

Church:

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Page 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No.55
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Fifth-grade baseball team takes second place and American Legion team has mixed results.

Pages 8 & 10

Friday
July 9, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Ted Hull

Briefly



Library wants its books back

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.

Commission to hold hearing

The Norton Recreation Commission will hold a budget hearing at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 19, at the Norton School District board room at the Alice Tweed Center. The commission will answer people's questions regarding their use of funds.

Grassland date is next Friday

Next Friday 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.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday** — Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Saturday night** — A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Sunday** — Highs in the upper 90s. **Sunday night** — Lows in the upper 60s.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 83, Low 59
Wednesday High 93, Low 63
Thursday High 92, Low 64
.06 of an inch of precipitation
Week ago High 86, Low 67
Month ago High 90, Low 62
Year ago High 91, Low 60
July precipitation 1.88 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 11.76 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

O God, thank you for your overflowing goodness to us. Help us to give back to you, generously and joyfully. Amen



Children learn about rainforest woes

Jared Bixby (above) of the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd Thursday afternoon in the Norton Library gymnasium. Mr. Bixby told the gathering about the plight of the rain forests while the zoo crew (three young assistants), carried exhibits around the room so that youngsters could get a closer look. Children had a chance to see a hissing cockroach from Madagascar (right) up close and personal. They also saw a turtle and got to touch snake skins and feathers.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Commission candidates vie for third district seat



John Miller

Incumbent seeks third term

Third District Norton County Commissioner John Miller is running for a third four-year term in office.

Mr. Miller said he was asked to run for the commission in 1992, but chose not to because he felt he didn't know enough about county government to do a good job. He spent the next four years studying and ran in 1996.

He said he ran for office because he thought changes needed to be made in the way the county was run. He's running again because there are still things that
(Continued on Page 5)



George Gassmann

Challenger looks at landfill

George Gassmann is running in the Aug. 3 Republican primary for Norton's third district commissioner seat. He will face incumbent John Miller.

The winner will face Democrat Robert Clydesdale in the Nov. 2 general election. Mr. Gassmann said he wanted to help the city and county work together.

"Hopefully we can get more cooperation between the city and county instead of it being county versus city," he said.

Mr. Gassmann lives in Clayton and said that regardless of his location, he
(Continued on Page 5)



Robert Clydesdale

Democrat wants to make changes

Democrat Robert Clydesdale is running for the third district Norton County Commission seat.

This is the first time Mr. Clydesdale has run for office.

He is the only Democrat running for the third district seat and will be unopposed in the Tuesday, Aug. 3 primary.

He said he's running because he feels things are not going well in the county.

He said there is tension and turmoil in the county and feels he will be able to relieve some of it.
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Woman missed flag on city poles

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The Norton City flagpoles were bare on the Fourth of July and, at least, one citizen noticed.

Teresa Tolle, the wife of a serviceman in Iraq, attended Wednesday night's council meeting. Mrs. Tolle first complimented the council for its community mindedness, but then said she was disappointed to not have seen a single flag displayed by the city on July 4.

She explained how important it was for people to display their patriotism.

City Administrator Rob Lawson apologized for the oversight.

Former council member Harriet Gill asked the council to explain their reasoning behind waiving the three reading requirement of the ordinance that will raise electric rates for all customers.

Mayor Forns said that a major problem had been found in one of the big engines at the power plant that had to be fixed immediately. In order to pay for these repairs the temporary rate adjustment had to be put into effect as soon as possible.

Sales tax figures are in for the month of June and the numbers are up. City tax income was \$15,854.53 and the county tax money received was \$11,958.35 for a total of \$27,812.88. The year-to-date income receipts are \$166,782.92.

Mr. Lawson informed the council that the study done by First Impressions, a community betterment program coordinated by the Huck Boyd National Insti-
(Continued on Page 5)

Forum to be held in Oberlin

With the primary election a little less than a month away, the Decatur County Farm Bureau will sponsor a candidate coffee at 2 p.m. Saturday so voters can meet the candidates for the 40th District state Senate seat, 120th District state representative and District 2 commissioner in Decatur County.

The event will be held in the auditorium at the Decatur Community High School in Oberlin.

Candidates who will be present include two Republican candidates for the Senate seat:

- Dan Rasure of Goodland, a recent college graduate who just finished an internship with Congressman Jerry Moran, but began this campaign at the first of the year.
- Ralph Ostmeier, state representative from Grinnell, who entered the race after the death of Sen. Stan Clark last month.

They will meet Democrat Tim Peterson from Monument. He farms in Logan County and is the vice-chair of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board.

Republicans running for the representative seat are:

- John Faber, the incumbent Republican, who lives and farms at Brewster.
- Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius, who lost to Mr. Faber in the primary two years ago.

Democrat Bob Strevey, who also lost to Mr. Faber in the last election, will face the winner in the November general election.

