Church:

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

Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 23 75 cents EERAV

Week:

A salute to the farmers and ranchers of Norton County

Page 8

March 25, 2005

Norton, Kansas Home of Ted Sanko

Briefly Bunny to hop

at egg hunt The Easter Bunny and his helpers

will be on hand for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Norton County Courthouse. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be available throughout the event, beginning at 1:30

Children will be divided into 0-3 year olds, 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. Each age group will meet on a different corner of the lawn.

A scavenger hunt planned for fourth, fifth and sixth graders will begin at 1:30 p.m. To enter, a team must have no more than four members and meet on the east side of the courthouse steps.

Church to show passion movie

The Norton Church of God will hold a free showing of the Mel Gibson movie, "The Passion of the Christ" at 7 p.m. tonight, Good Friday. The church, at 1010 Churchill Drive, invites the public to this one special performance.

People invited to dress rehearsal

Marilyn Donahey, director of the "Alpha and Omega" cantata at Norton Christian Church, invites anyone who will not be able to see their performance at 10:40 a.m. Easter Sunday, to come to the dress rehearsal at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Saturday — Mostly cloudy with highs in the lower 40s. East winds around 5 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon. Saturday Night — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s. **Monday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper

Howell report:

-	
Tuesday	High 38, Low 34
Wednesday	High 47, Low 38
Thursday	High 45, Low 34
Week ago	High 47, Low 23
Month ago	High 67, Low 35
Year ago	High 85, Low 48
March precipitation	1.98 inches

Year-to-date precipitation 3.38 inches (Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)



God of grace, thank you for giving us eternal life through the sacrifice Jesus made. Help us to remember his sacrifice today and every day. Amen

Tiny paper recognized for work

Prairie Dog Press provides voice for Almena

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A "labor of love" is how Laura Craig, editor of the Prairie Dog Press, describes the newspaper that she and more than two dozen volunteers publish every other

Recently recognized for outstanding leadership in "Community Journalism" by the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development, the *Press* operates on subscription fees and donations.

The Press is a community newspaper that doesn't take itself too seriously as is evidenced by the paper's logo, a giant prairie dog operating a hand printing

"We consider ourselves a feel-good paper," Mrs. Craig said. "We support our school system, our rural way of life and the history of our area."

Columns have catchy titles like, "Hazy Thoughts" by Gale Hays; "Junior Hazy Thoughts" by his daughter Megan, who is a student at Fort Hays State University; and "Marble's Mentions" by long-time writer Esther Marble. There is the "Snowbird Report" by Sherrill Wendel, which keeps the local community in touch with friends, who go south for the winter.

Then there are the obituaries, the thank you notes and letters to the editor, all printed without charge. The occasional advertisement may creep in, but that's not what *The Prairie Dog Press* is about.

"We don't receive any government support," said Mrs. Craig. "All our money comes from subscriptions and donations. Almena businesses and organizations support the paper really well."

A subscription costs \$16 a year.

"I'm positive that many people pay more. Our biggest expenses are paper and postage, so any extra really helps," Mrs.



Volunteers Laura Craig (left), Jean Leuszler (stand-touches on last week's edition of the award-wining) and Mary Jane Van Patten put the finishing ning Prairie Dog Press.—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Craig said.

Most subscriptions are from Almena alumni, but some are from people who have never even been to Almena. The City of Almena helps, too, by not charging for water and trash pickup at the office. Even the office space is donated.

Plaindealer, was owned by the Moody family. When Mr. Moody died, it soon became too much for his widow and the newspaper closed in 1987.

Shortly after that, a study of communities which had lost their local newspapers was conducted by the Huck Boyd Center. Years ago, Almena's newspaper, The The study found Almena had a strong in-

terest in having a community newspaper again. A group of volunteers, through the PRIDE committee, said they would like to produce a newspaper themselves.

The Kansas State University School of Journalism decided to help.

"We have strong ties with K-State,"

(Continued on Page 5)

A cross and crown is depicted in stained glass on the south side of Norton's Trinity Episcopal Church. It is among those created by Marshall Henderson, Almena. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Area churches celebrate resurrection of Christ

Traditionally, Easter means sunrise services. Several area churches are planning members will gather at the cross at the to meet before the sun comes up to welcome the dawn and celebrate the fact that Christ is risen.

Easter Vigil begins for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at 8:30 p.m., Saturday. At St. Joseph's Catholic Church, New Almelo, the vigil will be held at 6 a.m., Sunday morning.

The Almena Congregational Church will meet at 6:15 a.m. Easter morning at the diversion dam, then go back to the of Lenora. Breakfast will be served folchurch for breakfast.

The Lyle United Methodist Church has a long-standing history that will continue this year with sunrise services at 6:30 a.m. facing east from the little country church. A breakfast will be served in the community building afterward.

