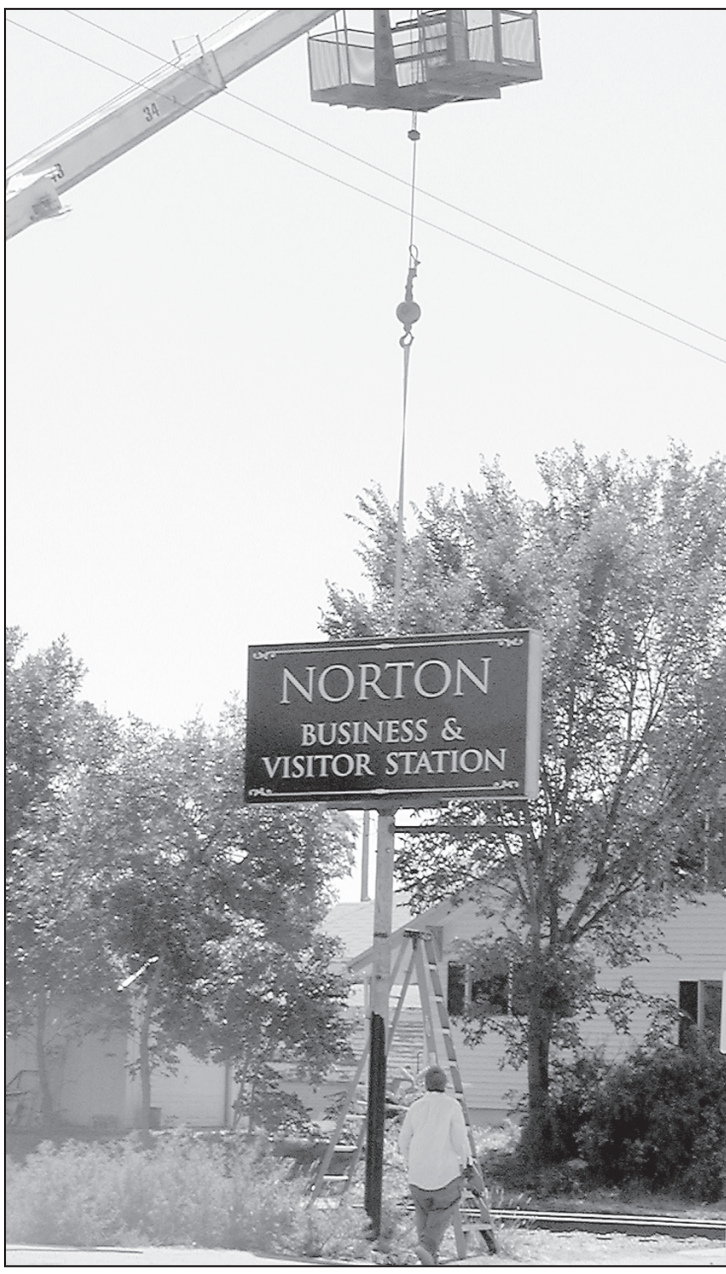


A sign of the times

The Norton Business and Visitor Station now has a new sign on South State Street just south of the recently renovated building. For the building that houses the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and Norton City/County Economic Development, the sign was installed last Friday with a design and lettering that matches the newly-renovated building. Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development leaders designed the sign and it was installed by Thomas Outdoor Advertising. The project was funded by Norton's Travel and Tourism board.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



Celebrating vintage baseball

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

The pitcher eyes home plate, looks toward first, and throws the pitch. Strike three! It's another summer baseball game in Kansas. But wait, these players are wearing woolen uniforms, and they're not even using baseball gloves. Is this a throwback to the 1860s? Yes, and it's a wonderful way to celebrate the heritage of baseball.

As we learned last week, Mark Wellbrock is owner of the Jetmore Food Center in Jetmore, Kansas. He is also a part of a remarkable revival of old-time base ball (spelled as two words) in our state. His team is known as the Hodgeman Nine.

