

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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12 PAGES

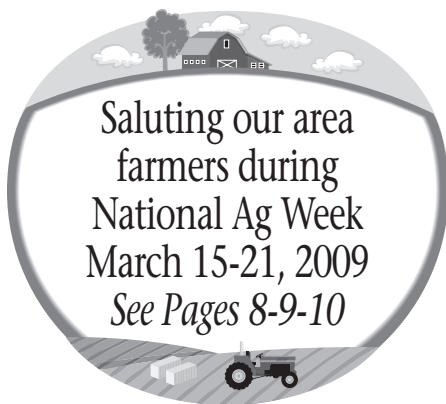


Friday

March 13, 2009

Norton, Kansas

Home of Elta Ankenman



Saluting our area farmers during National Ag Week March 15-21, 2009 See Pages 8-9-10

Briefly

Cattlemen's group here this evening

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association will hold a membership drive at the 4-H building in Norton this evening at 7:00. Called "A Producer and Consumer Get Together," the affair will tackle several items: Country of Origin Labeling; Feeding Cattle; Free or Fair Trade; Supply and Demand Markets; and Mandatory I.D. The association said this all ties into how it impacts rural communities, farmers and ranchers. Association board members will be on hand. You need not be a producer to be a member.

Pet vaccinations tonight, Saturday

The Norton Animal Health Center will be holding a vaccination clinic today until 7 p.m. and again Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon. The public is urged to have their dog and cat vaccinations up-to-date, with no exam fee. For dogs, the distemper-parvo-rabies vaccine will cost \$16, and the kennel cough vaccine will cost \$14. For cats, the distemper vaccine will cost \$16, and the feline leukemia vaccine will cost \$19.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 27. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 56. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 30. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 61.

Kingham report:

Fri., March 6 Low 28, High 66
Sat., March 7 Low 30, High 36
Sun., March 8 Low 21, High 59
Mon., March 9 Low 31, High 46
Trace of Snow
Tues., March 10 Low 12, High 30
1/4" Ice
Wed., March 11 Low 3, High 31
Thurs., March 12 Low 6, High 37
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Father, thank you for keeping us always in your mind and heart. We have faith, but help our unbelief. Help us to share your grace with others when they are in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Damage from the house fire at 509 north Archer Tuesday afternoon included this hole in the roof, (above) which was a result of the firefighters knocking down the chimney for safety reasons. (Right) Shortly after arriving at the scene, the smoke was already billowing out of the house. Firefighters performed a rescue search to make sure no one was inside.

- Telegram photos by Dana Paxton and Brandy Leroux



Fire renders Norton home useless

By BRANDY LEROUX
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The Norton City Fire Department was called to a house fire early Tuesday afternoon at 509 north Archer.

The owner of the house is Charles Blair, Castle Rock, Colo. The house was being rented to Virgil and Donna Wilcox, said Kirk Nuzum, assistant

fire chief, who also said the house was a total loss.

"There was no one inside when the fire started," Mr. Nuzum said. "We did do a rescue search just to make sure."

Within half an hour after firefighters arrived, part of the ceiling inside the house fell. The force of the ceiling falling on the floor broke out several windows and

raised one side of the roof. There were two firefighters inside the house when the ceiling fell, but they were uninjured.

"We stayed out of the house after the ceiling fell," said Mr. Nuzum. "We did knock the chimney down for safety reasons. There were no natural gas or electric issues during the fire."

At 2:25, the rural fire department was

paged for additional manpower.

Paul Thomas, a fire investigator with the Kansas State Fire Marshal, was at the house Wednesday to investigate. Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations for the Fire Marshal's office, said "the fire has been ruled accidental, due to wood burning coal debris being dumped on combustible materials."

Cheerleaders a question mark at high school

By BRANDY LEROUX
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The Norton School Board may decide to suspend cheerleading at the high school for the 2009-2010 school year. Superintendent Greg Mann said there has been a decline in interest in cheerleading and finding a sponsor for the program has been difficult.

"In the past, the high school cheerleading squad consisted of 12 cheerleaders," said Mr. Mann. "We haven't had that for the past two years and last spring we had only 12 try out and the year before we had 13. This year, the squad started out with 10 cheerleaders, and we finished the year with four."

Mr. Mann declined to elaborate on why all six had left the squad, but did say that one member of the squad had moved away.

Mr. Mann said he would like the board to consider if the cheerleading program is accomplishing what it's intended to accomplish — which is a positive educational leadership experience for all people involved — and asked the board to give serious thought to not having cheerleading next year.

Board member Craig Renner suggested waiting to see what the interest level is for the next school year before making a decision. Mr. Mann said high school principal Rudy Perez can look into the level of interest and report back at the next school board meeting on April 13.

As of Thursday morning, six students had signed up to try out for cheerleading in the 2009-2010 school year.

Board receives update on survey, dairy recruitment

Updates on the business survey and the dairy recruitment trip were items for the Norton City County Economic Development board meeting Tuesday night.

Janis Monier presented the first of a three part presentation on the business survey results that she had. She said there are 178 active businesses in Norton County that were contacted. She has over 300 pages of notes that she will be condensing. Some of the information has been given to the economic development office for compiling into a business directory that can be handed out. Director Diane Becker and office assistant Verla Grysch are working on getting all the businesses into categories. They hope to have a presentation

at the next meeting.

Ms. Monier said some of the issues for businesses are the economy, affordable child care and the one mentioned most often is the condition of the streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters in all of the cities. They would like to see more young people get involved in local government and get more information out to the businesses. They also said that the existing businesses need to be taken care of and the businesses on Highway 36 don't want to be forgotten. The business owners also felt that there needs to be more attention paid to the lake and promoting more activities there. Ms. Monier will present more information at the next meeting.

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State next for geography champ

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Steve E. Cummings, the 2008 Eisenhower Elementary Geography Bee Champion, will be traveling to Abilene on Friday, April 3 to compete in the State Geography Bee.

"I am very excited for Steve and wish him good luck," said Jane Burton, coordinator for the Geography Bee. "It makes me proud when one of our students gets to go to the state competition. I'm sure Steve will represent Eisenhower very well."

He is in sixth grade and will be facing some serious competition against 100 other students from across the state,

grades four through eight, Mrs. Burton said.

The State Geography Bee will be held at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene. One winner from each state and territory will advance to the national competition, which will be on May 19 and 20, at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C. Transportation and accommodations for the trip are provided for each state winner and a teacher-sponsor escort from the school that the winner attends. The event will be hosted by Alex Trebek and shown on National Geographic TV on May 20.

Norton grad receives big scholarship

Joel Griffiths, Norton, has been named one of six recipients of the J. L. Weigand Jr. Notre Dame Legal Education Trust scholarship. The son of Doug and Karen Griffiths, he will be entering the University of Kansas School of Law in the fall.

The Weigand scholarships — the largest legal education scholarships in the country — were established to offer assistance to law students from the state of Kansas. The scholarships provide for full tuition, fees, books, and a room and board allowance



Joel Griffiths

for selected students who have been legal residents of Kansas for at least 10 years prior to their admission to law school. In addition to providing scholarships, the Weigand Trust assists scholarship recipients with career placement in Kansas during and after their graduation from law school.

Griffiths attended Norton Community High School and received his diploma in 2004. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business with a major in Accounting. He is on pace to receive his Master in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting with a perfect 4.0 grade point average from Emporia State.

From 2004-2007, Joel was an athlete on (Continued on Page 5)