

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

Page 6 & 7

Read about the background and history of Norton County Regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

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Friday  
June 25, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Richard McKenna

Briefly

## Baseball tab will be out Tuesday

The baseball and softball special section that was supposed to run in today's *Norton Telegram* has been postponed until Tuesday due to rainouts.

## July 3 set as racing makeup date

Due to weather, the races scheduled for Saturday evening, June 19, at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton, were canceled.

A tentative make-up date is Saturday, July 3. Races will start at 7 p.m. with the IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks and Cruisers competing.

## "H" and "I" tag deadline soon

June is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycles and/or motorcycles bike tags for persons whose last name begins with the letter "H" and "I" or businesses or lease companies whose name begins with the letter "H" and "I". The deadline to renew is next Wednesday.

You need proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date. The computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, call the treasurer's office at 877-5795.

Weather

## Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. **Saturday** — Cloudy with thunderstorms likely. Highs in the lower 70s. Chance of thunderstorms 60 percent. **Saturday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. **Sunday Night** — Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

## Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 82, Low 56  
Wednesday ..... High 94, Low 65  
Thursday ..... High 76, Low 51  
Week Ago ..... High 59, Low 47, Prec. .03  
Month ago ..... High 78, Low 53  
Year ago ..... High 74, Low 55  
June precipitation ..... 2.09 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 9.43 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gifts you have given us. Teach us to serve you by serving others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

# Local company to buy out competition

By BRANDON GAY

The communications consolidation trend has hit Norton and seven Northwest Kansas communities. Nex-Tech has signed a letter of intent to purchase seven cable television systems, including Norton and Almena, from Cebridge Connections.

Nex-Tech will also acquire systems in Phillipsburg, Plainville, Smith Center, Stockton and Victoria. A formal agreement has not been signed, but the sale is expected to be completed in July. The

deal, when completed, would increase Nex-Tech's cable customers by about 3,000.

"In looking at the areas we serve, it made sense to look at these communities," said Jeff Wick, Nex-Tech chief operating officer. "It fills us in and gives us a contiguous footprint."

Mr. Wick said initially, cable lineups would remain the same. He said a date for when Cebridge customers would be incorporated into Nex-Tech's cable lineup has not been decided and would be an-

nounced when the deal was finalized.

Mr. Wick said the deal was on target for its expected completion in July.

"That's still our goal and that's still the time frame."

Cable customers of Cebridge Connections, formally named Classic Cable, currently pay \$9.95 for basic cable, \$19.95 for the 48-channel extended basic lineup and \$29.95 for digital cable. Nex-Tech offers basic cable for \$26.45 and a 52-channel cable lineup for \$31.90.

While Nex-Tech customers pay more

for cable, Mr. Wick said current Cebridge customers would not initially see a price increase. He said a decision has not been made on rates.

"It's something we will look at in the long term," he said.

The deal would make Nex-Tech the only cable provider in the seven communities. Mr. Wick said a cable monopoly was not the company's intent.

"Looking at the history of our company, long term we have always been a price- (Continued on Page 5)

## A Norton priest in Burma

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

It's been said that you can't go home again. But earlier this year Father Vincent Thu Laing of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Norton and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, New Almena, did just that. He returned to Burma, the land of his birth and the home of his family.

Fr. Vincent's family includes his father, Reny; mother, Nita; brothers, Gregory and Cyril; and sisters, Maria and Christina. Families do not have last names in Burma.

Burma is a very small country. The land mass is roughly the size of Texas, but with a population of 48-50 million people it is very crowded.

Farms are small, averaging 18 acres. In the delta area where Fr. Vincent's village is located, only one crop, rice, can be squeezed from the land each year.

Burma is among the poorest of poor countries. Most children can only go to school through the 8th grade. Upper grades have to go to the big cities to continue their education, and it is very expensive.

Fr. Vincent's village is called Marygone. He said it has no phone, no running water, no electricity and no roads. He laughed when he added, "It is very primitive." A small village of 150 families (400 pop.), the entire community turned out to give him a grand reception when he arrived.

Fr. Vincent said because it is so difficult to come to America, anyone who has been to the United States is regarded as very special. Anything associated with America is highly valued. The people are proud to have anything, even small things, from the U.S. As gifts for the villagers and his family, Fr. Vincent took advertising pens, soccer balls, shirts and pants.