Norton United Methodist Church church for 6:30 a.m. services. Later the

Methodist men will serve breakfast. Sunrise services begin at 6:30 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, with

breakfast served afterward. Joint community services are planned in Lenora the United Parish of Lenora and the Church of God. Evangelist Jim Plotts from Norcatur will be the guest speaker at the 7 a.m. services in the United Parish lowing the services.

The Norton Church of God will have a sunrise service at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast. The cantata, "A Simple Easter", will be presented at 10:45 a.m.

Logan United Methodist Church will (Continued on Page 5)

Businesses close for Easter

day, several area businesses have chosen Call 877-2075 for show times. to not be open on Easter Sunday.

ally open on Sunday, will remain open.

urday and Dollar General will be closed will be closed. Sunday.

Norton Theatre will be open Sunday be open regular hours on Sunday.

Although it isn't a federal or state holi-showing "The Ring 2" and "Guess Who".

Both of Norton's grocery stores will be Norton's Dairy Queen and Quizno's open their usual Sunday hours, 9 a.m. to Sub will be closed. Other restaurants, usu- 6 p.m. Almena Market is usually closed on Sundays, but Country Corner Grocery Pamida Pharmacy will be closed Sat- Store in Lenora, which is usually open,

O'Brien's Bar and Grill in Norton will

County ready to start digging first pit at new landfill

By CYNTHIA HAYNES and CAROLYN PLOTTS

still hoping that the county won't have to fill designed and built. put six inches of dirt on the new landfill

and to act as a fire barrier.

gineer from BG Consulting, the firm that The Norton County commissioners are is working with them to get the new land-

Mr. Cox said that the soil from the landeach week to prevent trash from blowing fill site came back with the information the extra expense of the bentonite will not sion Dean Kruse said. that the county will not have to put ben- be needed on the bottom, he said. During their meeting Monday morning, tonite in the bottom of the pits with proper

commissioners talked to Pat Cox, an encompaction.

the soil more dense and not allow water to percolate through. However, the soil in the area can be packed hard enough that

However, he said he feels the county

should still mix the bentonite into the soil The addition of bentonite would make on the sides of the pits because they are too steep to compact strongly enough to prevent water leaking through.

"We need to do what is safe," Commis-

"What's the earliest we can start on

(Continued on Page 5)

Society

inducts

members

Ten new members were in-

ducted into the Norton chapter of

the National Honor Society

County ready to dig pit (Continued from Page 1)

that?" Commissioner Leroy Lang wanted to know.

"We can start right now," Mr. Cox replied, saying that Whitney Construction can begin work as soon as they can get into the area.

"Ithink we're in good shape," he said. "I heard you were getting a nice rain out there and may have as much as an inch.'

Mr. Cox also suggested that the commissioners ask the state for a year's trial of not covering the trash pit with six inches of dirt ev-

The county would cover the pit with a fire-resistant recycled paper product each night so that trash doesn't blow. However, the state is pushing for the six inches of dirt every week and the commissioners feel that would just cause the pits to fill up faster.

Mr. Cox said that the state might go for a year's trial not using the soil cover. This has been done in other areas, he said, but he didn't know how well it worked.

In the afternoon the commissioners talked to Norton business owner Jolene Weiser about where they can put public money.

Mrs. Weiser asked that Commercial Federal Bank be allowed to bid as a depository for idle county money. She said that the bank meets all the criteria needed to handle the investments. "Commercial Federal already

has \$7 1/4 million invested in northwest Kansas school, county and housing funds," she told the commissioners.

The board said they would check with their lawyer on her re-Commissioner Leroy Lang said

that if Commercial Federal could

give a better interest rate, the county needs to look at it. "I'm not doing my job (as a com-

missioner) if I don't try to get the best rate," he said. "As long as it (Commercial Fed-

eral) meets the criteria—the more John Miller said.



Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports archer Danielle Cliff took aim Saturday during a regional competition — Photo by John Baker

Norton archers shoot straight at regionals

4-H Shooting Sports archery club dominated another regional competition Saturday in Larned.

Norton County went to the competition, where there were 53 entries in three classes—22 in Class C class. A, 23 in B and eight in C.

number of points scored on the first 14 of 18 animal targets. It took 56-70 points to be in A class, 36-55 to be in B class, and 0-35 to be in C class. Out of the 140 possible, both

Shine Fischer and Jake Kramer shooting a half FITA round. were on target in the A class with FITA is international archery tara 138 each. The tie for first place was broken using the higher score in the first round.

Fischer took first with 70 while with 69 in the first round.

Also in A class, Chase Braun was third with 137; Kyle Edgett, fourth, 136; and Carson Braun, enth, 130; Casey Robison, eighth, Olympic and Bare bow classes. 128; Danielle Cliff, tenth, 121;

Members of the Norton County and Dana Hillebrand, 14th, 114

In B class, Jessica Arehart took first place with 120, Scott Twelve toxopholites from Arehart, sixth, 113; and Marc Miller, eighth, 109.

