

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

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Tuesday
March 22, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Savella Gallentine

Briefly

Free screening

available for kids

Eisenhower Elementary will be conducting a free early childhood screening on Friday, April 1. Children, ages 3-5, but not enrolling in kindergarten next fall are eligible. Areas of testing include vision, hearing, speech, motor, behavior and/or reasoning. Call Joan Hale at the school, 877-5113, by Thursday, March 31, to schedule an appointment.

Reserve program

near cutoff date

Friday, April 1, is the cutoff date for Grassland Reserve Program applications to be considered for this year.

For information about the program, call the Norton County Farm Service Center at 877-2623 or stop by their office at 11640 Pineview. Their website is: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Easter Bunny

to visit Saturday

The Easter Bunny and his helpers will be on hand for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, at 2 p.m. Saturday on the lawn of the Norton County Courthouse.

In addition to hunting eggs, children can get their photograph taken with the Easter Bunny beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Children will be divided into 0-3 year olds, beginning at 2 p.m.; preschool 4-5 year olds, 2:05 p.m.; kindergarten and first graders, 2:10 p.m.; and second and third graders, 2:15 p.m.

A scavenger hunt planned for fourth, fifth and sixth graders will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Decreasing clouds with lows in the mid 20s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs around 50. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening then slight chance of rain showers or snow showers after midnight. **Thursday** — Highs in the mid 50s.

Howell report:

Friday High 47, Low 23
Saturday High 48, Low 31
Sunday High 53, Low 38, Prec. 1"
Monday High 42, Low 35, Prec. .90
Week ago High 48, Low 24
Month ago High 63, Low 32
Year ago High 50, Low 26
March precipitation 1.90 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 3.30 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us to remember that even when we are unable to focus heart and mind in prayer, the Holy Spirit still upholds us and prays for us. Amen

Welcome rain drenches county

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Spring has finally arrived, with lawns greening up, flowers blooming and rain showers that last all day — like the one Monday.

The drops started to fall early Sunday afternoon, then stopped, then started again, and as of Monday evening they were still coming. As of last night, approximately 2.2 inches had fallen.

The ground got a long cool drink and

everything, everywhere was wet.

Patrick Burke, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said it is just that time of year, when the area gets more moisture out of the Gulf of Mexico. There was a slow-moving spring storm system parked over southwest Kansas and moisture is being pulled out of the Gulf. Mr. Burke said he thought the rain would last into Monday night. Although it might change to a light snow, he said,

little accumulation was expected.

Mr. Burke said there is another storm coming in on Wednesday, but only 20 percent chance for more rain. That storm is expected to start as rain and then possibly change to snow on Thursday.

It seems no one in the area is complaining whether the moisture comes in rain or snow.

Brian Olson, area agronomist with Kansas State University Research and

Extension, said he was excited that the area was getting rain.

He said he was in a wheat field in western Decatur County last week and there were some pretty big cracks in the ground because of the dry weather. He said he was concerned.

The ground needed a drink of water, said Mr. Olson, and the rain is definitely a good thing. So is the cooler weather. (Continued on Page 5)

Holy week services planned

Holy week is considered the most sacred time in the Christian religions. Starting on Palm Sunday, many Norton County churches will have special services to mark the memory of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thursday is recognized as the day that Christ had his last supper with his disciples.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Norton will have Maundy Thursday services at 7 p.m.

Logan United Methodist Church will serve a Seder meal at 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Norton, will celebrate a Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Almelo will have Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:45 p.m.

From noon until 1 p.m., a community Good Friday Service will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Norton Christian Church with Ron Scheimo delivering the message, "It's Darkest Before the Dawn". Dwight Williams will lead worship and Clair Rumford will sing, "When He Was On the Cross, I Was On His Mind". Kathy Aiello will provide music and Terry Worthington will read scripture. Drinks will be provided by the ladies of the church. Everyone is invited to bring their own sack lunch.

At 2:30 p.m., Friday, services will be held at St. Francis.

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There's just something about little boys and Saturday's 17th Annual Toy and Sports Card trucks of all kinds. Seth Otter, 5, New Almelo, Show held at the 4-H Building. looked longingly at a toy truck on display at

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norton girl shoots way to top of college team

By DICK BOYD

Chandra Braun likes to shoot and she's good at it.

The 2003 graduate of Norton Community High School, is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she is competing on an athletic scholarship on the university's nationally ranked rifle teams.

She competes on both the small bore and air rifle teams. In her second year of college competition, she has become one of the better shooters on the women's team.

