

Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 49
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Division I boys continue play. Action from Norton's 10 & Under, 12 & Under and Legion teams.

Pages 8 & 10

Friday, June 24, 2005

Norton, Kansas Home of Bernie Mindrup

Briefly

'H' and 'I' tags up this month

June is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycle and/or motorized bike tags for those whose last name begins with "H" or "I", or businesses whose name begins with "H" or "I".

You must bring in or include proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date.

Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The computers shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance each day's business.

The Norton County Treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station for renewals on regular driver's and commercial licenses.

If you have questions, please call 877-5795.

Kansas governor is coming July 4th

Governor Kathleen Sebelius will mix a little business with pleasure this Fourth of July.

The governor will be coming on Monday, July 4, to watch the fireworks display at Prairie Dog State Park and will give a speech on tourism before the show.

The visit is part of a Kansas tourism promotion.

BB gun museum

open Saturday

Alberta Slaby, spokesperson for the Norton Rotary BB Gun Museum, said it will be open Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Other scheduled dates for the museum to be open are July 2 and July 9.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the evening, then slight chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent.
Saturday — Partly cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 97, Low 67
Wednesday High 97, Low 66
Thursday High 98, Low 69
Week ago High 89, Low 64
Month ago High 89, Low 61
Year ago High 62, Low 58
June precipitation 2.89 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 10.29 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Lord of all, help us to use the gifts you have given us to build up one another in love. In Jesus' name. Amen



Proving you're never too old to donate blood, Paul Ballinger, 85, (left) took his turn during the Red Cross Blood Drive held Thursday at Norton Correctional Facility. It was the first time (bottom right) for Kayla Douglas, 17. Norton deputy sheriff, Scott Bohl (bottom left) filled out the paperwork before he donated a pint. Red Cross employee (above) Wendel Perks packed ice on the bags of blood before they are loaded for shipment.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Veronica Monier



Technicalities hold up county landfill

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County commissioners are getting a little tired of being told that the county's new landfill will be ready to go in 30 days or so.

During their meeting on Monday, commissioners talked with Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald who said that he had talked to Bruce Boettcher of BG Consultants, the engineers for the landfill project, about the need for a turnaround in the pits for trucks to leave after unloading. Mr. Boettcher seemed confused about where trucks were going to dump, Mr. Archibald said.

BG had originally planned to have the trucks dump from the top of the pit but the commissioners and Mr. Archibald felt that would be unsafe in case the walls gave way and would also cause more blowing trash.

Mr. Archibald said that he has also talked to Pat Cox with BG about a small road for the track loader to use because its cleats would tear up the regular road used by trash trucks.

"They said they would work on that and figure out what can be done," Mr. Archibald told the commissioners.

A crew from BG should be out this week to finish up the quality assurance report for the state, he said. A culvert still needs to be laid and the road into the pit is still under construction.

"What's between us and an open date (Continued on Page 5)

Sky fire set for Fourth of July

By VERONICA MONIER

The ninth annual Norton County Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks Spectacular will be held at the Prairie Dog State Park, four miles west of Norton, Monday, July 4.

This event is sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and is made possible by generous donations from Norton County business and citizens.

Free watermelon will be served beginning at 8 p.m. near the bathhouse at the east end of the park near Sebelius Lake. Jamboree Foods has donated all of the cold watermelons to feed the crowd.

Also around 8 p.m., Master of Cer-

emonies Marvin Matchett will welcome the crowd. Norton Boy Scout Troop No. 181 will present the flag, followed by the National Anthem and then a patriotic message read by Mel Rice. Other patriotic music such as "Stars and Strips Forever" and "America the Beautiful" will be played. The music will be provided by JAM Session. Everyone is invited to go early for karaoke, which will begin around 7:30 p.m.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius will be speaking about tourism promotion after Mr. Rice gives the patriotic message.

The Chamber of Commerce will (Continued on Page 5)

Conservation district hopes for more money

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Members of the Norton County Conservation District board are hoping to get a little more money from the county next year.

