

# Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 41  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

A mostly full moon provides lots of action for fans at Elmwood Park Speedway.

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Friday  
May 27, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Alvin Mapes

## Briefly Congressman to visit here

The public is invited to visit with Congressman Jerry Moran in Norton at 12:30 p.m. Thursday. The congressman is on his annual listening tour and will be at the "Also Ran Gallery" on the mezzanine level at The First State Bank, 105 W. Main.

## Senator's aides to be in Norton

Representatives from Sen. Sam Brownback's office, Rob Wassinger and Riley Scott, will be in town Wednesday to answer questions and to discuss how they can help Norton. They will be at the Norton City Hall at 2 p.m.

## Tuesday paper to go to everyone

The Norton Telegram office will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day. No Monday paper will be printed. Instead, the Tuesday, May 31 edition will become the total market coverage paper. The Telegram will be distributed to every home in Norton County, regardless of whether you are a subscriber or not. The staff at The Telegram wish you a safe Memorial Day.

## Report cards ready at schools

Norton junior high and high school report cards may be picked up at either school office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Parents must pick up the cards. They will not be sent home with students.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Decreasing clouds with lows in the mid 40s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 80s. **Saturday Night** — Increasing clouds with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 50.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 101, Low 58, Prec. .70  
Wednesday ..... High 76, Low 47  
Thursday ..... High 77, Low 49  
Week ago ..... High 96, Low 59  
Month ago ..... High 59, Low 33  
Year ago ..... High 88, Low 59  
May precipitation ..... .85 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 6.73 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for your unending blessing. Teach us to be your stewards on earth of all you have entrusted to our care. Amen



Norton firemen rushed (below) to get a blazing garage put out after a fire spread from a travel trailer Thursday afternoon. Firemen cut a hole into the roof (above) of the garage to shoot water at the fire from another angle. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Firemen fight blaze in trailer

By VERONICA MONIER

A fire that spread from a camper trailer to a garage had the Norton Fire Department working to keep it contained. The fire department was called out at 3:17 p.m. Thursday to a blaze at 314 N. Norton, to a residence owned by Larry Patterson, said Fire Chief Mitch Jones. When the 20 men and three units arrived on the scene, a camper trailer was completely engulfed in flames, he said. It spread to the garage it was sitting next to, burning out the attic area, being used for storage, the roof and part of the doors. "It was tough because the top part of the garage was sealed off," he said. "Once it got started, it escalated. The guys did a pretty good job of keeping it contained like they did." Chief Jones said the 1975 New Way camper trailer was a total loss and damage to the garage has not been determined. The firemen were there for about an hour and a half, fighting the blaze that



started in the trailer from an electrical problem. He said it was called in by Police Chief Lynn Menagh. Helping the fire department were the

Norton Police Department, Norton County Sheriff's Department and Norton County Emergency Medical Service. "I really appreciate law enforcement

directing traffic," he said. "I also appreciate EMS providing water and being on standby in case something happened."

## Moisture on Tuesday will help crops, pastures

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County finally got its share of the rain that the rest of the area has been enjoying. Tuesday's storm brought 1.26 inches at the Norton Dam, said Meteorologist Matt Mehle with the National Weather Service in Goodland. Other reports in the county included 1.35 inches in the Lenora area and 0.6, 0.7 and 0.8 inch around Norton. There was also a brief smattering of rain Wednesday, but it didn't amount to much, residents said. Although it didn't come soon enough to help a lot of the county's wheat, it did do some good, said Extension Agent Keith VanSlike. "It definitely helped in a lot of ways," he said. "Although I wish it would have come three weeks ago." Mr. VanSlike said a portion of the county's wheat is pretty bad, but other wheat crops were still okay and should

continue to be so with the rain's help. With the recent freeze and the strip rust, the wheat was already weakened and the dry weather didn't help any, he said. "This is a critical time for wheat," he said. "And will continue to be so for about the next two weeks." The rain was good for corn and sorghum crops and will help the pastures. Mr. VanSlike said more rain will be good for the healthy wheat, but won't really matter to the damaged wheat. There is a possibility of more rain, said Mr. Mehle. The area should have highs in the 70s this weekend with a slight change of thunderstorms Saturday and Sunday during the day. Saturday night will bring the best shot at thunderstorms, he said, with a chance of showers Sunday night. Temperatures will be cooler Sunday with highs in the upper 60s and lower 70s.

