

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

**Tuesday**  
January 31, 2012

## Briefly

### Booster Club set to meet Wednesday

Another winter sports meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will be the speakers.

You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend the meetings.

### Norton Auto Supply to hold open house

Norton Auto Supply is holding their annual filter sale all this week. In appreciation for their customers, they will be serving lunch from 11-2 p.m. on Thursday.

### Dole family plans Thank You Dinner

Dick and Sandra Dole will host a Thank You Dinner on Sunday at the Community Building in Almena. Lunch will be served from 11-2 p.m. This is being held to thank all of those that helped their family after the June 2011 tornado.

### VA officer will visit Norton on Feb. 7

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton Senior Center, (Community Center), from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday Feb. 7. She will assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs on that date, she can be reached in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

### Disc golf tourney planned Saturday

A disc golf tournament will be held at Elmwood Park this Saturday. A players meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. and the first round of play will begin at 10 a.m. All proceeds from the event go to support God's Pantry.

## Markets

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Wheat.....	\$6.55
Milo.....	\$5.86
Soybeans.....	\$10.97
Corn.....	\$6.25

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s. Wednesday Night - Mostly clear.

## Kingham Report

Friday, January 27 .....Low 25, High 46  
Saturday, January 28.....Low 14, High 44  
Sunday, January 29.....Low 21, High 60  
Monday, January 30.....Low 35, High 67  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Healer of the sick, teach us to come to you continually in prayer. Be with us as we leave our worries with you, and give us the courage to face each day - one hour, one minute at a time. Amen

## Arts Council show draws 60 to The Rock

Comedian Sam Adams performed Saturday evening at The Rock for a crowd of about 60 people looking for an evening of laughs. The show was sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council.

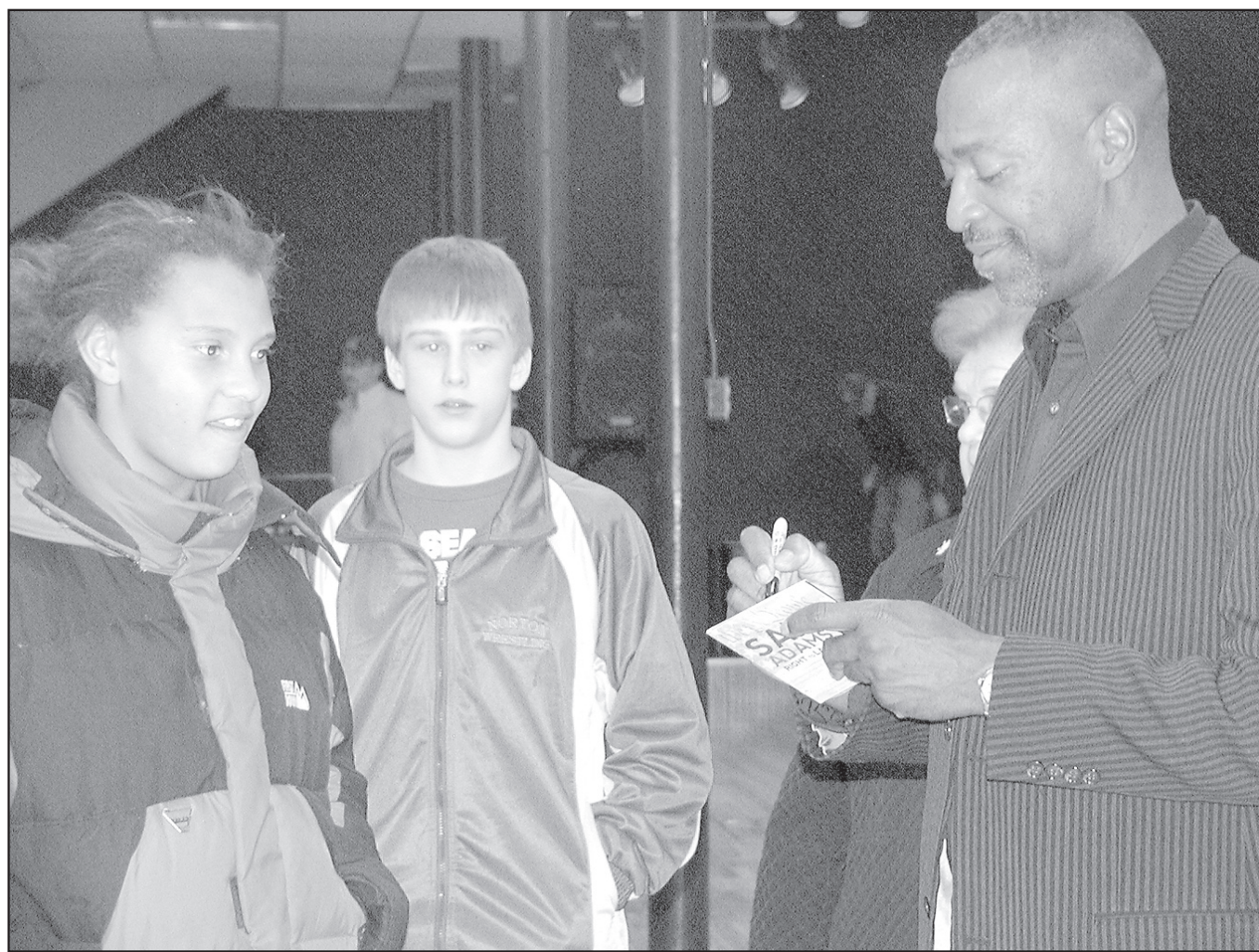
Adams hails from Denver, Colo., but travels around the midwest performing comedy shows. He has been performing full time for about 11 years. His family-friendly comedy routine Saturday evening featured commentary on race and skin color, pop culture, music and a variety of other timely issues.

