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Tuesday  
April 5, 2005

# Vote Today!

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Lone Jordan

## Briefly

### Head Start plans open house

Norton County Center and Home Based Head Start will have an open house celebrating the 40th anniversary of the program. Refreshments will be served from 5-6:30 p.m., Thursday at the Head Start room at the First United Methodist Church, Norton.

### Club to hold annual pie sale

The Mid Century Federated Club is holding its annual pie sale at 9:30 a.m., Thursday at the Norton Senior Center. Pie will be served until it is all gone. The club will serve coffee and pie.

### Rabies shots offered at clinic

Due to the appearance of rabies, a clinic will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday at the Norton Animal Health Center. Rabies shots will be available with half of the profits going to the Norton Animal Shelter. The clinic will also have parvo/distemper shots for dogs, and distemper shots for cats. City tags will also be sold.

### Booster Club to meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Norton Track Coach Bruce Graber and Golf Coach David Stover will give fans information on the 2005 seasons, which are beginning this week.

## Weather

### Forecast:

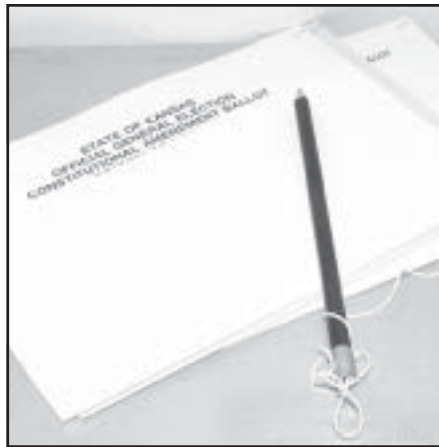
Tonight — Mostly cloudy and very windy and cold with rain and thunder tapering off, wind gusts 20 to 45 mph; Wednesday — Clouds and showers break for some sun, very windy and cool with highs in the 60s. Thursday — Partly cloudy, breezy and mild with a high of 69, low 33; Friday — Mostly sunny, breezy and warm with a high of 74, low 36.

### Howell report:

Friday ..... High 64, Low 35  
Saturday ..... High 78, Low 44  
Sunday ..... High 73, Low 40  
Monday ..... High 82, Low 54  
Month ago ..... High 69, Low 39  
Year ago ..... High 77, Low 44  
April precipitation ..... 0.00 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 3.59 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the riches of our life. As you have opened your heart to us, help us open our heart to those in need. Amen



Today was the day to go out and vote on city and school board officials and if you haven't done so yet, there is still time as polling places will be open until 7 p.m. Kenneth Neiltopp (left) signed to vote while poll workers Georgia Rorabaugh, Verla Chambers, Anise Gill and Marlene Skipton checked his name off the list and gave him his ballots. Most city residents had three ballots, one on the marriage amendment, one on the city council, and one on the school board. Election results will be in Friday's edition of *The Norton Telegram*.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Norton BB gun team heads for state shoot

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Rotary BB Gun Team will compete in the Kansas Jaycees State BB Gun Championships on Saturday in Manhattan.

The team has always been sponsored by the Norton County Jaycees but the chapter no longer exists so the Norton Rotary Club has taken over the sponsorship.

BB gun teams consist of young people from 8 to 14 years of age.

Norton BB gun teams have won 35 of

39 state championships during the program's existence. Norton did not compete in 1982.

Norton shooters have won the Daisy/Jaycees International BB Gun Championships eight times, more than any other team in the world.

Three Norton teams will enter the championships in Manhattan and a top three finish would again guarantee a spot at international, which will be held again this year in Bowling Green, Ky., on July

1-3.

This year's Yellow Team members are: Brad Nuzum, 15; Brittany Otter, 14; Kylie Nuzum, 11; Nish Millan, 15; and Cole Archer, 12.

