THE NORTON IELEGRAM



8 PAGES

Tuesday April 28, 2009

Norton, Kansas Home of John Horak

Briefly

Blue Jay Boosters meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited. Speaking about recent results and upcoming competition will be track coach Jason Jones and golf coach David

Prairie Statesmen concert Saturday

The Prairie Statesmen chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society will present their annual show at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at the McCook City Auditorium. Norton area members of the Prairie Statesmen Chorus are Roy Harshbarger, Ron Scheimo, Clair Rumford and Phil Lesh. Tickets may be purchased from any members or at the door.

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Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Stop Look Listen **Tom Dreiling**





Tonight -A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Wednesday - A chance of thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Some of the storms could be severe. Chance of precipitation is 50%. Thursday - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.



Kingham report:

Fri., April 24 Low 50, High 86 Sat., April 25 Low 39, High 49 Sun., April 26 Low 41, High 74 .10 Rain

Mon., April 27..... Low 38, High 60 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)



Lord, thank you for the peace you give us when we forgive others as you have forgiven us. Amen



Chance McMullen (above) herded a quartet of pigs around so his fellow FFA members could see them during a judging contest on Monday at the 4-H Livestock Barn at Elmwood Park. Inside the barn, Hannah Fulton (right) studied prospect lambs as part of the judging contest.

FFA'ers warm up for state judging at Norton Invite

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With only a week left before the state FFA livestock judging contest in Manhattan, students from 14 Northwest Kansas schools gathered in Norton on Monday for the Norton County FFA Livestock Invitational, the final pre-state contest.

The students studied cattle, sheep and pigs hoping to hone their stock judging skills before the state contest. The Norton team took seventh in the contest.

Eight pens were set up in and just outside of the 4-H Livestock Building in Elmwood Park. Most contained four animals but a few had "extras," that had to be culled out by the students before they could judge the four best.

The students wrote down their evaluations of the animals and each pen was worth 50 points, Norton FFA adviser Garrett Beydler said. Participants also had to give an oral presentation telling the judge why they evaluated animals in

By CYNTHIA HAYNES three pens the way they did. The three oral reasons are also worth 50 points each, he said, giving each student a possible score of 550 points. While there are six students on a team, only the top three students from each team figure in the team's total.

> The team from Quinter won the event with 1,349 points followed by Smith Center, 1,348; St. Francis, 1,342; Phillipsburg, 1,324; Oberlin, 1,294; Plainville, 1,290; **Norton**, 1,279; Oakley, 1,278; Colby, 1,267; Northern Valley, 1,168; Palco, 1,131; Cheylin, 1,088; Hays, 904; and Natoma, 891.

> The top 10 individual finishers were Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, 495; Hannah Fulton, Norton, 481; Grady Brunk, St. Francis, 479; Jed Johnson, Natoma, 464; Audrey Werth, Hays, 460; Russell Heier, Quinter, 459; Jillie Ganourng, Plainville, 454; Emma Kitch, Quinter, 453; Kaden Roush and Cody Tucker, Smith Center, tied at 451.

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Nothing in there



Magician Eric Vaughn invited children from the audience to come to the stage to inspect a bag he was holding, to make sure it was empty as he began performing his next trick, which involved a dice from his bag that would disappear and then reappear in the bag his wife Kelly was holding elsewhere on the stage. The Sunday afternoon program, which was sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council, had the audience - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton in suspense and laughter.



Next stop: retirement

Vesta Hobbs

By TOM DREILING tom.d@nwkansas.com

May 1 will be a day of significance for a Norton resident. In this case, significance is spelled r-e-t-i-r-e-m-e-n-t!

After 31 years with the Farm Service Agency, Vesta Hobbs will opt for a quieter pace. And to say she deserves it would be an understatement.

Vesta came to Norton as County Executive Director in February, 1997. She was a program assistant in Norton from 1978 to October, 1986. She was responsible for Compliance then Production Adjustment, which is a farm program similar to the current Direct-Counter-Cyclical Program.

Vesta also had the wool program, and recalled having 25 to 30 applicants back then, where now, she says, "we have five."

"Llying in the belly of a small airplane, I took pictures of Northwest Kansas farmto schedule flights and do training of flight crews in the west half of Kansas."

In 1986, she said, "I went to work for the Kansas State Office as a County Op-

erations Reviewer. This was a brand new program to audit programs, and I checked Farm Service Agency offices all over the state. It was a wonderful experience because I had to learn all the programs and see how these programs were managed in a wide variety of offices."

In 1989 she had the opportunity to become a county executive director in

Graham County. "I was glad to be close enough to come home every evening instead of just on weekends," she said. "I learned a lot and worked with some really good people in Hill City. But when the Norton County county executive director's position became available in 1997, I was ready to stay home and not have to drive to Hill City every day."

Vesta said it's hard to believe she has been in Norton for 12 years now and pointed to "great employees with lots of experience," and "fun working land," she said. "I was fortunate to be able with Norton farmers again," for making these dozen years so special.

> "Thank you all for making this a very good 31 years. I have made friends all

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