In addition to competing against other colleges in Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio, the Skyhawk marksmen traveled to Alaska, where they competed in a dual against defending national champion Alaska-Fairbanks.

When his Skyhawk shooters came away from the range at Fairbanks a few points short of a victory, veteran coach Bob Beard was not disappointed.

"They are the best in the world and some of our scores were among the scores they were posting," he said.

Ms. Braun was high scorer for her team in small bore with a 558 and second high for her squad in air rifle with a personal best of 575. She was also one of the top women shooters on the team throughout the season.

Although her scholarship pays for her college education, she is definitely working her way through school as a member of the Skyhawk shooting teams.

During the season, which begins in mid-September and runs through February, the teams practice Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for four hours each night. They have physical training for one to one and one-half hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Each marksman is also required to practice once per week on their own. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday they are competing.

Their only break is at Christmas time.

Although there are a lot of practice hours, Braun says she enjoys the experience and is looking forward to next season.

"We have all of our team returning so

(Continued on Page 5)



Norton sophomore Chandra Braun squeezed off another round during competition for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

County treasurer's office gets approval for face lift

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner is finally going to get her office remodeled.

Mrs. Linner has been working with the county commissioners for about a year in hopes of getting new desks and chairs in her office and fixing up places for handi-

capped persons to be helped.

On Monday, she had two bids for office furniture.

The commissioners accepted a bid from End Zone Sports and Office Supplies of Norton for just under \$10,000. Mrs. Linner said that he told her he would take the four big desks in her office as a trade-

in and give the county \$1,000.

"That's more than we would get out of them at auction," she said.

However, the bid is only good through March 28 because after that the manufacturer raises its prices, she told the commissioners

Eakes Office Products of McCook bid

\$10,849, which included set up but no trade in on the old desks.

The money for the renovation will come from the treasurer's capital outlay budget, which has more than \$34,000 in it.

End Zone will do the remodel after the (Continued on Page 5)

Hospital replaces monitors

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital will get new monitoring equipment for the emergency room but is hoping that a county bio-terrorism grant can be used to help pay for part of it.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller reported to the hospital board on Wednesday that he had asked the Kansas Department of Health and Environment if money from a bio-terrorism grant could be used to buy equipment for the emergency room.

However, they said equipment needed to be bought with money that is given to the county for bioterrorism mitigation.

He told the board that the equipment would cost \$15,570 for two monitors. The board approved the purchase but asked Mr. Miller to talk to Sheriff Troy Thomson, the county's emergency preparedness coordinator, to see if any bio-terrorism money could be used to help buy the equipment.

"If we can get \$50 or \$100 or whatever, it would be good," said Board member Warren White. "Everything helps."

The board also approved the purchase of a hot water heater for \$26,358 and a new centrifuge for \$2,511. Mr. Miller said the centrifuge the lab uses now is constantly needing repair.

"We can still get parts for it," said Maintenance Supervisor Ty Bruton. "But it's getting worn. We keep having to rebuild or replace the motor."

In other business, the board:

- Wants to see plans to make the reception/check-in area at the Doctor's Clinic more confidential.
- Board member Dennis Gilhousen said he would like to see the design.

Mr. Miller said he would talk to the architects, letting them know what the hospital wanted.

- Heard from Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton that in February the hospital had 58 admissions, two births, 29 surgeries and 1,358 visits to the Doctor's Clinic.

- Learned from Mr. Miller that by the end of the month a motion will have been filed with the Board of Tax Appeals, exempting the hospital from paying property tax on some of its leased laboratory equipment. He said, since the hospital is county owned and operated, it shouldn't have to pay taxes on leased equipment. He said the hospital has paid over \$5,000 this year in property taxes on the equipment.

- Accepted changes to the salary schedule. Mr. Miller said when he was figuring raises, he tried to take into account individual merits such as technical knowledge and the employee's general attitude.

- Heard from Mr. Miller that he spoke with Cynthia Haynes, publisher of *The Norton Telegram*, about getting salary information. He said he gave her the hospital's open records policy and told her if she did what it said, he would give her the information she needed.

- Approved medical staff privileges for Jenny Niblock, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, who covers one week-end a month in the emergency room. Mr. Miller said she has medical privileges at the Colby, Sheridan County and St. Francis hospitals.

- Heard that both visiting physicians Dr. Robert Albers, pulmonary medicine, and Dr. Kevin McDonald, urology, will be leaving Hays and so won't be coming to Norton for the physicians' clinics any more.

