

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

12 PAGES

Tuesday,
July 1, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Darrell Preuss

LOOK FOR THE RESERVOIR NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

KEITH SEBELIUS
Reservoir News
Fishing • Hunting • Camping • Recreation

Briefly

Today's Telegram
only one this week

Today's Norton Telegram will be the only edition this week. Our next scheduled paper would have been on Friday, but inasmuch as that will be July 4th, and the newspaper does not publish on that holiday, the next issue will be Tuesday, July 8, said the newspaper's publisher Tom Dreiling. "We will be joining the community in celebrating this most important date," he said. "Please make safety your top priority," he said.

Farmer's Market to open on Thursday

The first Norton County Farmer's Market of the season gets underway Thursday at Elmwood Park. It will run from 7-9 a.m. and from 6-8 p.m. The market will be held every Thursday morning and evening until the first killing frost. Keith VanSike, Norton County Extension Director, said the mission of the market is to "encourage private vendors to take the opportunity to produce and sell locally grown vegetable produce and baked goods." If you need additional information, please call Rose Maley at 877-3356, or Christina Files at 202-1577.

City council agenda for Wednesday told

The Norton City Council meets Wednesday at 5:30 at City Hall. City Administrator Rob Lawson will give his report, as will the following committee chairs: Kim Snyder, Parks; Elaine Mann, Utility; Ron Briery, Finance; Donna Foley, Public Works; and Toby Kuhn, Public Safety. Building and demolition permits will be given and bills paid.

The meeting is open to the public.

Weather

Tonight — Isolated thunderstorms before 4 a.m. **Wednesday** — Scattered thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 96. **Wednesday Night** — Scattered thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 63. **Thursday** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Thursday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 60, High 86, .10 Rain
Saturday Low 62, High 83
Sunday Low 53, High 90
Monday Low 54, High 90
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give us courage, strength, and wisdom to face the challenges that lie before us. **Amen**



Two members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team practiced from the prone position in the Norton BB Gun Museum in preparation for the International BB Gun Match Championships in Bowling Green, Ky., this

weekend. From left are, Erin Archer and coach Cameron Archer, and Brady Tien and coach Mike Campbell.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

BB gun team returns to Kentucky

By DICK BOYD

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For 39 out of the last 42 years, Norton County has qualified a teenage marksmanship team to compete in the U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships and this weekend in Bowling Green, Kentucky will mark the 40th year our local shooters have displayed their skills at the international shoot, the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world.

Since rules state that a shooter cannot compete in the international marksmanship two years in a row, each year's team consists of different girl and boy shooters.

Originally the Norton County Jaycees team and now the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team, the youngsters and their parents and coaches left today for Bowling Green where they will fire BB guns for international recognition on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Diddle Arena on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

The Norton County BB gun team is well known in international circles, having won the championship eight times, more than any other community.

Since assuming sponsorship, the Rotary Club has established a Norton BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway. The museum displays the rich history

of the Norton shooting education and marksmanship program.

Norton has won the state championship 37 times and was runner-up this spring. The top three teams in each state shoot qualify for the international championships.

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000 and placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. Last year's team placed second in shooting and fifth overall.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. They compete in four shooting positions — prone, standing, sitting and kneeling. The written test will contain questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule Book.

Norton's international team members this year and their ages are: Brady Tien, 14; Alexis Lively, 13; Dylan Sprigg, 13; Lane Archer, 12 and Erin Archer, 10. Alternates are Gabe Bird, 12 and Michael Smith, 12.

Assisting head coach Cameron Archer with coaching duties have been Mike Campbell and Cole Archer but Campbell will not make the trip to the international. Classroom instructor is Lynette Archer.

Three members of this year's international team have experience at the international level. Lane Archer and Dylan

Sprigg were members of the Norton 2006 international team and Erin Archer was an alternate on the 2007 team.

Four of this year's marksmen are second generation BB gun shooters for Norton. Alexis Lively's mother, Jill, was a shooter as were Cameron Archer, current coach and father of Lane and Erin Archer and Angie Bird, mother of Gabe.

The Norton team had its final pre-international practice on Monday night in the Norton BB Gun Museum building.

The Norton team qualified for the international championships through the Kansas Rifle Association State Shoot in Alma and the Kansas State 4-H Shoot in Great Bend.

"We've been improving every week and, hopefully, we will peak at the right time," said coach Archer. "I think we're ready. We just ask every shooter to focus, breathe steadily and have a calm hand."

