



Fun in the sun this weekend at the Norton Car Show.

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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

**Sports:**

Little League baseball action ends and rain brings an early stop to Elmwood races.

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Tuesday  
July 6, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ron Fisher

Briefly

## Library forgives fines for summer

The Norton Public Library is granting amnesty to all those with long overdue books who return them by Labor Day. Fines will resume after Sept. 6.

## Cutoff near for grass program

Friday, July 16, is the cutoff date for Grassland Reserve Program applications to be considered for this year.

To determine if the program will help in your farming operation, stop by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center in Norton at 113 N. Norton, or call (785) 877-2623. The website address is: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

## Crazy Night set for Thursday

It is Crazy Night at the Norton Library Thursday at 7 p.m. Seventh through 12th graders are invited to dress their craziest, but to use good judgment. Prizes will be awarded for the three best (craziest) dressed participants.

## Magazine to be in Friday's paper

The American Profile magazine will be in the Friday edition of The Norton Telegram. Not enough Profiles were received by the newspaper to do a total distribution on Tuesday.

Weather

## Forecast:

**Tonight** — Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southeast 5 to 15 mph after midnight. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Wednesday night** — Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday night** — Lows in the mid 60s.

## Howell report:

Friday ..... High 86, Low 67  
Saturday ..... High 97, Low 67  
.....17 of an inch of precipitation  
Sunday ..... High 90, Low 60  
.....1.10 inches of precipitation  
Monday ..... High 86, Low 58  
.....10 of an inch of precipitation  
Week ago ..... High 85, Low 61  
Month ago ..... High 95, Low 70  
Year ago ..... High 103, Low 66  
July precipitation ..... 1.82 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 11.70 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm  
10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life and of life eternal. Amen. Amen

# BB gun team takes 16th at international

By DICK BOYD

BOWLING GREEN, KY — The Norton County Jaycees BB Gun Team tied for first in the written test competition and placed 16th overall in the U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships held Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Western Kentucky University's Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, Ky..

The international championships are the largest junior marksmanship compe-

tion in the world. Norton has won the International Shoot eight times, more than any other community in the world, and has earned their reputation of always being competitive.

In order to qualify for the shoot, a team must finish in the top three in their state shoot. Norton won the state championship this year as they have for 35 of 39 years of the Jaycees Shooting Education Program, which consists of six weeks of gun safety followed by marksmanship on the

range with BB guns.

Different teams compete each year from every state since shooters are not allowed to compete at the international shoot two years in a row.

Four members of this year's Norton team competed two years ago in the international and one was an alternate last year. They had high hopes of finishing in the top 10 as do most Norton teams but gun problems prevented them from shooting their best.

"We had three gun problems on Saturday and two on Sunday," said Head Coach Dan Lauer. "We normally don't have that much trouble with guns. There's not much you can do about it when it happens."

"We did well on the written test and that's important. We've always strived to be one of the best written test teams because this program stresses the basics of safe gun handling in addition to marksmanship."

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Nothing more All-American than kids and dogs. Madison Stephenson, 3, and Caleb Hileman, 2, played with their puppy at Prairie Dog State Park Sunday. With safety of the utmost importance,

Russ Erbert, (below) licensed pyrotechnician, checked wiring connections to the dozens of tubes loaded and ready for Sunday's Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Fireworks display hits the skies

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Timing is everything. And the timing for the Fourth of July fireworks show Sunday at Prairie Dog State Park couldn't have been more perfect.

When towns all around Norton were canceling their fireworks display due to anticipated weather conditions, Russ Erbert and his faithful crew completed their preparations. Mr. Erbert, a licensed pyrotechnician, coordinated the installation of dozens of tubes, wires and explosives to provide lake goers a spectacular show.

The eighth annual Norton County Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks Spectacular, sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, got underway at 8 p.m. with a free watermelon feed, compliments of Jamboree Foods.

Master of Ceremonies Marvin Matchett kept the crowd entertained with lively music.

