

Church:

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Vol. 97, No. 49
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Division I and II baseball games keep teams busy.

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Friday
June 18, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Darlene McEwen

Briefly
Prairie View

Bans burning

Due to dry conditions, the Prairie View Fire Department has declared a burning ban that will go into effect immediately and remain in effect until further notice. This means that there will be absolutely no burning of property, trash, or anything else within the city limits. If you have any questions call Fire Chief Rodney Job at (785)-973-2217.

Chamber plans fireworks display

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding the Fourth of July Fireworks spectacular again this year at Sebelius Lake in Prairie Dog State Park.

Officials said that the July 4th fireworks is the biggest event for the park during the year, with an estimated attendance of 2,500 people. Sponsors are needed to help purchase the display this year.

Donations can be made at the Norton Chamber of Commerce at 104 S. State or the Dairy Queen, Jamboree or Shop & Save, in Norton.

Fire department fundraiser set

The Prairie View Fire Department will be holding its first Fire Muster Fundraiser on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. There will be a first responder unit, a Medstar helicopter and fire department equipment on display. A donation barbecue will be served at noon with hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Prizes will be awarded. There will be games for the kids and free fire truck rides. All proceeds will go to the Prairie View Fire Department.

Weather Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers then areas of drizzle after midnight. Areas of fog after midnight. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 70. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with highs in 80s.

Howell report:

Thursday High 94, Low 61, Precip. .48
Wednesday ... High 77, Low 56, Precip. .10
Thursday High 72, Low 56, Precip. .14
Week ago High 93, Low 58
Month ago High 69, Low 62
Year ago High 75, Low 65
July precipitation 2.0 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 9.34 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us to be patient when we would rather be judgmental. Help us learn from each person we encounter. Amen

Harvest delayed by welcome rain

By Brandon Gay

Wheat harvest in Norton has been halted by what farmers were hoping for all along — rain.

The rain has come at just the wrong time for wheat, but Brian Olson, area Kansas State University agronomist, said the benefit to corn and sorghum crops was worth the delay now.

“I just want it to keep raining,” Mr. Olson said.

Norton County Extension Agent Keith VanSike said the rain was welcome, despite the damper it was putting on harvest.

“I think a lot of farmers are looking past this and looking ahead to the fall crops,” he said. “Rain will also help the pastures.”

Mr. Olson said that there was not much harvest activity before the rain in Norton County. He said harvest would be in full swing if it was not for the rain.

The Norton area received 1.1 inches of rain Monday, .48 inches Tuesday and .1 inches Wednesday. The rain brought the year-to-date total up to 9.2 inches.

While rain now is delaying harvest, the lack of rain is the reason it arrived so early this year.

Mr. Olson said wheat matured early because of the hot and dry weather this spring. If wheat determines there is not enough moisture and nutrients in its en-

vironment, it will produce a seed head earlier than usual while it still can, he said. This year’s harvest was about two weeks earlier than usual.

Overall the wheat was thin because of the lack of rain, he said. While the harvest may not exceed the overall low expectations, results will be varied.

“There will be some farmers that will say ‘It wasn’t as bad as I expected’ and (Continued on Page 5)

Meal prices increase

School breakfasts to go up five cents, lunches up 10 cents

By VERONICA MONIER

It’s going to be more expensive to get a hot meal at Norton schools next year, but compared to the cost of fixing a meal, the prices are still a bargain.

Superintendent Greg Mann said Monday night at the Norton School Board meeting that the district charges less than most other schools in Kansas for meals.

He said the district needed to raise the meal prices to keep up with the cost of food. The prices haven’t been raised for several years, he said.

Board member Gary Lacy asked why the district hasn’t needed to raise prices until now.

“A real effort has been made to control costs,” Mr. Mann said. “Also, for the past several years, we’ve transferred money into the food service budget.”

“With this increase, I don’t think we’ll have to transfer money this year. We don’t want to have to keep transferring money. We want the food service budget to be self sustaining.”