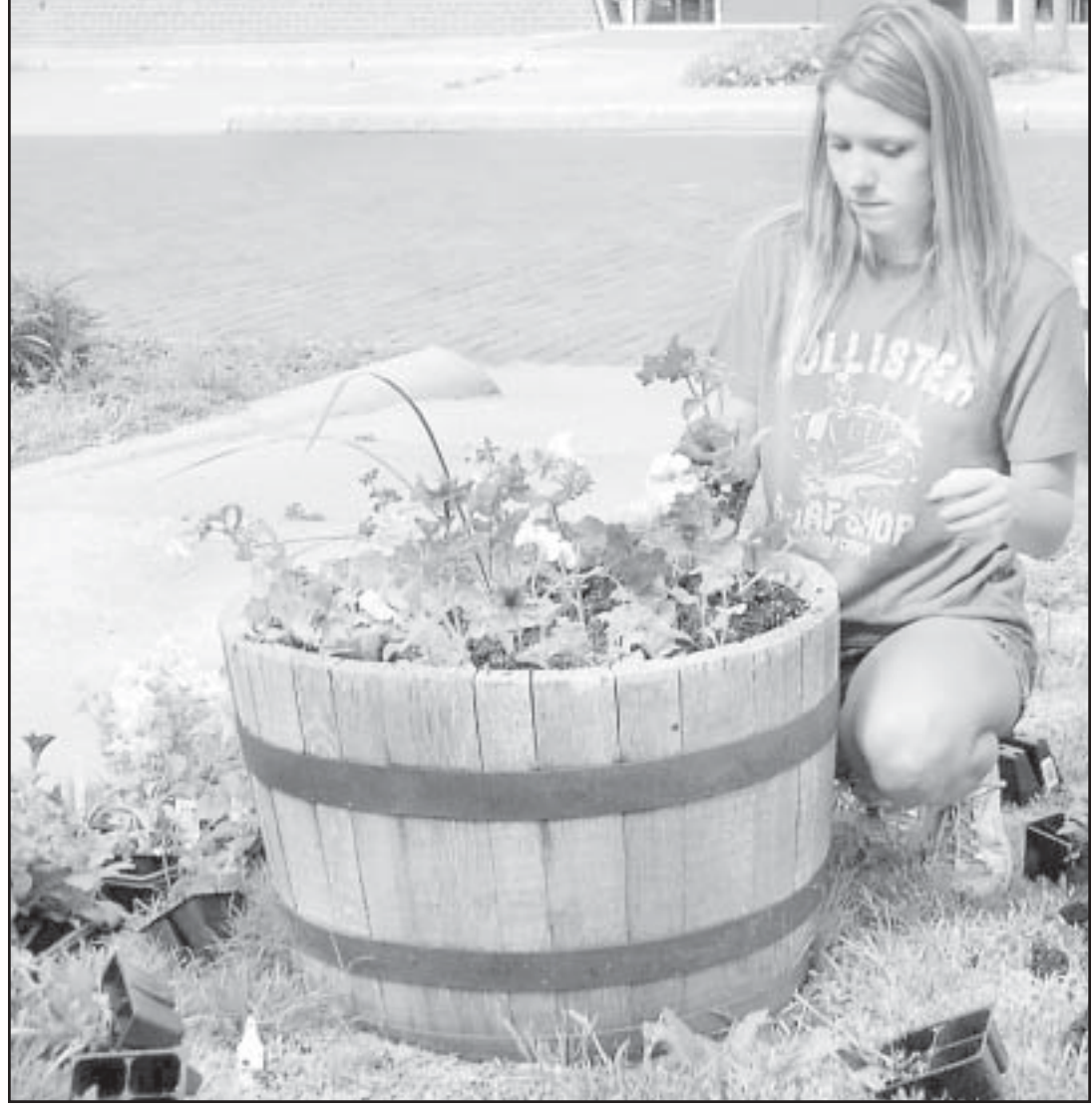
## Many shops, offices to close

Memorial Day weekend is a national observance to honor the military dead who have fallen in the service of our country. Traditionally it has also become a homecoming time to celebrate class reunions and to remember loved ones who have died. Many businesses will be closed Monday, but, some will remain open. All banks and city and county offices will be closed. The Doctor's Clinic, the county health department, the post office and the school district office will also be closed in Norton. Norton's two pharmacies, Pamida Pharmacy and Moffet Drug will both be closed but the two discount stores, Pamida

and Dollar General will open at 9 a.m. The Norton Theatre will be open the entire Memorial weekend, premiering "The Longest Yard", rated PG-13 and "Madagascar", rated PG. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. and Monday at 7 p.m. Love's and Diamond Shamrock are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Time Saver gas station will be open Monday from 5 a.m. until midnight. Jack Rabbit Service Station will be open at least Monday morning for bait sales. Grocery stores in Norton and Lenora will be open Monday with shorter schedules. Jamboree will be open from 7 a.m. (Continued on Page 5)

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Lyle Cemetery .....	10 a.m.	Stuttgart Cemetery .....	9 a.m.
Big Timber Cemetery .....	10 a.m.	Prairie View Cemetery .....	9:30 a.m.
Lenora South Cemetery .....	11 a.m.	Leoville Cemetery .....	9:30 a.m.
Norcatur Cemetery .....	2 p.m.	Luctor Cemetery .....	10 a.m.
		Logan, Pleasant. View Cemetery	10 a.m.
		Almena, Mount Hope Cemetery	10 a.m.
		Wilsonville, Mt. Hope Cemetery	10 a.m.
		New Almelo Cemetery .....	10 a.m.
		Jennings Cemetery .....	10 a.m.