A guy Mark knew from Jetmore visited Colorado Springs and happened to see a vintage base ball game. He came back and told the Jetmore folks all about it.

It was a bunch of guys in old-time uniforms playing old-time base ball. So some guys in Jetmore wanted to try it.

"I love baseball and I like history," Mark said. "I had played baseball all the way through college." So, with financial sponsorship from Mark's store (the Jetmore Food Center), a vintage base ball team was put together. Retro uniforms and equipment were gathered and a team was assembled.

Taking its name from the county, the team became known as the Hodgeman Nine. The team now plays up to 20 times per year.

"We play using 1860s rules and equipment," Mark said. "It's kind of like living history or a re-enactment, but no one knows the outcome."

The players wear cool-looking retro uniforms with striped hats. The uniforms look cool, but they are definitely not cool in temperature. In fact, they are actually quite hot, like the woolen uniforms of yesteryear.

The Hodgeman Nine plays games in various locations around the state and beyond.

"We get calls from Colorado, Oklahoma, and eastern Kansas," Mark said. Some tourism attractions have had the Hodgeman Nine come in and play to help create a nostalgic environment. "We ask for enough funds to recoup the costs of equipment."

"We have players ranging from eighth grade to 58 years old and everything in between,

from novice to experienced," he said.

This is also a way to bring together people across the region. Besides Jetmore, the team has players from the rural communities of Larned, Spearville, and Hanston, population 268 people. Now, that's rural.

One of the hallmarks of vintage base ball is sportsmanship.

"This is not a win-at-all-costs type of sport," Mark said. "We make it a point to follow gentlemanly conduct." It doesn't sound like there was a lot of trash talking going on at the 1860s ball diamonds.

In fact, the Hodgeman Nine uses the old-time language. For example, instead of "Batter up", they might say, "Striker to the Line." "Huzzah" was a term used to cheer a fine play, and a "Muffin" was a player that wasn't all that skilled. The umpire might wear a top hat and tails, but was called a "Blind Tom." Well, some things haven't changed...

Why does Mark Wellbrock do this? "It's educational, and it's a way to export knowledge about our county," Mark said. "Base-

ball is a huge part of our history. It's important for our kids to get that experience of teamwork."

After one of Mark's presentations about the vintage sport, a person told him that it had re-instilled his love of baseball. It influenced another current baseball coach to teach his team the history of the game.

"One of our players had played college ball at the Division One level, at the University of Houston," Mark said. "He told me that playing with us was the most fun he had ever had on a baseball field." After a tournament with vintage teams from three other Kansas communities, the Hodgeman Nine are now Kansas Vintage Base Ball champions.

The pitcher eyes home plate and lets the ball fly. This isn't just another baseball game, it is vintage base ball. We salute Mark Wellbrock, the Hodgeman Nine, and all those involved with vintage base ball for making a difference by capturing and preserving this heritage. Huzzah!

Sudoku Solution #2598-M

1	8	2	3	5	9	4	7	6
5	7	3	4	8	6	2	9	1
9	4	6	1	2	7	8	3	5
8	2	9	7	4	5	6	1	3
4	3	5	8	6	1	7	2	9
7	6	1	2	9	3	5	8	4
3	1	4	5	7	2	9	6	8
6	5	7	9	3	8	1	4	2
2	9	8	6	1	4	3	5	7

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Horsemen

R	E	S	E	E	D	S	T	A	R	F	B	S
A	R	A	B	L	E	H	O	S	E	R	E	M
B	O	B	B	Y	K	N	I	G	H	T	E	E
E	S	E	S	E	E	N	A	M	E	B	A	
		L	I	S	A	S	P	I	E	L	E	R
P	O	D	I	A	R	O	T	U	N	D	A	
A	L	I	G	N	S	V	A	N	I	N	F	O
I	L	S	A	P	A	I	N	T	A	C	E	D
L	A	C	T	R	U	N	A	T	T	E	N	D
		J	U	P	I	T	E	R	W	O	R	D
S	W	O	R	E	T	O	A	M	O	R		
P	A	C	E	R	R	I	I	S	A	B	E	
E	L	K	U	R	B	A	N	C	O	W	B	O
A	L	E	S	E	A	N	A	M	P	E	R	E
K	A	Y	E	A	S	T	H	E	A	T	E	D

7/15/2012

PUBLIC RECORD

Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

July 12

June 1-Kendra Merchant, Norton; Charge: Dog running at-large, no dog license; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty.