He said an increase of 15 cents per lunch (Continued on Page 5)

Police seek fifth officer for Norton

The Norton Police Department is on the prowl for a new officer.

Since one of the department’s officers left to work for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, its found itself short by a man.

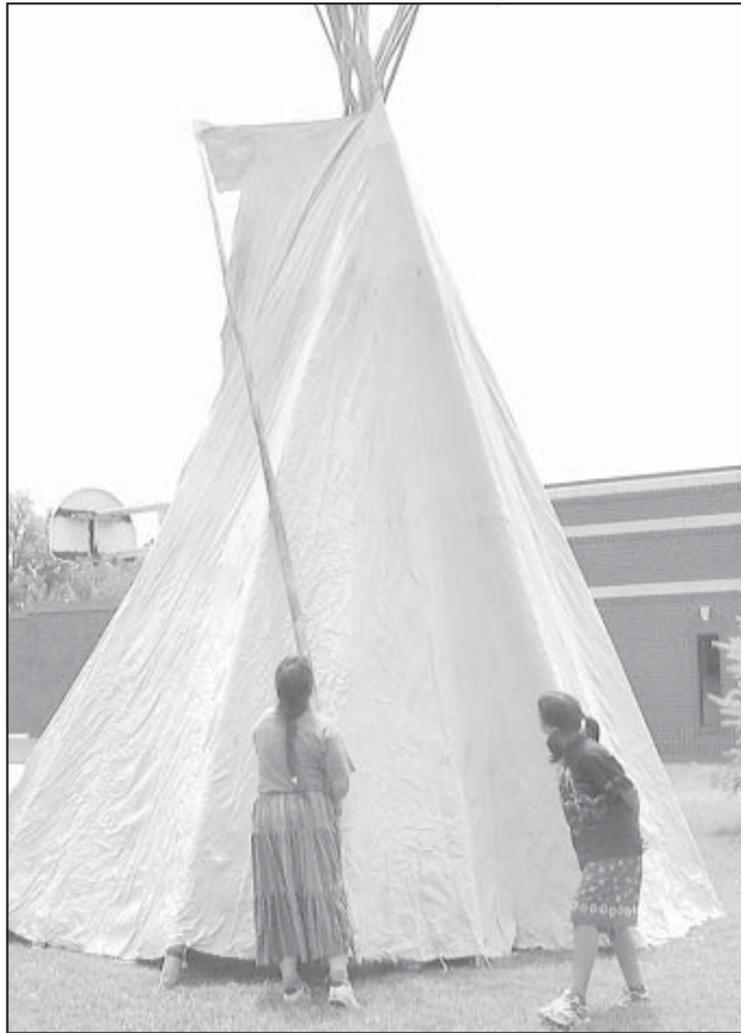
Police Chief Lynn Menagh said the department is accepting applications until Wednesday, June 30. After that, they will be doing tests and interviews.

He said experience would be good but it isn’t necessary. If the person they choose to fill the position doesn’t have any experience, Chief Menagh said they would be sent to a 14-week training course at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson. The city would pay the officer-in-training’s salary while in school and the state would pay for the course.

With the lack of an officer and until a new one can be found to fill the void, he said the department’s four officers are having to make up about 30 hours of work a week.

To be an acceptable candidate, a person must be 21-years-old and have a high school diploma and valid driver’s license. The person also must pass a complete background check and psychological exam. They will also have to pass an aptitude test given by the city and the training center.

Several applications have already been turned in.



Indians make camp at library

Norton Public Library hosted a living history event with an Indian tepee and campsite. Half Cherokee Lois Stone, her husband, Ed Stone, along with Mrs. Stone’s daughter, Teri Chamberlain, and twin Indian sisters, Lenaya and Nokaya, all of Stamford, Neb., put up their tepee (right) at noon Thursday on the library lawn and then gave demonstrations to children in a special afternoon presentation (above). Children were allowed to try their hand at scraping the hair off a deer hide; were shown how to start a fire; examined handmade glass beads; and learned how dresses were made from tanned hides

—Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Veronica Monier

City to buy mower from local dealer

By VERONICA MONIER

The city is buying a new mower.

