

Friday  
April 29, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Kenneth Neiltopp

## Briefly Friendship Day to be celebrated

Next Friday, Friendship Day will be celebrated with a potluck noon luncheon at the United Parish Church, Pilgrim Hall, in Lenora. Drinks and table service will be provided.

Friendship Day unites Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women in common worship. It helps build and strengthen relationships in the community and encourage the gifts of women.

You do not have to be a member of Church Women United to take part.

For more information, call Darlene Day, 567-4424; Vicki Gassmann, 567-4652; or Jane Kersenbrock, 877-3445.

## Rotary club to invade station

The Norton Rotary Club will be taking over KQNK Radio in Norton on Sunday.

Rotary members will act as deejays from noon to 5 p.m. to raise money for club projects, including scholarships and the Norton BB-gun teams.

Along with the music, home-grown ads and banter, the club will be holding an auction for items including a golf cart and a stained glass pitcher.

## Sweet Adelines seeks members

The Hi-Plains Chapter of Sweet Adelines International is having a guest night 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin.

All women who like to sing are invited to come for the evening and try the unique singing style called "barbershop". No special talent is required.

Larry Patterson, Norton, is the director of the 26-member chorus.

## Weather Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy in the morning with a 20 percent chance of rain showers.

## Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 59, Low 33  
Wednesday .... High 67, Low 33, Prec. .17  
Thursday ..... High 39, Low 34  
Prec. .08 with snow flurries  
Week ago ..... High 64, Low 42  
Month ago ..... High 77, Low 48  
Year ago ..... High 91, Low 47  
April precipitation ..... 1.79 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 5.38 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

God, we want to obey you always, but we thank you that you are always there to lift us up and give us another chance when we stumble. Amen

# Cool, wet weather may help crops

By VERONICA MONIER

People in Norton have come to expect a windy spring with fluctuating temperatures and a little bit of moisture. But, the chill temperatures on Thursday are not quite what people have in mind when they think of late April.

Meteorologist Mick McGuire with the National Weather Service in Goodland

said yesterday's high was in the mid- to upper-30s, which is about 30 degrees below normal.

Normal, he said, is in the upper-60s.

And with the cold temperatures, he said snow was expected last night and into today. With warmer ground temperatures, however, it wasn't expected to stick.

The highs for today will be looking

similar to Thursday's, he said.

If the rain and snow move out earlier than expected, the area might 40 have degree temperatures sometime today, but it wasn't likely, the meteorologist said.

Mr. McGuire said he expects to see decreasing cloud cover tonight with a low in the 20s. The temperatures will remain below normal until Tuesday, when it

should warm up to the upper-50s, possibly the upper-60s.

The warming trend should continue after that, he said, but it will be cold until the middle of next week.

County Extension Agent Keith VanSike said the low temperatures shouldn't hurt winter wheat crops if it  
(Continued on Page 5)



Two girls even managed to get some paint on the fence as they worked on the pipe fencing at the equestrian center during Tuesday's Service Learning Day. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



Flower planters at the school district office were weeded and groomed Tuesday by Service Learning Day students, teachers and other volunteers.

## Students help to beautify town, clean up county

Norton Junior High students spent Tuesday washing windows and cars, painting and doing yard and clean-up work around town.

What began four years ago as an offshoot of a substance abuse prevention program at Norton Junior High School has grown into the school's annual Service Learning Day program.

Counselor Bruce Poage said the program is intended to show the seventh and eighth graders they can have fun and care about each other without involving drugs.

The Norton Lions Club fed the students a hamburger picnic lunch at Elmwood Park.

Students washed windows and did yard work for three eld-  
(Continued on Page 5)



Boxes of books were packed by students. The boxes were loaded into the Northwest Kansas Library System traveling van for distribution to area libraries.

## State offers ideas for medical savings

By TISHA COX

The state of Kansas brought Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' message of buying cheaper out of town to Norton on Thursday during a "Sharing Approaches that Work" forum at the American Legion.

The forum was one of several multi-county meetings a governor's task force is holding across the state.

Kansas counties have several options when it comes to providing health care for inmates in their jails, commissioners and others were told.

Prescription drugs, contracted health care, inoculations and prescription drug card savings were all discussed.

Norton County Commissioner Leroy Lang said the county will give all ideas some thought. He said he thinks the message was that counties need to take a look and see what will work and what won't.

Mr. Lang said the county commissioners will keep local businesses in mind when they make decisions. If they decide on any of the plans presented, they will talk to local providers first.

Kathleen Harnish-Doucet of Team

Tech is working with Gov. Sebelius to come up with ways state and county agencies can save money and not duplicate services.

She said the ideas presented were to give counties options that can save them money.

Ms. Harnish-Doucet said her group wasn't giving a hard-sell on anything, but only providing information.

Viola Riggan, senior contract management consultant with Kansas University Physician's Inc. and the Kansas Department of Corrections Division in Topeka, gave the first presentation. She explained how the state gets medications for inmates in its detention facilities.

In December the state contracted with Correct Care Solutions of Nashville, Tenn. to receive dental, pharmacy, medical and mental health services for inmates.

The state has more than 9,000 inmates and spends more than \$4 million a year on prescription drugs alone.

"It has a huge health care budget," Ms. Riggan said.

The state was looking for a way to save

money and still deliver the services, she said. An in-house pharmacy was one option but the best proposal was to contract out for medical and pharmacy services.

Now, the state would like to pass along its savings to counties and communities by offering them the chance to save on prescription drugs for inmates in their jails and detention centers.

Counties and communities would pay the acquisition fees, which are about 51 percent of the normal wholesale cost.

She called it, "very cheap."

The prescribing physician faxes the prescription to Diamond Pharmaceuticals in Indiana, Penn., who sends out the medicine Federal Express.

Most places get the prescriptions overnight, she said, in a blister pack with the drugs and instructions on how to take them.

She said it offers continuity between counties, saves money and is a safe way to deliver medication.

Medical supplies for county hospitals and emergency medical services can also  
(Continued on Page 5)

## Cabaret show to be held on Saturday

It will be a cabaret extravaganza as a musical foursome performs "Puttin' on the Ritz" at 7 p.m. Saturday at East Campus Auditorium.

Todd Burd, Mary Baker, Terri Thaelke and Terrance McKerris will be performing motown, blues, jazz and Broadway music.

The four are members of a group that travels across Kansas to perform. Part of the money they earn goes into a performing arts scholarship fund.

The performance is being sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Prices are: adults, \$5; students, \$1; reciprocity, \$1. Arts council members will be admitted free with the membership card.