Although all five Yellow Team shooters are experienced, only three have international experience. Brad Nuzum was a member of Norton's 2003 international team and Otter and Kylie Nuzum were alternates on the 2004 squad.

Shooters are not allowed to compete in

the international shoot two years in a row.

Alternates on the Yellow Team are Kegan Vanover, 12, and Lane Vanover, 10.

Coaches of the Yellow Team are Dan Lauer and Kirk Nuzum.

Members of the Blue Team are Coady McMullen, 14; Caleb Vanover, 13; Dustyna Sprigg, 12; Meaghan Peterson, 11; and Lane Archer, 10.

Blue alternates are Kaitlyn Campbell, (Continued on Page 5)

## County ambulance, deer collide

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton Ambulance Service will have to repair another vehicle because of a run-in with a deer.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen told the Norton County Commissioners Monday that, while they were transferring a patient to Kearney, Neb., Friday, a deer hit the ambulance.

He said he got two estimates, one from Gall Auto Body of Norton for \$2,971 and the other from New Look Paint and Body Shop for \$3,518.

He said because the Gall Auto Body bid was lower, he told them to order the parts. If the parts were ordered by Monday, he said, they should get in by Wednesday and

the ambulance will, hopefully, be fixed and back in service by Friday.

Mr. Nielsen said that another ambulance needed a new alternator. The alternator has never been replaced in this ambulance.

Commissioner Leroy Lang asked why the ambulance service had ordered pens and keychains.

Mr. Nielsen said they were ordered for Emergency Medical Service week, which is coming up. They give the pens and keychains out then and when they go to health fairs and other public presentations.

Technician Ruth Schillig said the pens and keychains ordered last year were al-

most gone.

Mr. Nielsen said the surveys the county is sending out to possibly get a grant to expand the barn or build or buy a new one have all been put into envelopes with self-addressed, stamped envelopes enclosed so that people can send them back after filling them out. He said they will be mailed out next Tuesday. The City of Norton is paying half of the postage cost, because the survey deals with a grant it is trying to get for its new water and sewer plants.

In other business, the commission: Went into a 10-minute closed session with Mr. Nielsen and Ms. Schillig to discuss (Continued on Page 5)

## Commissioners hear insurance presentation

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County commissioners listened to another insurance proposal Monday afternoon, before deciding to contract with CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services, an insurance broker.

David Hickman of Heart of America Benefit Services Corp. of Overland Park and Joe Walter of Creative Insurance Strategies of Beloit were at the meeting to discuss their plan. Both men are with a

group called Employers Committed to Controlling Health Insurance Costs. The insurance company's home office is in St. Louis, said Mr. Hickman.

Mr. Hickman said the Northern Valley School District uses their program and hasn't had a rate increase in the past three years. He said, not only was the school district able to get rid of rate increases, but was able to add some benefits that had previously been taken away.

"We have two goals," he said, "stabilize the benefits for the employees and stabilize the premium for the county and the employees. That's what we want to do — stabilize the budget and the benefits."

Commissioner John Miller asked if the plan is partially self-funded.

Mr. Hickman said that it was. Mr. Walter said they came up with a few figures, based on information from (Continued on Page 5)

## Free day camps set for young Girl Scouts

The "Linking Girls to the Land" project has received a \$3,000 grant to provide free day camps for girls in first through third grades.

The project is a partnership between the Girl Scouts and federal natural resource conservation agencies.

Camps will be held Tuesday, May 31, at Lakeview Christian Camp near Webster Lake; Thursday, June 2, at Sappa Park near Oberlin; Friday, June 3, at the Bertland Park Outdoor Wildlife Learning

Site in Oakley; Tuesday, June 7, at the Riverside Golf Course in St. Francis; and Thursday, June 9, at Frontier Park in Hays. Camps will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

Workshop topics and presenters include "The Weather around Us" by the National Weather Service, "Under your Feet" by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, "Turtles, Snakes and More" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Trees, Trees, Trees" by the Kansas For-

est Service, "Spaghetti Gardens" by Kansas State Research and Extension and "History of the Land" by the National Park Service.

