

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday
August 10, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Elmer Howell

Briefly
Hunter classes

set for next week

This year's hunter education class will be held in the Norton Library's community room from 1-6 p.m. on Sunday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21, and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22.

Students must attend all three sessions to receive their hunter education cards.

Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, is required to successfully complete a hunter's education course before hunting.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a \$1 charge per student to cover the cost of the room. Please use the east entrance when attending the class.

Pre-register at End Zone Sporting Goods and Office Supplies or the Prairie Dog State Park office. Pre-registration begins today.

Charlie Brown
here Thursday

The Theatre of the American West will present the award-winning musical "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" at the East Campus Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The play is based on Charles M. Schulz's comic strip and has been popular with audiences of all ages. It includes appearances by the favorite "Peanuts" characters; Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Peppermint Patty, Sally, and of course, Snoopy.

The performers include two Norton Community High School graduates; Sarah Streck (class of 2003) and Jeff Cox (class of 2002).

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for students and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be available at the door or can be reserved by calling Carol at 877-5611 and leaving a message.

"You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" will be sponsored by Norton County Arts Council.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.
Wednesday — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 70s. Wednesday Night — 20 percent chance of thunderstorms

Howell report:

Friday High 81, Low 61
Saturday High 83, Low 63
Sunday High 91, Low 60
Monday High 85, Low 57
Week ago High 103, Low 72
Month ago High 93, Low 63
Year ago High 100, Low 66
August precipitation 0.00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 16.43 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

O God, strengthen our faith and help us to persist in asking for what we need and want from you. Amen

Candidates separated by one vote

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

After canvassing the ballots on Monday the race for the Republican candidate for Norton County Commission District 3 didn't change but the margin got slimmer — a lot slimmer.

After unofficial tallies incumbent Commissioner John Miller had won by less than 10 votes the right to go against Democratic challenger Robert Clydesdale in the November general election.

However, the county commissions still

had to canvass the ballots, including provisional ballots — those from people who may or may not be eligible to vote.

After the count was completed challenger George Gassmann had 238 and Mr. Miller 239. A one vote margin.

The vote is canvassed by the county commission and it is usually almost a formality when margins are wide. This time, however, the margin in the commissioners race was small.

Before the canvassing began Mr. Miller

gave up his right to help check the votes at the advise of the county attorney.

Assistant County Attorney Karen Griffiths suggested he not deal with the canvassing even though the law and the Kansas secretary of state said he could.

Sheriff Troy Thomson was asked to be the third elector.

Commission Chairman Leroy Lang asked Mrs. Griffiths if the state would step in if there were any discrepancies.

Mrs. Griffiths said no. The county com-

missioners are the canvassing board and if there are any problems, the county would be the one to do a recount.

The canvassing board watched the lists as the number of votes for each office from U.S. senator down to county commissioners were checked against the number of ballots from each precinct.

The process started at 9:20 a.m. and continued through a little over one and one-half hours. Sitting through the (Continued on Page 8)



Mother called up to serve

Reservist will return to serve in Army

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

If you were to cut Tana Rae Riley-Helland, she would bleed red, white and blue.

Ever since she was a little girl, she's wanted to be a soldier.

"I was raised to believe it was your duty to serve your country," she said as she sat in a rocking chair in her cozy Edmond home, holding her 12-week old son Rhett as her 4-year-old son, Wyatt, played at her feet.

"My father was in the Army right after Vietnam; my grandfather served in Korea; my great-grandfather was in the military; and my mother's father served in Korea and Vietnam.

"I have always had a patriotic sense of duty."

She set out to fulfill her dream to be a career soldier right after her graduation in 1997 from Logan High School by enlisting in the United States Army.

When she enlisted she knew she was obligating herself for eight years.

After her basic training, She was stationed in South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina and finally Korea. It was in Korea that she met her husband and it was "love at first sight".

Twenty-eight days after their wedding in 1999, Tana Rae got pregnant. She knows the exact date because her unit commander thought she and her husband needed some private time and gave them a present of a few days together.

