

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

Page 6

Tuesday, May 18 2004

Norton, Kansas Home of Beverly Kindler

Briefly

June 1 deadline for many things

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind area farmers that Tuesday, June 1, is the final date to:

- Apply for the Hard White Wheat Incentive Program Payments for 2003 crops;
- Request marketing loans and loan deficiency payments for 2003 crops of cotton, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and minor oilseeds;
- Report small grain crop acreages — wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa, and triticale — without a penalty; and
- Sign a 2004 Direct and Counter-cyclical program contract without a penalty.

Writer's retreat set for June 9

The seventh annual Sappa Creek Writers Retreat will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, at the Oberlin Covenant Church.

A continental breakfast and registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served. Theme for the retreat is, "Creative Boxes." A free book on writing, along with additional materials will be provided. An anthology of the day's writings will be prepared for each participant.

Early registration by Saturday, May 29, is \$35, then \$40 after that date. For a registration form, call Barbara at (785) 475-3329.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 40s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday — Partly sunny with highs in the 80s, lows in the 60s — Thursday — Mostly cloudy with 87 for the high and 62 for the low. Friday — Mostly cloudy with 89 for the high and 58 for the low. Saturday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms

Howell report:

Friday .....	High 72, Low 43
Saturday .....	High 77, Low 53
Sunday .....	High 83, Low 58
Monday .....	High 72, Low 52
Week ago .....	High 78, Low 62
Month ago .....	High 90, Low 66
Year ago .....	High 76, Low 57
May precipitation .....	2.09 inches
Year-to-date precipitation .....	7.32 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Help us, Lord, to show love and understanding to each one we meet, especially to those whose actions trouble us. Amen

# Supreme Court overrules county

By VERONICA MONIER

On Friday the Kansas Supreme Court ruled against Norton County's efforts to enforce stricter regulations on contamination from confined animal feeding.

The court upheld a lower court's decision, saying it was the state's responsibility, not the county's, to protect water and air quality through the regulation of confined animal feeding operations.

In 2002, Norton County adopted sev-

eral regulations, which were stricter than the state's, after hiring Spectrum, a consulting firm, to do a study on potential risks from animal feeding operations — hogs and cattle. The county also held several public meetings on the subject in 2001.

After the regulations went into effect, a lawsuit was filed by the Kansas Livestock Association and several stockmen who objected to the regulations. The suit

said that the county didn't have the right to set up regulations for livestock operations that were more strict than the state's.

District Judge Michael Barbara heard the case after District Judge Bill Elliott asked to be excused due to possible conflicts of interest.

Judge Barbara ruled in favor of the livestock producers, saying the regulations violated a 1998 state law that bars counties from changing statutory provisions

governing confinement operations.

The commissioners, backed by the Kansas Association of Counties, appealed the ruling to the Kansas Supreme Court earlier this year. The commissioners said they felt that under home rule provisions they had the right to do what they thought best for their county.

Allie Devine, vice president and general council for the livestock association, (Continued on Page 5)



Ready to turn his tassel, Charlie Kohfeld was one of 75 seniors to graduate from Norton Community High on Sunday. More photos on Page 7.

— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

## 75 march in Norton graduation

To the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" 75 Norton Community High seniors marched up to the stage at the beginning of graduation ceremonies Sunday at the high school gym.

Hundreds of parents, relatives and friends were on hand to cheer on the students.

"I made it," said several students as they passed in front of the stage to take their place in the bleachers. Many more students and parents, undoubtedly, thought the same thing.

Juniors Nick Evans, Jason Green and Justin Shirk escorted the seniors down the aisle as the high school band played under the direction of David Will.

The Rev. Jeff Nielsen, who had twins in the graduating class, gave the keynote speech, "Time Bombs."

National magazines have likened the younger generation to a time bomb, he said.