Norton had no competitors in

Thirteen members of the Classes were determined by the Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports will be competing individually at the state competition on Saturday, April 16, in Emporia. The 4-H'ers will be shooting 20 3-D animal targets at unmarked yardage and will also be

The junior FITA group, 10-13 years old, will shoot six arrows at each bullseye target from 10, Kramer came in a close second 20, 30 and 40 meters. The senior group, ages 14 and up, will shoot from 20, 40, 50 and 60 meters.

Norton County will also have teams of four shooters and one fifth, 133. Jesse Gallentine, sev- alternate competing in the Open,

Wednesday afternoon in the memorial gym. The new members are Chelsea Cox, daughter of Peggy and Clark Cox; Jessica Duscher, daughter of Joel and Lori Duscher; Rebecca Ebert, daughter of Sue and Ed Ebert; Connie Gassmann, daughter of John and Vickie Gassmann;

Dane Krizek, son of Craig and Lisa Krizek; Rachael Lentz, daughter of Mike and Katie Lentz; Klaire Mann, daughter of Greg and Brenda Mann; Naomi Streck, daughter of Steve and Joan Streck; Heath Vincent, son of Mike and Wanda Vincent; and Kylee Witt,

daughter of Deb Witt and Ed Witt. The senior members are Nick Evans, Michael Sprigg, Ryan Maddy, Josh Jackson, Jason Green, Amber Engelbert, Justin Shirk, Stacy Reeves, Keesha Holste and Claudia Lacy.

Membership in the Norton chapter of the honor society is based on scholarship, leadership, character and school and community service activities.

Students meeting the scholarship criteria of a cumulative 3.5 grade point average are invited to fill out an application.

Students must exhibit leadership by holding office or being in a leadership position. Applicants must also acquire three leadership recommendations from teachers, coaches and sponsors.

Students must have at least ten character references filled out by teachers, coaches and sponsors.

Students must be involved in a minimum of 12 school activities in three different areas. Applicants must also have at least eight community service activities.

At the conclusion of the induction ceremony, Norton Community High School teacher and coach Bruce Graber spoke to the students and teachers on how it not only took good grades to be a member, but also honor.

"In 10 years, no one will remember your grades," he said. "But, your honor will always be with

A short reception for the new members and their parents followed congratulations from the

Honor Society advisor.

Prairie Dog Press put out by volunteers

(Continued from Page 1) Mrs. Craig said. "Their journalism school sent us an old Macintosh computer and a printer. They even sent students who taught us to use the programs. Most of us had never used a com-

On Memorial Day weekend 1994, the first edition of The Prairie Dog Press rolled out of the copy machine.

For the first few years, the paper operated out of donated space in the local irrigation district office. About seven years ago, the Moody family donated The Plaindealer building.

"It all looks different now," said Mrs. Craig. "The floor is the only thing that is still the same. An inmate work crew from Norton Corbids the merrier," Commissioner rectional Facility did all the remodeling.'

Wednesday — Breakfast: Ship-

pepper strips, pork and beans,

banana, oatmeal muffin square,

baby carrots, fruit basket upset,

Friday — Breakfast: Strawber-

ries, bagel/cream cheese, milk;

Lunch: BBQ beef, homemade

bun, French fries, dill spear, ba-

High School Menus:

Tuesday — Breakfast: Cinna-

mon roll, fruit or juice or cereal,

toast, milk; Lunch: Birthday meal

salad, strawberry shortcake, chef

Wednesday — Breakfast: Yo-

or juice or cereal, toast, milk;

Lunch: Ground beef gravy, pota-

toes, carrots, fruit crisp, or chef

late chip muffin, fruit or juice or

cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Ham-

burger with fixings, cheese and

Friday — Breakfast: Coffee

salad, fruit cocktail or chef salad,

NORTHERN VALLEY

Thursday — Breakfast: Choco- in-service

milk; Lunch: Tater tot casserole, pears, cake

-Chicken strips, potatoes/coun-

Monday — No school

nana pudding, milk

salad, milk

salad, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Apple, contest begins

Chicken supreme, green beans, sington, 9 a.m.

