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Blue Jay girls lose to Beloit and Norton boys beat Beloit but lose to Thomas More Prep.

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Friday  
March 5, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Diana McGee

Briefly

## Annual 4-H Day set for next week

The annual 4-H Club Day will be Saturday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the Norton Junior High School. Presentations will be given by the 4-H'ers, individually and in groups, and will include junior and senior demonstrations, Show Me's, Tell Me's, public speaking, dances, skits and dramatics, and reading.

4-H'ers will need to be signed up by 10:30 a.m. and all numbers should be completed by noon.

The public is invited to come and watch the 4-H'ers "Make the Best Better."

## Weather spotters class to be held

A basic storm spotter training class will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the library community room in 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 to attend.

## Incentive program applications due

Next Friday is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program applications. Talk to the staff at the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Norton at 113 N. Norton, or call 877-2623.

Weather

## Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s.

## Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 51, Low 36, .12 prec.  
Wednesday ..... High 45, Low 35  
Thursday ..... High 36, Low 33, .20 prec.  
Week ago ..... High 56, Low 34  
Month ago ..... High 32, Low 22  
Year ago ..... High 16, Low 7  
March precipitation ..... .32 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 2.42 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, when we go through wintry days, help us to see your many blessings so that we feel the warmth of your love. Amen



Farm Bureau member, Jon Lofgreen, (above left) and Roy Skrdlant, of Roy's Sales and Service, Norton, inspected a tractor's safety features including a seat belt and rollover protection.. The men (below) look under the fender of a tractor to see if a rollover protection structure, like the cage on the tractor in the top picture, could be added.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



## Jennings board says school is staying open

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Jennings School District expects to have fewer than 50 students next year, but board members say rumors of the district's demise are exaggerated.

Board members and Superintendent Lee Stieben signed a letter to parents last week assuring them that the school will be open next year.

At least for now, Mr. Stieben said, there is no talk about consolidating or closing the school. Financially, he said, the district is doing fine and the school will stay open as long as it can. Basically, he said, that means until the money or the students run out.

This year, there are 61 students at the school, although that is expected to drop. There are 12 seniors graduating and just one kindergartner expected for next year.

School Board Vice President Vickie Bailey said Monday that the board hasn't even considered consolidation. The numbers are getting low, she said, low enough that the board may have to start looking

into some things.

But, she said, rumors that the school will close are simply not true. The budget is in good shape and the district will have the money for at least the next two years.

Mrs. Bailey has been on the board for at least the last 12 years and been the vice president for three. She said the board has been planning for the last 10 years and have looked far into the future so that there would be money. She said they have grouped classes together so there isn't a lot of waste when it comes to teachers.

The other thing, said Mrs. Bailey, is that the board and teachers have done some unique things with salaries. Instead of giving raises every year, she said, they do a lump bonus at the end of the year once the supplies are purchased.

The teachers are good, she said. They are conservative and don't waste anything.

Although there will be 13 fewer stu-

## Water lease option put to vote of district members

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Although the board of the Almena Irrigation District supports a proposal to lease water rights to the state for Sebelius Reservoir, the issue will be voted on by the full membership.

Former Governor Mike Hayden presented the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' option to lease water rights for two years to the district's members at their annual meeting Tuesday night.

District President Norman Nelson welcomed the members and guests including representatives from Wildlife and Parks and from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Bureau of Reclamation representative Craig Scott reported on the low water level at Sebelius Reservoir.

"We are currently sitting at 2,287.85 elevation which is four feet below the level this time last year, and 16 feet below being full," he said.

In addition to discussing conserva-

tion measures that the district has taken, including installing pipes on laterals, the board members explained that at the lake's level, the district could deliver about 2 1/2 inches of water per acre to members in 2004. This would take the lake down to of 2280.4, which is the dead pool and the shut-off level. At that point, the district can no longer draw water from the reservoir.

Mr. Hayden explained the Department of Wildlife's offer.

"We basically want to enter a two-year agreement with the irrigation district, which would establish a minimum pool of 2,288, for \$120,000 a year," he said. "Under this agreement the district would receive \$60,000 on July 1 and \$60,000 on November 1. And, although the money is not currently in the budget, it is currently in the bank."

Under the agreement, the district would agree that at the minimum pool of 2288 elevation, no water would be (Continued on Page 5)

## Farm safety is the name of the game

This is Agricultural Safety Awareness Week in Norton County.

Norton city Mayor David Corns urges all farmers, ranchers and those in related industries to practice safety, especially in tractor operations.

Nearly half of accidental agricultural deaths come when, without rollover protection, a tractor overturns.

Since 1993, there have been five deaths in Kansas due to tractor rollovers. No one is too young or too old.. One was a boy of 11, another was 13, two were men in their 60s and the other was a 97-year old man.