With many teen-agers smoking, drinking and carrying weapons, the graduates need to know that the excitement of these things is nothing to the excitement of knowing God and Jesus.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Commission decides on who pays bill

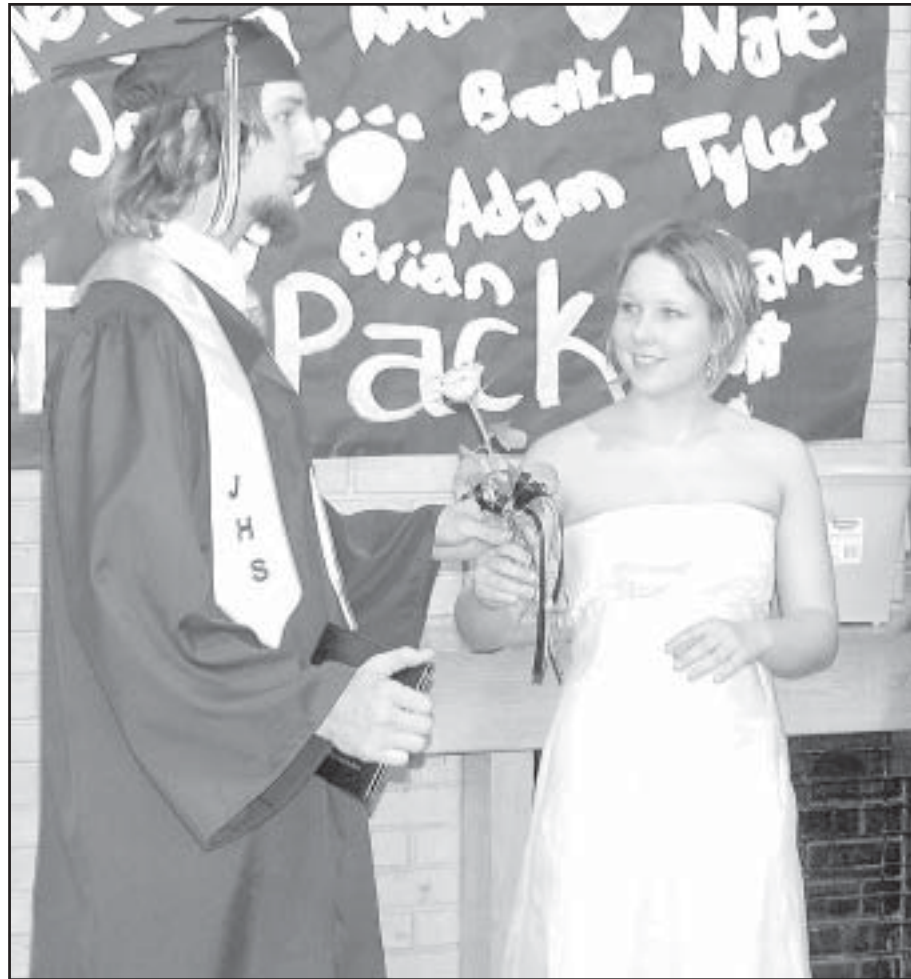
By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Commissioners worked out how the damaged garage door at the Norton County Hospital was going to be paid for at Monday's meeting.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen said they wanted to have the door, which was damaged on Feb. 23 when an ambulance backed into it, paid for by Thursday. He wanted to know if the hospital should pay for the repair bill with the county then reimbursing it or if the county would take care of it.

Emergency Medical Technician Diane Edgett said the ambulance service wanted to have reflective tape put on the door so the ambulance drivers could see when the door was all the way up and wouldn't run into it.

Commissioner John Miller said Mr. Nielsen would need to fill out an insurance form. He said to have the hospital pay the bill now and then it would be reimbursed. (Continued on Page 5)



After he received his diploma at the Jennings High graduation, Adam Miller received a black-tipped yellow rose from Tiffany Wheeler.

— Photo by Kimberly Brandt

## Jennings gives diplomas to 12 seniors

Dressed in black robes, 12 students listened to a guest speaker, waiting patiently to receive diplomas they have worked for the past 12 years of their lives to get.

Jennings High School graduated 12 seniors on Sunday, including Grant Bailey, Nathan Becker, Andrew Coiner, Buddy Graf, Matthew Heinrich, Sara Kier, Brett McKenna, Adam Miller, Katie Randolph, Zane Smith, Adam Wahlmeier and Nicholas Wahlmeier.

Katie Randolph, class valedictorian, started the speeches. She said no one should judge a book by its cover. She talked about the fact that she lives in a town with around three streets yet still had fun growing up.

She said she has been with the class since the beginning. She shared some memories, from back when they were in kindergarten to the beginning of their four-year high school quest.

Miss Randolph said they are no longer

(Continued on Page 5)

## County to wait a while before locking in natural gas price

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County commissioners will wait for a while to lock in a natural gas price with Midwest Energy hoping that the price will come down after the summer.

