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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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**Tuesday**  
March 14, 2006

**Norton, Kansas**  
Home of Ila Virgil

*Briefly*

## Spotter class to be Monday

A basic storm spotter training class will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 20, at Prairie Land Electric, just west of Norton. The class, which is sponsored by the National Weather Service and Norton County Emergency Preparedness, will cover severe weather safety at home, school and work, as well as provide an in-depth look at severe storm spotting and reporting procedures. The class is free and open to all. Anyone interested in becoming a storm spotter or simply learning more about severe weather is invited.

## Toys will be on display Saturday

Hundreds of collectors and hobby fans from hundreds of miles around are expected in Norton on Saturday for the annual Toy and Sports Card Show. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory on the north edge of Norton. A food stand is available including homemade pies contributed by the Methodist ladies. Admission is \$1 for adults and free for children under 12 with an adult. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day.

## Blue Jay Boosters cancel meeting for Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club meeting, which was scheduled for Wednesday evening, will not be held due to spring break in the Norton school system. The next meeting of the Blue Jay Boosters will be on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

## Weather Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 60s with southwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest in the afternoon. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny and cooler with highs in the mid 50s. **Thursday Night** — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. **Friday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. **Friday Night** — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. **Saturday** — A 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s.

## Prayer

Lord, help us not to measure ourselves against others but to see our service through your eyes. **Amen**



Norton recently hosted and competed in the Mid-Continent Elementary League Music Festival. The Blue Jays entered several ensemble groups, including the saxophone ensemble (above) of Sophie Mills, Tanner Morel, Brett Terrell, Matt Pollock, and Matt

Miller. The Norton Junior High School band (below) also competed, earning a 2+ rating. Pictured are Hannah Waggoner, Allie Corbin, Rachel Shepard, Sophie Mills, Kaitlyn Wolf, Ryan Blecha and Alyssa Thomson.

— Telegram photos by Charlotte Stephenson



## Junior Jay band, vocal students rank high at festival

The Norton Junior High School vocal and music students did well at the Mid-Continent Elementary League Music Festival, which was hosted by the Blue Jays in Norton on Feb. 22.

The ratings for vocalists were AP — Advanced Standing; I — Superior; II — Excellent; III — Average; and IV — Poor. Norton's vocal soloists were — Jessica Reeves, AP; Bethany Winkel, AP; Raven Brown, AP; Liberty Stephens, AP; Lacy Keilig, I; Austine Dole, I; Deidre Kramer, I; Sophie Mills, I; Bethany Roy, I; Colby Poage, I; Hannah Waggoner, I; Kelsie Morel, II+; Stephanie Eagleburger, II; Katie Scott, II; Kendra Scott, II; Rachel Shepard, II; Kaitlin Ross, II; Emily Juenemann, II; and Jacob Mizel, II.

In the vocal choirs and ensembles category, the Norton mixed choir received an AP rating and was the only choir to do so. The Norton girls choir, mixed ensemble and girls ensemble each received a I rating.

Norton's instrumental soloists were — Kendra Engelbert, piano, AP; Bethany Winkel, trumpet, 1+; Troy Bainter, piano, 1; Rebekah Streck, piano, 1; Spencer Shirk, trumpet, 1; Deidre Kramer, flute, 1; Bethany Roy, piano, 1; Ashlie Stewart, piano, 1; Liberty Stephens, tenor saxophone, 1; Missy Byler, clarinet, 1-; Rebekah Streck, flute, 1-; Lindsey Tacha, piano.

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## Electric co-op has decent year

By **VERONICA MONIER** and **CAROLYN PLOTTS**

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., had another good year.

Board President Gilbert Berland said at the annual meeting last week that Prairie Land's line crews repaired storm damage last year and also built a lot of line for new customers. He said 2006 should be a very interesting year.

Rather than raising rates, Treasurer Ken Carter said the board has rescinded the half cent rebate due, in part, to the cost of daily operations and also the cost of a blizzard in November and tornado last June that took out a substation.

For daily operations, he said a 35 foot distribution pole now costs \$594 to be installed, while a 40 foot pole is \$719. A mile of three-phase line costs an average of \$35,466.

He said last year's tornado and blizzard caused a combined \$6.6 million in damages. Prairie Land Electric had to pay \$750,000 of it.

In 2005, he said on the balance sheet was: assets — utility plant, \$48,282,136; less depreciation \$19,953,225; net value of system, \$28,328,911; cash, \$663,681; investments, \$5,660,318; accounts and interest receivable, \$1,427,737; materials and supplies, \$772,439; prepayments,

\$98,783; deferred debits, \$262,283; for total assets of \$37,475,517; liabilities — RUS notes, \$18,627,385; other long term debts, \$1,760,897; membership and deposits, \$61,270; notes and accounts payable, \$1,723,228; current liabilities, \$951,534; deferred credits, \$500; and equities and margins, \$14,350,703; for total liabilities of \$37,475,517.

The income statement, he said, was: income — electric revenue, \$13,754,158; expenses — power costs, \$7,825,600; operations, \$2,292,138; depreciation, \$1,325,388; taxes, \$553,845; interest, \$893,114; miscellaneous, \$237,340; for total expenses of \$13,127,425; other revenue — \$263,446; and margins for 2005 — \$890,179.

The margins are at 6.3 percent. He said "our dollars came from" — farms/residential, 36.6 percent; irrigation, 7.9 percent; commercial, 41.3 percent; and resale/miscellaneous, 14.2 percent. "Where our dollars went", he said, was — power cost, 55.8 percent; operations, 16.4 percent; depreciation, 9.5 percent; interest, 6.4 percent; taxes, 4.0 percent; and miscellaneous, 1.6 percent.

Manager Alan Miller said Prairie Land's employees were focused on service.

The big news, he said, is the Mid-Kan-

sas Electric Cooperative, which Prairie Land is a part of, purchased Aquila's Kansas properties.

"Aquila is Latin for eagle," he said. "The eagle has landed."

He said approximately 68,500 electric meters will transfer to the Mid-Kansas cooperative when the transaction closes. The deal must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Kansas Corporation Commission before it can be finalized. Those approvals are expected to be given around the first of June.

The six members of the Mid-Kansas cooperative have divided the Aquila electric system and will each lease and operate a portion of it, he said. Prairie Land will manage system maintenance, operations, and construction in parts of Norton, Phillips, Rooks, Smith, Osborne, Jewell, Mitchell, Republic, Cloud, Washington, and Clay counties, where Aquila customers now live. He said Prairie Land will also be responsible for customer service and billing to approximately 15,000 meters in the area.

Once the deal is completed, he said approximately 26 employees, who are stationed in Concordia, Smith Center and Phillipsburg, will transfer from Aquila to

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## 4-H'ers gather for club day on Monday

Norton County 4-H'ers will participate in the annual club day events at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 20.

The program will be held at the Norton Junior High School. The 4-H'ers and their families are preparing different individual and group presentations and numbers. Events will begin with an individual sign-up schedule and will include junior and senior demonstrations and illustrated talks, project talks, show me's, tell me's and public speaking.

There will also be vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles. There will also be talent numbers like dances, skits and dramatics, readings and other novelty talent numbers.

Participating 4-H'ers will need to be signed up by 6 p.m. and all numbers should be completed by 8 p.m. Placings will be posted in each event's room.

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