

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

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Tuesday  
July 20, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ron Zwickle

Briefly  
Class of 1949

to get together

The Norton Community High School class of 1949 will meet from 6-9 p.m. on Friday at the American Legion dining room. The class will also meet along with the class of 1948 from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday at the Norton Public Library.

Mat workshop  
set for Thursday

Thursday there will be an art workshop for all children who wish to back or mat their artwork for the Norton County Fair.

In the past some children were not able to display their art because it was not hangable. This is an opportunity for all youngsters to get their art ready to show at the fair.

The workshop will run from 9:30 a.m.-noon in the Norton Community High School art room.

Program plans  
swimming party

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Norton County is hosting a swimming party from 7-9 p.m. on Saturday at the Norton Pool. Director Mary Kay Woodyard invites anyone, youth and adults alike, interested in the program to come.

Food auction

to be next week

The 4-H Food Exhibit Auction will be held at 5:30 p.m., next Tuesday at the 4-H Building, Norton.

Weather

Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 70s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 90s. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms likely. Lows in the mid 60s. Chance of thunderstorms 60 percent

Howell report:

Friday ..... High 90, Low 65  
Saturday ..... High 97, Low 68  
Sunday ..... High 101, Low 67  
Monday ..... High 105, Low 73  
Week ago ..... High 104, Low 69  
Month ago ..... High 81, Low 59  
Year ago ..... High 106, Low 66  
July precipitation ..... 3.11 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 12.99 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God, we are grateful for the opportunity to learn from you each day. May your Spirit reside in us so that we rejoice in you. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Runners race across the country

By BRANDON GAY

For seven runners passing through Norton, cross-country isn't just a sport, it's a reality.

The runners, who are running from Los Angeles to New York in 71 days, took an overnight pit stop in Norton last night. They run an average of 43 miles per day every day, stopping each night to rest. In all, they will run 3,100 miles through 15 states.

Technically it's a race. The one who crosses America the fastest wins a little glory and a T-shirt. But mostly, the runners say, the pride comes from crossing the finishing line. Alan Firth, the organizer of Run Across America 2004, said it wasn't about fame.

"It comes from the heart," Firth said. "It isn't just an ego thing. There is no fame in this. There's more fame in winning a 10K race at home. It's about having an

adventure. It's a calling."

One runner, Russell Allison, Norman, Okla., said the challenge was the reason he wanted to do it.

"It's the challenge most definitely because it's one of those things that only a handful of people in the world have done. But, it's not that simple to do. There is no physical sport in the world that even comes close to what we are doing."

It may not be simple, but the runners,

some of the finest distance runners in the world, make it sound almost as simple as putting one foot in front of the other. One by one they jogged into the Brooks Motel parking lot, looking as if they had run around the block rather than across the country.

Mr. Allison said it was simply another way to see America.

"Some do it walking, some do it in cars, (Continued on Page 5)



Pets enthrall judges,  
seniors at annual show

Young and old alike enjoyed a variety of pets from cats and dogs to ferrets and fish at the annual 4-H Cat, Dog and Hand Pet Show at the Andbe Home on Monday. The parade is part of the Norton County Fair. Clayton Esslinger (left) of Norton, holds his 9-month old ferret, Cooper. Clayton said the thing he likes most about his pet is, "When I chase her, she'll turn and wiggle and jump up and down." Twelve year old Matt Miller encourages his hermit crab "Soccer" to come out of his shell long enough for his audience to see him. Matt has another crab named "Hermes". Watch for the post-fair special edition for the competition results.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Ambulance service could get budget increase

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Commissioners are thinking about giving the Norton County Ambulance Service a slight raise in its mill levy for 2005.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen said the budget for 2005 was higher than the last one.

Commissioner John Miller suggested they go over the budget to see what was happening.

Mr. Nielsen said he looked at the 2003 and 2004 budgets when he made this one.

After looking over things, the commissioners were able to cut the ambulance service budget by about \$47,900, putting it around \$16,000 over the amount of the 2004 budget.

Mr. Miller said if they added one-third of a mill to the ambulance service budget, it would give it about \$13,000. However, Commissioner Dean Kruse said that one-

third mill will have to come out of someone else's budget.

Mr. Miller said if they did this, they could probably find \$3,000 to cut out of the proposed budget. But, he said, the increase would make it possible to support four full-time technicians.

"I think it's important that we have the full-time staff," he said. "Sometimes we'll have the loads and sometimes we won't, but the staff will need to always

stay busy — whether it's helping Alvin Mapes with emergency preparedness or going to the schools or whatever.

"This is important, because we're spending taxpayers' money."

