

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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## Tuesday May 11, 2010

### Briefly

#### High school sets exhibit night

Norton Community High School will hold the annual Exhibit Night and band concert May 18 at the high school cafeteria, vocational ag shop, wood shop and hallways.

The exhibits will be on display at 6:30 p.m. and include: wood projects, drafting, vocational agriculture projects and student art work.

The band concert will start at 8 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium.

#### American Heritage meeting Thursday

The public is invited to attend another in a series of meetings concerned with the future of America which will be held in the Norton Public Library Community Room at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

The public is invited, however, some material would not be suitable for young children.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.

The video "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West" will be shown in an effort to help people understand radical Islam.

"The Fort Hood shootings, the attempt to blow up an airplane on Christmas Day, the attempt to explode a car in crowded Times Square and many similar events over the past few years seem to have a common denominator: radical Islam," said Kathy Wilmot, spokesperson.

"When these things happen, people often shake their heads as they wonder aloud why someone would do this. Is it a belief system? If we as Americans are kinder to others, will that help? If we as Americans embrace multi culturalism, will that result in no more terrorist attacks? "CNN and Fox News have shown the video that we will show on Thursday night. Those who have watched it highly suggest that everyone should see it."



Gavin Lively was named hitting champion with 324 points, running champion with 315 points and all-round champion in the Pitch, Hit and Run competition on May 1. This was the second year for the event, which

was sponsored by the Norton Recreation Commission. Twenty children participated.

—Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

## Pitch, Hit and Run kids show off talent

By JOAN BOLT  
Special to The Telegram

The Norton Recreation Commission sponsored their second annual local Aquafina Pitch, Hit, and Run competition on May 1.

Twenty participants showcased their summer ball talents.

The participants competed in six pitches for accuracy, the best of three hits off the tee for accuracy and distance, and a timed run from second base to home plate.

Points were awarded based on the conversion chart numbers coinciding with the results of each competition.

The winners were as follows:

7/8 boys: Pitching Champions were Judson Wiltfong and Camdyn Unterseher with 150 points; Hitting Champion was Kade Melvin with 180 points; Running the Bases Champion was Con-

nor Haresnape with 181 points; The All-Around Champion was Connor Haresnape with 420 points.

9/10 boys: Hayden Wiltfong won the Pitching, Hitting, and Base running competitions giving him the All-Around title with 739 points.

11/12 boys: Pitching Champions were Alec Otter, Jace Ruder, and Gavin Lively hitting 2 of six pitches for 150 points; Hitting Champion was Gavin Lively with 324 points; Running Champion was Gavin Lively with 315 points; All-Around Champion was Gavin Lively with 789 points.

9/10 girls: The girls were even up with each scoring the guaranteed scores in both the pitching and the hitting category; Carol Schoenthaler won the Running Championship with 276 points; Carol Schoenthaler won the All-Around with

(Pitch - Continued on Page 5)



Camdyn Unterseher scored 150 points and was named pitching champion in the Pitch, Hit and Run competition held May 1. He competed in the seven/eight year-old category.

—Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

**MARKETS**  
Tuesday, May 11

WHEAT.....	\$3.83
MILO.....	\$2.92
SOYBEANS.....	\$8.88
CORN.....	\$3.32

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

**weather forecast**

Tonight - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Wednesday - Showers likely, mainly before 1 p.m. Cloudy with a high near 52. Chance of precipitation is 60% Thursday - Mostly sunny with a night near 60. Friday - Mostly sunny with a high near 67.

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#### Kingham report:

Friday, May 7.....Low 37, High 60  
Saturday, May 8.....Low 32, High 63  
Sunday, May 9.....Low 40, High 69  
Monday, May 10.....Low 47, High 53  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

#### Prayer

O God, help us to know in our hearts that you are walking beside us at all times, sustaining us through our lowest moments and answering our prayers before we speak. Amen



## County Commission discussed state budget

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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The Norton County Commissioners started their weekly meeting by discussing whether the Legislature had passed its budget and how a 1 cent sales tax increase will affect the state.

"The House hasn't officially passed it yet. They should," said Commissioner John Miller.

The commissioners discussed whether they would have to increase taxes to balance their budget.

"We know, after last year's budget, we're going to

have to do an increase," Miller said.

Alan Hale, Norton County appraiser, said he is unsure of Norton County's valuation for this year.

"For this year, we still don't know," he said.

He said oil valuations still aren't final, but Phillips County gained \$2 million in valuation last year. He said there are five to six new leases in Norton County.

In other commission business:

• Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan gave his weekly report. He discussed the four day work week with the commissioners. The commission also

discussed road closures with Brannan updating them on which roads will be worked on next.

Brannan said the sign machine should be here this week. The machine was paid for with a Risk Avoidance grant.

• County resident Jim Mai visited with the commission regarding road maintenance. Brannan said the project is scheduled to be completed this year. Mai requested the work be done three years ago.

• Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald

(County - Continued on Page 5)

## Thomas County man pleads guilty to equipment theft

By KEVIN BOTTRELL  
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A Thomas County man pled guilty Thursday to stealing more than \$1 million in farm equipment, most of which has been stored in a city lot here since September.

Matthew Jones, 31, who owns a farm north of Colby, entered the guilty plea in the U.S. District Court in Wichita on Thursday. He admitted to three of 12 charges.

In September, more of the farm equipment was seized from Jones' property and impounded in Colby. Jones was charged with 12 federal counts of transportation of stolen equipment in early March. Ryan Hanzlick, 33, Colby, was arrested at same time and is still awaiting trial.

In his plea, Jones detailed his involvement in each

of the counts brought against him. Jones said Hanzlick was involved in all of the thefts and helped bring the equipment back to his Thomas County farm, some for his use. Jones' plea said he knew these items were stolen when they were brought to his farm. Jones admitted he was personally involved in several of the thefts.

He pled guilty to three of the counts. On July 1, 2006, Jones and Hanzlick stole a Gleaner combine from Alma, Okla. Jones said they had gone to Oklahoma to look for a combine to steal. When they found this combine, they loaded it on a trailer and trucked it back to Jones' property north of Colby. On April 26, 2008, the pair stole a John Deere tractor and planter from a property near Elsie, Neb., and brought them back to Thomas County.

For these three counts, Jones could get up to 30

years in prison, nine years' probation and a fine of up to \$750,000. Jones also agreed to pay more than \$1.1 million in restitution, the total value of all the stolen property.

The government made a plea agreement with Jones. The plea agreement states that the U.S. attorney will drop the remaining charges at sentencing. The government also agreed not to file any more charges against Jones in connection with the indictment and to recommend a sentence at the low end of what the judge can impose.

The government agreed not to request anything worse than the maximum sentence while Jones' lawyer agreed not request anything less than the minimum. However, the judge does not have to follow their agreement.

(Theft - Continued on Page 5)