The Northwest Kansas Environmental Alliance, Kansas Natural Resource Foundation and Sternberg Museum of Natural History will lead additional activities.

Campers will need to have a sack lunch. For information or to register, contact Monica Legleiter at (785) 625-5671. Registrations are due Friday, April 15.



Sgt. Richard Wahlmeier

## Guardsman now serving U.S. in Iraq

Sergeant First Class Richard Wahlmeier graduated from Norton Community High School.

He graduated from Fort Hays State University and has served in the U.S. National Guard as a radar specialist for 21 years. He was in the Hays National Guard unit, then transferred to the Great Bend Unit.

Sgt. Wahlmeier served in Kosovo for a year and Bosnia for a year. He is now in Iraq, stationed at Anaconda Air Force Base.

He is the son of Roger and Mary Jane Wahlmeier, Norton.

He and his wife Angie and their daughter Kayla live in Hays where he works for EneSys.

Mail will reach him at SFC Richard L. Wahlmeier, Btry E, 161st FA (TA), LSA Anaconda, APO AE 0931.

# Shooters head for Manhattan

(Continued from Page 1)  
10, and Haley Crockett, 10.

Coaches are Cameron Archer and Steve Otter.

Shooting for the Red Team will be Landon Schneider, 13; Jacob Nuzum, 12; Chance McMullen, 12; Cole Peterson, 12; and Trey Millan, 11.

Alternates are Isaac Schaefer, 9, and Wyatt Harting, 8.

Coaches are Fig Millan and Brian McMullen.

Coach Lauer will be assisted in the challenge room by his wife, Teresa, who is also the classroom instructor. Assisting her in the grading room and the classroom have been Misty Nuzum, Michelle Sprigg, Mindy Harting, Wanda Nuzum, Missy McMullen, Keri Vanover and Lloyd Schneider.

This year's state shoot will be hosted by the Manhattan Jaycees and held at the Flint Hills Christian School at 3905 Green Valley Road.

Opening ceremonies will be at 9 a.m.

Competition will begin with the written test from 9:15-10 a.m. A coaches' meeting will also be held during this time.

Shooting from the prone position will be held from 10:10-11:40 a.m. Competition from the sitting position will be 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Kneeling position firing will be from 1:20-2:50 p.m. Shooting while standing will be from 2:55-4:25 p.m.

Presentation of team and individual awards will be around 5 p.m.

There is no admission charge for the shoot.

Norton's preparation for the state shoot began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association.

After passing the course, they began practicing marksmanship in each of the four positions and studying for the written test. Practices are held every Wednesday evening.

In the past, teams have used the National Guard Armory for practices but it is being remodeled so the team has been practicing in the Rural Telephone building on the east side of the courthouse square in downtown Norton.

"We have been shooting pretty well," said Coach Lauer.

"It's been just like normal. When the time comes for the state shoot, they pick it up a notch and begin shooting like we expect them to shoot.

"We still concentrate very hard on the written test. Having a good testing team is always one of our goals."

The written test accounts for 20 percent of a shooter's score.

Coach Lauer thanked Larry Sevier of Rural Telephone for allowing the team to practice in its Nex-Tech building.

Norton fans can reach the Flint Hills school by driving east of Manhattan on U.S. 24 toward Wamego and turning north on Green Valley Road at the second stoplight intersection. The school is three blocks north on Green Valley Road on the east side of the road.

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**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**



Two teams, the orange team and the light blue team, from the American Youth Soccer Organization in the under-6 age group battled for the ball, while having a blast Saturday morning during the first game of the

season. There are 23 teams and 175 soccer players from Norton and Lenora who gather every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the fields south and west of Eisenhower Elementary.

— Photo by Charlotte Stephenson

## Deer causes damage to ambulance

(Continued from Page 1)  
cuss non-elected personnel.