June 25-Kendra Merchant, Norton; Charge: Cruelty to animals (2nd offense); Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Combined with June 1 case. Animals surrendered to city, three years probation-can not have animals for three years. Subject to premises inspection for animal wel-

District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.

Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

July 13

June 18-Barton D. Mather, Rossford, Ohio; Charge: Speeding 93 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$275.

June 14-Randy Roberts, Oberlin; Charge: Improper stop lamp or turn signal; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$143.

July 7-David Robert Sanchez, Littleton, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 77 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$155.

June 13-Aubree L. Thouvenel, Versailles, Mo.; Charge: Annual registration or license fees; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$263.

June 13-Aubree L. Thouvenel, Versailles, Mo.; Charge: False statement in sale of motor fuel; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$137.

June 13-Garrett R. Thouvenel, Versailles, Mo.; Charge: Annual registration or license fees; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$263.

June 13-Garrett R. Thouvenel, Versailles, Mo.; Charge: False statement in sale of motor fuel; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$137.

June 16-Edward E. Wright, Colby; Charge: No wake zone by posted notice; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$138.

July 19

May 28-Miguel A. Adame, Schuyler, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$173.

July 4-Craig P. Knapp, Norton; Charge: Insufficient number of personal flotation devices on board; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$173.

fare after three years. Total, \$76 costs.

July 3-Judy Elwood, Oberlin; Charge: Child safety restraint; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$60, costs \$76, total \$136.

June 17-Makayla Cadwalader, Norton; Charge: Inattentive driving; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Community service-working for city clerk from July 12 to Dec. 31.

July 6-Evan Chestnut, Nor-

ton; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: Not guilty; Other action: Trial set.

June 21-Gavin Canaday, Enterprise; Charge: Careless driving; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, restitution to city \$316.50, costs \$76, total \$492.50.

July 2-Ryan Reese, Arapahoe, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Cook-Pinzenscham Engagement



Spencer announces that his parents, Samantha R. Cook, daughter of Topper and Nikki Cook and Heath W. Pinzenscham, son of Butch and Lori Pinzenscham, are to be wed on Aug. 18, 2012 at 3 p.m. with a

small ceremony for family and friends.

A reception and dance including friends and family and well-wishers, will follow at 7 p.m. at the American Legion.

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email: dpaxton@nwkansan.com

CITY OF ALMENA BUDGET HEARING

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, July 20, 2012

1(T)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of the City of Almena will meet on August 6, 2012 at 7 pm at the Community Building for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2013 Expenditures and Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2013 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget for 2013	
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax
General	192,395	61.667	195,749	63.043	210,679	87.653
Debt Service						
Library	9,979	3.605	12,000	3.635	12,475	4.697
Special Highway			30,000			46.113
Water & Sewer	117,241		130,200			165,309
Trash Collection	37,744		51,000			58.004
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	12,116					
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	535,490					
Totals	904,965	65.272	418,949	66.678	492,580	92.350
Less: Transfers	30,000		30,000		30,000	
Net Expenditure	874,965		388,949		462,580	
Total Tax Levied	77,147		77,965		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Assessed Valuation	1,181,924		1,169,286		1,297,364	
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2010		2011		2012	
G.O. Bonds	0		225,000		240,000	
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0	
Other	844,525		802,024		758,009	
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0	
Total	844,525		1,027,024		998,009	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Stacy Whitney
City Official Title: City Clerk

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361
mstephens@nwkansan.com