations to the Norton Blue Jay State Wrestling Qualifiers

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Briefly



Coach Johnson flashes a smile after receiving regional plaque

No school here on Wednesday, Friday

There will be no school tomorrow due to parent-teacher conferences at Eisenhower Elementary and the MCEL Music Festival, at Norton Junior High. Norton schools will not be holding classes on Friday due to state wrestling.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 31.
Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 62.
Wednesday Night - Isolated sprinkles. Mostly cloudy with a low around 34.
Thursday - Mostly cloudy with a high near 46.
Thursday Night - Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 18.
Friday - Partly sunny.

Kingham report:

Fri., Feb. 20..... Low 25, High 56
Sat., Feb. 21..... Low 13, High 38
Sun., Feb. 22..... Low 16, High 43
Mon., Feb. 23..... Low 20, High 51
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, help us to assess where we are, to be sure we're on your path. And if we need to change direction, give us courage to do it. **Amen**



Eisenhower Elementary students, Derek Campbell, Conor Cox, Grant Gordon, Kenzie Esslinger, Morgan Farber, Wyatt Harting and Steve Cummings, among 99 other grade school and junior high students, were recognized at half-time of the high school girls' basketball game Friday evening for receiving "Exemplary" marks on their state assessment tests.
- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Hundreds of students recognized for tests results

By BRANDY LEROUX
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There are slightly more than 700 students in the Norton School District, and of those, 212, or about 30 percent, received "Exemplary" marks on the state assessment tests.

"We are proud of the superior achievement demonstrated by our students," said Norton Superintendent Greg Mann. "Proud that their parents have stressed high achievement and the value of education and proud of our teachers who have obviously prepared them well."

Seniors, tested in reading, U.S. History, U.S. Government, world history, life science and physical science were:

Laura Lee Baird, Philip Becker, Kerby Brandyberry, Chase Braun, Ashley Colip, Zac Dreher, Nathan Felton, Hannah Fulton, Justin Gibson, Louisa Gosselin, Blossom Jacobus, KaraJo Jones, Logan Kelly, Charli Lawson, Bryce Lofgreen,

Kyle Mindrup, Brittany Otter, Taylor Rossi, Katharine Emily Scott, and Stephanie Shepard.

Juniors, tested in math only were:

Brent Cook, Allison Corbin, Austine Dole, Kendra Engelbert, Marcus Herman, Christopher Maddy, Matthew Miller, Kelsey Nuzum, Zane Perez, Matthew Pollock, Amanda Ray, Jake Romey, Bethany Roy, Alyssa Thomson, Jordan Voss and Bethany Winkel.

Freshmen tested in reading, math, history and government were: Abby Bainter, Erick Becker, Brae Bigge, Rhees Carlson, Mariah Farber, Ben Galegos, Alexis Henson, Dillon McConney, Taylor Meder, Andy Nickell, Mitchell Shelton, Jordan Wahlmeier and Brooklyn Winkle.

8th Grade, tested in science, reading and . Lane Bigge, Eli Bozarth, Jade Braun, Zach Combs, Austin Duscher, Kamilla Jones, Brianna Karnopp, Ruth Kendell, Katelin Koch, Dalton Miller, Juliana

Miller, Kelsey Mordecai, Teslee Nickell, Kayleigh Norwood, Alex Riggins, Trevin Rossi, Rachel Slipke, Dylan Spradlin, Dylan Sprigg and Wyatt Wentz.

7th graders who received Exemplary marks on the state assessments they took last year, tested in reading, math and social studies were:

Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Bryce Baker, Kristen Burge, Anton Burns, MaKayla Cadwalader, Leif Carlson, Travis Cressler, Brandy Davis, Trey Deal, Katelyn Engelbert, Zach Esslinger, Jordyn Gosselin, Hannah Goss, Rিকেle Green, Austin Hager, Ashley Hildebrand, Corey Hadacek, Trever Lewis, Marisa Maddy, Marc Miller, Cristine Nelson, Toby Nickell, Hannah Pollock, Cole Renner, Christopher Richard, Ethan Ross, Johnnye Ruder, Isaac Schaefers, Drew Schrum, Jared Shelton, Desiree Skrdlant, Landon Slipke, Abbie Smith, Maggie Spradlin, Colton VanNortwick

and Suzanne White.