Met with John Arford, who asked for millings to be placed on the road near his house when construction is finished. He also asked who he needed to talk to buy millings for his driveway. The commissioners said he should contact Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan and that he would have to haul them or pay someone to do so.

Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that he received a cost proposal from GeoCore to test wells NW5 and NW15 for \$2,074. He said 15 is a new well and 5 is an old one. Retesting is being done because 15 had undesirable chemicals in the water and 5 is the closest well to the new wells that were just dug.

He said the problem with 15 might be glue used when the well

was built. This has happened elsewhere, he said. If the problem is the glue, then it should pass all tests this time. Mr. Archibald said the state would be testing at the same time as GeoCore.

Added bridges OS52, OS54 and OS187 to the five year plan. The three bridges will be put into the plan's rotation to be replaced.

Heard from Mr. Brannan that OS75, an old bridge near Lenora, could possibly be moved to the

golf course if it is designated as a historical landmark. Mr. Brannan said he sent a letter to the Norton County Historical Society to see if they could get approval from the state. He said, if it can be moved, the bridge will have to be either moved in one piece or dismantled. Once it is moved, a new bridge will be built.

Appointed Tom Melroy to the Senior Citizens Board to replace Don Hartman, who died.

## Yellowing wheat could be virus caused

For the most part, wheat fields across the area look good.

There are good stands that appear to have a high yield potential. However some fields, especially those planted early (before the rains started), may show some severe yellowing.

There could be lots of factors causing the wheat to look yellow. Leaf rust, nitrogen deficiency, Hessian fly or wheat streak mosaic are all likely candidates. However, one additional cause could be wheat soilborne mosaic virus.

Wheat soilborne mosaic virus (or a closely related sister virus, wheat spindle streak mosaic virus) is not typically a problem here. These viruses occur in the fall when young wheat is growing with high soil moisture. A fungus invades the roots and infects them. Once the ground dries, the infection is stopped and does not spread. The fungus can lie dormant in the soil for many years until conditions are right for another infection.

Yield losses can be substantial for either virus. According to Robert Bowden, former K-State pathologist, losses are limited to the areas showing symptoms. Therefore, the first task is to estimate the percentage of field affected.

Losses caused by either virus vary, depending on variety and weather. Losses are roughly proportional to the length of

**About ag**  
**Brian Olson,**  
**K-State**  
**agronomist**



time during which plants show symptoms. A long, cool spring prolongs this period, and losses from wheat soilborne mosaic virus may be 30-50 percent. In a warm spring, losses may be only 10-20 percent.

There is no economical pesticide for these viruses. Control practices such as planting resistant varieties are the best option.

Farmers can check variety resistance by glancing through the K-State publication, "Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings." However, a sample sent to the K-State pathology lab indicated that a highly resistant variety was infected, meaning that field had a high level of disease pressure last fall which overcame the plants' resistance.

For more information on these viruses, go to [www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/) or visit your local county extension office.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail [bolson@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:bolson@oznet.ksu.edu) if you have any questions.

## Insurance company makes bid for business

(Continued from Page 1)  
County Clerk Robert Wyatt. He said the county would pay the first \$30,000 for each person and then, if anyone went over that the re-insurance carrier, Ace Insurance of America would take over.

He said, in a worst case scenario, the county would only end up paying \$585,628, because it would hit its maximum amount to be paid. Right now, the county has \$642,000 in its budget.

Mr. Miller said the county had partially self-funded insurance before and the biggest problem was that the network didn't cover the places most used by the employees.

Mr. Hickman said Northern Valley had the same problem at first, but then Benefit Services contracted with Midland's Choice in addition to Physicians Health Providers, so that people could go to Nebraska. He said also, if there is a doctor who isn't involved with any networks, the company will call that doctor and ask for a discount if the bill is paid within a certain number of days. Usually,

he said, they'll go with it. "I'll tell you, we're not perfect, but if there is a problem, you can call us and we'll do our best for you," he said. "We'll always get back to you."