- Learned that the hospital did an 11-month survey on its renovation projects. Mr. Miller said most of the work has a one-year warranty and so everything was checked. He said a few things were found and the sub-contractors are being contacted to fix them.

- Will be thinking about raising the mileage rate. Mr. Miller said the hospital pays 34 cents a mile now and would like to have it raised to help with increasing gas prices.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss a confidential report and a 15-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.



An oil rig loomed large on the horizon last week as Discovery Drilling began looking for oil just east of Edmond.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Girl marksman works hard, enjoys college in Tennessee

(Continued from Page 1) we should be good next year," she said.

"I really enjoy the school, too, since it is agriculture related."

She is an agriculture business major.

Raised in a family of hunters and trapshooters, she is no stranger to firing a gun but feels that her marksmanship training has helped her safely handle weapons.

She began taking gun safety courses at age 11 through the Norton Jaycees BB Gun Program.

She competed on Norton's first team in the state shoot for four years and was a member of Norton's international team twice.

Shooters are not allowed to compete two years in a row at the international level.

While still competing in BB gun marksmanship, she began shooting sporter air rifles. Next, she shot



Chandra Braun

precision air rifles competitively for two years before college.

She says she's learned several

things from her marksmanship competition?

"It's definitely a mental game," she said. "You enhance your mental skills. You have to have self-discipline and stay focused. The mental training helps you overcome a lot of obstacles in life."

During her precision rifle competition, she has not lost her love for hunting.

She is looking forward to returning to Alaska this August on a moose hunting trip with her father Ed Braun.

But, her brother Carson, who is also a marksman, won't get to go this time.

"He'll have to wait," she said. "This is just a father-daughter experience."

Her mother is Judy Braun and grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Allen Braun and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barnard, all of Norton.

Treasurer's office gets update

(Continued from Page 1) treasurer's office is closed for the day and on weekends, Mrs. Linner said.

The project will include three work stations, an area for the copier and an area for things like written driver's license tests. There will be four chairs for employees and five for visitors.

The office furniture that will not be taken on trade by End Zone will be available to other county offices, the commissioners decided.

"We don't want to sell anything we can use," Mr. Lang said.

Anything that isn't usable by the county will be put up for bids or placed in a consignment auction, which the county is planning, he added.

Mrs. Linner said that she is also interested in starting to check the county's balance at First State Bank using the Internet. This would allow her to check on direct deposits from the state without calling the bank every time.

Commissioner John Miller said

that he didn't feel good about using the Internet because it isn't secure. Commissioner Leroy Lang agreed.

Commissioner Dean Kruse suggested that Mrs. Linner hold off getting into the Internet banking because of the theft potential.

Mrs. Linner said that she understood and said that at home she has problems with viruses.

"I feel uneasy about it," Mr. Lang told her.

"If you're not comfortable, that's fine," Mrs. Linner said. "It's not as if I don't go into that bank every day and it's a local call."

In other business, the commission:

- Decided to give the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program \$800.

- Accepted a bid from Jerry's Body Shop, Norton, to repair paint damage to an ambulance which was damaged while backing into the garage.

- Heard from Commissioner Dean Kruse that a county resident

was surprised that the commissioners each take their own cars to meetings due to the open meetings requirements of Kansas law.

- Talked about a meeting to be put on by the Kansas Association of Counties at the request of the governor on purchasing prescription drugs for county government from mail order sources. The meeting is set for Thursday, April 28, at the American Legion in Norton and will include 16 north-west Kansas counties.

"The money they're going to spend getting these people together will be more than they spend in the 16 county area," Mr. Kruse said.

Mr. Miller said that he agreed but thought that the counties needed to listen to the presentation to say that they've done so. He also said that he plans to give the information on the meeting to local pharmacists.

The commissioners agreed to hold a pre-planning meeting on Monday, March 28, in the afternoon to prepare for this meeting.

- Decided to have Mr. Miller pick up Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 30, when he flies into the Norton County/City Airport for a public meeting at Town and Country Kitchen.

Some businesses to close for Good Friday

While Good Friday is not a national or state holiday, many groups and businesses observe the day and allow employees time off.

Students and staff at the Norton, Jennings and Northern Valley schools will not be in class on Friday and the Norton Schools Unified office will be closed both Friday and Monday.

County employees, including those at the courthouse, will close at noon on Friday. The Norton Public Library, however, will be

open regular hours. City offices will also be open regular hours.