District Manager Twila Dizmang and board members Greg Otter, Donna Hale and Chris Harting told the Norton County commissioners that Norton County is one of four in the state that spends less than \$20,000 on its soil conservation district.

Norton, they said, spends \$18,000 a year, \$9,000 from the county and \$9,000 from the state. Nearby Gove County and Pawnee County in the south central part of the state each spend \$18,000 and Elk County, which is mostly grassland in the west central area, spends \$14,000.

Decatur County spends \$20,000; Phillips County, \$24,000; and Graham County, \$30,500 on their programs. Some counties, including Graham, have a special mill levy.

The conservation district is hoping the county will provide \$11,000 and the state, \$10,000, next year.

Expenditures are expected to be up a little as wages stay the same but insurance and retirement costs go from \$4,600 to \$5,500 a year.

The district expects to have about \$1,400 less at the beginning of next year in cash on hand than it had this year.

Commissioner John Miller said what people get from the county will depend on (Continued on Page 5)

Fireworks can be shot off Monday

With the Fourth of July almost here, people can expect to see fireworks for sale in the near future.

In both the city and county, fireworks can be both sold and shot off from Monday until July 5. This is the only time of year they can be legally sold or shot off in the county.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said city ordinance lets people shoot off fireworks from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day except July 4, when they can be shot off until 1 a.m.

All class C fireworks, which can be bought at stands around town, are legal, except bottle rockets, which are illegal statewide. It's also illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored, and (Continued on Page 5)

within 50 feet of gas stations or any place where liquid gas or propane are stored.

The state Fire Marshall's office said some tips to remember when shooting fireworks are:

- Always read and follow label instructions.
- Always buy high quality fireworks from a reliable, legitimate source.
- Don't drink alcohol and shoot off fireworks, instead have a "designated shooter".
- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Adults should supervise the use of fireworks by older children.
- Never ignite fireworks indoors and make sure your outdoor area is safe for fireworks use.

(Continued on Page 5)



Water aerobics instructor, Jan Volgamore, center, led her class through an exercise routine Tuesday. Her class meets Tuesday and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Norton City Pool. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Fireworks display set for July 4 at lake

(Continued from Page 1) recognize the sponsors who made this event possible throughout the evening before the fireworks display begins.

Just before dark, Troop No. 181 will retire the flag.

The spectacular fireworks display will begin at dark over the beautiful Sebelius Lake. Russ Erbert, a licensed pyrotechnician, will once again donate his talent to ensure a safe display. Assisting him will be Larry Nelson, Joyce Quinn, Dan Hazlett, Steve Mees, Rhonda Mees, Karla Reed, Tim Kelly, Travis Chisham, Mike Barrett, Harold Shinn and Dustin Burgardt.

Calvin Wright will provide a boat patrol.

In keeping with the need for safety, the dam will be blocked to any traffic, vehicle and pedestrian. Boaters will need to remain at least 600 feet from the shooting area. The boat patrol will help enforce this requirement.

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce gives special thanks to the Norton County Sheriff's Department, the Norton County Ambulance Service, the Fire Departments and the Prairie Dog

State Park staff who have coordinated efforts to ensure the safety of on-lookers as well as those participating in this event.

Entrance to the park will be \$6.50 per carload. If you already have a Kansas Park sticker on your vehicle, you will be admitted free of charge. If you are a Kansas resident and over 65 years of age and do not have a Kansas Park sticker, the cost for your vehicle for the day is just \$3.75.

Because of the generosity of many businesses, individuals and organizations, there is no charge for the celebration activities or fireworks display.

Annual permits may be purchased at the Prairie Dog State Park Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday or from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Annual permits are \$45.50 and \$23.25 for those over 65. Buying an annual permit earlier in the week will reduce traffic problems the day of the celebration.

If there is inclement weather or very strong winds, the fireworks will be postponed until Tuesday, July 5. Postponement will be announced on KQNK Radio FM 106.7.

