

# Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 31  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Blue Jay wrestlers honored, Northern Valley boys and girls track, Norton track at Plainville and junior varsity golf

Pages 8 & 10

Friday,  
April 22, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ted Hadley

## Briefly

### Expert quilter here tonight

Expert quilter Peg Pennell of Omaha will present "Color In Quilts" at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the 4-H Building. She was brought to Norton by the Heritage Quilt Club. The public is invited to her lecture and trunk show. Admission is \$2.

### Shooting sports to hold fundraiser

The Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports is having a 3D animal shoot to raise money on Sunday, May 8.

The shoot will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a trickle start at the Norton Prairie Dog State Park archery range, north of the west shower house in the northwest corner of the park.

All donations will be used to buy equipment and help send the state qualifiers to the national competition in Columbia, Mo.

For more information, call John Baker at 877-3253.

### 'No Show Tea' will help children

Every year Norton's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers host a "No-Show Tea" to raise money for the non-profit group, to help children in the legal system. A "No-Show Tea" enables everyone to support the work of the organization without actually going to an event. Donations can be sent to CASA, Box 160, Osborne, Kan. 67473.

Norton County residents Joan Mann and Elaine Mann, are board representatives for the organization. To learn more about the program, call them at 877-5618 or 877-2019.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Clear with lows in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 35 mph early in the evening. **Saturday** — Sunny with highs in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday Night** — Clear with lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 80, Low 56  
Wednesday ..... High 76, Low 52  
Thursday ..... High 64, Low 42, prec. .04  
Week ago ..... High 74, Low 45  
Month ago ..... High 38, Low 34  
Year ago ..... High 55, Low 42  
April precipitation ..... 1.46 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 5.05 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Father, thank you for your love and faithfulness to us. We believe your promises will be fulfilled in our lives.  
Amen

# Council left without official attorney

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council did not name Karen Griffiths city attorney during its annual appointments during its meeting on Wednesday.

When the time came to re-appoint Mrs. Griffiths, who has served as city attorney, the motion failed 3-2 with Councilmen Jerry Jones, Ron Briery and Kelly Gaer voting no and Council members Jim Williams and Donna Foley voting yes.

Mr. Jones said he had no problem with the work Mrs. Griffiths was doing for the city, but felt it was a conflict of interest

with her also being the county attorney.

Mr. Briery said he felt the same. He said several people in his ward had talked to him about the issue and he felt he had to vote the way he did.

Mrs. Griffiths said Doug Sebelius is the county council and so advises the county commissioners. She said they split the duties.

She said a recent poll was done about city and county attorneys and it says that probably 20 attorneys represent both the city and the county. She said she could give the council a copy of the poll.

Mrs. Griffiths said she will remain as the hold-over city attorney until the mayor appoints an attorney to take her place. She said she will continue to work on ongoing issues for the city and charge an hourly rate for her work. There are a lot of things she's working on right now, she said.

"If you change your vote later, I'd still like to be the city attorney," she said.

The city's official newspaper, *The Norton Telegram*, was authorized on a 3-2 vote with Mr. Williams, Mr. Gaer and Mrs. Foley voting yes and Mr. Jones and Mr. Briery voting no.

The council members gave no reasons for their votes.

Other appointments made were:

Committees: Finance — Mr. Gaer, Mr. Briery and Mrs. Foley; Utility — Mr. Briery, Mr. Gaer and Mr. Williams; Personnel — Mr. Jones, Mr. Williams and Councilwoman Elaine Mann; Public Safety — Mrs. Foley, Mrs. Mann and Mr. Briery; Parks/Cemetery — Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Foley and Mr. Jones; Public Works — Mr. Williams, Mr. Jones and Mr. Gaer.

Boards/representatives: airport board (Continued on Page 5)



Kansas State Treasurer, Lynn Jenkins, stopped by the Northwest Kansas Library System's regional office Thursday during a swing through western Kansas. Mrs. Jenkins (above) helped unpack 50 copies of "Yes You Can.... Achieve Financial Independence" by James E. Stowers, that her office donated to the system. Finding the book, "Sod and Stubble", in the Genealogy Room (right) was a thrill for Mrs. Jenkins. The author was one of her relatives.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Treasurer comes to Norton

By VERONICA MONIER

State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins was in Norton Thursday morning to talk to the senior class about credit card debt as part of a tour she's doing across the state.

