

Contest:

Guess the winners and scores of football games and win prizes in the Pigskin Pick-em Contest

Page 10

Vol. 97, No. 70
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

The Norton Blue Jays and the Northern Valley Huskies ready for first games on Friday.

Page 12

Tuesday

August 31, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Darrell Preuss

Briefly

Flower giveaway set for Wednesday

Wednesday is Good Neighbor Day and Norton Flowers Gifts and Greenhouse wants to be your good neighbor. Starting at 8 a.m., owner Annette Overlease will give six roses to anyone who will pledge to give five of them away and be a good neighbor.

Good Neighbor Day is sponsored by Florist's Transworld Delivery.

Mrs. Overlease has ordered in a stock of carnations to replace the roses when that supply has been exhausted.

Annual car show planned in Logan

The 10th Annual Dane G. Bales, Jr. Memorial Car Show is scheduled from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday at the Logan Golf Course.

There will be door prizes, trophies, plaques, free t-shirts, live music, fireworks plus food and drink vendors.

Immediately following the car show, Carol Bales will serve refreshments in her shop at 503 West Logan and display the Trans Ams collected by the late Dane Bales, Jr.

No entry fee or pre-registration is required.

Cancer survivor to share faith

Leo Miller, Charlene Weskamp's brother, is an adult stem cell transplant recipient and cancer survivor.

Mr. Miller will share his experiences of his battle with cancer and his recovery in a presentation he calls, "Journey In Faith" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18, at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish Center. Everyone is welcome.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms until early morning. **Wednesday** — Sunny with highs in the lower 90s. **Thursday** — Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy with highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday Night** — Cloudy with lows in the lower 60s.

Howell report:

Friday High 88, Low 53
Saturday High 84, Low 53
Sunday High 95, Low 55
Monday High 92, Low 61
Week ago High 99, Low 67
Month ago High 87, Low 66
Year ago High 74, Low 59
August precipitation15 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 16.58 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

O God, open our hearts to perceive the changes needed in our lives. Guide us to the path you desire. Remove our fear and replace it with trust in you. Amen



Firemen provide fun for all

The annual Jennings Firemen's Fun Day had a barrel full of things to do. Morning activities included a health fair, kolaches and coffee, and a cake walk, while in the afternoon, crowds enjoyed a parade, kid's activities and the famous firemen's team barrel competition. During the parade, a float (left), sponsored by the Jennings American Legion, advocated voting. Kirk Nuzum (top) entertained the kiddies by letting them get wet and wild. Melanie Mortensen, Ann Wolf and Carla Derauf (far left) took on their husbands and boyfriends in a friendly competition.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Popular football contest starts this week

By DICK BOYD

The 35th annual Pigskin Pick-Em Contest for area football fans begins in this issue of *The Norton Telegram*.

Each week, football fans will have a chance to win prizes by guessing who will win high school and college football games.

Again this year, the weekly prizes will total \$30 in scrip money. First place will be \$15, second, \$10 and third, \$5 in scrip money.

The fan who picks the most correct games during the 12-week contest will

receive \$50 in scrip money plus an engraved trophy.

The great thing about the Pick-Em Contest, the most popular event ever conducted by *The Telegram*, is that it's fun and doesn't cost you a cent.

And, even better, the rules are as simple as Hut-One, Hut-Two, Hut-Three. Turn to the Pick-Em page and find the games listed in the sponsors' ads. Pick the team you think will win each game and write the winners on the entry blank beside the corresponding sponsors' names. Then pick the score of the tie-breaker game.

Winners will be announced in the following Tuesday's *Telegram*.

Fans are asked to bring their entries each week to *The Telegram* office by 5 p.m. on Friday. Of course, those who mail their entries to the Telegram at 215 South Kansas must make sure they are post-marked by 5 p.m. each Friday and they must arrive at the office with the Saturday mail.

Prizes must be picked up within three weeks.

You are only allowed to enter once per week but extra entry blanks for every

member of the family are available at the sponsors' places of business.

Official entry blanks must be used; no reproductions will be allowed.

Entry blanks may be picked up from these 2004 sponsors: Kellie's, Pizza Hut/Taco Bell, Almena State Bank, Norton Shop and Save, Moffet Drug, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Long Island Grain/The First National Bank & Trust/Island Insurance, Rural Telephone Service, Jamboree Foods and *The Norton Telegram*.

County continues to seek better health insurance

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County is still looking for the best health insurance plan it can get.