(Continued on Page 5)



Two young Burmese girls (above) carry water to their school in the village of Marygone, the native home of Norton's Father Vincent Thu Laing. The white substance on their cheeks is a natural balm the girls extracted from a tree that grows in Burma. Women in the village winnow rice (below) by letting the wind carry away the chaff. The village is very remote and without water, electricity and roads.

— Photos by Fr. Vincent



## Hospital board okays projected 2005 budget

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital board okayed a \$6.6 million budget for 2005 at its meeting Wednesday and hopes to come out with about \$55,000 at the end of the year.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said they were projecting a slight increase in some of the patient services such as surgery, while others, like emergency services, were being left alone.

"We always make some budget assumptions," he said. "But all of the projections are based on what our patient numbers are now."

Mr. Miller said they hope to increase the tax received from the county to four mills. After talking to other hospitals, he said the Norton County Hospital had the smallest mill levy in northwest Kansas, with the exception of Gove County Hospital.

The hospital is projecting \$6.4 million in net operating revenue, \$6.6 million in total expenses and \$220,000 in other income, assuming the county authorizes the four mills. With all the odds and ends, Mr. Miller said he hopes the facility will be \$55,000 in the black at the end of the year.

Board Member Dennis Gilhousen said the hospital still has \$3 million in cash and investments, which is a good cushion.

"I think, for a small rural hospital operating in this economy, this is a pretty healthy budget," he said. "I don't think there is a cause for concern with the projected budget and think things are good enough to keep operating the way we have been. The projections are good. For me this is a pretty positive forecast for a healthy year."

Mr. Miller said he would be taking the (Continued on Page 5)

## Farmers finding wheat yields, weights are poor

By BRANDON GAY and CAROLYN PLOTTS

After being frozen, parched, hailed and rained upon, wheat in the Norton area is traveling through the elevator.

Yields are low, but Brian Olson, Kansas State University area agronomist, said that was not a surprise.

"Yes, yields are bad," said Olson. "But think what this crop has been through. First the drought, then we had that hot, early May, then a late freeze followed by winds and hail. It's no wonder. Wheat is hardy, but not that hardy."

Mr. Olson said that harvest in the area really got going Thursday and as expected, test weights were low as were the yields. He said army worms have been detected in some fields, but he said

the bigger concern remained low yields and weights.

Marvin Slabaugh, an employee at Norton County Cooperative, said they began getting wheat loads Wednesday at about noon. He said they received about five loads on Monday before the rain.

Mr. Slabaugh said the wheat has been meeting the low expectations farmers held.

"It's about what was expected," he said. "With the freeze and the drought we knew it wasn't going to be good. It's not been real heavy. I think yields are going to be way down."

He said part of the reason test weights were down was because of the rain. Test weights go down when it (Continued on Page 5)



# Rain is help, hinderance

A couple of weeks of substantial rain for the area sure can change people's perspectives.

Many of the summer crops, especially corn, were about ready to start running out of water, but thanks to the rain, that will not happen. The rain came at just the right time for corn as it will start elongating very quickly over the next few weeks. However, the additional moisture will not be enough to make a crop. Subsequent rains will be needed in late July to early August.

The rain will also do a lot of good for the pastures that were showing significant signs of stress. However, stocking rates should not be increased. Instead, this rain will allow pastures to start the slow process towards recovery.

As for the wheat, the rain did not bring all good news. Moisture in the wheat head has caused a good portion of the wheat to start sprouting depending upon your location. This appears to be one last nail in the coffin for an already poor wheat crop. First there was the drought, hot early season temperatures, a late freeze, some hail, wind, and finally sprouting of the wheat. Wheat is extremely durable, but there was obviously a lot of factors for this crop to overcome to produce high yields.

Another item the rain has brought on is diseases and deficiency symptoms. Diseases typically flourish when conditions are wet. Producers need to make sure their crops are not showing signs of foliar diseases such as gray leaf spot on corn or others.

Depending upon the severity

## About ag Brian Olson, K-State agronomist



and the disease, a fungicide application may be needed. In addition, deficiency symptoms such as with phosphorus are accentuated when conditions are wet. Plants that are deficient in phosphorus will have purple leaves at the tips. Another deficiency symptom not related to the moisture that has been showing up with frequency in grain sorghum is iron. Leaves having low iron content will have green veins and yellow in between the veins. Over time, these plants will likely grow out of these symptoms, but will be stunted.