She said the state and Citibank have put together a program to warn kids about debt and the advantages of using credit cards wisely.

Mrs. Jenkins said she is doing credit card education across the state. She's already been to southwest Kansas and is now spending a couple of days in the

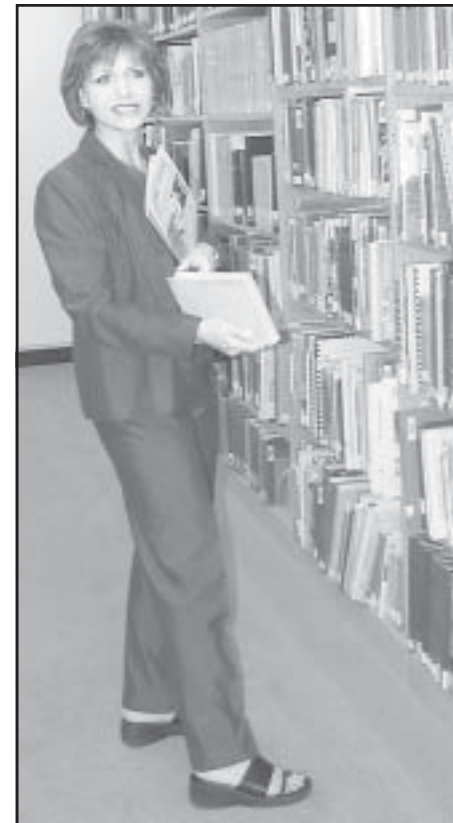
northwest, stopping in Hill City and Goodland as well as Norton.

"I'm really amazed by the interest the kids show in the program," she said. "I think they really appreciate it."

She said the Norton seniors were no exception.

"They are a great bunch of kids," she said. "And they had a lot of wonderful questions."

One example Mrs. Jenkins gave the students was if someone has a credit card (Continued on Page 5)



## Library system serves 10 county area

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The Northwest Kansas Library System provides library service to 10 counties in this corner of the state.

The system serves city and school libraries in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Norton, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego and Wallace counties.

It also maintains a mail-a-book program for the home-bound and for rural residents not served by a public library. The system operates an inter-library loan plan that makes books and other materials available throughout the state.

A rotation plan supplements local library collections and the children's programs.

The system also maintains audio-visual equipment that is available to participating libraries. A newsletter helps share information and the system buys supplies in bulk for member libraries.

There's the Talking Book program, the reference collection and staff to help li-

braries answer questions. There are technical services available; the system offers continuing education workshops for librarians, and helps find grants to help local budgets.

Staff members take the "rotating van" on the road. This helps them see each library six times a year. With 46 libraries, the van logs lots of miles. They exchange books, DVDs, videos and audio books at each stop. Librarians can keep the materials for about two months.

Money for the system is from rural property taxes from outside the public library taxing area.

System director Leslie Bell said the budget for 2005 is \$28,300 for new books and \$6,000 for audio/visuals to buy books for the inter-library system and the rotating collection.

Mrs. Bell said the system participates in a statewide summer reading program. The system also has received computers and training from grants by Bill and

Melinda Gates.

She said the system shares in the cost of workshop presenters. It enables them to bring in people like "Stagecoach Mary", Angela Bates-Tompkins, a reenacted of black women in the west.

The system offers the Kansas Library Card, which can be issued by any library and entitles the user to have access to the library's on-line data base.

You must apply in person for the card, and it has to be renewed each year.

Other employees of the library system include Kim Gallentine, business manager; Carol Barta, consultant; Linda Keith, reference and inter-library loans; Pat Hammond, inter-library loans and rotation; Delores Stapp, cataloging; and Michael Laurent, computer consultant.

Talking Books is separate and receives federal and state money. Talking Books Consultant Clarice Howard said her department maintains more than 33,000 (Continued on Page 5)

## Cooperative has annual meeting

By VERONICA MONIER

The Prairie Land Electric Cooperative is doing well and continuing to move forward, shareholders were told at the group's annual meeting on Tuesday in Norton.

Gilbert Berland, president of the board of trustees, said the cooperative had a margin of \$2.34 million in 2004 and has reached its goal of having 40 percent equity.

He said that although Prairie Land is out of the satellite television service business, it still is involved in "WildBlue" with Nex-Tech.

To date, he said, all residential turtle meters, a device which will allow the meters to be read by cell phone, have been installed and now they are working on installing the non-residential meters. The cooperative is also involved in economic development and youth programs.

