

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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

10 PAGES

## Tuesday

March 2, 2010

### Briefly

#### Representative to meet with vets

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office on March 8 from 1—2:30 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with veterans' benefits. The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs is a state agency that provides free assistance to veterans and their families with veterans' benefits. Call 785-625-8532 for more information.

#### Booster club sets weekly meeting

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend and hear reports from head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. You do not have to be a member of the club to attend.

#### County office to be closed for training

The Norton County Health Department will be closed tomorrow for staff training. They will re-open Thursday at normal business hours.

**MARKETS**  
Cash Prices-Norton  
March 2, 2010

- CORN \$3.38
- SOYBEANS \$8.89
- WHEAT \$4.01
- MILO \$3.00

Ag Valley  
314 W. North Street  
Norton, Kansas  
785-877-5188

## weather forecast

Tonight - Patchy freezing fog after midnight. Wednesday - Patchy freezing fog before noon. Wednesday Night - Patchy fog after midnight.

#### Kingham report:

Friday, Feb. 19..... Low 22, High 36  
 Sat., Feb. 20..... Low 22, High 31, 2" Snow  
 Sun., Feb. 21..... Low 20, High 30, 2" Snow  
 Mon., Feb. 22.. Low 13, High 27, 1/2" Snow  
 Tuesday, February 23..... Low 8, High 28  
 Wednesday, February 24..... Low 8, High 37  
 Thursday, February 25..... Low 16, High 41  
 Friday, February 26..... Low 22, High 49  
 Sat., Feb. 27.... Low 24, High 50, Trace Snow  
 Sunday, Feb. 28..... Low 25, High 41  
 Mon., March 1..... Low 27, High 38,  
 Snow Flurries

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

### Prayer

God of compassion, when we are alone, be with us. When we grieve, comfort us. Amen.

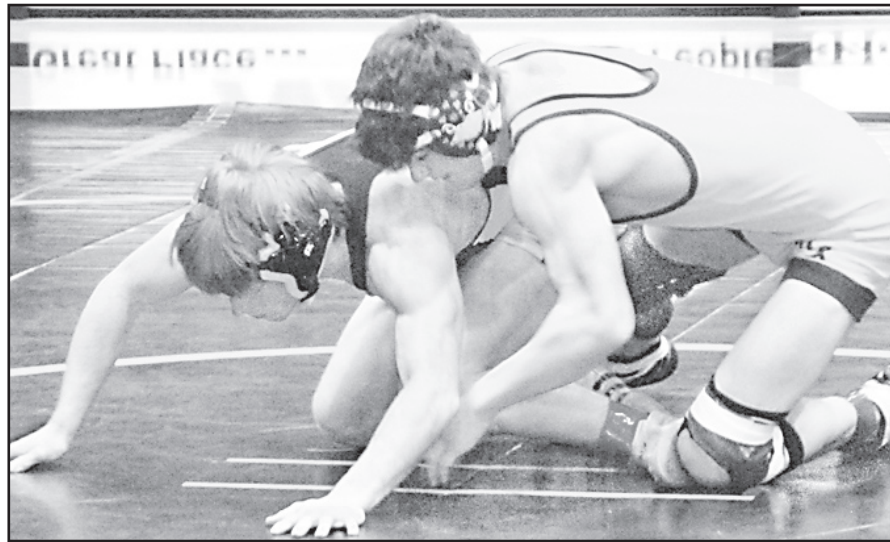


## Keiswetter brothers take state wrestling honors



Norton junior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, wrestling at 152 pounds for the Blue Jays in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament last weekend in Hays, is shown decisioning Sage Thimmesch, Garden Plain, 9-4 to earn a state championship and follow in the footsteps of older brother Kaenon who had just stepped off the mat with his 145 pound gold medal!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior 145 pound wrestler Kaenon Keiswetter set the stage for his younger brother when he finished strong to decision Trevor Oliver, Osborne, 10-3 to win the state championship in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament last weekend in Hays. When "Tug" followed him with a state championship, it marked the second time in two years that Norton brothers won state championships the same year. Brothers Zach and Troy Bainter accomplished this special feat last year.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Department funding could be cut

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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The Norton County Health Department is expecting funding cuts from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, although specific numbers are not yet known for the 2011 budget.

Norton County Health Department Administrator Gina Frack told the county commissioners during their meeting on Feb. 26 that the aid to local funds could be cut.

In an interview after the meeting, she said any cuts could affect the health department as well as the home health agency.

The aid to local funding comes in the form of a grant. Frack said Norton County usually receives \$7,000 a year from that fund.

