

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

Pages 6 & 7

Norton Blue Jay boys basketball team defeats Hoxie, girls lose heart-breaker.

Page 10

Friday
February 18, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Gene Reedy

Briefly

Basketball team to hold reunion

The Norton 1951 state championship basketball team team will hold a reunion this weekend. Members of the 1951 and 2003 state championship basketball teams will be honored during half time ceremonies at tonight's home game against Ellis. Members of the 1951 team invited old friends to visit with them from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the Town and Country Restaurant.

Deadline nears for vehicle tags

Heavy truck and trailer tag renewals, along with those vehicle owners with last names beginning with "A" have until Monday, Feb. 28, to renew their vehicle tags without paying a penalty.

The heavy truck tags are for vehicles of 16,000 pounds or more. Remember to bring your proof of insurance on each vehicle. For trailers, the insurance on the vehicle that pulls it most often is needed.

Tag renewal can be done at the Norton County Treasurer's office from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Driver's license renewals can be done 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station. They do renewals on regular driver's licenses and commercial licenses.

The treasurer's office will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents' Day.

If you have questions, call 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Patchy fog in the evening. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the mid 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday — Cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. Chance of rain showers in the morning, then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph and gusts to 30 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday Night — Cloudy with chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Patchy fog after midnight.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 42, Low 23
Wednesday High 44, Low 25
Thursday High 53, Low 25
Week ago High 54, Low 23
Month ago High 30, Low 21
Year ago High 57, Low 34
February precipitation90 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 1.40 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God of forgiveness and understanding, thank you for forgiveness. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us, just as we have been forgiven by you. Amen

Few attend meeting on office closing

By VERONICA MONIER

Only a few people attended a meeting held by the Social and Rehabilitation Services to talk about the access points that will be replacing the Norton office.

Marilyn Braun, the assistant regional director for community capacity services, said she and her staff are responsible for setting up the access points.

She said Norton County would have one full-service area at the Norton Senior Center, which will include applications,

brochures, a telephone, a fax, computer access, a copier and meeting space.

Most of the other places will have applications and brochures, she said. Those will be at the Norton County courthouse, the Norton city building, the Almena Senior Center and the Lenora Grade School.

Regional Director Robena Farrell said it is important to have these places, since there will no longer be a county office.

She said it was decided to close the office in Norton when the state needed

money and social services had to make some hard decisions.

She said social services tried to reduce services where the least amount of people would be hurt and then reduce services that could be brought back at a later time.

Ms. Farrell said they were at the point where they couldn't cut staff anymore and had to look at ways to cut costs without reducing staff or services.

"Locations of some of the county offices were very sparse in population and

some offices were only open for a half a day once a week," she said. "Those were closed first. Then, the offices with the smallest number of people using social services were closed."

She said Phillipsburg was chosen as the regional center because more people were being served there and it was more centrally located.

"We had some very hard decisions to make," she said. "We would have pre- (Continued on Page 5)



Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Tod Hileman (above) made sure Mindy and Blair Russell's 1-year-old triplets fit in their new child safety seats. Chakota Russell (below) who is going to be 3 in May, checked out his new seat. Chakota thought it was pretty neat. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Patrol keeps kids safe in car seats

By VERONICA MONIER

Child safety is important to the Kansas Highway Patrol, which is why it has car seats available for families in need.

When Trooper Tod Hileman heard about the Russells in Norton, he knew the family could probably use the patrol's help.