The Norton County Farm Bureau offers some farm safety tips:

- Adopt a no rider policy on tractors and other farm equipment.
- Ensure that equipment is maintained

# TO THE EDITOR:

To the Editor:  
There seems to be a number of rumors and talk concerning the possibility of the Jennings school closing next year. We wish to inform you that the rumors and talk you hear are just that — rumors. School will be in session next year, educating your children to the best of our abilities. The board has no intention of closing the school and will keep the district running for as long as it is possible. At this time, we have a full schedule of athletic events for both the junior and senior high school.

The projections are that it should be possible to continue for some time yet, assuming no unforeseen problems develop that are beyond the board's control. The board wishes to thank you for the support that you have shown for the school district in the past and will be looking forward to future years of educating your children.  
Lawrence Carter, Vickie Bailey, Larry Miller, Sarah Carter, Lila Jennings, board members  
Lee Stieben, superintendent  
Prairie Heights School District

# Jennings schools plan to keep going

(Continued from Page 1)  
Students next year, the district will be able to use the number from this year to draw up its budget, she said. That way, for at least the next two years the money will be there. She said she hadn't heard the rumors, but people brought them to the board. Mrs. Bailey said they don't want teachers jumping ship or kids leaving because of the rumors. The superintendent said there are so many rumors that the school was going to close next year that the board thought a letter to patrons and parents was a good idea. Mr. Stieben, who has been in the district for two years now, said plans haven't changed. The board has always wanted to keep the school in Jennings as long as they can. The district is struggling just like any school in northwest Kansas, he said, and enrollment keeps going down. At this point, he said, the board hasn't had to make any major cuts,

but if enrollment keeps going down, they may have to look at some. Mr. Stieben said there is a bill in the Legislature that would allow the state to shut down schools with an enrollment under 100, but it hasn't passed. If the board had to make a decision, he said, he didn't know what would happen. Jennings is a long ways from other schools in the area. He said he assumed it would be more of a dissolution than a merger. Mrs. Bailey agreed, saying she wasn't sure the district would have much success with consolidation because the town is far away from other schools. The school is important to Jennings, she said, and the kids get a good education. When the school goes, she said, Jennings will probably lose its bank and everything else. "The spirit of the town dies, too," she said.

# Commodity loan requests due

Farmers who still have an interest in their 2003 wheat, oats or barley crop can obtain a commodity loan until March 31 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. March 31 is also the final date to request a loan deficiency payment on 2003 wheat, oats and barley. The final date to request a com-

modity loan or loan deficiency payment for feed grains, oilseeds and cotton is June 1. The final deadline for purchasing Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for sorghum forage is March 15. For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency at 877-2623.



Former Governor Mike Hayden, now Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commissioner, speaks to members of the Almena Irrigation District during their annual meeting Tuesday night. —Telegram photo by Kristen Brands

# Irrigation district members to vote on state water lease

(Continued from Page 1)  
released for irrigation. If the lake reaches 2,290 elevation then water can then be taken out for irrigation. Whether or not the lake reaches 2,290 the payment to the district and its members still stays in effect. Mr. Hayden said he thought the offer was a "reasonable balance that would please recreational users and the district as well. "This is a short term goal, and our long term goal is to find a solution which will support sustainability of the lake and irrigation agriculture. "We don't know the answers to that long-term goal of sustainability, but hopefully we can work together to determine what that plan might be. Our goal is not to eliminate irrigation from the valley, but rather to find a balance of how sustainability could

be achieved." Mr. Nelson explained that although the irrigation board fully supported the state's offer, members would be given the opportunity to vote on the proposal. He said ballots would be mailed to members, and that an overall majority of returned ballots would help the board's decision. "We really feel that this is a plan that is good for everyone," he said. Some members voiced concerns about irrigation matters in general. Member Barney Cox said he was concerned about evaporation and how it counts as consumptive use of water for the landowner, and thus they are penalized. Mr. Cox

also wondered if members/landowners who lived out of the area would be fully informed of the proposal up for vote. Member Janet Sell asked Mr. Hayden who would be drafting the agreement, and he said that Wildlife and Parks lawyers would write it and submit it to the irrigation district's attorneys. Member Terry Nelson said he thought there were still a lot of questions that needed answers regarding the five-year Republican River Compact Kansas has with Nebraska in water delivery. In other business, member Duane Sell, whose position was up for re-election, was unanimously re-elected to the irrigation board.