All in all, I would say the mood of producers has dramatically changed with much more optimism being exhibited about the possibility of producing a summer crop. Hopefully, Mother Nature keeps blessing us with the rain so we will be harvesting this fall.

Next week, the article will be on how to test the germination of wheat that may have been injured from the late freeze.

## County bus is open to people of all ages

All aboard the Sunshine Bus! It arrived June 10 from the manufacturer in Marietta, Ga., and is as nice as everyone hoped it would be.

Ramona Pabian, Director of the Norton Senior Citizen Center said that after state funding took care of their share of the purchase price, \$8,200 was left for the center to raise. Through many different kinds of fund raisers and private donations, the money was raised and the bus ordered.

Board members decided to re-instate the name "Sunshine Bus" because it is for everyone in Norton County. Not just the elderly. If someone does not have access to transportation, they are eligible to have the Sunshine Bus take them to church, to doctor's or hair appointments. The service is free, but donations will gladly be accepted.

Mrs. Pabian said that at least one special trip is planned. The bus will transport a group to Republican City, Neb., to the American West Theatre.

Every day in Norton, the bus picks up passengers headed to the Senior Center for lunch. Every Thursday afternoon, the Sunshine Bus heads to Lenora where it will pick up passengers

at the Senior Center or at their homes. On Wednesday, the bus's destination is Alma; Tuesday and Friday the bus makes two stops at The Manor; 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; and Monday is set aside for residents at the Ande Home.

To learn more about the bus or to schedule a ride, call 877-5352.



Members of the board of directors for Norton County Senior Citizen Center took the new Sunshine Bus out for a spin in the rain Monday afternoon. The handicap accessible bus is available for anyone in Norton County, regardless of age, to use.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Cable company buys lines

(Continued from Page 1) competitive company with a high level of involvement in the communities we serve," he said.

Cebridge does not currently have offices in all seven commu-

nities, but Nex-Tech plans to have local offices and technicians in all seven which could lead to an employment increase in the area.

Financial terms of the deal have not been released.

## Budget seems sound to board

(Continued from Page 1) projected budget to the Norton County Commissioners.

In other business, the board: • Talked about the possibility of renovating the basement. Maintenance Supervisor Ty Bruton said they were looking at the painted floor in the basement.

He said it's hard to keep painted and looking nice and so called Don's Floor Covering to see what kind of covering would hold up to the traffic.

Mr. Bruton said they suggested vinyl tile. He said he also looked into painting the walls the same color as the walls upstairs and then looked at ceiling tiles. He said the new tiles upstairs makes the old ones look bad; it's a noticeable difference. The total would cost about \$12,500.

Board member VonFahrenbruch said he's not opposed to the project, but maybe they need to look at the timing. He said the hospital should do the landscaping now and then look at this as a winter project.

"We'll just delay this project for the time being," said Mr. Miller.

• Heard from Mr. Bruton about updating the hospital's communication equipment. He said there were several options.

Mr. Bruton said the best option is for the hospital to communicate with an ambulance crew or doctor anywhere in the county, using a radio tower south of town and the antenna on top of the hospital.

No matter which option the hospital chooses, pagers and other communication equipment will probably need to be updated, he said.

Mr. Miller said they have a \$25,000 bio-terrorism grant to use for communication equipment, but part of it will have to be used for emergency supplies. He said they needed to talk to the staff and would know more next month.

Board member Weldon Brooks said he thought something like this would be good.

• Approved bills. Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton went over the month's outgoing checks.

• Heard from Mr. Carlton that May was a strong month. He said they had 437 patient days, 52 admissions, two births, 18 surgeries, 6,926 outpatient procedures, and 1,144 Doctor's Clinic visits.

• Wrote off the Doctor's Clinic's bad debts. Mr. Miller said the clinic had \$11,391.21 in bad debts and recommended the board write them off. He said if there isn't any payment made on a debt in one year, the hospital generally writes it off. Mr. Miller said they were

still getting the hospital's bad debts together.