On Monday Commission Chairman Leroy Lang signed a one-year contract with the energy company that will require the county to pay the index price (cost) plus 50 cents per million cubic feet of gas.

Jeff Younger, natural gas marketer for Midwest United Energy, talked to the commissioners about the cost of natural

gas and how they can get the best price for next winter.

Right now the cost is about \$6, he said, although it might be easier to think of it as 60 cents per thermal unit, which is how most people pay for their natural gas. However, looking at way the price of gas has been rising the energy company would have to require \$7 to lock in the price.

"I don't want to do that," Mr. Younger told the commissioners.

He said that last year the commissioners didn't lock in the price until August 11

and suggested that they wait for late summer to fall again this year.

"Market conditions are going to take over sooner or later," he said. "With the prices we got going, there are a lot of people drilling."

"It's an election year and there's a lot of politics going on."

"When you see things go up that fast, they come down just as fast. I learned a long time ago, what goes up must come down."

Midwest gets its gas from the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline, he said, out of

Texas. This is cheaper than getting gas from Wyoming. However, there are more pipelines going in so the options of places to get natural gas are also increasing.

Mr. Younger promised to check back with the commissioners later in the year after prices have gone down some.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Visited with Renee Spreser from Bridges Group Insurance about the county's health insurance program. The county's Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance took a big jump in premium costs

(Continued on Page 5)

# Jennings graduates a dozen

(Continued from Page 1)

the big kids. Soon, they'll be little fish in a big pond. In school, she said, she learned how to be a team player and how to have real friendships.

After getting a lot of advice in the last week to make her speech short and not to cry, she said that is exactly what she wanted to do, and that's what she did.

Salutatorian Grant Bailey said he had lots of memories, from kindergarten visitation to graduation. About 14 years ago, he said, a small group of the graduates started preschool, then went on to kindergarten, several boys and one girl. He said in third grade, another girl joined the class. Over the years, other students have joined, but still there are only the two girls.

There were other students who came into the class, he said, but they didn't last. Mr. Bailey said they must be a rough class, because the other students didn't last.

Before leaving the stage, he said a lot of thank yous.

The guest speaker, Abner Williams, then said he was honored to be in Jennings on such a special day. He asked all the eighth grade graders to stand and all the graduates. He then asked all the parents, guardians and relatives to stand, then the teachers and school board, and finally, the clergy.

To all of those standing with these young people, said Mr. Williams, no matter what their occupation, are high-impact educators. Each one has made a difference in the lives of these young people. The graduates wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all the people standing.

For the graduates, he said, the diploma proves that they have high intelligence, ambition and can learn.

Mr. Williams said he served in Green Berets, the army Special Forces, and found that no country can rattle the United States. The U.S. doesn't put limitations on people, he said, but allows anyone to do whatever they want and be what they want.

It is not a disgrace to die with dreams unfulfilled, he said, but it is a disgrace to die never having dreamed.

Mr. Williams told the students to remember a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Before leaving the stage, Mr. Williams had each student stand. In preparation for the speech, he had asked each of the graduates to say something about their fellow classmates. While each student stood, those comments were read out loud.

Then each of the graduates received their diploma and a rose.

Eighth graders who have completed all the requirements and will move onto the ninth grade also were recognized: Ashley Brown, Erika Cano, Joseph Carter, Britany Ritter and Josh Stone.

## Commissioners will repay hospital for door repairs

(Continued from Page 1)

bursed with the county paying the first \$500 and insurance taking care of the rest.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Nielsen would probably need to get the police report before filling out the form. Mr. Nielsen said no damage was done to the ambulance except for some paint chipping.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received a report from County Treasurer Cindy Linner. Ms. Linner said overall, tax season went well for the county. She said the county might want to look at allowing people to pay their taxes on-line after all the bugs have been worked out. Right now, 38 counties are a part of the program allowing residents to pay by credit card on-line.
- Held a 45-minute closed session with County Attorney Doug Sebelius for attorney-client privileges. No action was taken.



On display night at Norton Community High School, Carl and Jnell Conkey check out the draftings of their son, Ian Conkey, as teacher Jim Myers (front,) looks on. — Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Drafting students get awards

Drafting students from Norton Community High School fared well in the Hays Drafting Contest held April 29-30 at Gross Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University.

Senior Ian Conkey's drawing project was rated as the top senior drawing project in the technology fair. Jim Myers, the school's drafting instructor, said, "That is quite an honor. Ian was also the runner-up to Dreiling of Hays High as the top drawing project in the fair in any class. That's pretty good!"