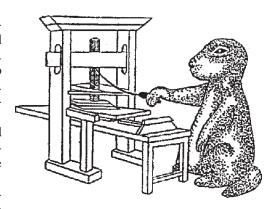
toast/peanut butter, milk; Lunch: ference Forensics meet at Ken-

try gravy, broccoli and cauliflower juice, cereal; Lunch: Corn dogs,

gurt and bagel/cream cheese, fruit cheese biscuit, applesauce, cereal;

pickles, French fries or chef salad, tots, baked beans, salad bar,

cake, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, gratin potatoes, corn, salad bar,



Mrs. Craig said the entire volunteer workforce considers the paper a blessing to them. She notes that she is almost 63, and is one of the youngest people in the newspaper's office. Some of the writers are younger, but several are in their 80s. She said she doesn't restrict the writers or letters, but, like most papers, she does reserve the

starts; Junior. high queen and king

Thursday — Forensics Meet at

Smith Center, 4 p.m.; Kansas As-

sessment Test; High School Mu-

sic Contest Recital, 2 p.m., Con-

Breakfast/Lunch Menus

Tuesday — Breakfast: Crumb

Wednesday — Breakfast:

top muffin, scrambled eggs, apple

wedges, cereal; Lunch: Potato bar,

French toast, sausage link, orange

tri-tater, green beans, pineapple

Lunch: Chicken-'n'-noodles, po-

JENNINGS:

Lunch Menus:

Tuesday — Hamburgers, tater

Wednesday — Sliced ham, au

Thursday — Roast beef subs,

Doritos, baked beans, salad bar,

Monday — No school.

Monday — No school, teacher

tatoes, spinach, chocolate cake

Thursday — Breakfast: Egg/

gregational Church, Almena

Monday — No school

bread stick, lemon pie

upside down cake

right to not print anything libelous.

The Kansas State University connection is still strong.

Rebekah Robinson, a communication major at the school, is writing her master's thesis on, "The Struggle For Survival of Community Journalism".

Mrs. Robinson said, "The purpose is to show how important these papers are to communities."

She has made multiple trips to Almena and has brought one of her professors and the head of the journalism department to visit the town of 418 people.

Mrs. Robinson even attended the award ceremony in Manhattan tel.net.

on March 2 and recorded the event for her thesis. Besides Mrs. Craig, there are

proof readers Marge Cate, Clara Oman and Mary Jane Van Patten and printers Reva Smith and Jean Leuszler. Betty Bivens, Caroline Bivens,

Margaret Breathouwer, Dixie Covington, Gene Field, Alberta Geil, Marilyn Hadley, Jeanette Harris, Merle Hawks, Gale Hays, Megan Hays, Alice Kuiper, John Mann, Marylin Mann, Esther Marble, John Nelson, Howard Van De Wege, Sherrill Wendel and Abner Williams lick stamps, put on labels, do mailings and everything else needed.

"We can always use more volunteers," said Mrs. Craig.

Call the paper (785) 669-2009 or e-mail them at: pdpress@rural-

SCHOOL CALENDAR

pears, milk

Senior High:

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 wreck, orange juice milk; Lunch: a.m.; Government field grip to Topeka; FFA Livestock at Smith Center, 9 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; 11grade reading assessments; 10grade science assessments

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; SAC president election, a.p.; 11-grade reading assessments; 10-grade science assess-

Thursday — Students Against Drunk Driving, a.p.; Forensics at Smith Center, 4 p.m.; 11-grade reading assessments; 10-grade science assessments

Friday — 11-grade reading assessments; 10-grade science assessments

Saturday — Regional Music with solos and small ensembles at Oberlin; FFA Livestock at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.

Sunday — FCCLA State Leadership at Wichita

Monday—FCCLA State Leadership at Wichita; 10-grade math assessments; Jay Singers, a.p.; FFA Livestock, Here, 9 a.m.; Junior varsity track at Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.; Kay Board, 7:30 p.m.

JUNIOR HIGH: Monday — Student Council,

EISENHOWER:

Tuesday — School resumes, Section A kindergarten reports; Fourth-grade science assessments Wednesday — Fourth-grade science assessments

Thursday — Fourth-grade sci- milk ence assessments

Friday — Early Childhood Screening, 9 a.m.; Fourth-grade science assessments

ALL SCHOOLS: Monday — No School

Sunday — Daylight Savings Time begins, turn clocks forward

Eisenhower Menus: Monday — No school Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage

pancake stick, strawberry fruit

cup, milk; Lunch: Taco crunch,

Kansas Secretary of State RON THORNBURGH NORTON, KANSAS

Town and Country Kitchen MARCH 30 - 8:00 A.M.

\$5.50 BREAKFAST BUFFET Meet and Talk with Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

Churches plan services

Monday — No School, Easter have morning worship at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday — FFA Livestock choir. Ham/cheese, homemade bun, judging contest at Smith Center, 9

Coffee and rolls will be served a.m.; Junior high track practice Wednesday — Cheyenne Con-

at Norton Christian Church from will be the presentation at 7 p.m. 9-9:30 a.m. The Sunday School of an Easter Cantata at the Prairie

hour will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. View Reformed Church. At 10:40, an Easter Cantata will be

(Continued from Page 1) presented by the church choir. Easter Sunday Mass will be held with a cantata presented by the at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Norton. Wrapping up the day of worship

student body. Mirla Coleman is the National

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