		Norton Cemetery .....	10:30 a.m.
		Woodruff Cemetery .....	10:45 a.m.
		Long Island Cemetery .....	11:15 a.m.



With the Memorial Day holiday just around the corner, Amber Overlease planted a barrel of summer flowers. — Telegram photo by Rich Meyers

# Telephone company celebrates wireless office

By DICK BOYD

Nex-Tech, a division of Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc. of Lenora, held an open house and ribbon cutting on Wednesday to celebrate the grand opening of their Wireless Mobile Telephone Switching Office at 3001 New Way in the southeast corner of Hays.

The 5,000 square foot building will be the central operations office for the alliance formed between Nex-Tech Wireless, a partnership between Nex-Tech, Inc., Hays and Golden Belt Telephone Co., Rush Center, and Wireless Co., L.P., a subsidiary of Sprint Corporation.

The alliance will expand wireless services throughout western Kansas and part of eastern Colorado.

"We've formed the perfect partnership," Larry Sevier, CEO/General Manager of Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech, told the large crowd gathered for the event.

"Rural Telephone and Golden Belt saw a need in western Kansas for better cellular mobile communications. So, we put our heads together and formed this partnership.

"We'll have enough towers and dedicated employees to provide superior mobile phone service. It will provide seamless nationwide coverage for our customers as well as Sprint customers.

"We are very excited about our partnership with Sprint and what it means to our customers. Our nationwide voice and data roaming arrangement with Sprint permits Nex-Tech Wireless customers to have access to Sprint's network, which is one of the largest all-digital, nationwide PCS wireless networks in the United States.