Other results were:

Medalists: Ian Conkey, Bruce Rushton and Dan Roeder.

Superior: Ian Conkey, Mike Crowder, Dan Roeder and Bruce Rushton (2).

Excellent: Mike Crowder, William Felton, Ashley Wegener (2), Shanea Wyatt (2), Brett Kaus, Matt Wyatt, Nick Evans (2), Jared Mindrup (2), Jeremy Bradford, Keesha Holste, Zach Murnahan (2), Dane Krizek, Lance Roe, Gena Myers (2), Chris Davis (2), Aaron Daniels (2) and Blake VanEaton.

Good: John Horesky, Sarah McDiffett (2), Lance Roe, Andrew Horesky and Logan Keiswetter.

## Farmers need to sign up

The clock is running out for producers who have not yet signed up for the 2004 direct and counter-cyclical program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's safety net program for farmers.

To receive program payments and avoid late filing fees, farmers must sign a new contract before June 1, said Vesta Hobbs, county executive director of the Norton County Farm Service Agency.

She said before the agency can make any program payments, "We must have an approved contract, eligibility forms and, in some cases, 2004 rental agreements on file at the agency's county office."

Signing the contract should not take a lot of time, she said, even if the farmer has made changes in the operation.

"The hard work was done last year when producers signed up for the first time," she said. "This year, we want to avoid any last minute rushes and complications that can arise if additional signatures are required."

All farmers, including owners and operators, sharing in the contract payments for a farm must sign the new contract before the deadline. Those waiting until the last minute may have difficulties obtaining all the needed signatures.

Contracts submitted in person or postmarked after June 1 and before Sept. 30 will be accepted at the agency's county office; however, producers will be assessed a late filing fee of \$100 per farm.

The requirement to sign a new contract each year is a change from the old production flexibility contracts, which were good for the seven-year life of the program, she said. Another change is that producers can opt out of the program one year and return the next.

Mrs. Hobbs encourages producers to contact her office as soon as possible.

## Emergency workers to hold open house

The Norton County Emergency Medical Service will be holding an open house from 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the ambulance building, 809 N. Norton, in honor of National Emergency Medical Service Week.

Free barbecue beef sandwiches and hot dogs will feed anyone who attends from 5-6 p.m.

Also at the open house,

- The Kansas Highway Patrol will have a rollover simulator,
- Car seats will be checked by trained personnel,
- The Norton Police Department will be giving away free gun locks,
- The city's fire and rescue team will be doing an extrication exercise at 6:30 p.m., and

- The Norton County Sheriff's Department will be doing finger printing and giving away pencils and stickers.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Also this week, the Norton County service is talking to students about what they do.

The emergency personnel were to be in Northern Valley and at the

Lenora Grade School Monday. Today, they will be at the Eisenhower Elementary.

The annual coloring contest is also being held. Posters have to be in today. They will be hung up in the ambulance barn and judged. The winner from each class will get a gift certificate from Dairy Queen.

## Stockman win court battle over county regulations

(Continued from Page 1)

said in a press release the regulations would have gone above and beyond existing state and federal requirements that place far-reaching controls on water quality.

She said the high court's ruling provides the business community, including the livestock industry, with the regulatory stability it needs.

The court's decision sets a precedent for other counties considering additional local animal operation regulations, she said. The water quality in Kansas is already protected by some of the strictest confined animal regulations in the nation, according to Ms. Devine.

The Norton County Commissioners said the county isn't planning on any further action at this time, but is still collecting information so couldn't make any other comments. They said they would be able to say more in the future. Meanwhile on Monday afternoon they consulted with their lawyers in Topeka.

## Gas, insurance price increases worry county

(Continued from Page 1)

last year and the commissioners have been talking to other insurance providers to see if they can get a similar program for less money.

- Said that County Clerk Robert Wyatt is in the hospital in Kearney with an infection.
- Signed final financing papers for the Norton Hospital improvements. Now that the improvements are done the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development fund will provide a \$950,000 loan with 4.375 percent interest for 20 years. The county will issue revenue bonds for the loan, which will be paid off from money made by the hospital.


## Eagles visited by top official

The Norton Eagles Aerie and Auxiliary hosted a dinner to honor Grand Madam President Peggy Carver on April 16 at the lodge.

At the dinner, Mrs. Carver shared her history and outlook for the future of the Eagles.

