

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

February 3, 2012

Briefly

Theatre cancels big screen showing

Due to predicted winter weather, the Norton Theatre will not host a Super Bowl showing on the big screen this Sunday. Any other theatre closings due to inclement weather will be posted on Facebook and at www.nortontheatre.com.

Dodgeball tourney to be held Feb. 25

The Norton Child Study Club and the Norton Recreation Center will host their First Annual Dodgeball Tournament Saturday, Feb. 25 at the East Campus gym starting at 10 a.m. This is for boys, girls or coed teams ranging in age from first grade to twelfth grade. Sign up by Wed. Feb. 15 by contacting Cheri Brooks or Joan Bolt. All proceeds to benefit the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Calling contest set for this Saturday

To help support youth shooting sports in the area, the Norton Archery Club will be hosting a calling contest for coyotes, bobcats and crows this Saturday.

The calling hours will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Callers may use any legal means to call and shoot coyotes, bobcats and crows as allowed by state hunting regulations.

Check in time will be from 5:30-7 p.m. in the south parking lot at Attitudes and no check-ins will be accepted after 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Rick McChesney at 785-202-2468 or John Baker at 785-877-3253.

Disc golf tourney planned Saturday

The Kansas Disc Golf Association, along with the Norton disc golf club, will host a winter food drive benefit disc golf tournament on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Elmwood Park disc golf course. The cost to enter the tournament is \$20 per competitor. A players meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. and the first round will begin at 10 a.m. After the first round, the club will provide lunch for all players. After lunch, a second round will be played.

Markets

Friday, February 3, 2012

Wheat\$6.68
Milo\$5.91
Soybeans\$11.31
Corn\$6.30

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Windy and blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 7 to 9 inches. Chance of snow near 100 percent. Saturday - Windy and cloudy with light snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Total snow accumulation 8 to 10 inches. Sunday - Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 30s. Sunday Night - Mostly clear.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, January 31 Low 35, High 56
 Wednesday, February 1 Low 27, High 56
 Thursday, February 2 Low 25, High 56
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm
 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, when we feel too broken to ever mend, surround us with your love. Amen

Telegram mourns former publisher

By Kevin Bottrell

The Goodland Star-News

Tom Dreiling, former publisher of the *Norton Telegram*, died at his home in Denver on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012.

A wake will be held at 7 p.m. (Central Time) Friday, Feb. 10, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 307 W. 13th St., Goodland. Services will be at 11 a.m. (Central Time) Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at the church. Burial will follow at the Goodland Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to attend a lunch gathering at the church.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Jean, who died of leukemia in 1975; brothers James and Norbert Dreiling; and sister Mary Bieker.

He is survived by his brothers Donald (Dolores) Dreiling, Overland Park, K. Dean (Mikki) Dreiling, Corpus Christy, Texas, and Eugene (Flo) Dreiling, Tulsa, Okla.; sisters Dolores (Robert) Schlyer, Hays, and JoAnn JayJack of Scheierville, Ind.; sons, Todd (Darci) and Lance (Tobie) Dreiling; a stepdaughter, Denise (Darren) Burrows; and five grandchildren, all of Centennial, Colo.

Dreiling was born on Nov. 25 in Hays to Richard and Mollie (Eichman) Dreiling, the second-youngest of nine children. He was never sure of the year of his birth. He had documents saying both 1934 and 1935. In a column last year, he joked he often received birthday cards with two ages listed and instructions to circle one.

He graduated from St. Joseph's Military Academy - which is now Thomas More Prep-Marian - in 1953. He attended Fort Hays State University before joining the Air Force in 1955. While in the service he was stationed in Japan.

After his discharge in 1959, Dreiling spent 44 years in the newspaper business, getting his start at *The Ellis County Star*, a weekly paper in Hays owned by his family. In 1962 he was hired as a photographer by the *Hays*



Former Norton Telegram Publisher Tom Dreiling passed away at his home in Denver, Colo. on Monday. Prior to his retirement in 2009, he served as Editor and Publisher for several newspapers in northwest Kansas and still penned a weekly column until his death.

Daily News and eventually became sports editor and city editor.

Dreiling moved to Goodland in 1965 to take over as editor of the old *Goodland Daily News*, where he stayed until the paper changed hands in 1989. He worked for Kay Melia at KLOE, then at Thomas More Prep as

director of development.

In 1995 he moved to Sheridan, Wyo., to become the editor of the *The Sheridan Press*. He returned to Kansas in 1998 as the publisher of the *Colby Free Press*. He retired from that position in 2005, but didn't stay retired for long, taking a publishing position with

the *Norton Telegram* later that year.

He retired for good in August, 2009, moving back to Goodland before relocating to Colorado to be closer to his grandchildren. He continued writing, however, penning a column appearing in newspapers from Goodland to

(Dreiling - Continued on Page 5)

For full obituary, see page 2.

Whispering Pines files for Chapter 11 protection

By Carleen Bell

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Stemming from what company leaders say is too much debt and low occupancy, the Whispering Pines assisted living facility in Norton has recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Kansas Bankruptcy Court to reorganize the facility's debt.