Councilman Ron Briery said the city got three bids on mowers — two from John Deere and one from Kansas Golf and Turf. The Parks Committee recommended the Jacobsen Turf-cat 600 series from Kansas Golf and Turf at \$15,974.74. He said they offered an \$1,800 trade-in for the city’s old Excel mower, which the city has been having problems with, making the cost \$14,174.74.

Mr. Briery said they went with that one

because John Deere didn’t want to bring any mowers to Norton so the city could look at them.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the Hays parks crew gave a glowing report on the Jacobsen mower that they had. He said Hays is still using the 2000 models with very little problems.

“They think the machines are well worth the money,” he said.

Mr. Briery said the Jacobsen would be bought and serviced through Engel’s Sales and Service in Norton.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said they had \$14,000 budgeted to buy a new mower.

Mr. Hawks said the city should consider buying the mower with a three-year lease option rather than buying it outright, which is how the city’s bought mowers in the past.

Mr. Lawson said they received lease purchase bids from the local banks with First Security Bank and Trust submitting the lowest bid of 4.2 percent interest for a (Continued on Page 5)

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three-year lease agreement with semi-annual payments. He said with this, the city would have six payments of \$2,517.77 with the first being on Sept. 1 of this year and the next being in March of 2005.

The council agreed that this was the way to go.

Mr. Hawks said in the future, they needed to make sure every dealer in Norton had a chance to put in a bid.

Mr. Lawson said Norton Sports Center was asked if they wanted to put in a bid, but they said no because they were dropping their line. Also, he said, Roy's Sales and Service told him about a year ago that they didn't want to put any bids in with the city.

In other business, the council:

- Agreed to hire the city's lifeguards at their regular wages to help with swimming lessons and to pay \$6 per hour to any outside help used that is water safety instructor certified. Mr. Lawson said an individual must be Red Cross certified to be qualified as a lifeguard.

Mr. Hawks said it was important to give the city's lifeguards a chance to make extra money by helping with the swimming lessons before hiring outside help.

- Waived the formal second reading of Ordinance No. 1530, increasing the fine for parking violations from \$3 to \$25.

• Heard from Mr. Lawson that the repairs on the heads of engine No. 8 at the power plant have begun. He said the heads on one side of the engine have been removed and sent in for repairs. When those heads are sent back, the heads on the other side will be removed and sent in as well.

• Suspended the rules and waived the three reading requirement for Ordinance No. 1531, amending the electric utility rates by 3/4 cent for six months starting with the July 1 readings. The ordinance was then adopted.

• Learned from Jerry Hawks that the County Commissioners would like to meet at the courthouse with the council, airport board and other interested parties before beginning construction on the apron project at the airport.

Mr. Briery said he thought that would be a good idea. The council agreed.

• Received a letter complaining about parking on the north side of the courthouse. Mayor David Corns said the area is designated as truck parking, but does not restrict parking. The letter said cars and pick-ups are always parked in the area, leaving no room for trucks and trailers to park when they need to be inspected. The letter requested that the area be designated as truck/trailer parking from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The matter was referred to the Public Safety Committee.

• Went into a 15-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

Wheat harvest put on hold by rainstorms

(Continued from Page 1)
some will be truly disappointed," he said.

Mr. VanSike said there have been some reports of spots of average wheat, but most will be below average. He said there would be lots of variation in quality.

Mr. VanSike said farmers would need to be cautious about the quality of the seed wheat they save and do a germination test. He said the germination ability of the wheat may be affected by the poor conditions.

He also recommends bailing up wheat straw as an insurance to supplement the pastures, which are endangered by the drought.

Mr. Olson expects the harvest to last about a week unless it is further delayed by rain.