Laura Gilhousen, madam president, said, "She stressed membership, meeting attendance and volunteerism in People Helping People.

"Also, at these trying times in our lives and the world, we need each other."



*Outreach Classes in Norton*

# COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

## THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

7:00 TO 8:30 P.M.

Enrollment will be held in the Norton Junior High School Cafeteria  
 Call Connie Miller, 785-877-5649 or Cheryl Roberts, 785-877-2305. Enrollment for summer will be held on Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Norton Junior High School Cafeteria. Classes not listed may be offered if sufficient interest exists

NO.	COURSE	CR.	INSTRUCTOR	PLACE	TIME/DAY
EN176	English Composition I (summer)	3	L. Davis	Jr. Hi.	6:00-9:00 <sup>5</sup>
EN177	English Composition II (summer)	3	J. Votapka	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/T&R <sup>1</sup>
PH103	Earth Science (summer)	5	G. Rossi	Hi. Sc.	7:00p/Wed <sup>3</sup>
PH103L	Earth Science Lab (summer)	0	G. Rossi	Hi. Sc.	7:00p/Wed. <sup>3</sup>
CH176	Fund. of General Chemistry (summer)	5	J. Woodyard	Hi. Sc.	6:00p/MTR <sup>4</sup>
CH176L	Fund. of Gen. Chemistry lab (summer)	0	J. Woodyard	Hi. Sc.	6:00p/MTR <sup>4</sup>
MA178	College Algebra (summer)	3	C. Penner	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/M&W <sup>15</sup>
HI177	Am. History 1865 to Present (summer)	3	R. Walz	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/Wed <sup>6</sup>
MA250	Elements of Statistics (summer)	3	C. Penner	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/T&Th <sup>1</sup>
PS176	Public Speaking (summer)	3	D. Berry	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/TRS <sup>7</sup>
AR123	Intro. to Crafts-Scrapbook (summer)	1	C. Renner	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/Mon. <sup>8</sup>
AR206	Problems in Painting-Watercolor (sm)	1	V. Robison	Jr. Hi.	6:00p/T&R <sup>9</sup>
PS230	Adolescent Psychology (summer)	3	C. Miller	Jr. Hi.	5:30p/Tue <sup>10</sup>
PS176	General psychology (summer)	3*	L. Koon	Hospital	8:00a/M-F <sup>11</sup>
PS276	Developmental psychology (summer)	3*	K. Carter	Hospital	8:00a/T-S <sup>12</sup>
HE101	Basic Nutrition (summer)	3*	J. Thyfault	Hospital	8:30a/M-F <sup>13</sup>
EN110	Medical Terminology (summer)	1*	R. Speer	Hospital	12:30p/MWF <sup>14</sup>
ML237	Spanish Comp & Conv.	3	A. Otte	NJHS	6:00p/R&R <sup>1</sup>
NS295	Microbiology	2	E. Temmel	Hospital	8:00p/S <sup>15</sup>
NS295L	Microbiology Lab	0	E. Temmel	Hospital	8:00p/S <sup>15</sup>

1—Class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00-9:00 p.m. and begin May 25  
 2—Class will meet 6:00-10:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and Start  
 3—Class will meet 7:00-10:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 2. This telecourse has a course fee of \$40  
 4—Class will meet on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 6:00-10:00 p.m. and begin on May 24  
 5—Class will meet on Monday and Wednesday at 6:00-9:00 p.m. and begin on May 24  
 6—Class will meet 6:00-9:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 2. This telecourse has a course fee of \$25  
 7—Class will meet 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and some Saturdays and begin May 25  
 8—Class will meet 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Monday and begin May 24  
 9—Class will meet 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and begin May 25  
 10—This is an independent study class. The organization meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1

11—Class will meet Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the week of May 24-28  
 12—Class will meet Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the week of June 1-5  
 13—Class will meet Monday through Friday at 8:30-11:30 a.m. June 7 through June 25  
 14—Class will meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30-2:30 p.m. June 7 through June 25  
 15—this class will meet all Saturdays from June 19-July 31  
 \*Interactive television classes have an additional \$5 per credit hour course fee. Contact the coordinator at the site you will attend an ITV class to pre-register. Refer to the ITV schedules for additional information on courses and sites.  
 A counselor will be available at the Norton Junior High School Cafeteria on Thursday, May 20 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to answer questions on financial aid, graduation requirements and career options.