Viewing of the fireworks will be best from Prairie Dog State Park. Bring lawn chairs, a picnic and come early enough to get a good spot for the show.

Landfill needs road before it can open

(Continued from Page 1) on the landfill," Commissioner Chairman Dean Kruse wanted to know.

Mr. Archibald said when the road is done and the state signs off on everything, it will be ready to go.

"We're still looking at 30 days," Commissioner John Miller estimated.

"We're looking at 30 days every time we meet," Mr. Kruse complained. "When will the road be finished?"

Mr. Miller suggested that Mr. Archibald keep pushing BG to get the quality assurance report done.

Mr. Miller also asked Mr. Archibald to start getting the wind screens, which will snag any blowing trash, up so that when the state permit comes through they will be ready to go.

"Sounds to me like more than 30 days," Mr. Kruse commented.

"The snow will be flying before we get any trash in there and we're on the fast track," Commissioner Leroy Lang said wryly.

"I've heard that (the county is on the fast track for the landfill) for two years," Mr. Archibald replied. "If you start now you might not make it in a lifetime when you're my age," Mr. Lang replied.

Mr. Miller agreed that it had been a long time but humor was the way to handle it.

"Dean wants to get this done before he retires," he said, with a grin.

Mr. Archibald also told the commissioners that the wells to check for contamination at the landfill have been tested. They will have to be tested again in January, he said.

He said he is looking for companies which do well testing so that the county can get bids next time. He has found companies in Manhattan, in Kansas City, Mo.,

Conservation board asks for money

(Continued from Page 1) what happens during the special legislative session being called to deal with school finance problems.

"Unless they (the legislature) come up with a new revenue source they could come back and start jerking what little money we have left that the state's been giving us," he said. "It could wreck our whole budget process."

The county has lost demand transfer money, which the state

and three in Topeka. But, he said, those are probably all too far away.

He said he would continue looking and thinks there's someone in Dodge City.

used to send back from taxes, he said.

"All the taxes collected in the county go to the state and it is supposed to give a percentage back but they've stopped sending that back to us," Mr. Miller said.

"We've lost \$189,000 in revenue the state has not sent to us. That's \$3.5 million for the state for the counties.

"That's why we put in the sales tax."

The county still gets some money from the state in city-county revenue sharing and motor carrier fuel tax but it is possible the state could cut those out also, he said.

"If they take any of those, we will be in a hole and not only will we be in a hole but every other county out here will be in a hole," Mr. Miller said.

"They took the money from here and used it to balance the state budget and we're on our own."

Commissioner Leroy Lang noted that the school districts set their own tax budgets and although it is paid to the county is all goes back to the schools.

"The schools aren't going to get hurt in this deal," Mr. Miller said.



Construction crews will soon be done with the north half of the bridge west of Norton on U.S. 36. Once work is started on the south side, traffic will be moved to the north side. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

U.S. 36 road construction is going well

By VERONICA MONIER Road construction in Norton County is progressing well.

Area Engineer Harold Schleicher with the Kansas Department of Transportation said the bridge work west of Norton on U.S. 36 is about half finished. He said the north side of the bridge is almost finished and traffic is expected to be moved to that side of the bridge next week.

He said the construction company working on U.S. 36 is about a month away from the more major work.

On U.S. 283, he said department workers finished maintenance work this week through town. He said the road was getting rough and they were smoothing it out, adding another layer of asphalt.

District Engineer Chris McDuffett said the maintenance work in town is pretty much finished for awhile.

Area Engineer Doug Driggs said the department will be patching the area around the railroad tracks on U.S. 283 this fall when the weather gets cooler, which is necessary for concrete work.

Some patching will be done on K-9 in the near future, he said. Also on K-9 will be an overlay project. Construction crews are

around the Logan area right now and will be moving west into Norton County. He said it will be about a month and a half before K-9 is finished in Norton County.

Also, he said, drainage work is going to be done all over the area, including some areas of U.S. 283 north of Norton, to keep the road from washing out when it rains.

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