According to information from court documents of case number 12-40080-JMK of the United States Bankruptcy Court in the District of Kansas, Norton Retirement and Assisted Living, LLC (Whispering Pines) filed for bankruptcy on Jan. 26, citing concerns over debt and ability to continue operation.

Prior to the filing, the Whispering Pines board of Directors contracted with a company known as GraceTeam. Though a temporary appointment, the GraceTeam is working to manage Whispering Pines and help facilitate the bankruptcy process.

Whispering Pines Board of Directors President Ted Sanko reported Thursday that the purpose of filing for bankruptcy is to reorganize the company's debt and make long-term operation feasible again.

"The facility is going to run like it always has except with a different manager," Sanko said. "After the GraceTeam is no longer managing the facility, it will go back to local management and we will be seeking applications to find a new manager."

According to John Grace, President of GraceTeam, the consulting team will be working with Whispering Pines through the bankruptcy process for six months. Grace cited low occupancy and heavy debt as cause for the restructuring.

"The goal is to keep the facility locally owned and keep providing services to the community," he said. "Restructuring will lead to a better financial position and help alleviate some of the concerns Whispering

Pines now faces."

Sanko reported that the bankruptcy process is "moving along well" and will take five to six months to complete. Officials had their first bankruptcy court hearing in Topeka on Wednesday.

While the GraceTeam is managing Whispering Pines, the facility is operating under the interim leadership of Evelyn Walters. The facility currently offers 26 retirement living apartments, with 10 of those dedicated to assisted living. The facility currently employs approximately 20 people.

"We didn't file for bankruptcy to shut down the facility or change the services it provides," Sanko emphasized. "We want to make some positive changes and possibly even expand the services we provide. Restructuring our debt will help ensure that our community continues to have access to this much-needed facility."

Norton men to be deployed overseas with 170th Maintenance Company

As part of the 170th Maintenance Company National Guard unit based in Norton, three Norton men will be deploying overseas this month on a mission for Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to information from the Kansas Adjutant General, Spc. Joseph Davis and Spc. Adam Jolly, along with a Norton man who wished to remain unidentified, will be deploying to southwest Asia on a security mission after a Feb. 12 departure ceremony in Salina.

The ceremony is planned for 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12 at Hangar 600, 2720 Arnold Avenue in Salina.

"I have every confidence that these soldiers will perform their mission with the disciplined professionalism and pride that has become the hallmark of our Kansas National Guard soldiers and airmen," said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general. "We wish them well, God-speed and look forward to the day we welcome them home."

"The soldiers of the 170th Support Maintenance Company have been

preparing for this deployment for several months," said Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Maintenance Company. "As we move into the final stages of our mobilization training the troops are engaged, motivated and diligent. They are a prime example of what a well maintained and disciplined unit should be.

"These soldiers will represent their communities, state and country with loyalty, honor and respect," said Weber. "The 170th has not deployed since Desert Storm and I am honored to embark on this mission with each and every one of them, while we place down another milestone for the 170th."

The soldiers of the 170th will be sent to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Hattiesburg, Miss., where they will receive additional training before deploying overseas.

The 170th Maintenance Company is a subordinate unit of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, Hays. They are headquartered in Norton with a subordinate unit in Colby.

City considers highway options

By Carleen Bell

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After a preliminary approval of an engineering agreement at their last meeting, members of the Norton City Council met with representatives of Penco Engineering and the Kansas Department of Transportation Wednesday evening to discuss possible specifications for a geometric improvement project for a portion of Highway 36 through town.

At the Jan. 18 meeting, the council approved an agreement with Penco Engineering to design an improvement project for a portion of Highway 36 beginning at the four-way stoplight and extending west 900 feet. The engineering agreement was approved pending possible modifications based on whether or not the stretch could be extended to more than 900 feet.

Tod Salfrank and Jeff Stewart of the Kansas Department of Transportation reported Wednesday evening though that with the city's eligibility for state funding, the improvements are limited to the 900-foot section.

Jerol DeBoer of Penco Engineering explained to the council that he had drawn up some preliminary designs for a three-lane highway, which would

include an eastbound and a westbound lane, along with a center turn lane for traffic in both directions.

DeBoer explained that the three-lane design would be advantageous because no right-of-way acquisition or relocation of utility lines would be necessary.

Some concerns were raised, however, that three lanes wouldn't be enough to handle traffic flow through the town, especially 10 or 20 years into the future.

"The state is trying to provide north/south connections for truck traffic, so semi traffic tends to gravitate through Norton," said council member Jerry Moritz. "We should look at the cost of right-of-way acquisition and go with a full four lanes because down the line, we will wish we would have done it."

Salfrank and Stewart expressed their agreement with that line of thought and emphasized that funding for the project might depend on whether the design is three lane or four.

"KDOT isn't sure if (three lanes) will work 20 years from now," said department representative Tod Salfrank. "We don't want to build something that won't work far into the future."

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