Mr. Berland thanked the board for its work in ensuring a sound financial cooperative, the employees for all of their work, and the customers for making the group possible.

Ken Carter, treasurer of the board, said 2004 was a good year financially. He said the substantial margin was due primarily to the sale of the satellite television business, DIRECTV. The payments from the sale will be flowing in over an 80-month (Continued on Page 5)



Kurtis Shearer

## Edmond man works in Iraq

Kurtis Shearer, formerly of the Lenora/Edmond area, is in Baghdad.

He is not with the military, but is working at the Baghdad Airport for Brown and Root Services, a subsidiary of Halliburton Oil.

Mr. Shearer first went to work in Iraq in June of 2003, driving a truck. After what he calls, "terrifying experiences", he was transferred to the airport where he operates a forklift working with the mail. He is now a foreman.

The son of Dale and Dorothy Shearer, Edmond, he joined the National Guard in 1987, taking his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He finished communication (Continued on Page 5)

# State treasurer talks about credit cards

(Continued from Page 1)  
limit of \$2,000 and had spent the maximum amount with an 18 percent interest rate, if they didn't put any more money on it, it would take them 30 years to pay it off. In the end, they would end up paying close to \$7,000 when interest is taken into account.

She said she told the students that credit cards are a good thing to have for convenience and emergencies, but she also went over the costs associated with having credit cards and what questions needed to be asked when getting one.

She said she also talked about behavior and how to use credit cards responsibly.

Some of the questions the seniors asked were the difference between debit and credit cards, what features to look for when getting a credit card, and how to know a good interest rate.

She said they also talked a lot about debt in general.

"I think a lot of them have seen their parents in debt and it scared

them a little," she said. "But we talked about the good ways to use credit, including getting a car or a home. Sometimes it's a wise decision to have debt, like when buying a house, because there are some good tax advantages."

Mrs. Jenkins was also in Norton to donate several copies of the book "Yes You Can Achieve Financial Independence" to the Northwest Kansas Library System. She said she brought about 50 copies of the book, which will be distributed to all of the public libraries in the library system's area.

She said the book was written by Jim Stowers, who is a success story in Kansas City. He started American Century Investment, which has been very successful, she said.

The book, she said, walks adults through finance advice using very plain terms. Shortly, there should be at least one copy of the book in every library in Kansas.

Mrs. Jenkins said she was very happy to be in Norton.



Norton city workers had their hands full picking up trash and discarded items during the city's annual spring clean-up.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Library system services northwest Kansas area

(Continued from Page 1)  
titles and serves about 600 patrons. Assisted by circulation clerks Janice Beale and Georgia Mann, her department sends out about 2,000 "books" every month to people in 33 western Kansas counties.

Anyone who is unable to use standard printed materials is eligible for talking books. The disability may be due to blindness, partial vision, the inability to hold a book or turn a page. Recorded books and magazines

and the equipment to play them on is provided at no charge. The equipment remains the property of the government, but may be loaned for as long as needed.

Mrs. Howard said anyone interested in using the talking books services should contact her office at (800) 657-2533.

To contact the Northwest Kansas Library System and Talking Books call 877-5148 or toll-free 800-432-2858. Their e-mail address is: illoan@rural.tel.net.

## City council makes yearly appointments

(Continued from Page 1)  
— Mr. Gaer and Mr. Williams; housing authority representative — Mrs. Mann; Kansas Municipal Energy Association representative — Mrs. Foley and City Administrator Rob Lawson; county commission representative — Mr. Briery; bed tax committee representative — Mr. Jones; Chamber of Commerce representative — Mr. Williams; library board — Mayor David Corns; 20/20 emergency planning committee — Mr.

Briery; solid waste committee representatives — Mr. Jones, Mr. Corns, and Mr. Lawson; economic development board — Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Foley.

Other appointments: city clerk — Darla Ellis; city treasurer — Patty Rowh; city prosecutor — Mr. Sebelius; chief of police — Lynn Menagh; fire chief — Mitch Jones; assistant fire chief — Kirk Nuzum; and municipal judge — Jerry Hawks; city health officer — Dr. Roy Hartley.

In other business, the council: • Heard Mr. Corns, Mr. Briery and Mr. Gaer take the oath of office. Because Mrs. Mann was absent, she will take her oath of office at the next meeting.

• Elected Mr. Briery as council president.