It was a difficult pregnancy and she was not able to handle the physical requirements of her job as an automated logistical specialist. With top-secret clearance she coordinates everything a unit needs (Continued on Page 5)

Four-year-old Wyatt (above) was a real little trooper trying to follow in his mother's footsteps. Mom, Tana Rae Riley-Helland looked on as her son modeled one of her fatigue shirts. E-4 Specialist Tana Rae Riley-Helland's arms are full with 12-week-old Rhett and Wyatt as she gets in all the hugs she can before she leaves her family on Sept. 17. Specialist Riley-Helland has been re-activated and is looking at active duty in the U.S. Army for the next 18 months.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Ambulance head youngest at state meeting

By VERONICA MONIER

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen learned a lot at a recent Emergency Medical Service State Board meeting that he attended.

He told the Norton County Commissioners Monday that the state board wants the Norton Emergency Medical Service to make some protocol changes, but that other county directors would be helping

him. He said he's already been trying to make some of the required changes, but now, with their help, things will be easier.

He said the board was pleased that younger people are getting involved with the emergency medical service. He said he wasn't the official director, but he was the youngest there by about 15 years.

There were about 35 county directors at the meeting.

Medical Technician Ruth Schillig said they learned about a new collection agency. The agency takes 18 percent of the collection return, but if the patient who owes money gets an income tax return or wins a lottery, then the agency takes the money owed out of that. She said she was going to talk to County Attorney Doug Sebelius and have him check it out.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said it

sounded like a pretty good idea.

Mr. Nielsen said he found an old laptop in the office to take notes at a board meeting. He said it was so old it couldn't be made compatible. He asked if they could get a newer one that was compatible.

All the directors have a laptop that's compatible with their equipment, he said.

Commissioner John Miller said Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin

Airport board hires secretary

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

After agreeing they needed a secretary to keep the minutes of meetings, in addition to the cassette recording, the newly formed Norton City/County Airport Board asked to have Amanda Shannon, an account clerk for the city, fill that position.

Ms. Shannon agreed to record the happenings at the board's meetings for \$10 per hour with a two hour minimum per meeting.

Delvis Miller, airport manager, reported on the progress of construction

work at the airport.

"It looks like they're (Whitney Construction) doing a terrific job," said Mr. Miller. He also reported that soil compaction tests were being done and that Whitney Construction had hauled out the rock they needed to and hauled in more than 1,000 yards of dirt for the taxiway project.

Board Chairman John Miller had a question regarding the function of the Automated Weather Observation System. Delvis Miller said that he had mowed (Continued on Page 5)

Food pantry's cupboard is bare

God's Pantry, a food shelter housed in Norton's Trinity Episcopal Church, needs donations of food and/or money.

Elaine Mann, one of the organizers of the pantry, said they are keeping the shelves stocked by buying food with money that's been donated. She said almost all of the donated food is gone.

Mrs. Mann said they usually use the donated money to buy perishable items, but are having to spend it on non-perishables as well because their stores are low.

She said they'll be getting two large donations of food this fall with the annual football scrimmage and the Boy Scouts annual collection drive, but until then, could use all the help they can get.

God's Pantry is here to help people in emergency situations, she said.

"We'll help anyone in need," she said. "Most people can take care of themselves in the long run, but sometimes people get a little behind and (Continued on Page 5)

Mother to return to active service

(Continued from Page 1)

from uniforms and pencils to weapons. She runs the supply department.

The military has what is called "Chapter 7".

If a soldier gets pregnant, they can decide if the military is still right for them. Those who chose not to continue receive an honorable discharge.

"I love the military," said Tana Rae. "But I elected to leave active duty during that pregnancy and my status changed to active reserve."

More specifically she's in the individual ready reserves.

By this time, her husband was stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and Wyatt was born there on Jan. 23, 2000. They remained at Ft. Bragg until her husband's discharge in Oct. 2002.

The couple moved to Minnesota, her husband's home state, where he had a good job as a civilian with the Army Corps of Engineers.

But when she became pregnant with their second child, they made the decision to move somewhere with a slower pace.

They wanted a better and safer place to raise their children. The lower cost of living in northwest Kansas was attractive and Tana Rae wanted to be a stay-at-home-mom.

Six days after their second son was born on April 29, the family moved to Edmond in southern Norton County.

They found an affordable house that needed some work and set about remodeling and establishing themselves in the community.

Two weeks ago things changed again.

Tana Rae received a telegram. She was being reactivated.

"I always knew it was possible while I was in (the reserves)," she said. "But we sure weren't expecting it. My first thought was, 'Guess what? Better get your boots back out.'"