"For the first time, we will be able to offer full-scale wireless services to all our members and customers throughout western Kansas, a goal of the Board of Trustees for many years. Rural Telephone has been providing communication services since 1951 and Golden Belt since 1953. This is a truly historic event for us and we are excited to be able to provide this innovation to all our members."

"This is a win-win situation," Gerald Washburn, General Manager of Golden Belt Telephone, told the crowd.

"We're extremely excited about this alliance. We promise we won't let you down."

"The opening of this mobile switching office is a real milestone in providing high quality wireless telephone service," said Bennett Gamel, Director of Business Development for Sprint.

"Nex-Tech is the perfect partner for us.

"At Sprint, we have 250 million customers nationwide. Only 50 million more people live in the United States and we are trying to reach them, too.

"When Sprint wireless customers travel to the territory covered by this network, not only will their CDMA phone work to make voice calls, but all of the other features, such as Sprint PCS Vision SM,



Larry Sevier, head of Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech (left) visited with Larry Long of Hays during the open house at the Wireless Mobile Telephone Switching Office on Wednesday. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

will also work on the Nex-Tech Wireless network.

"Currently, our service ends at Salina. When the Nex-Tech Wireless network is constructed, our service will go all the way to Denver. It will give great customer service.

"You should be proud of Nex-Tech as a visionary leader."

As part of the project, Nex-Tech Wireless will build or lease over 100 PCS tower sites in western Kansas and eastern Colorado. The first phase is expected to begin in August of this year.

Another first for the partnership is with the city of Hays and its Job Bounty Program. The program reimburses Nex-Tech for jobs paying more than \$10 an hour. Nex-Tech is expected to add 10 jobs at \$10 an hour and 10 at \$15 an hour.

Nex-Tech Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wick said the wireless division employs 17 persons but the number will expand to 35 or 40 the first year of operation.

Wick said plans are to build a 10,000 square foot administration building on the same property, beginning this summer.

"It is a real pleasure to see the start-up of a new business," Hays Mayor Kent Steward told the crowd.

"It's a good example of local people helping local people. It establishes a lot of synergy with Fort Hays and is also a regional enterprise.

"It will be the first business to take advantage of our new Job Bounty Program."

"There has been a lot of hard work on this project and it will continue," said Sevier.

"Everywhere I go, people want to sign up for the new service. The hardest part is waiting but we'll have it going by fall

"When I came to Rural Telephone almost 20 years ago, we had 26 employees. We'll have an employee meeting tonight. With close to 300 employees now, it will remind me of the success we have had in keeping young people in western Kansas. Around 80 of our employees are Fort Hays State graduates."

Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech is a multi-service technology and telecommunications company that offers an array of products and services including local and long distance telephone service, dial-up and broadband Internet, ISP services, web development, cable television, directory services, media productions, mobile radio/paging services and business telephone systems to its more than 30,000 customers/members across 22 Kansas counties.

Golden Belt is also a multi-service telecommunications company that offers an array of products and services including local and long distance telephone service, dial-up and broadband Internet, cable television, business telephone systems and alarm systems to its more than 6,000 customers/members across 11 Kansas counties.

Sprint offers an extensive range of innovative communication products and solutions, including global IP, wireless, local and multi-product bundles. A Fortune 100 company with more than \$27 billion in annual revenues in 2004, Sprint is widely recognized for developing, engineering and deploying state-of-the-art network technologies, including the United States' first nationwide all-digital fiber-optic network, an award-winning Tier I Internet backbone, and one of the largest 100 percent digital nationwide wireless networks in the United States.

# Handicapped parking spaces need new home at hospital

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital is looking at what it can do to put handicap parking closer to the Doctor's Clinic.

Maintenance Supervisor Ty Bruton told the hospital board Tuesday that the clinic has always had a problem with handicap parking.

He said the walk is too long from the south parking lot and the handicap parking stall in the east lot is also kind of far.

"We need something closer to the door," he said.