6th graders who received Exemplary marks on the state assessments they took last year, testing in reading and math were:

Rhett Blecha, Kaitlyn Bohl, Christian Boser, Caysean Campbell, Derick Campbell, Neysa Carlson, Conor Cox, Stephen Cummings, James Davis, Kenzie Esslinger, Morgan Farber, Grant Gordon, Sierra Griffith, Wyatt Harting, Jordan Karnopp, Nicholas Koch, Tyler Kuhn, Andrew McMullen, Kendall Miller, Jessica Porter, Chris Reynolds, Tracy Riggins, Derek Rowh, Molly Scott, David Smith, Breven Sondergard, Brooke Sumner, Nicole Tacha, Jared Tallent, Clay Vanover and Dalton Vanover.

5th graders who received Exemplary marks on the state assessments they took last year, testing in reading, science and

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Economy no problem at hospital

Rich Miller, Chief Executive Officer of the Norton County Hospital, told the Norton County Commissioners that the hospital hasn't felt the effects of the economy, but that they have taken measures just in case.

He said he estimates that between 50 and 55 percent of the hospital patients are on Medicare; 25 percent have insurance through Blue Cross/Blue Shield; between five and eight percent have Medicaid; three to five percent have other insurance; and between five and 15 percent are uninsured.

The commission discussed the 2010 hospital budget with Mr. Miller, who asked the commissioners if the county would be able to apply funds if the hospital needed financial assistance.

Commissioner John Miller said that at this time, the county is not able to answer that question, as it is still uncertain as to what is going to happen in the legislature.

Mr. Miller also asked the commissioners to keep the hospital in mind when they are considering the use of the current Emergency Medical Services facility, when it comes available.

Mr. Miller said the hospital has contracted with a firm in Nebraska for the anesthesiologist service. He also said the greatest staffing problems at the hospital were at the entry level, which continue to be the

most difficult to fill.

Ryan Stover, Chief Financial Officer of the Norton County Hospital, gave the commissioners the first six months' financial report, including patient days, admissions, observations, births, surgeries, and outpatient and inpatient procedures. Mr. Stover also reported on the revenues and operating expenses with the hospital. The year-to-date net income has been \$139,751.00.

Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department Administrator, spoke with the commission about setting up a new collection process at the health department. Mrs. Frack said they are working on their billing and collection policy, and will incorporate the Kansas Set-Off Program into it. Mrs. Frack also said she was able to get a grant for \$2,000 to help pay for her continuing education tuition.

Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor, gave the commission photos of a road in West Union

Township, between sections 35 and 36. Mr. Brannan said the road was worked on in November at the landowner's request, but that the county did not spend a lot of time working on that road, just leveling the surface for better access.

Mr. Brannan said Federal Emergency Management Agency projects are still being worked on, and tree burnings will have to wait until the weather conditions are more suitable to prevent the fires from getting out of control.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste Manager, gave the commissioners a copy of an email he received from Mike Selm, an engineer of solid waste permits with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The email said the county may continue construction of Cell 1 in the Semi-Arid Landfill, and that he will review the other needs and future needs and continue to work with BG Consultants in providing necessary permits and documents.

PRIDE time once again at Almena

The Almena Community PRIDE and the Junior PRIDE will be serving a pancake/sausage supper on Saturday at the Almena Community Building from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is by donation.

All proceeds are earmarked for cupboards for the upcoming new community building and library.

Local office can help with employment

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Norton County residents who have lost their jobs can get help through Norton City/County Economic Development to find employment.

"We've contacted the Regional Work Force Center in Hays," said Diane Becker, Director of economic development. "They are the organization that assisted us with the first workshop and are our contact for all workforce services and programs."

The Regional Work Force Center helps people find jobs and employers find workers. They have access to education and training money to help people get jobs that are in high demand, such as nursing, welding, plumbing and electrical.

People looking for jobs can call the Workforce Center and they will come to Norton to help with resumes, interviewing skills, and they can also help employers find workers.

"The Workforce Center can assist people in all situations, whether or not

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