

# Top stories

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residents can look forward to a new swimming pool facility in 2014.

2012 also brought major progress for two restoration projects taking place in Norton.

## Heaton Building

The Heaton Building, owned by the Norton County Community Foundation, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for over a year now Schamber Historical Preservation has been working to restore the building in downtown Norton.

Because of the building's designation, restoration crews must follow very specific guidelines and regulations to complete the restoration process.

"It isn't our job to hide the history of the building or cover up what it used to be," said Len Schamber. "We want to restore it to its former style while making it safe and useable for many years to come."

Multiple projects on the building have taken place over the past 16 months, including refurbishing the windows, replacing the roof, adjoining the building's three basements and support beams added, and concrete work on both sides of the building. The store fronts still need work done but should be finished in a couple of months.

"When the store fronts are done, phase one will be complete," said Linus Schamber.

Phase two of the project is still in the planning stage and it is unknown when work will begin.

## Lyons House

The historic Lyons House on South Kansas Avenue is the only home in the community listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and according to Len and Linus Schamber of Schamber Historic Preservation, the exterior of the Lyons House is complete.

The project began by replacing the roof, face board and shingles. The house got a fresh coat of paint in the colors of yellow, green and brick. The porch was gutted and a new cement foundation was poured. To maintain its original look, as many of the old pillars and lattice work was salvaged and replicas were made to replace the ones that were not salvageable. The final touches were the front steps and handrails.

The State Historic Preservation Office will review the restoration work and if it's approved the second phase to restore the interior will be able to proceed.

In anticipation of the Preservation Office's approval, a grant has already been applied for through the Heritage Trust Fund to restore the interior, repair all of the windows, back porch and to add a handicap ramp. The grant deadline was November 1 and the announcement is expected in March, 2013.

The year 2012 also brought changes to a retail store and a fast food restaurant.

## Dairy Queen

In January, the Dairy Queen closed unexpectedly but Enfield Restaurants LLC announced that a new Dairy Queen/Grill and Chill would open in late 2012.

The old Dairy Queen was torn down and a new building that includes drive-through service and inside seating area in a contemporary style was erected.

"We are going to focus on quality and a new level of customer service," said Dairy Queen's Owner/Manager Jody Enfield. "The Dairy Queen will be a partner in the Norton community."

## Shopko Hometown

Also in January, it was announced that the Norton Pamida store would become a Shopko Hometown store by the end of October.

After a four-month liquidation sale and store conversion process, the former Pamida store in Norton re-opened its doors as Shopko Hometown on November 29.

The grand opening was highlighted by a \$2,500 check presentation to Norton Community High School from the Shopko Hometown Foundation.

"There has been a great deal of excitement in the community through the conversion process and we're excited to finally be bringing the Shopko Hometown experience to Norton," said Mike Bettiga, Shopko Interim CEO, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

## Norton Theatre Association

The Norton Theatre Association was awarded \$190,000 in Community Service Tax Credits by the Kansas Department of Commerce. The funds were used to upgrade the theater's equipment for digital movie formats.

This year marked the 20th



Brian Luther, subcontractor for Schamber Historic Preservation, and Schamber employee Dave Turnbull are seen working on the windows of the east side of the Heaton Building. The project started in August of 2011 and the first phase of the job is coming to an end. This job has provided a lot of business to local merchants, several jobs for area contractors and will provide a beautifully restored building for the new owners once it is completed.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

year since the Norton Theatre was remodeled and re-opened in May of 1993. The theater hasn't changed much but movies and the supporting technology have undergone drastic changes. It's a digital world and film prints are expected to be obsolete by the end of 2013.

"As film prints decreased, we began looking for funds to assist us in transitioning to the digital age but the cost was astronomical. After applying for a couple of grants and being declined in

our efforts, we began a public campaign for donations. Fortunately, the opportunity to apply for this tax credit came available in late summer and we were accepted," said Norton Theatre Manager Jeremy Wetter.

In addition to the upgrade to a digital format, the Norton Theatre Association has several other projects on the horizon, including new neon lighting inside and out, replace the carpeting throughout the theater and lobby areas, stucco work on the

outside of the building, painting the inside and outside of the building and possibly new theater seats.

Of course there are other notable stories that didn't make the list, such as the drought and oppressive heat that consumed the summer months. Nonetheless, 2012 brought about some exciting changes to the Norton area. Hopefully, 2013 will bring health, happiness and prosperity as well to the community.

# Fire ban lifted after six months of no measurable moisture

By Cynthia Haynes

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It's again legal to burn waste in Norton County.