"We had each shooter set scoring goals for themselves after the state shoots and I set my goals for them as well. They're still behind the goals but making progress."

The BB guns themselves can cause problems for the marksmen so Norton has always maintained them to the utmost. Coach Archer indicated that the guns have been holding up well in the twice-a-week practices.

The written test is 20 percent of each shooter's score and it can make a real dif-

ference in a shooter's final score. Norton always concentrates on the written test during practices.

"The written test is always a concern due to the higher comprehensive level of the questions," said classroom instructor Archer. "Our youngsters have a solid knowledge of proper shooting technique, rules and regulations but they word the test to weed out those who are unsure. We've tried a number of different things this year in preparing for the written test and we expect our shooters to test well."

Traveling to the state and international shoot is expensive but the Norton community has been generous in its support.

The sponsoring Rotary Club and others help with donations but the team also raised money this year through prize donations and a car wash.

Prize winners and donors were: Jeff Wahlmeier, Ertl key series tractor, Southwest Implement; Lamont Shirk, \$100 gift certificate, Russ' Jewelry; Denise Schwab, quilt, Pamida; Delbert Harvey, set of botanical and mineral body mist, Moffet Drug; Bryce Engelbert, antler trash can, Kowpoke; Rusty Bird, two oil changes, Country Sales & Service; Lee Russell, oil change and tire rotation, Country Sales & Service; Shirley Stuttheim, \$50 gas certificate, Ag Valley

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Many places of business will close the 4th

The nation will celebrate its 232nd birthday Friday, July 4. Most Norton businesses will observe the day by closing their doors.

There will still be plenty of businesses remaining open to meet the needs of area residents.

Banks

All county banks will be closed Friday.

Service Stations

Service stations and convenience stores will remain open. Loves and Norton Total both operate 24 hours a day/seven days a week. First Stop will be open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. The Station in Almena will be closed.

Grocery Stores

Almena Market has opted to close for the holiday while Jamboree Foods will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Norton Shop and Save will operate from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Restaurants

In Norton, Pure Prairie Natural Foods and The Beacon Cafe have opted to close for the day. K & S Center Cafe will be closed both Friday and Saturday. Some

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Long horse journey benefits children

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

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Phil Dawson believes in three things: kids, horses and America. That's why, he, along with his wife, Patty, and their two Appaloosa stallions, "Billy" and "Jet" are riding from their home in Hagerman, Idaho to Pocahontas State Park in Virginia, raising funds on the way. Accompanying them is Dennis Copenbarger, also from Hagerman.

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Norton County Prosecutor Doug Sebelius said warrants were filed June 26

The couple takes turns riding and tries to average about 20 miles a day. Mr. Dawson said, "We'll go according to what the horse is capable of doing." He said he checks them very closely. He spent 25 years as a blacksmith so he knows what to look for. He is able to shoe the horses and watches their hooves for injuries.

When the horses aren't being ridden, they get to ride in an air-conditioned trailer equipped with a gravity flow watering system invented by Mr. Dawson. They get plenty of hay, vitamins and a special-mix mash Mr. Dawson stirs up for them. Mr. Dawson said they expect to arrive in Virginia by Oct. 20. He said this trip was a year in the making.

By challenging every horse-lover, every parent and every veteran to donate

at least \$2, the couple hopes to raise ten million dollars to help children with medical expenses that are incurred during their treatment.

Mr. Dawson said all money donated stays in America and is dispersed by America Fundraisers through an application process.

Mrs. Dawson said, "People have been really good to us and I want the kids to know there's lots to do on our website."

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have three sons and five grandchildren.

He's already talking about his next endeavor; he and his wife will go on a tour with the two horses that are trained to do tricks. The have added a new member to

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Two post bonds in football field vandalism in Norton

charging Chantille Campbell and Wesley Georgeson, both 18, with the crimes.

Miss Campbell and Mr. Georgeson were both arrested on June 27 and posted bond.

The two were charged with one felony count of criminal damage to property, five counts of misdemeanor criminal damage and one count of felony obstruction.

Mr. Sebelius said a warrant is still out for a third person on similar charges, but

it has not been returned.

He said he anticipates that person will make a voluntary appearance.

Miss Campbell and Mr. Georgeson will make their first appearance before District Magistrate Judge Deb Anderson on July 3.

Since felony charges are involved, a preliminary hearing will be set, within 10 days, with 17th Judicial District Judge Bill Elliott.