Just before dark, Mr. Matchett called for Boy Scout Troop No. 181 to come "front and center" to retire the colors and the crowd knew that the show was about to begin.

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## Animal farms cause county to fight case

By BRANDON GAY

Norton County commissioners reacted to recent developments in the confined animal feeding operation controversy with a seven-page statement that outlines the history of their attempts to regulate confined-animal operations in the county and the court cases that followed.

In February 2002, Norton County adopted regulations that commissioners said were aimed to supplement state regulations and were necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Cars ready to roll into town

By BRANDON GAY

The Norton Car Club will turn back the clock with its first Norton Car Show this weekend.

The show will be held at the Norton County courthouse from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Organizer Mark Griffin said 200 to 250 cars will be featured. He said nostalgia will make the show a worthwhile event for everyone.

"What I see at shows is people say 'I remember when I had a car like that' or 'that's like my grandpa's old car.' It takes them back in time," he said.

Registration for the show is \$25. Entry forms can be picked up at the Norton Chamber of Commerce, at the First State Bank and at CarQuest.

Participants may also register from 7-9 p.m. Friday at Station 15 in Water Tower Park or from 8-11 a.m. Saturday at the courthouse.

Trophies will be awarded in seven classes including street machines, street rods up to 1948, customs from 1949 and up, originals up to 1948, originals 1949 and up, trucks and motorcycles.

A road rally will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday. Drivers will travel a course without use of their speedometer and have to guess their speed. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.

A drag race will be held from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday at the Norton Airport. Participants must be 21 years old. Motorcycles are not allowed to compete.

Pictures will be taken at the registration Friday night and also on Saturday at Underwood's Conoco at First and Main streets in downtown Norton.

A whole hog roast will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Prairie Dog Recreation Association. Trophy presentations will follow.

## Roadwork may cause some delays

There are several areas of road construction to watch out for in and around Norton County.

Tom Hein, public involvement liaison for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said there was construction on K-383, east of Alma, from the Norton County line to U.S. 183 in Phillips County.

He said an asphalt overlay has been started and some small areas on the road are being repaired, but construction should be finished by the end of the month.

A pilot car takes traffic through the

(Continued on Page 5)

# Ambulance would like new home

By BRANDON GAY

The Norton County Ambulance Service is looking for a new home either by building or purchasing.

On Wednesday Norton County commissioners discussed purchasing a building to be used as a new ambulance barn.

Commissioners have also discussed building a new structure.

While a new 4,420 square foot structure the county has discussed could cost around \$400,000, purchasing and renovating an existing building may be less.

Tom Arpen of BG Consultants, the county's engineering consulting firm, evaluated a 5,900 square foot building that could cost about \$300,000 after renovations are complete.

However, a possibility of old underground gas tanks on the site might raise the price. Mr. Arpen said once that issue was settled, a structural engineer would need to look at the building.

The ambulance service is applying for a grant to pay for part of a new building, but the same grant could be used to purchase an existing structure.

Mr. Arpen said typically a new building would cost about \$90 per square foot while purchasing and renovating a building would typically cost about \$50 per square foot.

The ambulance service is now housed in a 2,000 square-foot building, which doesn't allow much room for education and expansion.



A dazzling starburst exploded high in the air over Keith Sebelius Reservoir during Sunday night's Fourth of July Celebration. The weather cooperated beautifully right up until five minutes after the grand finale'.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Fireworks beats Mother Nature

(Continued from Page 1)

And what a show it was. With patriotic music playing in the background, fireworks of every sort lit up the night sky. Roman candles, starbursts, flares and explosions accompanied by the appropriate oohs and aahs made the light show a success.

But, no more than five minutes after the show's grand finale the wind began to blow at gale force and rain drops began to fall.

Within minutes, sheets of rain were coming down. Spectators had just enough time to escape to their vehicles before the park was awash.

Prairie Dog State Park Manager, Steve Mathes said 909 vehicles came into the park Sunday.

"It's been a real good week," he said. "We had over 2,500 vehicles come through during the week."