# Safety tips for tractors, children

- (Continued from Page 1)  
properly and all shields are replaced after maintenance.
- Give children tasks only appropriate for their age and ability.
  - Have a first aid kit available in equipment and instruct others in its use.
  - Maintain a safe play area for children so they are not in the work areas and around equipment.
  - Tractors should be equipped with rollover protection structures.
  - Never by-pass start a tractor.
  - All terrain vehicle drivers should wear helmets. Do not allow passengers on ATVs.
  - Large animals are very protective of their young. Children should stay out of their territory.
  - Lock up hazardous chemicals to assure they are out of reach of children.

# Kindergarten packets available

Parents and guardians who were unable to attend the Eisenhower Elementary Kindergarten Roundup on Feb. 26 and have a child who will be 5-years-old by Aug. 31 should call 877-5113 or stop by Eisenhower Elementary to get a kindergarten packet and sign up for a screening time as soon as possible. The packet contains information on state and local requirements necessary for enrollment.

## GRAHAM COUNTY, KS ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION

### 560 ACRES IRRIGATED, DRYLAND & GRASS

**SELLERS:** Goddard Family

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2004 @ 10:30AM**  
Auction Location: Graham Co. Courtroom in Hill City, KS

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**  
SE/4 of Section 16-6-24, Graham County, KS (includes well)  
NE/4 of Section 16-6-24, Graham County, KS  
SE/4 of Section 9-6-24, Graham County, KS  
N/2NW/4 of Section 16-6-24, Graham County, KS  
Pivot on Tract 2 - 1989 T&L 9-tower sprinkler  
Pivot on Tract 1 - 1976 T&L 10-tower sprinkler

**LAND LOCATION:** From First Security Bank in Lenora, KS, follow the river road East approximately 1 mile, then go 3 miles South to the county line, then 1/2 mile West, then 1 1/2 miles South to the NE corner of the property. SIGNS WILL BE POSTED!

**MANNER OF SALE:** This real estate will be offered in 6 tracts and in combinations of the tracts.

**TERMS:** 10% down day of sale, balance to be paid on or before April 9, 2004, or upon such terms as may be acceptable to the Seller. Personal and corporate checks are acceptable for the down payment with the final payment to be made in certified funds. All funds will be held by the Auctioneer in their trust account or by an identified title/escrow company. Bidding is not contingent upon financing. Financing, if necessary, needs to be arranged and approved prior to the auction. **Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS:** Each successful bidder will be required to enter into a Farm & Ranch Real Estate Purchase Contract immediately following the auction. Copies of the contract will be available from the auctioneer prior to the sale.

**EVIDENCE OF TITLE:** Seller will provide title insurance to the Buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price with the premium to be paid one-half by the Buyer(s) and one-half by the Seller. Title evidence will be provided on sale day. Buyer(s) may close as soon as closing documents are prepared — no later than April 9, 2004.

**CLOSING & POSSESSION:** Date of closing will be on or before April 9, 2004. Possession will be date of closing.

**MINERALS:** All of the Seller's interest will transfer to the Buyer(s) at closing. Mineral rights are believed to be 100% intact.

**TAXES:** Seller will pay taxes for all of 2003 and prior years. Taxes for 2004 will be paid by the Buyer.

**CROPS:** Buyer will receive 100% of the 2004 growing wheat crop. (Approximately 50 acres)

**FSA INFORMATION:** Buyer will receive 100% all FSA payments associated with the 2004 crop year.

**IRRIGATION INFORMATION:** Tract 1 has one irrigation well that is authorized for 159 AF at 745 GPM under Water Right File No. 26,542.

**ACREAGES:** Acreage figures are considered to be approximate and are from reliable sources, based on (USDA) FSA figures. All FSA information is subject to change. FSA acres may not be the same as deeded acres.

**INSPECTIONS:** Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections and due diligence concerning pertinent facts about the property. Neither Seller nor Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc., it's agency & representatives are making any warranties about the property, either expressed or implied.

**EASEMENTS:** This sale is subject to all rights-of-way and easements, whether recorded or not, and to any oil and gas leases of record.

**AGENCY & ESCROW:** Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc., its agents and representatives, are the Exclusive Agents of the Seller.

**TRACTS 5 & 6:**  
There is a salvage offer of \$10,000 on Tract 5 and \$5,000 on Tract 6 which will be the opening bids at the auction on these respective tracts.

# They're available here!

## Taste of Home COOKING SCHOOL

\$7 in advance \$8 at the door

Tuesday, April 13  
Max Jones Fieldhouse  
Goodland, Kan.

215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654  
785-877-3361

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*"When You List With Farm & Ranch, It's As Good As Sold!"*

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** This land has been in the Goddard family for many years. Due to its distance from the farm headquarters, this land is being sold. The irrigation well was test pumped at 950 GPM this winter. The sprinklers are being offered separately from the land for those buyers who want to install a new sprinkler. You can buy the land and then buy a sprinkler to match your land, or the existing sprinklers will be removed by the date of closing.