• Were given an update about the computer information system from Mr. Carlton. He said on June 28, someone from Dairyland will be in Norton to do the switch and the system will be up and running with Dairyland on July 5.

"We're on schedule and right where we need to be," he said.

• Went into a 30 minute closed session to discuss confidential information.

## Local priest travels home to see family in Burma

(Continued from Page 1) During his three week stay in Marygone, Fr. Vincent taught catechism and celebrated Mass.

He said his language, Kare'n, came back to him right away. Sometimes he forgot, though, and used some English words, so there was a little confusion at first.

So how did a poor Burmese boy end up in America? Years ago a kindly Catholic priest in his village, helped him. He supported Fr. Vincent so he could go on to school and eventually study to become a priest. Fr. Vincent said this priest helped him through the struggles he encountered in his life.

Now, it is Fr. Vincent's turn to give back. And there lies the main reason for his return to Burma and his village.

He went to see the school built there with money sent from St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph's Catholic churches. The school was completed in 2003 and already serves more than 400 students. Students come from the large surrounding community and several villages.

The gregarious Fr. Vincent, practically bubbles when he speaks of the school and the good it is accomplishing. A modest



Fr. Vincent Thu Laing

building, with a long, narrow design, and a metal roof, it suits its purpose. In fact, Fr. Vincent has plans for another school. He is deeply involved, even providing some of the funding himself. Right now, there is a need to hire another teacher. Fr. Vincent said, "When they can stand by themselves, I will move on to start another school."

Anyone wishing to help Fr. Vincent fund another school may send contributions to St. Francis of Assisi, 104 S. Wabash, Norton, Kan., 67654.

## Harvest isn't looking so good

(Continued from Page 1) rains because moisture bleaches the kernels, he said.

Thomas, Gove, Wallace and Logan county farmers are also having a moisture problem, Mr. Olson said. The wheat kernel is sprouting in the head causing elevators to dock producers as much as \$1.50 a bushel.

It was freeze damage that had a major effect on wheat grown north of Norton by Jon and Elaine Lofgreen.

"We might have one field of decent wheat and that is a summerfallowed field," Mrs. Lofgreen said. "Some test weights have been below 50, and the elevator won't accept wheat at that weight."

Charla Sprigg, who farms west of Norton with her husband, Dave, said harvest was a "non-event" this year. She said they were half done in their second day of cutting. She said like everyone else in the farming community, the harvest results were not a surprise.

"The results are as poor as we expected."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Lenora City Dog Ordinance

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, June 25, 2004. (2T)

**ORDINANCE NO. 323**  
**AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE KEEPING OF PIT BULL, ROTTWEILER AND DOBERMAN PINSCHER DOGS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS:

**Section 1. Animals: Keeping Prohibited.** It shall be unlawful to keep, harbor, own or in any way possess within the corporate limits of the City of Lenora, Kansas:

(1) Any warm-blooded, carnivorous or omnivorous, wild or exotic animal (including, but not limited to non-human primates, raccoons, skunks, foxes and wild and exotic cats; but excluding fowl, ferrets and small rodents of varieties used for laboratory purposes)

(2) Any animal having poisonous bites.

(3) Any Pit bull dog; provided, that Pit bull dogs registered with the City on the date of publication of this ordinance may be kept within the City subject to the standards and requirements set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance. "Pit bull dog" is defined to mean:

(a) The Staffordshire bull terrier breed of dog;

(b) The American Pit bull terrier breed of dog;

(c) The American Staffordshire terrier breed of dog; or

(d) Any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly of the breeds of Staffordshire bull terrier, American Pit bull terrier, or a combination of any of these breeds.

(4) Any Rottweiler dog; provided, Rottweiler dogs registered with the City on the date of publication of this ordinance may be kept within the City subject to the standards and requirements set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance. "Rottweiler dog" is defined to mean:

The Rottweiler breed of dog characterized as a muscular dog with short, coarse black hair, and tan or mahogany markings on the head, chest and legs.

(5) Any Doberman Pinscher dog; provided, Doberman Pinscher dogs registered with the City on the date of publication of this ordinance may be kept within the City subject to the standards and requirements set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance. "Doberman Pinscher dog" is defined to mean:

The Doberman breed of dog characterized by its black, blue or tan coat of short, smooth hair with rust-colored markings.