In other business, the commissioners:  
• Interviewed and discussed candidates for one or two full-time technicians for Emergency Medical Service. The commissioners said they would like to hire (Continued on Page 5)

Northern Valley board  
votes to retain officers

By BRANDON GAY

The Northern Valley school board elected officers at its July 12 meeting. With the support of six of the seven board members, the board voted to retain all officers at their current positions.

Retaining positions will be Gale Hays, president; Drake Gebhard, vice president; and Barb Nelson, clerk.

In other business, the board:  
• Amended the June 25 minutes to show that the 16 laptop computers and harbor cart, which will be used for a wireless Internet project at the grade school, will be purchased using grant money.

• Passed new meal prices for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten through eighth grade meals will increase 10 cents, high school meals will go up five cents and adult meals will go up 10 cents. A new \$3 fee for insurance was also added.

• Accepted a bid from Almena Market for milk.

• Passed a motion reappointing all appointees from last year. Gale Hays will serve as Kansas Association of School Board Governmental Relations representative, Kim Jessup will serve as PDC representative and Blaine Marble will serve as SEC representative.

• Approved the preliminary budget for publication and agreed to hold the budget hearing at 8 p.m. at the Monday, Aug. 9, meeting in Almena.

• Decided to offer Spanish by satellite through Kansas State University.

• Agreed to purchase student insurance for catastrophic injury.

• Heard a report from Dwight Vallin that the Long Island school building was one of five in the state nominated for the National Historical Register.

Substituting wheat could cause  
farmers to lose government aid

Farmers may become ineligible for Farm Service Agency program benefits if grain is substituted.

"To be eligible for marketing assistance loans, loan deficiency payments, white wheat production incentive payments, and direct and counter-cyclical payments, the commodity must not be substituted," said Bill Fuller, state executive director of the Kansas Farm Service.

"A commodity that is exchanged for a commodity not produced and harvested by the eligible producer is considered a substitution."

The agency's program requires that farmers share in the risk of the production of the crop to be eligible for benefits.

An example of substitution in Owner A's farm only has hard red wheat and

Owner B's farm has all hard white wheat. Farmer C operates both farms. When all the wheat is harvested, Farmer C delivers some of Owner B's white wheat in Owner A's name at the elevator, and some of Owner A's red wheat is delivered in Owner B's name at the elevator.

Because there was no white wheat produced or harvested on Owner A's farm, Owner A would be ineligible for loans, loan deficiency payments, and white wheat production incentive payments.

In addition, Owner A would also be ineligible for loans and deficiency payments on the red wheat harvested from his farm but delivered in Owner B's name at the elevator.

The same conditions would apply for Owner B.

# Runners overnight in Norton

(Continued from Page 1)

we do it running," he said. A young boy and fellow guest at the motel saw the Running Across America 2004 sign and inquired about it to Mr. Allison. "Are you really running?," he said. When Mr. Allison said yes, the boy shot back the obvious response: "Doesn't it get tiring?" Mr. Allison replied with a nonchalant "Yes it does." Mr. Allison said he no longer had any regrets about the race. "Not anymore," he said. "Not since the Mojave Desert. Now, no regrets. You have to focus on that day's finish."



Luc Dumont Saint Priest (right) took a moment to rest after completing his running for the day. Mr. Saint Priest was one of seven runners, crossing the U. S., who stayed in Norton last night. Don Winkley, 66, (above) crossed the finishing point, a line on U.S. 36 in front of Brooks Motel.

— Telegram photos by Brandon Gay

Mr. Allison said there was something else that had stopped. "I stopped wondering if I'm crazy for doing it." The craziness was what inspired Luc Dumont Saint Priest, Dijon, France. "I looked at the map and saw L.A. here and New York clear over there and said 'this is too crazy.'"

But, Mr. Dumont Saint Priest said crossing America was his dream. His wife was concerned, but he made her an assurance. "I told my wife this is something you do once in your lifetime, not two times."

The race began with 11 runners who signed-up through a web site run by Mr. Firth. There are now seven left, including two from Japan, two from France, one from England and two Americans. Mr. Firth said he expects all seven to finish, but said one runner, Takasumi Senoo, was struggling with shin splints that caused him to barely meet the minimum three and a half mile-per-hour average every day.

The physical challenge is only a small part of the battle, Mr. Allison said. He said it was 90 percent mental, 5 percent physical and 5 percent luck. He said as long as you are in excellent shape, physical ability has little to do with it.

"You have to want it more than anything else," he said. "The only thing more important to me is my family." There are other limitations, as well. The race costs at least \$10,000 and most of the runners are paying for it out of their own pockets. Three of the runners are raising money for the fight against breast cancer and children with leukemia.

