

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

November 11, 2011

The Norton Telegram salutes all military

Veterans and their families. Thank you for your service!

Briefly

High School play set for this weekend

The Norton Community High School drama club will present this year's fall play, "The Bachelor King" this weekend. The show will open at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at the East Campus Auditorium. A matinee will follow at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Craft Fair slated for Saturday in Norton

This weekend kicks off pheasant season and on Saturday the Norton Annual Arts and Crafts Fair is being hosted by the Norton County Arts Council. Vendors will be located at the National Guard Armory and 4-H Building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Independent vendors will be located at the Norton Community Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the American Legion from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Norton Genealogy Society will be at Eisenhower Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Library to host program Monday

The Norton Public Library Presents: Pajama Night Monday Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Every year in the state of Kansas a book is chosen by the Kansas Center of the Book to be presented in light of Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week which is Nov. 13-19. Celebrating the book "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" this year, pajama night will feature stories, songs, and activities in collaboration with this special week. Featured reader for the evening will be Terry Hillman. Come dressed in your pajamas and bring along your favorite pillow or stuffed animal. Come enjoy an hour of fun plus a treat of milk and cookies for a bed time snack.

Markets

Friday, November 11, 2011

Wheat\$6.21
Milo.....\$5.98
Soybeans.....\$10.73
Corn\$6.34
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s. Saturday Night - Windy and partly cloudy with a slight chance of light rain showers in the evening.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Nov. 8Low 34, High 43
20 Precipitation
Wednesday, Nov. 9Low 25, High 52
Thursday, Nov. 10.....Low 22, High 53
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Holy yet personal God, we give thanks that you honor us by working through us. Help us to see your hand of love in our lives, and help us to faithfully follow your lead. Amen.

School to present 'The Bachelor King'

The Norton Community High School Drama Department held a dress rehearsal Thursday evening for the upcoming presentation of 'The Bachelor King.' The show will open tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium with a matinee to follow on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

"The Bachelor King," a comedy set in a troubled kingdom run by a troubled king, spoofs three reality television shows including The Bachelor, American Idol, and Survivor. The king uses his dying words to pass royal succession not to his greedy son, Prince Daft, but to Yokel, an inept hill-billy. The royal staff believes Yokel, a bachelor, must be paired with a queen, so they round up five eligible bachelorettes to vie for his hand.

Pictured, a hopeful contestant vying for the position of queen tries to woo King Kokel with her charm and grace.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



Local family honors beloved Veteran canine

By Weston Kendall

When we think of Veteran's Day, most of us don't usually think of a dog. That's not the case for Weston Kendall, a former Staff Sergeant Air Force K9 Handler and native of Phillipsburg.

Kendall enlisted in the Air Force in June 1999 and later graduated from the Department of Defense K9 Handler's Course in San Antonio, Texas, in 2002. He received orders to McConnell Air

Force Base in Wichita for December, 2002 and that's when his path crossed with Military Working Dog Bram.

Bram, a Belgium Malinois, was born on Jan. 26, 1997 and was selected by the military as a patrol and explosive detector dog. After completing his initial training in San Antonio, Texas to be a patrol and explosive detector dog, Bram was assigned to McConnell Air Force Base. Bram was approximately

eight months old when he began his military career and quickly excelled as one of McConnell's top dogs. Bram was four years old when he was teamed up with Kendall

When a new handler is assigned a military working dog, the handler's interaction is limited for the first couple of weeks to just feeding and playing with the dog. This allows the dog to adjust to a new handler and associate that individual with food and fun. The K-9 team is then allotted 30 days to certify in patrol and either explosive or narcotic detection. With the country preparing to invade Iraq, Kendall and Bram were not afforded the bonding time as mentioned above, but rather began training immediately and were deployed within two weeks of meeting each other.

First up for the team was a classified location along the southern border of Iraq as part of the initial assault for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The location was classified as a "bare base," which meant only the necessities were available due to the Allied Forces only intending to temporarily occupy the location.

In the few days leading up to the war, Kendall passed time by training and familiarizing himself to Bram. He quickly learned that Bram had a condition that made his nails crack and bleed in the desert sand. Since communication was not authorized for security reasons, Kendall was forced to improvise to keep Bram in the fight.

The soldier established a network

with some of the female soldiers and was able to barter for some clear fingernail polish. Kendall would apply a coat of polish to Bram's brittle nails each morning and night. This provided just enough protection to the dog's nails to enable him to perform his duties.

On another occasion early in the development of this team, Kendall decided to build rapport with Bram by playing during some down time. This was also an effective way to reduce stress for the soldier and for the dog. Again, without the normal 30 days to bond, this first play session did not last long before Bram's instincts kicked in and he bit his trainer in the upper bicep. From that moment on, this duo developed mutual respect for one another and began an inseparable bond.

Kendall and Bram returned to McConnell Air Force Base in late 2003, but it wasn't time for relaxing. While stateside, the team's primary duties were to ensure that military personnel and assets were secure on the base. Another duty of Kendall and Bram was to assist the Secret Service with dignitary security as the presidential elections of 2004 were spinning up.

On one of the missions in Wisconsin, Kendall and Bram were providing security for presidential candidate John Kerry at an outside function. Every vehicle within a certain radius of the event had to be searched by the team. The dog team spent the afternoon sweeping vehicles and delivery trucks and more vehicles.

(Veteran - Continued on Page 5)

4-H members, leaders 'Just Be' at awards night

Norton County 4-H members and families showed off "Just Be" at the Annual 4-H Achievement Night Banquet, held Sunday evening in Norton.

The theme represents the notion to Just Be what you'd like in all aspects of all life skill projects in the 4-H Program. The annual event is co-sponsored and hosted by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, which also sponsored the Friend of 4-H Award and the ham roast that was served this year. Brook Dix, Norton Chamber manager; Denzel and Ruth Lofgreen, Alberta Slaby, Duaine and Rose Garrison and Beverly Kindler were Chamber Ambassadors that

hosted the event. Joel Duscher, Chamber President, was the co-host for the program and introduced the Friend of 4-H Award.

4-H members and families were treated to a covered dish supper with roasted ham provided by the Norton Chamber. Tyler Montgomery, President of the Norton County 4-H Council, served as Master of Ceremonies. Marisa Maddy, secretary of the 4-H Council, gave a response to the Chamber address. Kolton Harting, Vice President of 4-H Council, introduced a variety of the guests present.

(4-H - Continued on Page 5)



Joel Duscher (right), President of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, presents Dave Ward with the Friend of 4-H Award Sunday evening at the 4-H Achievement Night.

-Photo by Patsy Maddy

Wreath ceremony planned in WaKeeney for Veterans

The Civil Air Patrol will sponsor the sixth annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Kansas Veterans Cemetery at WaKeeney on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.

Seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember those who gave their lives in service for the United States. Specially-made wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Prisoners of War/Missing in Action will be placed as memorials during the ceremony. All of the special wreaths are donated by Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the company donating wreaths to adorn the headstones of the nation's Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. The company has been granted permission to cover each of the more than 300,000 graves at the cemetery for the 20th anniversary.

Anyone who is interested in helping sponsor a wreath for Veteran gravestones across the nation can send \$15 per wreath sponsorship to the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery, PO Box 185, WaKeeney, KS, 67672. Checks can be made to "Wreaths Across America." In order for wreaths to be shipped out to the cemetery in time for the ceremony, donations should be sent by no later than Nov. 18.