• Presented former Councilman George Jones with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service. Mr. Jones wished the council good luck.

• Heard from Mr. Lawson that

clean-up week has gone well. Because there was more trash than expected, he said crews will be out collecting all week, rather than just the scheduled three days.

• Waived the formal first reading of Ordinance No. 1544, relating to the times allowed for the shooting or firing of fireworks. This ordinance is a correction to Ordinance No. 1536, which listed incorrect dates of July 1-5, rather than June 27-July 5.

## Cooperative doing well financially

(Continued from Page 1)  
period.

The financial report included total assets, and liabilities, \$34,365,801 each; income, \$13,177,044; expenses, \$12,163,270; operating margin, \$1,013,774; non-operating margin, \$130,871; extra-ordinary margin (sale of DIRECTV), \$1,195,587; total margins for 2004, \$2,340,232.

General Manager Allan Miller said he had to give the employees a hand because he couldn't do his job without them. They are the backbone of the cooperative, he said.

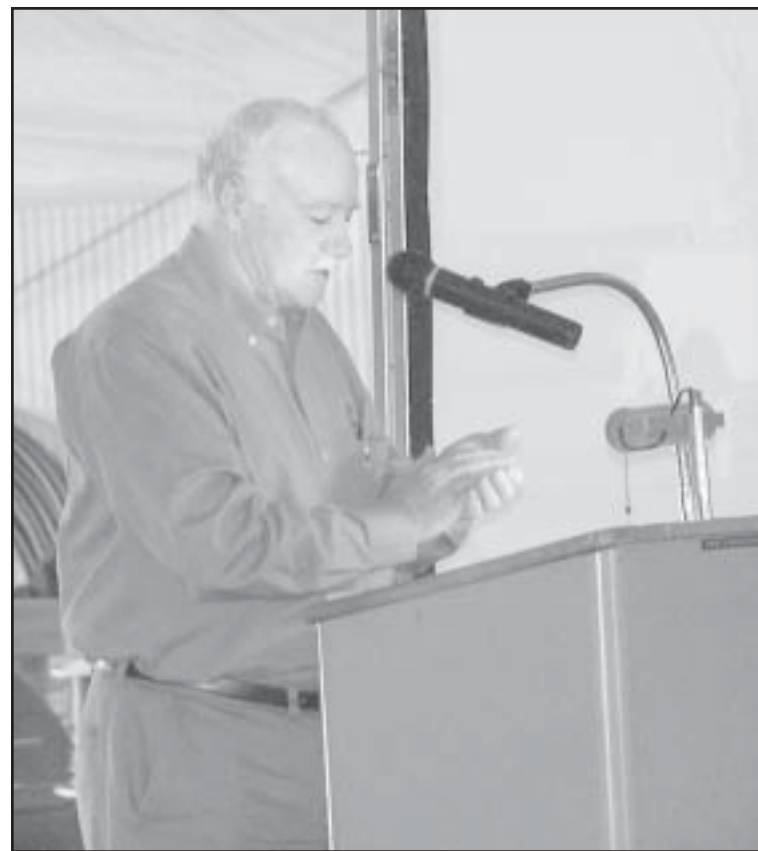
During the manager's report, Mr. Miller said the cooperative has 8,587 consumers; 5,379 miles of line; 1.6 meters per mile of line; \$8,484 in investments per mile of line; \$159,969,773 in annual kilowatt hour sales; and \$13,177,044 in sales revenue for 2004.

He said both kilowatt hour sales and revenue have been going up.

The margins are also going up, he said. The satellite business sale has made the margins higher than what they normally are. He said Prairie Land got into the DIRECTV business in 1994 and has been very successful, getting almost 2,000 subscribers.

Mr. Miller said the cooperative had several opportunities to sell it, but instead the board chose to stay in it and take care of the customers. When the contracts with DIRECTV were terminated, he said Prairie Land tried to stay involved, but when it couldn't regulate its customers' prices, the board decided to sell.

Mr. Miller said 41.4 percent of the group's income is commercial and 56.2 percent of the expenses are power costs. Operations were



Board President Gilbert Berland gave a brief overview of the past year at the Prairie Land Electric Cooperative's annual meeting Tuesday.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

15.9 percent of the total expenses.

Member equity is \$13,699,357 with Prairie Land just hitting the 40 percent mark, which was one of its goals. Other goals are to increase plant investment, new technology and maintain stable rates.