The two Republicans running for Decatur County Commissioner will speak.

- Ralph Unger, the incumbent, who has served the county for over 25 years.

- Phillip Lahman, who lives in Oberlin and has filed petitions against an increase in school taxes for the last two years.

The forum is open to the public and everyone is urged to attend.

Challenger to work for whole county

(Continued from Page 1)

would focus on the entire county. "If I'm elected I'll look at the whole county. I like to look at the whole picture. I try to be fair and honest with everybody."

He said the budget should be fair to all parts of the community and that would help keep the county strong.

"We're a small community and we can't afford to have more people leave than we already have."

Mr. Gassmann said two issues important to him were the landfill and the airport. On the landfill, he stressed the importance of getting the new landfill ready so that trash no longer has to be hauled out of the county. He said cooperation was important for the airport.

"The county and city both need to work together," he said. "It's going to benefit the whole county."

Mr. Gassmann has served on the New Almelo township board for two terms, the Lenora school board for 13 years and the Northwest Kansas Vo-Tech school board. He is also a member of his parish counsel and is the treasurer for the Knights of Columbus. He is a past president and past vice president of that group.

Mr. Gassmann is a farmer and mechanic. He and his wife, Vickie, have three adult children, Randy, Jeremy and Alice, and one teenage daughter, Connie, who will be a junior at Norton Community High School.

In his spare time, Mr. Gassmann enjoys boating, riding four-wheelers in the country, water skiing, snow skiing and visiting children and grandchildren.

Weddings, funerals, engagements, and births. You'll find it all in...

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Wednesday a crew from the City of Norton worked to assemble the "Spider" carnival ride in preparation for the Norton County Fair. Mick Miller, president of the

home-owned carnival group praised the work of the city, the community and Norton Correctional Facility in getting the rides ready to go. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Group ready to give impressions of city

(Continued from Page 1)

tute for Rural Development was complete.

First Impressions arranged for three teams of two people to visit Norton and assess the community in different areas.

Their findings will be presented to the public at 6:30 p.m., July 21, in the basement of City Hall.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said, "We want the public to be there."

Mr. Lawson advised the council that Ivan Kingham, chairman of the airport board, brought a bill for \$3,553 from Boxler Insurance for coverage that the board does not have the money to pay.

He said that it was a covered expense in the budget and that it needed to be taken care of. The council agreed.

Mr. Lawson reported that Assistant Police Chief Toby Kuhn had been complimented by the Pottawatomie County Attorney

for his investigative work on a case for them.

"Our police department does an excellent job," Mayor Corns said. "They need to hear compliments more often."

Mr. Hawks reported that Norton Sports Center was concerned that they were losing their Snapper dealership. Mr. Hawks said the owners emphasized that this was not true and had never been considered. They are and will continue to be Snapper dealers.

- In other business the council:
- Voted to increase the fine for parking violations.
 - Discussed setting a time restriction for shooting fireworks in the city limits.
 - Accepted the application from Building Contractors, for sewer services to the new Farm Services Building on West U.S. 36.
 - Authorized a state loan to pay for a new waste water treatment project.
 - Agreed to purchase a used truck for \$15,000 to haul sludge from the sewer treatment plant.
 - Agreed to send appreciation letters to airport board members thanking them for their work and to ask if they would be interested in serving on the new board.
 - Approved sidewalk replacement at the corner of Reagan Avenue and Quail Drive.
 - Agreed to lease/purchase a Jacobsen Turfcut Series 600 mower.
 - Asked city crews to remove old garage sale and other signs on city poles before the car show.
 - Agreed to grant a beer garden license to the American Legion during the county fair.

Democrat seeks business promotion

(Continued from Page 1)

"I've been asked to run by several people," he said. "Sometimes, we just have to step up to civic duty."

Mr. Clydesdale said he thinks the county needs to change its attitude about the business community and promote business, not stifle it.

He feels the county also needs to work better with the city.

"In these tough times, everybody seems to be in a rut," he said. "We need to all work together and stay together for the betterment of the community."

Mr. Clydesdale is a farmer/

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| Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu |
| 93/62 | 95/63 | 97/64 | 99/65 | 100/65 | 98/64 | 90/60 |
| Normal High 90 | | | Sunrise 6:20 to 6:24am | | | |
| Normal Low 62 | | | Sunset 9:07 to 9:09pm | | | |

July has started off with thunderstorms about every night. 4" to 8" of rain has fallen around the area, almost doubling the normal monthly average of 3.5". Temperatures over the last week have risen from 80 to 100 degrees. The hot weather will continue the next 7-10 days. Afternoon and evening storms will be in the forecast today and through the weekend. Then we will see a drier period over the first half of next week.

www.decisionweather.com

"Call 1-866-SKY-EYES for a recorded forecast"

Courtesy of Miller Aviation

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