**Section 2. Keeping of Registered Pit Bulls, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers.** The provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance are not applicable to owners, keepers or harborers of Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs registered with the City of Lenora as of June 23, 2004, the effective date of this ordinance. The keeping of such dogs, however, shall be subject to the following standards:

(1) **Leash and Muzzle.** No person shall permit a registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless such dog is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person shall permit such dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type

of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such dogs may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts, buildings, etc. In addition, all such dogs on a leash outside the animal's kennel must be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent such dog from biting persons or other animals.

(2) **Confinement.** All registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as above provided. Such pen, kennel or structure must have secure sides and a secure top attached to the sides. All structures used to confine registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs must be locked with a key or combination lock when such animals are within the structure. Such structure must have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be embedded in the ground not less than two (2) feet. All structures erected to house such dogs must comply with all zoning and building regulations of the City. All such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

(3) **Confinement Indoors.** No Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition, in addition, no such animal may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the dog from exiting the structure.

(4) **Signs.** All owners, keepers or harborers of registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs within the City shall within 10 days of the effective date of this ordinance display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "Beware of Dog." In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of such animal.

(5) **Insurance.** All owners, keepers or harborers of registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs must within 10 days of the effective date of this ordinance provide proof to the Lenora City Clerk of public liability insurance in a single incident amount of \$50,000.00 for bodily injury to or death of any person or persons or for damage to property owned by any persons which may result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of such animal. Such insurance policy shall provide that no cancellation of the policy will be made unless 10 days written notice is first given to the Lenora City Clerk.

(6) **Identification Photographs.** All owners, keepers or harborers of registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs must within 10 days of the effective date of this ordinance provide to the City Clerk two (2) color photographs of the registered animal clearly showing the color and approximate size of the animal.

(7) **Reporting Requirements.** All owners, keepers or harborers of registered Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs must within 10 days of the incident, report the following information in writing to the Lenora City Clerk as required hereinafter:

(a) The removal from the City or death of such dog;

(b) The birth of offspring of such dog; or

(c) The new address of such dog owner should the owner move within the corporate city limits.

(8) **Sale or Transfer of Ownership Prohibited.** No person shall sell, barter or in any other way dispose of a Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dog registered with the City to any person within the City unless the recipient person resides permanently in the same household and on the same premises as the registered owner of such dog; provided that the registered owner of such dog may sell or otherwise dispose of a registered dog or the offspring of such dog to persons who do not reside within the City.

(9) **Animals Born of Registered Dogs.** All offspring born of Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dogs registered within the City must be removed from the City within six (6) weeks of the birth of such animal.

(10) **Irrebuttable Presumptions.** There shall be an irrebuttable presumption that any dog registered with the City as a Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dog or any of those breeds prohibited by Section 1 of the ordinance is in fact a dog subject to the requirements of this ordinance.

(11) **Failure to Comply.** It shall be unlawful for the owner, keeper or harborer of a Pit bull, Rottweiler or Doberman Pinscher dog registered with the City of Lenora to fail to comply with the requirements and conditions set forth in this ordinance. Any dog found to be the subject of a violation of this ordinance shall be subject to immediate seizure and impoundment. In addition, failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license of such animal resulting in the immediate removal of the animal from the City.

(12) **Violations and Penalties.** Any person violating or permitting the violation of any provision of this ordinance shall upon conviction in Municipal Court be fined a sum not less than \$200.00, and not more than \$1,000.00. In addition to the fine imposed, the Court may sentence the defendant to imprisonment in the County jail for a period not to exceed 30 days. In addition, the Court shall order the registration of the subject dog revoked and the dog removed from the City. Should the defendant refuse to remove the dog from the City, the Municipal Court Judge shall find the defendant owner in contempt and order the immediate confiscation and impoundment of the animal. Each day that a violation of this ordinance continues shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person who violates this ordinance shall pay all expenses, including shelter, food, handling, veterinary care and testimony necessitated by the enforcement of this ordinance.

(13) **Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**Section 3.** This ordinance shall be part of and supplemental to Article 1, Chapter II of the Code of the City of Lenora, Kansas, concerning the control and regulation of animals in the City.

**Section 4.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS, this 21st day of June, 2004.

CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS  
Raymond Heikes, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Gayle James, City Clerk