On Monday, the Norton County commissioners spoke with Ray Meyer from Midwest Insurance and Associates about the county's insurance options.

Mr. Meyer said there are several plans available through his company, which would be beneficial for the county's employees.

He said his insurance firm is associated both with Wichita Preferred Providers Association and Midland's Choice, so the county's employees could get coverage in Kearney as well

as Hays.

He said he didn't want to just low-ball a bid for the next year, but wanted to establish a long-term relationship with the county.

"I want to get the best bid possible for premiums and then tweak it so it benefits your employees the most," he said. "January 1 is a long way away, but it takes awhile to get bids out."

He said he wanted to sit down with the county and get as much information as possible.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said the county was also starting early.

"We can't let our premiums sky-

(Continued on Page 5)

Asbestos removal at high school may be done by district staff

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The hallway between the Northern Valley High School and gymnasium has tested positive for asbestos.

The school board learned of the problem at its meeting on Aug. 9 but decided to discuss the problem at a later meeting.

An inspector said that the maintenance staff at the school could take out the asbestos rather than have it professionally removed.

The board agreed to allow transportation for the children of Brian and Karen Anderson.

It was also voted to require all buses to be parked on school property when not in use. The school's bus routes will be determined after the enrollment process is complete.

In other business, the board:

- Appointed Elementary Principal Dwight Vallin as the state-required homeless liaison.

- Voted to allow administration to work with Fort Hays State University's Foster Grandparent Program.

- Discussed the technology coordinator's job description in an executive session which lasted 20 minutes.

- Heard a report given by Board President Gale Hays, who attended a meeting for school board presidents in Hays.

- Reviewed options for copy machine leases and discussed district goals.

Mr. Vallin announced that there will be a watermelon feed and open house during the first home junior high volleyball matches and football game against Logan on Thursday, Sept. 9, at the junior high school in Long Island.

(Continued from Page 1)
rocket," he said. "The taxpayers would not be happy."
"We're looking at a lot of things to get the best deal for our employees and taxpayers. That's why we're starting early."

In other business, the commissioners:
• Spoke with Lenora Mayor Raymond Heikes about curb and gutter replacement.

He said Rural-Telephone would like to replace the curb and gutter in front of its office with the estimate coming to \$4,650. Mr. Heikes said Rural-Telephone would pay half of the cost and wanted to know if the county will pay part of the other half.

Mr. Lang said that the road was in the city. Mr. Heikes disagreed, saying it's a county road.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said the county would be happy to help out with chipping and sealing the road, but doesn't normally do curb and gutter work.

Mr. Lang said it wouldn't be fair to other cities. He said if they did one, they would have to do them all and the county does not have a budget for that kind of work.

In other business, the commissioners:
• Met with County Treasurer Cindy Linner. She said the county received \$23,413.95 in tax receipts, bringing the total up to \$181,186.

Mrs. Linner said she got the bids back on getting the carpets cleaned. She said at first, she thought the bid was just for the second floor, but then it was decided to include the third floor and the sheriff's department on the first floor.

Two of the bids were for the entire courthouse, but one only covered the second and third floors. The commissioners asked that she get a complete bid and then the decision could be made.

• Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald. He said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment was out last week for a walk-around inspection at the new landfill site. He said they found a few holes that had been missed, but they were filled in.

He said otherwise, the inspector said it looked good and that it was nice to see a clean area.

He said he had several meetings to attend in the near future on recycling and about new landfill ideas.

• Went into a 15-minute closed session with Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman and County Attorney Doug Sebelius to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

• Spoke with Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent. She said she checked into the two bids for microfilm. One bid was from Mid-Continent and other was from Salina Blueprint.

Mrs. Vincent said she compared the microfilm from both companies and that they looked the same.

With additional fees, the estimated cost from Salina Blueprint is \$1,275 to \$1,300, compared to Mid-Continent's bid \$1,500. The commissioners told her to go with Salina Blueprint, since the estimate is cheaper and because she's used them before.



Personality profiling was on the agenda for the opening night class of "Leadership Norton" Thursday. Stacie Minson, WaKeeney, teaches the class sponsored by the Norton County 4-H Extension Council and Norton County business people. Enrolled this year are (from left) Kathy Zimmerman, Toby Kuhn (back to camera), Lacy Frack, Tom Brannan, Rob Lawson, Sue Brown, Bill Lowry, and Deborah Anderson. Not pictured Karla Reed and Karla Anderson. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Goodland coach arrested for arson

By TOM BETZ
The Goodland Star-News

Police arrested the Goodland High football coach on suspicion of arson late Saturday after a second fire at his home.