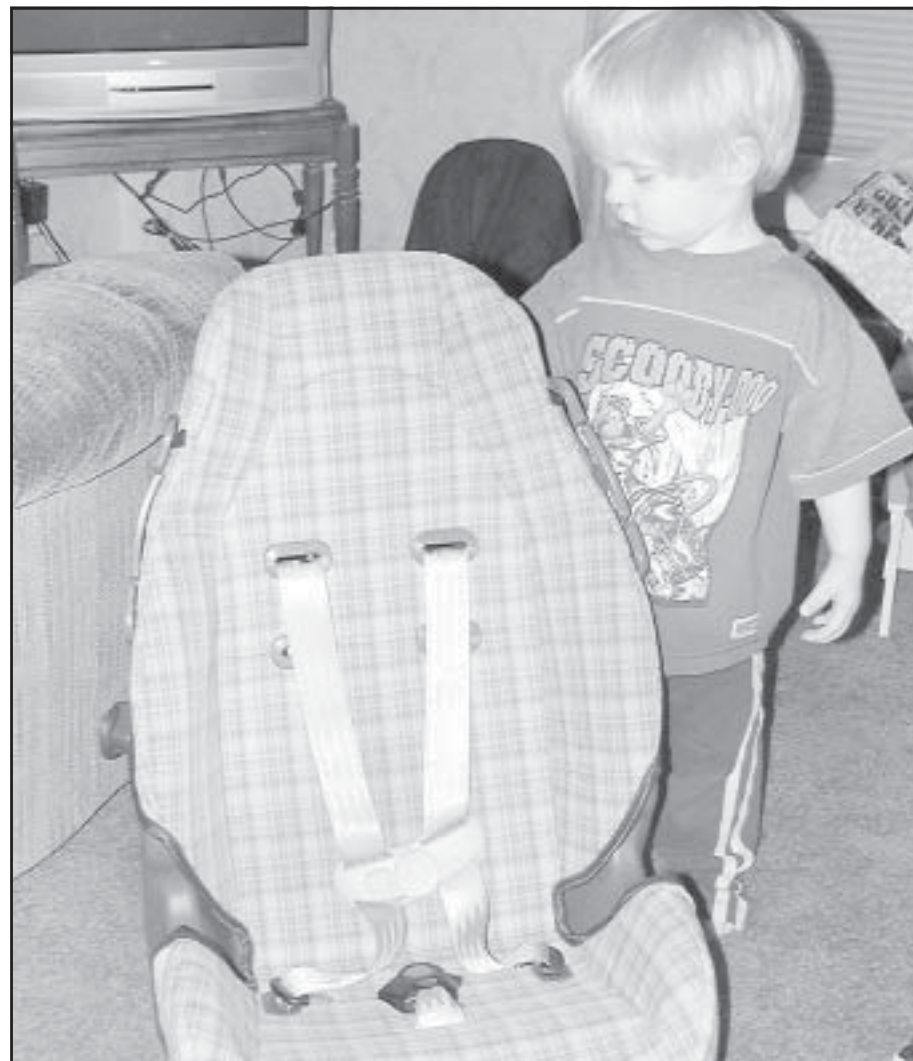
All four of Mindy and Blair Russell's children — the triplets Sasha, Kiowa and Bryn, and the soon-to-be 3-year-old Chakota — got new child safety seats Wednesday morning.

The 1-year-old triplets were fitted with convertible seats that will last until they weigh 40 pounds, which probably won't happen until they are 4 or 5 years old.

Chakota, who will turn 3 in May, got a seat that he'll use until he weighs 80 pounds, which is generally around 8 years old. His seat will become a booster seat when he gets heavy enough.

The triplets' convertible seats will face the rear of the car until they weigh 20 pounds and over 1 year old. They are already the right age and, as soon as both criteria are met, their seats can be turned around to face the front of the car.

Trooper Hileman said he has about 30 seats left. He started with 46, but has already given several away. He said the patrol has several models of child safety seats, including the convertibles and



booster seats.

The seats, he said, were donated by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas Motor Carriers Association.

He said another thing they can help with is getting the seats installed properly.

"There is almost a 100 percent misuse rate with installation," he said. "Sometimes it's something minor like the seat isn't tight enough. But other times it is

something major like the harness is in the wrong spot, which could bring serious harm to a child, even in a minor crash.

"It may seem small, but it could turn into something real serious, real fast in a crash."

Trooper Hileman said if you are or know of a family in need of a child safety seat, call him at the Hays patrol office at (785) 625-3518 or Michelle Bohl, who is with the local SAFE Kids at 877-2477.

Long Island youngster wins again

By VERONICA MONIER

For the third consecutive year, Stanton Nelson, an eighth grader from Northern Valley Junior High, was the champion at the Norton County Spelling Bee.

On Tuesday afternoon, 15 students — three each from Lenora Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary, Northern Valley Elementary, Norton Junior High and Northern Valley Junior High — met at East Campus Auditorium in Norton for the annual county spelling bee, sponsored by the schools and *The Norton Telegram*.

After nine rounds, Stanton went head-to-head with Bethany Winkel, the seventh-grade alternate from Norton Junior High, to see who was the best speller in the county. Bethany forgot a letter in "dissatisfaction", giving Stanton the opportunity he needed. He spelled the word correctly and then spelled "tenacious". Stanton is the son of Terry and Sara Nelson of Long Island and Bethany is the daughter of Darin and Joanie Winkel of (Continued on Page 5)



Specialist Jim Briery

Former Norton graduate serves in Iraq

Specialist First Class Jim Briery is stationed in southern Iraq in Talill.

He is responsible for telephone and Internet communications. He expects to be stationed in Iraq for 12-18 months. He was activated in September and was stationed at Ft. Lawton, Okla., until his deployment in January.

He joined the Kansas National Guard in 1986, and is part of the Iola Unit. His basic training took place at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He has worked full time for the guard in Topeka since 1989. Other duty stations have included Belize, Honduras, and Panama.

Specialist Briery, the son of Ron and Georgia Briery, Norton, is a graduate of Norton Community High School and the University of Kansas. He and his wife, the former Heide Otter, make their home in Eudora. They have two children Samantha, 17, and Andrew, 9. He is the grandson of Bill and Iveda Hoffedita and Harm and Cleo Briery, Hoxie.

Mail will reach him at: HSC/891st EN BN, APO AE 09331.