Along with the performance, the comedian held a meet and greet session to sign copies of his comedy DVD and talk with people about his experience.

For more information about Sam Adams or his show, visit [www.likethebeer.com](http://www.likethebeer.com).

(Right) Sam Adams signed copies of his comedy DVD after his show Saturday evening at the Rock. Pictured are Jasmine Covington and Derek Rowe, who received signed copies of Adams' DVD.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



## Commissioners accept state equipment

By Carleen Bell  
[cbell@nwkansas.com](mailto:cbell@nwkansas.com)

To bring the county in line with statewide use, the Norton County Commissioners agreed last Monday to receive new equipment and supplies for identification and credentialing of county emergency responders.

Norton County Emergency Management Director Justina Smith reported that the county currently uses a printer system to print identification badges for emergency personnel in the county, but that system is no longer compatible with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

To help get every county using the

same system, state officials are offering to supply Norton County with new equipment and web-based access to create badges for emergency responders.

Smith explained that the new system, known as Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System, will allow for "real time" tracking of emergency personnel, especially in the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a tornado.

"Each potential emergency responder will get an identification badge with their name, photo and certifications printed on the card, along with a barcode that can be scanned," Smith said. "The barcode can be scanned with a handheld scanner on the site of an emergency. It's a great system for accountability of assets and people and will help everyone be accounted for on the scene of an emergency."

The program is also a useful tool in reporting, especially in regards to getting federal funding for disaster recovery, Smith explained. The program can

generate reports and cost analysis to be used when the county applies for recovery funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Along with tracking, the program is also intended to help emergency response agencies track and request mutual aid from neighboring departments and request necessary equipment for emergency response.

"If we don't have some equipment that we need, we can find out who has it," Smith said. "Everything is in real time, so we can get what we need quickly and easily."

Though Smith said she is looking forward to using the state program, some concerns will have to be addressed before the program is fully functional. Primarily, Smith will have to spend a lot of time being trained to use the new system, and she in turn will have to train other county employees to use the system. That training, she said, will take time and a specific timeline has not yet been set.

Though counties are not yet required

to implement the new system, Smith said that she foresees a potential mandate in the near future. With the county agreeing to participate, she said, future mandates will be easier to accommodate and make plans for.