Coke, cookies, tea, and conversation were waiting for those who went to the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce's open house on Tuesday. The Chamber was celebrating its new office and building by inviting all to come and have a look. The new office is at 104 S. State Street. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

AROUND THE ANDBE HOME

By DARLENE MCEWEN

I had the pleasure of being a judge at the Republic County Junior Miss Contest a few weekends ago. A large portion of the points awarded to each contestant is based on the interview.

All the judges ask questions and a question that I found myself asking to most of the young ladies was, "Who do you think will be your best friend in 15 years?"

The answer that I know to be true was, "My mom" or "My dad".

A few gave that answer but most thought it would be the same person they liked in high school.

Here at the Andbe Home we see over and over the blessings that family bring to residents and if friends are willing to give time for the friendship, it just multiplies the blessings. I just must share some times that either family or friends made outings special for Andbe Home residents.

It has been 75 years since Leta Strevey graduated from high school in Jennings. She only attended one year there but her son, Bob Strevey, reports that his mother always said that she felt welcome.

Leta received an invitation to the reunion, which was to be held at the Tacha home in Jennings. Bob wanted so much to have his mother attend but it looked like the trip in a car was not possible. He thought perhaps the trip would be possible in the Andbe Home van that has a wheelchair lift.

He spoke with Coni Park, the Home Administrator, who said that if a driver was available for that Saturday, it would be wonderful for Leta to attend.

Activity Director Dawn Risewick was able to drive. So off Leta, Bob and Dawn took for Jennings.

Three ladies from that class were able to attend and the group thought six from that class were still living. They looked at the yearbook and visited about various ones who walked the halls of Jennings High School, but the topic soon went to hairstyles.

Most of the ladies in the yearbook had short haircuts and a rolled-under curl (I think we call them pageboys), which are very similar to the hairstyles of today. Leave it to the ladies to notice such things at any age.

Following the fellowship, Dawn drove the Streveys past Leta's farm and home in the Norcat area. Special time? You bet!

Why? A family member didn't give up but found something that worked.

In a similar incident, Norval Hastings had a special outing this past weekend. Norval was one of the organizers of the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association and its annual show was June 12 and 13.

Norval's friend Dale Volgamor, wanted so much for him to be able to attend.

He knew Norval had been taken to medical appointments in the

van. He was not sure how the policy worked for outings, especially on the weekend.

Dale stopped into the administrator's office to inquire and was also told, "If a driver is available, Norval can go."

I was available that day so the outing was on.

Dale made arrangements for Norval to come in the morning and return in the afternoon. It seemed like an adventure that should be shared, so five other residents rode along on the way down to bring Norval home.

Before he went, Norval was a little concerned about how he would get around on the grounds. I tried to be reassuring, telling him that his wheelchair would go fine in the grass, but it might be a little stubborn on the rocks in the road. I pointed out that his friends would be there to push his chair and he'd be just fine. I really thought that was what would happen.

Other residents to enjoy the morning outing were A.W. and Evelyn Lyon, Genola Campbell and Nellie Lawson.

Ila Marble secured buttons for us to enter the grounds. We were greeted at the gate by a cheery soul who recognized that Norval was on board.

She said, "I think it is just awesome that you brought Norval today."

I thought, "Awesome? Well, maybe, but I'm just so pleased to be a part of this day and so very thankful that the Andbe Home has allowed this to happen."

I drove to the engine area and there was Dale Volgamor and several other guys who welcomed Norval. I left him in good hands, or so I thought.

The rest of the residents and I toured the grounds and about 45 minutes later we went back to the Andbe Home for lunch.

I loaded the van for the trip to bring Norval back with residents

Helen, Curry, Bruce and Vera Hubbard, Leland Dwinell and Bill Wright.

We took some back roads to Almena enjoying the sights along the way and re-entered the show at about 3:30 that afternoon. I was right on schedule to pick Norval up.

I about had a heart attack.