But even the sponsored runners

lose time on the job or, in some cases, their jobs. Of the seven runners, only two still have jobs. Mr. Dumont Saint Priest has lost his job and his apartment.

Getting enough calories is also a concern. The runners need about 6,000 a day. Mr. Allison said eating that much was nearly impossible, but Mr. Firth, an Englishman, said American food helped. "America is absolutely perfect," he said.

Each runner has a crew that travels with him in a vehicle and Mr. Firth said that was also a challenge.

"Crewing is very difficult," he said. "Looking after people who are hot and tired is very stressful. Crew members can't have an ego. They have to say 'yes sir.'"

On the surface, it would seem that runner Don Winkley's greatest challenge is age. He is 66.

Mr. Winkley, Corpus Christi, Texas, says, however, age has nothing to do with it. He said he faces the same challenges as everyone else and a positive attitude is at the top of the list.

"You have to be really positive. You can't dwell on the negative. I used to have a rule that if I thought negative, I had to walk backwards until I stopped."

Mr. Winkley said he had not done much backward walking with this race. He ran the race in 1995, but says he feels even better

than he did then. Even though he had already proved he could do it, he said he had to run the race again for the feeling of finishing.

"The feeling I got going across the bridge in New York is a feeling I wanted to feel again," he said.

But, he said that wasn't his only reason for spending 71 straight days running.

"It's the people. It's hanging out with this group and watching everyone do something extraordinary every day."

One benefit for Mr. Winkley is that he is one of the few runners who still have a source of income — he collects social security.

He said when his mother tells friends what her 66-year-old son is doing, they think she is crazy. But, he has no intention of stopping. After crossing the finish line in New York he has four days to get to Paris for a run across Europe.

Norton marks the halfway point for the runners. The desert and Rockies are behind them, Kensington is today and they will finish Aug. 21 in Central Park. Their progress is updated daily on the Internet at [www.runacross-america2004.com](http://www.runacross-america2004.com).

For Mr. Winkley, the running continues, but he said he knew eventually it must end and he said he tried to get everything out of his races while could still do it.

"Your last race never announces itself," he said.



## Law requires identification before voting

Under the new Federal Election Law, the Help America Vote Act, first time voters must provide identification to the county election official before receiving a

ballot. You are considered a "first time voter" if:

- You have never voted in the county you are registered in.
- You have not previously provided identification to the election office during registration or any other time before the election.

If you fall under one of these, before you receive a ballot you need to provide:

- Current and valid driver's license or nondriver's identification card issued by the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles.
- Current utility bill.
- Bank statement.
- Paycheck.
- Government check.
- Other government documents showing the name and current address of the voter.

Name and address on the identification must match your voter registration information.

To check your status, please contact the Norton County Election Office at 877-5710. By obtaining this information before election day, it will allow lines to flow quickly and the election process to run smoothly at your polling place.

## State park plans Christmas

Prairie Dog State Park is sponsoring its first annual Prairie Dog Christmas on Saturday.

Campers at the state park are encouraged to decorate their campsites in a Christmas theme. Campers need to register at the park office by 1 p.m. Saturday. Campsites will be judged between 9-10 p.m. Saturday night and prizes will be awarded on Sunday at Campsite No. 8, the

Camp Host's site at 10 a.m.

Even if you don't enter the contest, you are still invited to "Think Cool", join the fun and come out to view the creativity of others. A vehicle permit is required.

Daily permits are \$6.50 and annual permits are \$45.50.

For more information call 877-2953.

## Ambulance looks to hire two people

(Continued from Page 1)

two technicians if the budget would allow it. The full-time technicians are needed because the service is low on volunteer help.

• Looked at a brochure that Emergency Technician Ruth Schillig gave them. Ms. Schillig said the brochure is for patients who sign a refusal form. She said the technician on duty would go over the brochure with the patient, letting them know what to do if symptoms reoccur, among other things.

She said a lot of the brochure's hadn't been made up yet, just enough to let the commissioners see what they wanted to do. Mr. Kruse said they should let County Attorney Doug Sebelius look at it to make sure everything was okay. Ms. Schillig agreed.

• Went into a five-minute closed session with Mr. Nielsen and Ms. Schillig to discuss non-elected personnel.

## Grant writing seminar planned in Colby

The Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area will sponsor three grant writing workshops at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range in Colby. The seminars will be Mon-

day to Wednesday, July 26-28; Tuesday to Thursday, Aug. 10-12, and Tuesday to Thursday, Oct. 26-28. Workshops are \$200 per three-day session or \$500 for all three. To register, call (785) 462-2601.

## 40th District Senate - Tested. Trusted. Vote August 3 - Primary Election



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**Ralph Ostmeyer**  
Republican - 40th District



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