Several banks including First Security Bank and Trust, First State Bank, Almena State Bank and United Northwest Federal Credit Union will close at noon

Friday. The Bank will operate regular hours while Commercial Federal will be closed all day.

Both of Norton's grocery stores will be open their usual business hours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Deer on roads caused two accidents in Norton County within a few days of each other.

On March 10, Kem Kindall, 41, Norton, was driving north on County Road E3 when a deer ran across the road from the west ditch and struck the driver's side door of his 1997 Chevy pickup.

Dustin J. Karlin, 20, Lenora, was driving west on K9 in a 1997 Saturn on March 14, when a deer ran out of the north ditch. Mr. Karlin was unable to avoid the animal and the collision caused more than \$1,000 in damage. He was wearing a seatbelt and no injuries were reported.

Deer cause accidents

Churches to hold Lenten services on Thursday, Friday

(Continued from Page 1) Good Friday supper and fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, followed by worship services at 7 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Norton United Methodist Church both will hold their Good Friday services at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph's, New Almelo, will have Good Friday services at 7 p.m.

The United Methodist Church of Logan will have Good Friday services at 7 p.m. with the choir.

Combined services for Clayton, Norcatur and Almena United Methodist Churches will be held in Clayton at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Services and Stations of the Cross will begin at 7 p.m. at Norton Trinity Episcopal Church.

A free showing of the movie, "The Passion of The Christ" will be presented at 7 p.m. at the First Church of God, 1010 Churchill Drive, Norton.

A Good Friday communion service is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Prairie View Reformed Church.

There were also some signs of Hessian flies in wheat that was planted before the fly-free day. The flies, said Mr. Olson, insert larva down into the tillers. When the larva develop, they kill the tiller.

For the most part, though, he said he is optimistic about the crop.

Rain should help both wheat and corn crops this year

(Continued from Page 1) which will slow the wheat down a little. The winds have really helped dry the crop ground out, he said.

Fields across the county range from 3 to 10 inches tall, he said, depending on whether the wheat was planted early or later.

None of the wheat he has looked

at is jointed yet, which is good, but it probably will be by the first part of April.

Hopefully, he said, farmers got their nitrogen on before it started to rain. That way, the water will help it get washed into the ground.

The rain isn't only going to help the wheat, but will help the corn, which will be planted at the end of

April. Some corn fields don't have nearly the moisture farmers like to see. Mr. Olson said on most no-till fields, though, there will still be decent moisture.

Even with the rain, he said, there are some things to be concerned about with the wheat. There is some wheat leaf rust in the county, and some wheat streak mosaic.

Superintendent explains school finances

Greg Mann, superintendent of the Norton school district, talked about school finances at Tuesday's Norton Lions Club meeting.

"Talking about school finance has lots of facets," he said. "It's like talking about the color blue."

Mr. Mann discussed some of the developing trends that affect a school district's budget.

The most obvious in this area is declining enrollment.

He handed out charts, which showed a decline in Norton schools from 714.8 students in 2000-'01 to 649.6 students this year; 706 if you count Lenora students.

However, he said, Lenora students are not counted in the full-

time equivalent numbers because Norton is being paid separately by Lenora.

Mr. Mann talked about the increasing demands on a school system for things that were not in the curriculum 20 or 30 years ago.

Since the basic reading, writing and arithmetic were taught in the early 1900s, many things have been added to school programs, he said.

School administrators have to



Greg Mann

deal with things like gang education, death education, stranger danger education, computers and keyboarding, peace education, ethnic education and more.

"And, this doesn't even include the No Child Left Behind program," he added.

Mr. Mann said that, according to state guidelines, Norton's school district is considered to be a poor district.

He added that 40 percent of Norton's school children would qualify for the reduced lunch program.

However, he said, he remains optimistic about the future of Norton's schools.

Norton County Weather ---- March 22 nd - 28 th						
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
45/28	53/30	55/30	50/30	40/28	45/30	55/35
Normal High 57				Sunrise 6:30 to 6:39am		
Normal Low 29				Sunset 6:54 to 7:00pm		

It's Holy week and God blessed the area with around 1" of much needed precipitation. Winter officially ends on a dry note with 60% below normal snowfall, but the wet start to spring is encouraging! Two systems later this week will provide increased chances for additional moisture. One will move through Wednesday night and Thursday and the other Thursday night and Friday. At night this would be a chance for a rain snow mix and during the day rain. In between temperatures will be seasonal while the grass and wheat continue to get greener and greener.

www.decisionweather.com

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