She is looking at other grants to make up for any cuts from the Kansas Department of Health and Environ-

ment.

"Long term, it's a concern. I don't know what is going to happen," she said.

In other county commission business:

- Frack also discussed the employee handbook, and the concern she has for a member of her staff needing to take sick leave if a foster child became sick. The commission discussed the issue and will set up a conference call to discuss changing the employee handbook.
- Norton County Treasurer Cindy Linner presented year-to-date information. She said sales taxes may have leveled off. In February, \$25,501.95 was collected.
- Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, discussed two properties that need to install fences. He said a Kansas Department of Transportation representative will contact the property owners.

Archibald also discussed spring cleanup with the commissioners. He was unsure about the dates but told

the commission it cost the county between \$5,000 and \$6,000 last year.

The commission discussed charges for recycling cement. The landfill currently accepts cement, which is re-used by the road and bridge department. Commissioner John Miller said there is no need to charge for cement if it can be re-used, but if they have to start putting it in the landfill a cost may be charged. They discussed other counties, some of which charge \$10 per pound for cement.

• Reggie Beckman, Norton County Noxious Weed supervisor, discussed spring and fall spraying. He presented a map to the commission of roads to be sprayed. The commission said he should meet with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan.

Beckman said his department has spent 477 total hours on spraying, which does not include loading,

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## Annual check-out week celebrated

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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Norton County Farm Bureau celebrated national Food Check-out Week Feb. 21-27 with activities at five county businesses, Eisenhower Elementary School and trivia every morning on KQNK radio station.

The week is meant to celebrate the day the average American has earned enough disposable income to buy groceries for a year.

The date has been moved from early February to late February over the years. This year it was celebrated Feb. 21-27.

"It takes us longer to earn enough to buy food," said Norton County Farm Bureau Representative Patsy Maddy.

Maddy said Americans spend 10 percent of their disposable income on food while people in other countries can spend up to 50 percent. Germans spend 10.9 percent, Chinese spend 28.3 percent, Russians spend 36.7 percent and in Indonesia 49.9 percent of disposable income is spent on food.

Activities for the week included: Almena Market on Monday, Norton Community High School on Tuesday,

Mainstreet IGA on Wednesday, Pure Prairie on Thursday and Jamboree on Friday. Mainstreet IGA and Jamboree gave away loaves of bread while Pure Prairie Owner Jim Rowh baked mini loaves of bread to give away. Almena Market held a random drawing for two \$25 gift certificates.

Rowh said he decided to give mini loaves of bread away because bread is his signature bakery item. Everything he uses in Pure Prairie's bakery comes from local sources.

"It helps us to promote our local products," he said.

Almena Market owner Stan Cadwalader said they have participated for several years.

"I've done it for the last three years as a way to give back to the community," he said.

Maddy said KQNK radio station asked a trivia question every day this week, and students at Eisenhower Elementary School participated in a trivia game. One question asked was how long it would take to run off the calories in one M&M. Maddy said someone would have to run the length of a football field.



Pure Prairie Natural Foods owner Jim Rowh put the finishing touches on his mini wheat rolls. Rowh donated the rolls for Farm Bureau's annual Food Check-out Week, which celebrated the week average Americans earned enough disposable income to buy a year's worth of groceries.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## Rural Telephone brings advanced services to area

Forty-five years ago, state-of-the-art telecommunications meant single-party dial telephone service. With the development and deployment of fiber optics, and the explosion of the Internet, wide area networking and digital TV, that definition has changed.

The cable that connects customers in 2010 must provide more than plain old telephone service. As a result, Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech is undertaking an aggressive upgrade plan to bring advanced, state-of-the-art broadband services to all its customers by way of Fiber-To-The-Premise technology.

Area residents will soon have a communications

infrastructure that will be the envy of people in the largest metro areas. Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech has announced plans to build fiber technology to the cities of Almena and Norcatur.

This is part of an unprecedented construction project that will impact 21 towns and 26 rural areas spanning over 4,600 square miles in Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks, Sheridan, Smith and Trego Counties in Kansas.

Converting traditional copper plant to Fiber-To-The-Premise provides a competitive economic advantage to communities and businesses, according to Rural

Telephone CEO/General Manager Larry Sevier. "Of the 51,315 communities in the U.S., only a small percentage have Fiber-To-The-Premise technology, enabling exceptionally fast broadband, which plays a significant role in retaining and expanding businesses," Sevier said.

"Rural Telephone subscribers in these communities will be among the privileged 4 percent of the nation to enjoy the amazing benefits of Fiber-To-The-Premise technology — state-of-the-art digital television service, high-speed Internet and phone service over a fiber

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