The county has been under a burn ban since spring as a drought gripped the area. With the snow in December, the commissioners discussed and finally decided to lift the ban.

Anyone in the county who wants to burn brush should still call his office, Sheriff Troy Thomson said, so that someone doesn't report a fire and emergency vehicles get sent out.

The sheriff suggested that the county do away with the ban during the commissioners Dec. 28 meeting. He said that the county fire chiefs have been allowing people to burn their brush since the snow. But, he said, the ban has caused some confusion and some farm residents haven't even been using their burn barrels.

Commissioner John Miller said that he didn't see any reason to lift the ban since people could call for permission to burn but Commissioner Carolyn Apple-

gate said that she was for lifting the ban since it doesn't appear to be needed.

Commissioner Richard Thompson said that he didn't have any opinion on the subject.

Mr. Miller gave way and said he would support the change after County Attorney Doug Sebelius said he thought lifting the ban would help the average farmstead.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Briefly discussed and de-

cided they would meet on Friday, Jan. 4, since they would be skipping their regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 31.

- Paid the monthly bills.
- Briefly discussed commissioner training in Topeka for the newly elected officials in January.
- Approved an economic development plan to amend the neighborhood revitalization plan for the county. The resolution for the amendment was published in the Dec. 14 and 21 papers.

• Received a report from Treasurer Cynthia Linner that the county received \$25,700 in sales tax from the state on Dec. 26. This was the lowest amount in several months since on Nov. 30, the county received \$35,500 and on Oct. 30, 32,320. Mrs. Linner said that the county has averaged \$31,500 over the last three months, which is above the \$25,700 the county has averaged from late 2003 through now.

- Got sales tax exemption sheets for the new commission-

ers when they travel on county business.

- Talked with the commissioners-elect about how, when and where meetings are conducted including those outside the courthouse with county departments.
- Left at 11:30 a.m. to tour the new Norton plant that does Christmas decorations.
- Interviewed applicants for the solid waste department supervisor in the afternoon.

# Norton junior varsity wrestlers take fifth in Cambridge tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers had another good outing on Saturday, Dec. 15 when they tied for fifth out of 20 teams in the varsity Fran Jorgeson Wrestling Tournament in Cambridge.

Loomis/Bertrand won the championship with 164.5 points, followed by Minden, 117.5; Fillmore Central, 103; Franklin, 99; Norton JV, 96.5; Hastings JV, 96.5; Cambridge, 84; Axtell, 76.5; Elm Creek, 69.5; Superior, 62; Oberlin JV, 58.5; Eustis/Farnam, 58; Overton, 55; Elwood, 53; Harvard, 53; Wilcox/Hildreth, 52; Ansley/Litchfield, 48; Alma, 40; Hitchcock County, 26; Wauneta-Palisade, 3.

Norton's 152 pound sophomore Kendall Miller was the only Norton champion. He was named "Norton Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week" by the Blue Jay coaches.

Finishing runner-up was freshman Weston Erbert at 126. Junior Toby Nickell finished

third at 145. Freshman Kyle Bell placed fourth at 113 and freshman Riley Hager placed fourth at 120. Freshman Skylar Johnson finished fifth at 106.

Also wrestling for Norton were: junior Garret Otter, 120; sophomore Derek Rowh, 138 and freshman Chandler Sumner, 195.

"This is the first year we have attended this tournament in Cambridge," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. "Typically our second team wrestlers are off this weekend prior to Christmas break but I am glad we had the opportunity to have more matches at this point of the season.

"We definitely had some positives that should allow some wrestlers to feel good going about their performances prior to the break. Some of our young wrestlers are reaping the rewards of spending a lot of practice time on technique.

"I continue to be proud of how we are able to compete for team trophies week in and week out. We had a couple of injuries

and other factors that contributed to a smaller lineup for us. We had just nine competing and finished less than 10 points out of contention for a team trophy. That is pretty good!"

Kendall Miller led the way for the young Blue Jays. He was seeded fifth at 152. He had a major decision over the fourth ranked wrestler Bryson Wesley, Oberlin, then upset No.1 seed Taten Benzhaf, Cambridge, 4-1 in the semi-finals before defeating Anthony Warta, Loomis/Bertrand in the championship finals.

"I was proud of Kendall's determination," said coach Miller. "In his semi-finals and finals matches he kept his composure and did not try to force anything that would get him out of position."

Norton's other finalist was Weston Erbert, who had two pins and a decision on his way to the finals. "Weston is one of the wrestlers who is showing improvement every time he is on the mat," said coach Miller. "He is trying things we are prac-

ticing in the wrestling room and they are beginning to click for him in competition."