Tana Rae had served four years of active duty and two and a half years in the reserves, which left one and one-half years on her eight-year hitch.

Since news of her re-activation has spread throughout the community, she has felt a lot of pressure to look for an "escape clause".

It's even been suggested that she fabricate a physical injury that would eliminate her from service.

"I appreciate and understand the sentiment of anger being expressed," she said.

"But, of all the people I've spoken to, only one person has looked me in the eye and said, 'Thanks'. That's all a vet wants to hear — thank you.

"My priorities have changed since becoming a mommy. But it's still God, country, family. In that order.

"I wish it wouldn't have happened this way, but everything happens for a reason. I ask my friends to pray God's will be done. I am proud to be an American. But, I'm even prouder to be an American soldier. I feel it's my duty, responsibility and honor to serve. I want my boys to be proud of me, no matter what. I don't think I'd be setting a very good example to them if I tried to get out of it."

Her husband said it was hard to express his feelings about what is happening in their lives.

"I was shocked," he said. "But I'm proud that she's going. I know it will be hard, but I have a good support system. Our roles have completely changed."

Tana Rae interjected, "He'll have the house slippers on and I'll have the boots."

Changing to a serious tone she said, "It's going to be the hardest thing I've ever done to leave my boys.

"We're trying to get out lives organized for this. I have to make out a will and make funeral arrangements. A 25-year-old shouldn't have to do that."

Tana Rae explained that the individual ready reserve is a pool of trained, qualified, mission-ready soldiers.

It takes the place of the draft. She doesn't want anyone to blame President Bush.

"He did not do this," she said. "I want people to support and follow our President.

"These forces were set into mo-

Military get tax exemption

A new Kansas law now qualifies the National Guard and Ready Reserve members for motor vehicle personal property tax exemption.

The 2004 Legislature passed and Gov. Sebelius signed legislation changing the rules for military personnel for personal property tax exemptions.

National Guard and reserve personnel may now qualify for a motor vehicle personal property tax exemption.

"This is really good news for Kansas National Guard and reserve soldiers that have been called away from home," said Carmen Alldritt, state director of vehicles. "This is one way our state can be of help to soldiers and their families who have been sent to serve our country. If they have to be away from home, at least it will be a little easier on their pocketbooks to register their vehicles."

The new law requires, the owner:

- To be a Kansas resident.
- Be in the full-time regular military service of the United States, including reserves or National Guardsmen, who has been mobilized.

• Be deployed on the date of application for motor vehicle registration.

• May receive the exemption for no more than two vehicles.

If qualified for the exemption, military personnel must fill out a "Kansas Resident Military Personnel Affidavit for Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption" form PV-PP-57 and submit it to their county treasurer or appraiser's office. The form is available on the Kansas Department of Revenue's web site at: www.ksrevenue.org or at their county treasurer and appraiser offices. Counties may require additional documents, including:

- Their military ID card.
- Supply a Leave and Earning Statement to verify permanent resident state with the military

• A copy of their orders to verify they are mobilized and deployed outside their regular duty station at the time of registration application.

• Title to the vehicle to verify they are the legal owner.

tion 30 years ago so that young men and women could have the choice whether or not to serve in the military. In most countries service is mandatory. Sometimes for women too.

"Right now, I have to go. But I won't be the last (to be re-activated)."

The plan is for her to fly out of Hays on Sept. 17 to Columbia, S.C., where she will report to Fort Jackson for a 25-day re-soldierization process. During that time she will be reminded of military courtesy, weapons use, changes in regulations, undergo a physical and fill out paperwork, paperwork, paperwork.

Then orders will be cut for her permanent assignment. She has been advised to pack for South Carolina but be prepared to keep going east.

The Department of Defense tells her she has a 50 percent chance of being sent to Iraq; a 45 percent chance of going to Afghanistan; and a five percent chance of going to Korea, Germany or remaining in the states.

Baby Rhett is a chunky, healthy, happy 3 1/2-month old, oblivious to the turmoil swirling about him. Wyatt, however, knows his mother has to go away for awhile.

In her matter-of-fact way Tana Rae said, "If the Army didn't need me, they wouldn't call me."

Editor's Note — E-4 Specialist Riley-Holland we salute you. And we say, "Thank you."