Norval was sitting on top of a large Dixon lawnmower underneath an umbrella with the biggest smile on his face while his wheelchair sat under a shady tree.

I tried to calm myself and said, "Norval, how did you get way up there on this mower from your wheelchair?"

With his famous chuckle, that only Norval can make, he said, "Oh, about five of my friends lifted me up here and I've been all over the grounds on this lawnmower, just like I did before."

I could tell he was a happy man, but I asked, "Norval, how are you going to get down from the top of that Dixon Mower to your wheelchair so I can take you home?"

Norval calmly said, "Oh, I suppose there will be some more friends to lift me back down again."

There was a rustling of feet and as I turned there were several men who quickly gathered around the mower. I was trying to think how all this was going to happen when the fellows began to decide who

would lift what.

With all the authority that I could find, I said, "Now wait a minute. I better get my lift belt and put it around Norval so you can lift him down better."

The fellows looked at one another and I thought sure they thought I was pretty brave to be telling them what to do.

Norval came to my rescue and said, "Yeah, let her put it on me."

I did, but they still appointed this one to lift here and that one to lift there and in less than three seconds Norval was in his wheelchair and that lift belt was not touched by any of his wonderful friends.

What a day for Norval because his friend made arrangements for him to go and others made the day special. I am not sure where the Dixon lawnmower came from, but Norval's son-in-law looked a bit guilty that it was available.

Dennis Rhoades and Terri Davis were on hand in May to drive the van when the Methodist Church in Almena celebrated 150 years. Doug Sebelius and Pastor Kathy Aeillo made arrangements for this special outing for Maxine Sebelius and Norval Hastings. Donna Millan also went as a volunteer for this outing.

Who will be your best friend in 15 years? Who is your best friend now? What I have witnessed is friendship multiplies as you divide it with others.

Bulletin Board Business and Professional Directory

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School meals to go up

(Continued from Page 1)

and 10 cents per breakfast should bring in about \$19,000 in additional money and an increase of 10 cents per lunch and 5 cents per breakfast would bring between \$12,000 and \$14,000 extra.

The board decided to go with the lower increases so lunch prices will now be \$1.30 for kindergarten - grade 3, \$1.40 for grades 4-6, and \$1.60 for grades 7-12. Breakfast prices will be 75 cents for K-6 and 90 cents for 7-12.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the district's participation in a brief in support of low enrollment weighting, by Schools for Quality Education at a cost of \$500.

Mr. Mann said the brief will be filed with the Kansas Supreme Court for its deliberations on the constitutionality of the Kansas school finance formula.

Between 20 and 25 percent of the district's budget comes from low enrollment weighting, he said, and over \$1.17 million would be lost if it was taken away.

- Accepted a bid from Boxler Insurance of Norton for the district's property, vehicle, workmen's compensation and liability insurance. The insurance package will cost a total of \$57,409 for the 2004-'05 school year. Mr. Mann said Boxler was the only company to submit a bid.

- Gave the superintendent a \$500 raise in salary for the 2004-'05 year.

- Approved a letter of intent with Mrs. Diane Lambrecht to teach K-8 art next year. Principal Larry Mills said they were very pleased with the quality of her work.

- Increased the hourly wage of classified employees by 1.75 percent. Mr. Mann said this will cost \$15,420.

- Gave the principals a 1.75 increase in their salaries. Mr. Mann said this would cost \$3,278.

- Increased substitute teacher pay by \$2 per day and half day. Mr. Mann said the district hasn't given the substitute teachers a raise since 2002. This one will cost \$1,200.

- Gave the district's crossing guards a 1.75 percent raise in daily pay. Mr. Mann said this would cost \$52 based on 179 days of work.

- Approved a 1.75 percent increase in the hourly salary of the summer maintenance workers and weight room supervisors. Mr. Mann said this would cost \$330.

- Transferred Keri Vanover from food service to a maintenance/custodian position at the junior high.

- Appointed David Will as the chairman of the Fine Arts Curriculum Committee.