## Individual matches

106 - Skylar Johnson won a 16-0 technical fall over Jason Palmer, Loomis/Bertrand; decided Ray Ramirez, Elwood, 8-3; lost a 10-4 decision to Austin Olson, Minden; lost a 12-4 major decision to Jeffrey West, Elm Creek and won by forfeit over Tanner Schnuerle, Franklin, to place fifth.

113 - Kyle Bell drew a bye, was pinned in 3:37 by No.1 seed Chris Werth, Eustis/Farnam; won a 9-0 major decision over Riley Ryan, Ansley/Litchfield; pinned Jesse Thompson, Loomis/Bertrand, in 4:39 and lost a 9-5 decision to William Bloom, Elm Creek, to place third.

120 - Riley Hager drew a bye, was pinned in 3:53 by Mack James, Franklin; pinned Jude Wallinder, Oberlin JV, in 1:44; won an 11-2 major decision over Garret Otter of Norton, won a 6-4 decision over Aaron Hueftle, Eustis/Farnam and was

pinned in 4:49 by Davis Jacobson, Fillmore Central, to finish third. Otter was pinned in 1:14 of his first round match by Teak Edwards, Loomis/Bertrand; drew a bye; won a 10-2 major decision over Coleton Doeker, Hitchcock County and lost 11-2 to Hager.

126 - Weston Erbert pinned JustinThompson, Ansley/Litchfield, in 5:03; pinned Frank Garcia, Superior, in 3:13; won an 11-5 decision over Jason Campbell, Wilcox/Hildreth and was pinned in 1:56 by No.1 seed Cole Remmenga, Elwood, to place runner-up.

138 - Derek Rowh lost an 8-1 decision to Rafael Guerrero, Hastings JV; drew a bye and lost a 3-1 decision to James Mills, Ansley/Litchfield.

145 - Toby Nickell won a 12-3 major decision over Kiley Maughan, Hastings JV; won an

8-2 decision over Wyatt Schiemeyer, Fillmore Central; was pinned in 1:11 by No.1 seed Dillion Schnuerle, Franklin; won a 14-7 decision over Phillip Pedroza, Hastings JV and won a 7-2 decision over Daniel Allgood, Superior, to place third.

152 - Kendall Miller drew a bye, won a 13-0 major decision over Bryson Wesley, Oberlin JV; won a 4-1 decision over No.1 seed Taten Banzhaf, Cambridge and won a 4-1 decision over No.2 seed Anthony Warta, Loomis/Bertrand to win the championship.

195 - Chandler Sumner was pinned in :52 by No.1 seed Trevor Adams, Fillmore Central; drew a bye and was pinned in 2:29 by Douglas Johnson, HRVR.

# BOWLING

## Inter-City League

Standings as of Dec. 13

1. Bailey Electric- 75.5 wins, 59.5 losses
  2. BLD's- 71.5 wins, 63.5 losses
  3. Heartland Partners- 68.5 wins, 66.5 losses
  4. Jett SS- 68 wins, 67 losses
  5. Hawks Depot- 55.5 wins, 79.5 losses
- High Line: Chris Davis-186, Rusty Miller-182, Bill LaSalle-

172, Brian Dicks-165, Jett SS-620.

High Line Handicap: Chris Davis-238, Abe Burk-231, Merle Hawks-227, Vaughn Newman-227, Jett SS-861.

High Series: Rusty Miller-499, Bill LaSalle-472, Chris Davis-462, Mark Bailey-462, BLD's-1720.

High Series Handicap: Abe Burk-664, Vaughn Newman-647, Chris Davis-618, Bill

LaSalle-607, Jett SS-2424.

## Tuesday Housewife League

Standings as of Dec. 11

1. Amateurs- 3 wins, 1 loss
  2. BEB & Assoc.- 3 wins, 1 loss
  3. Moffet's- 1 wins, 3 losses
  4. Lenora Nutrition Center- 1 win, 3 losses
- High Line: Kathleen Berlier-192, Sharron Smith-167, Joy Johnson-162, BEB & Assoc.-457.

High Line Handicap: Kathleen Berlier-250, Joy Johnson-234, Sharron Smith-218, BEB & Assoc.-641.

High Series: Sharron Smith-469, Kathleen Berlier-467, Jacque Griffey-431, BEB & Assoc.-1194, Lenora Nutrition Center-1194.

High Series Handicap: Kathleen Berlier-641, Sharron Smith-622, Joy Johnson-609, Amateurs-1750.

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