Though the printer and supplies are given to the county free of charge, the commissioners expressed concern that the equipment won't always be free, especially in maintenance and supply cost.

"We are very displeased by the way the state is requiring us to spend taxpayer dollars," said commissioner Carolyn Applegate. "It seems like a colossal waste of money to not figure out how to make our machine work."

Though reluctant to accept the state equipment, the commissioners agreed to participate in the program and asked that the county draft a letter to state officials expressing their concern over the use of taxpayer dollars and the potential future costs of the new equipment.

### Council ballot set for election coming April 3

By Carleen Bell  
[cbell@nwkansas.com](mailto:cbell@nwkansas.com)

Ahead of the April 3 election, three Norton residents have filed for the three city council positions to be on the ballot.

Filing for the Ward 1 position, currently held by Jeff Otter, is Harriett Gill.

Donna Foley, who currently represents Ward 2, filed for re-election.

Filing for Ward 3, currently held by Toby Kuhn, is Ron Briery.

All three candidates are running unopposed, so no primary election will be required.

The general election will be held Tuesday, April 3 and registration books will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 19.

The boundaries for the wards are as follows:

Ward One: everything east of State Street to West Woodsfield then going west on West Woodsfield to North Second Street, then south to West Washington, then east again to State Street and South.

Ward Two: everything west of State Street, going south to West Woodsfield, then west to West Avenue, north to US 36, and west.

Ward Three: everything south of West Woodsfield and west of Second Street, going west to West Avenue then north to US 36, then west to the west city limit, then south to the south city limit, then east to State Street, then north on State Street to West Washington, then west to South Second Street and North to West Woodsfield.

## Applications open for energy projects

The US Department of Agriculture is seeking applications to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to complete a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is available from the department's Rural Energy for America Program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). In 2011, Kansas had 23 small businesses and 18 agricultural producers receive grants totaling nearly \$800,000.

The Rural Energy for America Program is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation's critical en-

ergy needs. For 2012, the department has approximately \$25.4 million budget authority available to fund program activities, which will support at least \$12.5 million in grant and approximately \$48.5 million in guaranteed loan program level awards. USDA is accepting the following applications:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29

- Renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30

- Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through Feb. 21

This funding is an example of the many ways that the department is helping revitalize rural economies to create opportunities for growth and prosperity, support innovative technologies, identify new markets for agricultural producers, and better utilize our nation's natural resources.

To obtain more information about the program, please contact the following USDA Rural Development Area Office Specialist located in your area.

Doug Bruggeman - Hays USDA RD Office, 785-628-3081, Ext. 4, [doug.bruggeman@ks.usda.gov](mailto:doug.bruggeman@ks.usda.gov)

Larry Holz - Manhattan USDA RD Office, 785-776-7582, Ext. 4, [larry.holz@ks.usda.gov](mailto:larry.holz@ks.usda.gov)

Katie Casper - Iola USDA RD Office, 620-365-2901, Ext.4, [katie.casper@ks.usda.gov](mailto:katie.casper@ks.usda.gov)

Doug Clary - Newton USDA RD Office, 316-283-0370, Ext. 4, [douglas.clary@ks.usda.gov](mailto:douglas.clary@ks.usda.gov)

For additional information regarding other USDA Rural Development programs visit the Agency's website [www.rurdev.usda.gov/KS](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/KS), or call the Agency's state office at 785-271-2700.

## Health assessment meeting planned for Monday, Feb. 13

In order to gauge the overall health needs of Norton County, the Norton County Hospital and the Norton County Health Department will hold a Community Health Needs Assessment on Feb. 13.

The public assessment meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Prairie Land Electric conference room and health officials are asking as many people as possible to attend the assessment meeting. The purpose of the gathering is to identify and priori-

tize health needs of county residents in order to maintain regulatory compliance for both organizations.

Facilitating the meeting and leading the discussion will be representatives of VVV Research and Development, Inc., based in Olathe.

During the meeting, a light lunch will be served and no RSVP is required to attend.

The county is required to complete a needs assessment every three to five years.