He said in 2004, the cooperative put about \$3 million in plant investment with four new substations. Prairie Land employees have also been busy installing turtle meters. Hopefully, he said, by the end of the year, all of the turtle meters will be installed.

Mr. Miller said \$1,085,731 has been refunded to its members and \$1,609,000 in grants and loans have been given out.

In January, board elections were held with Bryon Carpenter, Mike Rogers, and Keith Ross being elected. Other board members include Mr. Berland, Robert L. Johnson, Don Solko, Mr. Carter, Ivan Bohl, and Robert Paxson.

Door prizes were given out at the end of the meeting.

## Commissioners name director

The Norton County Commissioners recently named Andy Nielsen ambulance service director.

Mr. Nielsen has been serving as the acting director since the fall of 2003. He's been with the Norton County Emergency Medical Service as a technician since May of 2003.

The commissioners also named Medical Technician Ruth Schillig as the assistant director. Mrs. Schillig has been with the service since January of 2004.

Both Mr. Nielsen and Mrs. Schillig have attended a service

director training program put on by the Kansas Emergency Medical Service Association. They both plan on attending the three-day class again this year.

Mr. Nielsen has also been at-

tending the Kansas Association of Counties' director training program. He started the two-year program last year. He also goes to the State Board of Emergency Medical Service's meetings.



A. Nielsen



R. Schillig

## Area man works at airport

(Continued from Page 1)  
training at Fort Gordon, Ga., in 1988, after graduating from high school. He joined the army in 1991, and took Morse code training at Fort Devens, Mass.

He was transferred to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he was in a high security job. He spent five years there and returned to Fort Gordon in 1997.

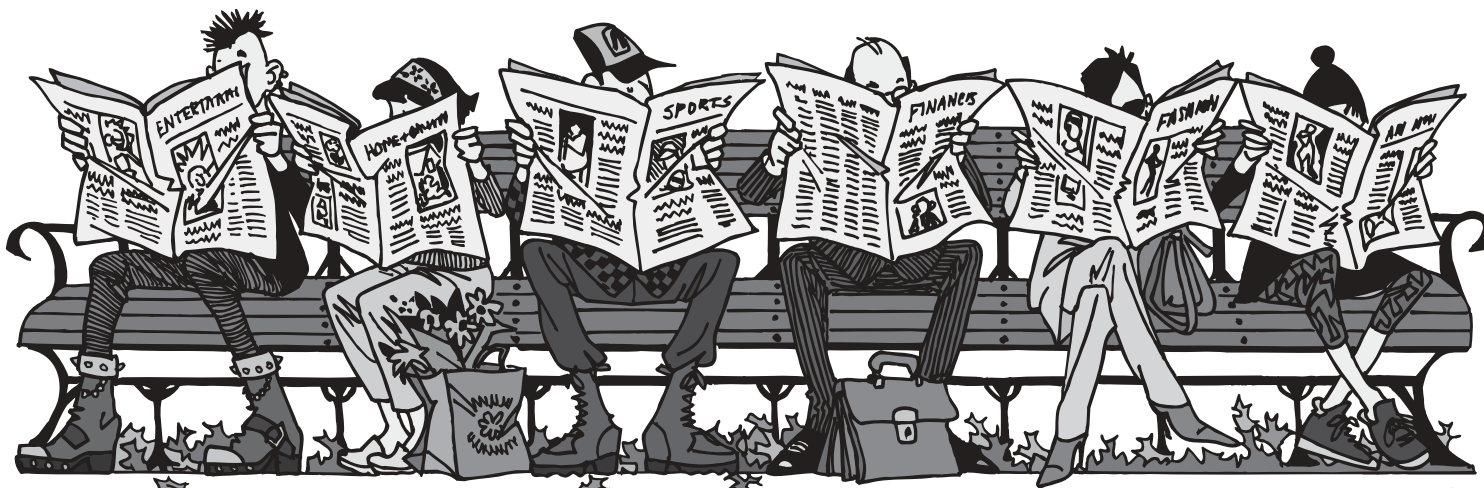
He worked on base until January of 1999, when he was assigned

to duty in Saudi Arabia for five months, returning to Fort Gordon until 2002, when he received a disability discharge.

Mr. Shearer went to a truck driving school and drove over-the-road on the east coast hauling hazardous material until taking the job in Iraq.

When he is in the U.S., he makes his home in Augusta, Ga. He has a son, Dale, 5.

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