One idea they've had is putting a handicap parking place in between the clinic's canopy and the street. They had thought to remove the canopy, he said, but people like it, especially when the weather is bad.

Mr. Bruton said he has been talking to the city to see if the hospital can get approval to put the spot on their easement. He said if the board likes this idea, he can go to the city's Public Safety Committee meeting to talk about it.

Board member Warren White said Mr. Bruton should talk to the committee and see what it says.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller asked if Mr. Bruton should get bids if the city didn't have a problem with it. The board said yes.

In other business, the board: • Took a tour of the hospital's boiler room, the Rural Fire Department building across the street and the hospital's north parking lot.

• Told Mr. Bruton to get bids for replacing the north parking lot in three stages. He said he had esti-

mated that the lot will cost \$75,000, but thinks that estimate is \$3,000 to \$5,000 short. There will also be a one-time charge for the compaction company of about \$3,500, he said. The hospital budgeted \$25,000 for the first phase of the lot's replacement this year.

• Discussed the possibility of drilling a well to use for watering the lawn. Board member Kathy Holste said it wouldn't hurt to check, even if they decide not to do it.

• Bought three Cannon copy machines for \$15,450. Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton said two of the machines will be used at the hospital and the other will be used at the Doctor's Clinic. He said the current machines are worn out and replacement parts are becoming hard to find.

# Norton police stop high-speed chase

By VERONICA MONIER

A high speed chase early Tuesday morning ended when the car flipped, injuring its passengers.

The chase ended after a Norton police officer laid out stop sticks on U.S. 283 at 12:23 a.m.

"Because of the speed they were going," said Assistant Police Chief Toby Kuhn, "We decided to

deploy the stop sticks to keep them from going through town."

Matthew P. Rauterkus, 18, North Platte, was being pursued by Furnas County, Neb., deputies when he reached Norton County going more than 100 mph.

Officer Kuhn said a sheriff's deputy clocked the 2002 Honda Civic Mr. Rauterkus was driving

at 101 mph north of Norton.

Not only was Mr. Rauterkus driving over 100, said Officer Kuhn, but there was alcohol involved and he was crossing over into on-coming traffic while he was being pursued.

Once he hit the stop sticks, he swerved and lost control of the vehicle, going into a sideways skid, said Officer Kuhn. The car went into the east ditch and then rolled.

"Both occupants of the vehicle were lucky they weren't severely hurt, considering the speeds that were reached," he said.

Mr. Rauterkus and his passenger, Jennifer J. Keeney, 23, North Platte, were taken to the Norton County Hospital to be treated. Neither were wearing seat belts.

The Kansas Highway Patrol is filing numerous charges, Officer Kuhn said.

# Shops, offices to be closed

(Continued from Page 1) to 6 p.m.; Norton Shop and Save from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Country Corner in Lenora from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Almerna Market will be closed Monday.

O'Brien's Bar will be open regular hours on Monday 3-11 p.m.

China Garden, Beacon Cafe and Pure Prairie, Norton; Cardinal Bar and Grill, Norcatour; and The Station, Almerna, will be closed Monday.

The Barbecue Barn will be open

Saturday-Monday from noon to 6 p.m. and Mama Millies in Norcatour will serve a Sunday breakfast buffet 7-10 a.m. and be open Monday from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Adventures in Eating, McDonalds, Town and Country Kitchen, Dairy Queen, Pizza Hut/Taco Bell and Quizno's Sub will all be open their regular hours.

Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Memorial Day.

**CHURCH OF GOD**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Monday, June 6 thru Friday, June 10**

This year's theme is "Kids Go Wild for the Kingdom of the Son." The children will learn wonderful Bible stories, have crafts, skits, games and songs all helping them to experience and grow in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church of God's VBS is for all children from pre-school through the sixth grade, and will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. A free lunch will be provided over the noon hour.

For More Information or to  
Pre-Register Please Contact  
Deloris Alexander at 877-2924

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