Coach Tony Diehl was arrested about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Chief Ray Smee said.

Neighbors said the fire was set with gasoline or diesel fuel on the back side of the roof of the house.

The coach had complained of vandalism and at least one arson attempt at his home in the last couple of weeks, after he reported a teen-age party to the sheriff's department.

He said the windshield was broken out of his pickup, and someone had attempted to set fire to his house.

Police watching for vandals apparently were surprised to catch the "victim" instead.

A neighbor, Lowell Lambrecht said his brother-in-law Marty Ross of Colorado Springs, who was visiting, awakened him when Ross saw the flames at Diehl's house. The two men rushed out to put the flames out with a garden hose.

Chief Smee said officers arrived quickly and they kicked in the front door to get Diehl out because of the fire. Diehl's wife and son were out of town.

Coach Diehl was taken to a police car in front of his home and put in the back seat to keep him warm. Neighbors gathered on the street to watch and speculate on who could have set the fire.

Chief Smee said Sunday that after the fire was put out, officers got permission from Diehl to search the house, and then arrested him and took him to the Sherman County jail.

Mr. Lambrecht said a woman who lives across the alley behind Coach Diehl's home told him she had seen the coach on the roof before the fire started.

The fire Saturday was reported about 11 p.m.. It was the second arson fire reported at that address in a week. Chief Smee said a 911 call came into the dispatch center at 11:10 p.m. that the roof of the house at 1108 Harrison was on fire.

Over the past two weeks, Coach Diehl had claimed he was the target of harassment stemming from a party at the student's home where he had called the Sherman

Board suspends football coach

After learning that high school football coach Tony Diehl had been arrested, the Goodland School Board met Sunday afternoon and suspended him with pay as both a high school English teacher and coach.

Assistant Coach Jon McLean had agreed to take over as head football coach for the Cowboys.

County sheriff's office to report drugs being used. Charges in that incident are pending, said County Attorney Bonnie Selby.

A sheriff's deputy reported a high school student at the home. The deputy said he seized a pipe and two grams of marijuana valued at \$10. The offenders also were drinking.

On Monday, Aug. 16, Coach Diehl reported criminal damage to the windshield of his 1995 Ford pickup in the amount of \$350. He told *The Goodland Star-News* on Tuesday the windshield had been smashed with a portable air bottle about 11:30 p.m., after he got home.

The first fire at the coach's home was reported on Sunday, Aug. 22. The damage was estimated at \$1,000. Investigators said the fire had been set.

On Wednesday, the coach reported that a tire on his pickup had been slashed.

Chief Smee said the investigation continues, and he does not know at this time if all of the incidents were done by the same person.

Coach Diehl is to be advised of charges against him in court this week.

The Cowboy football team had an 8-3 record last year under

Coach Diehl. The team won the district title and lost to Wellington in the second round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Coach Diehl had been selected to be one of the coaches at the 31st annual Kansas Shrine Bowl at the end of July, but canceled about a week before the game.

At that time he said he did not want to spend the time away from his family, and that he had a doctor's recommendation that he not coach the Shrine Bowl.

He said for the past 18 months he has had costochondritis, which he described as an inflammation of the tissue between the ribs which causes swelling of the chest wall, resulting in spasms of pain.

The coach said his doctor told him overwork aggravates the condition. The coach said he has been taking medication for the pain.

Final payments now being made for hospital work

By KRISTEN BRANDS
The Norton County Hospital Board met last Wednesday and was presented with the final payment requests from the Murray Co., which was in charge of the hospital's renovation project.

The company will receive the \$77,000 that the hospital set aside for payment upon completion.

Murray is also asking for \$32,950 from a contingency fund. The company is asking to be paid for extra time the project took to complete due to change orders.

The board asked that hospital administrator Richard Miller discuss details with Murray before releasing the contingency fund.

The board received the quality assurance reports from hospital departments including nursing, housekeeping, dietary, maintenance and health information.

The reports showed that each department met requirements, including meeting with the quality assurance committee three times per year.

The Medicare audit was performed earlier this year for the first year of critical access designation and Norton County Hospital received \$3,200 additional money. Chief Financial Officer Brian

Carlton reported that his staff has faced the challenges of learning the intricacies of Dairyland's new information system and continues work during a very busy time of year.

He also said that next month's bills will include a letter explaining some of the changes.

He added that the doctor's clinic will be included on the hospital's billing.