## Wireless Internet planned

The Northern Valley grade school will get wireless Internet next year.

At its June 25 meeting, the Northern Valley School board approved a plan to set up the network with laptop computers.

In other business, the board,

- Reviewed bids for workman's compensation insurance and accepted a bid from EMC.

- Accepted a bid from Computer Solutions of Smith Center for 16 laptop computers and a harbor cart.

- Increased administrative and classified pay by 2.9 percent for the 2004-'05 school year.

- Held a closed session for employer/employee negotiations.

- Decided the next meeting would be held on Monday, July 12, at 8 p.m.

## Roadwork may cause some delays

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Also, at the new viaduct on the east side of Norton on U.S. 36, temporary seeding has been planned for this summer with permanent seeding scheduled for late winter or early spring.

The two-year project on U.S. 36 from West Street in Norton to the K-383 junction six miles west of Norton has begun with pre-watering and some dirt work, Mr. Hein said.

A shoofly detour will be built this month, so that a box bridge about four miles west of town can be finished before winter.

Mr. Hein said that on the two-mile piece of U.S. 283/K-9, one lift of asphalt is yet to be laid. When that's done, striping, signing and temporary seeding will be completed.

Barring any extreme weather delays, he said that stretch of road should be open in late July or early August.

The rest of the U.S. 283 project to Hill City is still closed, but should be open again in early November.

Two other sealing operations are almost finished on K-9, west of U.S. 283 in Norton and Decatur counties, and K-383 and U.S. 83 in Decatur County.

They should be done this month. Meanwhile, pilot cars are taking traffic through the construction zones during the day.

## Numbers change on driver licenses

Effective last Thursday, Kansas residents will no longer be able to use their social security number as their driver's license or Kansas identification number. License applicants must supply their social security number to the Kansas Department of Revenue for their

records, however, it will not be shown on licenses or identification cards.

If you are using your social security number as your license or identification card number, it will be changed to a system-generated number the next time you make an

application.

Also, as of July 1, the Department of Revenue will no longer accept an individual taxpayer identification number. As in the past, if you do not have a social security number, you can sign an affidavit attesting to that.

# County worries about water issues at animal farms

(Continued from Page 1)

The regulations created rules to protect ground and surface water and to control odor. A team of technical experts, including an environmental research consultant, two engineers and a certified soil scientist, hired by the county, said state laws were not adequate to protect water and control odor.

The regulations were challenged in court by the Kansas Livestock Association and several area hog producers. The county was backed by the Kansas Association of Counties.

The district court sided with the livestock association, ruling that the regulations violated a 1998 state law that bars counties from changing the statutory provisions governing feeding operations.

The Kansas Supreme Court agreed with the district court's ruling.

In their statement, the commissioners said despite the ruling, they will continue to explore ways to solve problems created by confined animal operations, such as corporate hog farms.

"While the Supreme Court has invalidated the County's CAFO (confined animal feeding operations) regulations, the problems and concerns that led to their adoption remain," the commissioners statement said.

"In fact, it is believed that a number of CAFO projects have been on hold pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

"Now that the Supreme Court has ruled, the county expects to see increased CAFO activity in the

very near future. Because they have a duty to do whatever they can to protect the health and safety of the citizens in Norton County, the county commissioners will continue to monitor CAFO related problems and look for ways to solve them."

The commissioners said they would monitor confined animal feeding operations for violations of state law. They also said they may ask the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to consider incorporating some or all of the county's regulations into the state's rules.

It's now up to the legislature to fix the problems created by the 1998 law, the commissioner said.

"If counties cannot protect their citizens and the environment by adopting their own laws, the state should adopt laws that adequately address the types of problems and conditions that exist not only statewide, but those that exist in just some counties," the commissioners' statement said.

Another possibility would be to amend the law to allow counties to act on their own to regulate confined animal operations.

While all three commissioners declined to comment beyond their statement, they said they believed their statement would get out to people around the state and then they would evaluate the reaction.



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