Brenda Mann and her classroom full of kids set a table and decorate it with balloons during the first session of Friday night's Lava Lava Island at the Methodist

Church. Friday night was the final night of the week long Bible activities camp.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Ambulance head wants new computer

(Continued from Page 1)

Mapes is supposed to be getting emergency preparedness money and wanted to know the chances of getting one with that. He said last year they got \$80,000, but this year they are getting \$124,000 to \$125,000, rather than the \$120,000 they had first thought.

Mr. Nielsen said he would be going to the quarterly board meetings in Topeka from now on. He said he got a lot of good information by going and was able to get a lot of input from the other directors. They told him that if he needed any help with anything, to call them.

In other business, the commis-

sioners:

• Heard from Mr. Nielsen that Norton County had its first Emergency Medical Service Rodeo. He said the students have improved a great deal and it went really well. He said the students went through three scenarios and a driving course. The last thing they did, he said, was a mock raid on a rave where a patient had a seizure while using a hallucinogenic. The students had to figure out how to deal with an out-of-control crowd and limited law enforcement backup.

• Spoke with Amy Griffey about a grant for the possible new ambulance barn. She said the county has to write the grant either for a new

building or for the remodeling of an existing building. She said it's not possible to write the grant for both.

• Met with Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department. She said she finally got the itemized bids for the work on the front of the health department. There were two bids. The commissioners accepted the low bid from Graham Construction in Norton for about \$17,000. The other bid, from Nelson Brothers Construction, was about \$32,000.

• Spoke with Mrs. Frack about diabetic care. Commissioner Dean Kruse said they had a person in Hill City who was diabetic trained

and certified. He said he learned more in one open session with a certified person than from all of the doctors he's been to. He told Mrs. Frack that Norton needed to get someone like that here.

She said the nutritionist at the hospital was diabetic certified, but only where nutrition was concerned, which is only half of diabetic care.

She said that Norton County would have to get someone contracted to come here, because it wasn't possible to get one of the Norton staff certified. She said she would look into getting someone here who is diabetic certified.

Food Pantry needs community's help

(Continued from Page 1)

need some help. That's what we're here for."

She said the pantry needs help as well and without the support of the community, it wouldn't be able to continue.

"It's not just a church effort," she said. "It's a community effort and we appreciate all the help the community gives us."

Mrs. Mann said what the pantry needs most is non-perishable items like canned goods and macaroni and cheese.

She said they have had other items donated such as cereal, cake

mix, frozen meats and even gourmet foods. They try to keep the menus as nourishing as possible, but, she said, everything they get goes to good use helping someone.

To give or receive food, the pantry is open every Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. and is right next to the church, which is on the corner of State Street and Waverly.

To donate non-perishable items, bring them to *The Norton Telegram* or call Connie Johnson at 877-2039 or Mrs. Mann at 877-2019 or drop them off at the pantry on Sundays.

Airport board worries about its equipment

(Continued from Page 1)

around the system's sensors and there had been no more false reports of thunderstorms when, in fact, there were none.

Mr. Miller reported that the Non-Directional Beacon at the airport is still the primary beacon used by pilots making instrument landings. But, he said, parts were getting harder and harder to find.

Board member Gail Boller said that he had recently seen of an out-of-town pilot making a

too-low pass over the city. Mr. Boller said the plane was so low he could read the last three numbers on the plane and hadn't seen anything like that happen in 20 years in Norton.

Mr. Boller said behavior like that hurts every pilot based in Norton.

In other business the board:

- Voted to pay bills of \$1,702.15.
- Set the next meeting for 5:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 13, at City Hall.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

Presented by—

The Theatre of the American West

Thursday, August 12

7:30 p.m.

East Campus Auditorium, Norton, KS

Come and Enjoy Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Peppermint Patty, Sally and of Course, Snoopy—

And Local Performers: Sarah Streck and Jeff Cox

Tickets: \$10-Adults; \$7.50-Students; \$5 Children 12 and Under

Tickets Available at the Door or Call Carol Erlenbusch at 877-5611.

Leave a Message with Phone Numbers and Number of Tickets

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John Faber
State Representative
120th District



Thanks to everyone for your Vote of confidence to re-elect me. I will serve you to the best of my ability.

"Experience you can trust"

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