Other items up for discussion and vote during the August meeting were:

• Personnel items revealed that the hospital is still looking to fill vacancies for registered nurse and certified lab technician positions.

• The board approved medical staff privileges for Julie Brull, a nurse practitioner with ear, nose and throat doctor Jim Black.

• Members voted to accept the confidential risk management report after a short executive session.

• Statistics for the month of July were given by Brian Carlton. They were: Patient days, 358; births, 5; outpatient surgeries, 25; admissions, 43; outpatient procedures, 7,094; Doctor's Clinic visits, 1,246.

Radon meeting planned

Bruce Snead, Kansas State University extension specialist in residential energy, will give a program on radon, its dangers, how it occurs, and possible treatments for radon in the home at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, at the 4-H Building in Norton.

This program is part of the radon mini-grant from K-State. The purpose is to get at least 50 radon test kits out into each of these five counties so that the state can begin to get a better idea of how common the problem of high radon levels is in the homes of northwest Kansas.

Those 50 families in each of the five counties who had their radon levels tested are encouraged to attend and learn more about what their test readings might indicate. The readings might suggest that no

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
Extension
specialist



action is necessary, or if the reading was above four pico curies per liter of oxygen in the home, definite action is indicated.

Mr. Snead will be able to give specific recommendations based on your readings. Bring along the report you received from the test if you still have it.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties.

Bulletin Board Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

Auto Service Repair Problem Solved! Complete Computer Diagnosis CAREFUL ATTENTION SETS OUR SERVICE SHOP APART FROM OTHERS ~Tune-ups ~Air Conditioner ~Brakes ~Exhaust System ~Shocks ~Radiator Repair WALTER MOTOR COMPANY NORTON—1-800-479-3112 (877-3112)	Auto Glass Repair NOVUS AUTO GLASS REPAIR & REPLACEMENT Frank and Pauline Kaiser—Owners P.O. Box 93 Long Island, KS 67447 888-247-5153 CALL MOBILE, WE COME TO YOU <small>Insurance usually waives deductible on repairs</small>	Painting Prestige Painting & Drywall COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL •Interior & Exterior Painting •Hanging and Finishing Drywall •Commercial Wall Coverings •Residential Papering Owner—Randall S. Bantam Norton, KS — 785-877-6905 — Over 18 Years Experience —
Construction OVERLEASE CONSTRUCTION 785-877-2115 410 South Street <small>*Remodeling *Additions *Custom Cabinets Call Greg Overlease for all your carpentry needs</small>	Dental Diagnosis Western Kansas Center for Comprehensive Dental Diagnosis & Rehabilitation JEFFREY M. RAYL, D.D.S. 1690 W. 4th, Colby • 460-3999 or Toll Free 1-866-305-3999 •Comprehensive bite analysis •TMJ/TMD diagnosis and rehabilitation •I.V. Sedation for all dental procedures including surgical removal of wisdom teeth •Detantl Implants: surgical placement and restoration •Complete endodontic services (root canal) molar and anterior teeth •Extensive cosmetic procedures •Laser periodontal (gum disease) therapy •Esthetic crown and bridge restorations; all ceramic (no metal) •General dental procedures; cleanings; tooth colored fillings, partial dentures, biologic dentures	

Norton County Forecast for Aug. 31 – Sept. 6							
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
87/56	89/58	88/57	79/51	81/53	83/55	78/48	
Normal High 81				Sunrise 7:09 to 7:13am			
Normal Low 54				Sunset 8:02 to 8:11pm			

It will continue to be warm and dry this week, but long range forecasts are calling for cooler weather next week and better chances for moisture. A storm or two in the evenings or overnights may try to sneak out of Colorado the next few days, but odds are better for upper 80's and no rain. A front Friday may bring some storms through after area football games and make things more comfortable Saturday and Sunday. Labor Day will be the start of the cooler and hopefully wetter period!

www.decisionweather.com
Courtesy of Miller Aviation
Copyright © 2004 Decision Weather, Inc.

COLORADO PEACHES
Freestone
Elberta
"Just The Best"

Great New Weight Loss Product
CORTICUT!
May Reduce Cortisol Levels

Pure Prairie Natural Foods
108 E. Washington, Norton
PH (785) 877-3610
ORDERS—1-800-545-7232

Give Your Business the Attention it Deserves!!

CALL . . .
Spaces Always Available:
1" per month — \$42.50
2" per month — \$76.50
3" — per month — \$103.50

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
785-877-3361