Commissioner Dean Kruse said they needed to talk about it and asked that either Mr. Hickman or Mr. Walter call next Monday.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said the main thing was to have a good plan, because the county's employees have sacrificed for a good plan.

After further discussion about insurance, the commissioners decided to sign the contract with CBIZ.

Mr. Miller said it was a gamble anyway they went, but this way Bridges Group or Benefit Services Corp. could both bid through the insurance broker, if the county didn't go with BlueCross Blue Shield again.

"One thing I like about CBIZ is that in the two presentations they've given us," he said, "they've been consistent in what they've told us."

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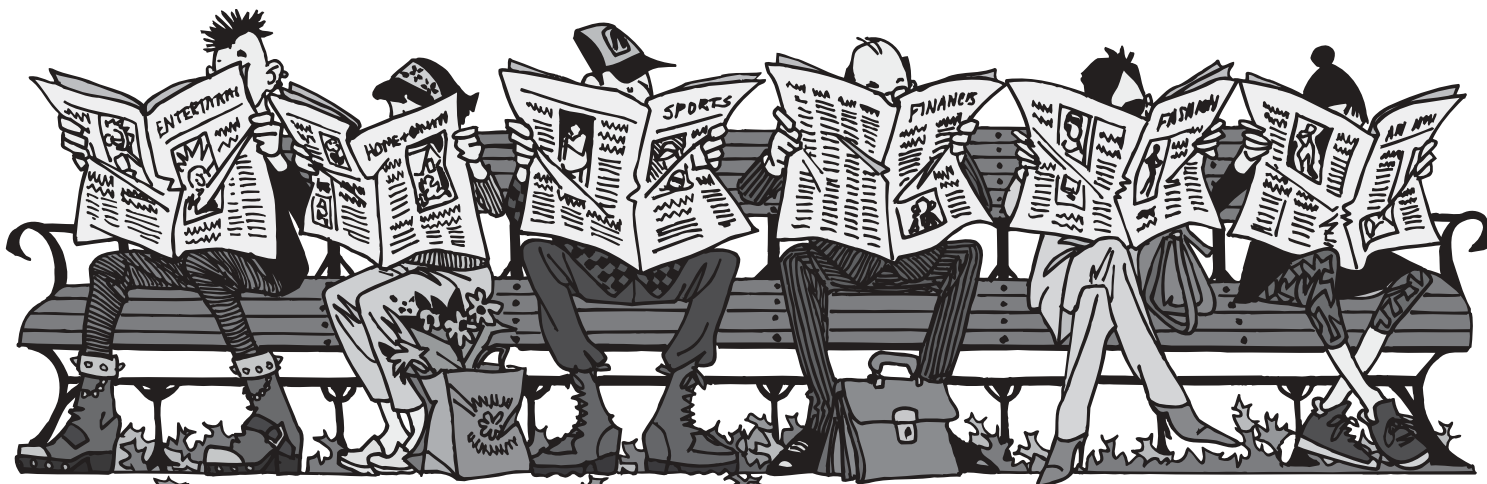
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### Norton County Weather ----- April 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
53/35	58/28	65/35	70/40	65/43	58/38	65/40

Normal High 60  
Normal Low 32  
Sunrise 7:08 to 7:17am  
Sunset 8:08 to 8:14pm

An active weather pattern will have the frogs chirping this week! A strong cut-off low will move through today and tomorrow producing hurricane like north winds and 1" to 3" of rain. Thursday and Friday the skies clear ahead of a weekend storm system. Saturday we could see thunderstorms and Sunday more rain showers. It looks like we may get all the rain we need for April right of the bat. Temperatures will remain seasonal for this time of the year.

[www.decisionweather.com](http://www.decisionweather.com)

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