

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday  
June 28, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Tim Kelly

Briefly

### First responder class to start soon

The Norton County Emergency Medical Service will hold a first responder class beginning Monday, July 18.

The class will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and all day one Saturday a month.

Those interested can have the class paid for by a state grant program if they are willing to volunteer to take calls at least three times a month for a year.

For more information or to sign up, call Andy Nielsen or Ruth Schillig at the ambulance building at 877-5784.

### Tape and foil are themes Thursday

Fun Night Thursday evening at the Norton Public Library Community Room is for students who will be in seventh through 12th grades in the fall. Thursday night the theme is "Duct Tape and Tin Foil". Students are asked to bring cookies for a snack. Fun night is from 7 to 9 p.m.

### Safe driving class begins tonight

The first night of a two-session safe driving class begins tonight at 6 p.m. in the basement of Norton County Hospital. Anise Gill is teaching the "55 Alive" class sponsored by State Farm Insurance. You must attend both classes to receive a completion certificate that will earn you a 10 percent discount on your auto insurance. Cost of the class is \$10. To learn more call Mrs. Gill at 785-877-5170.

Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 60s. **Tuesday** — Sunny with highs around 101. West winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest in the afternoon. **Tuesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 60s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s.

### Howell report:

Friday ..... High 97, Low 68, Prec. .23  
Saturday ..... High 96, Low 68  
Sunday ..... High 95, Low 65  
Monday ..... High 103, Low 69  
Week ago ..... High 97, Low 67  
Month ago ..... High 78, Low 45  
Year ago ..... High 76, Low 56  
June precipitation ..... 3.12 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 10.52 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

In the midst of life's storms, O God, may we see your rainbow of hope and grace that reminds us of your covenant and your infinite love for us. Amen



Skylar Johnson, (above) put the finishing touches on his fruit and vegetable face. Dylan Sprigg and Jordan Wahlmeier (left) enjoyed eating the watermelon from their "face".

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Youth cook up some fun at class

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Whoever heard of "fruit salsa"? Just ask the kids that attended Friday's "Kids a Cookin'" class sponsored by Norton County Extension and taught by Multi-County Extension Specialist Tranda Watts.

The "don't play with your food rule" did not apply as three teams of 4-H'ers made fruit and vegetable faces. (Continued on Page 5)

## BB gun team on its way to internationals

By DICK BOYD

For the 37th time in 40 years, the Norton County BB Gun Team will compete in the U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships.

The international championships are the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world. They will be held Friday-Sunday in Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, Ky.

Norton's team has been sponsored by the Norton Jaycees but the chapter closed so the Norton Rotary Club has taken over the sponsorship and the team is now the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team.

Norton has won the international shoot eight times, more than any other community and came close to a ninth championship two years ago when it placed second at Wilmington, N.C.

Norton won the international title in 1990 and '91, placed seventh in '92, sixth in '93, seventh in '94, sixth in '95, third in 1996, fifth in '97, won the title in 1998, tied for ninth in 1999, won the championship again in 2000, tied for 15th in '01, placed 11th in '02 and second in '03.

Three gun problems the first day of shooting and two on the final day kept the Norton County marksmen out of the top

10 teams and placed them 16th last year; however, Norton tied for first in the written test of shooting safety knowledge, which accounts for 20 percent of the team score.

Each team has different shooters each year since individuals are not allowed to shoot at international two years in a row. The marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years old. They compete in four shooting positions — prone, standing, sitting and kneeling. The written test will contain questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule

Book. This year's Yellow team, the top team of three Norton enters each year in the Kansas BB Gun Shooting Championships, won the state championship on April 9 in Manhattan.

It was the 36th state BB gun championship for Norton in 40 years. Norton did not compete in 1982.

Under current rules, the top three teams in the state are eligible to compete at international. This was not true when Norton failed to win the championship twice before.

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## Hospital asks county for money

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital would like a little bit more money for its budget.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller gave the Norton County commissioners a quarterly report and an overview of next year's budget at Monday's meeting.

He said the hospital has been a little bit busier this year. Surgeries stayed consistent, but the Doctor's Clinic visits were down.

"But, I think they will bounce back next year," he said.

Mr. Miller said the patient revenue was higher, but so were expenses. He said with a disproportionate share payment, which the hospital gets in part because of the obstetrics services it provides, the hospital is operating at about \$1.49 million in the black.

However, he said, without the share payment, the hospital would have a loss of \$97,771. The share payment is something that has to be applied for every year and there are no guarantees that the hospital will get another one next year.

Commissioner John Miller said he had had several comments about the hospital wanting an increase in county money, when it has a profit of \$1.49 million.

"Somehow, you need to explain to people how your showing a loss of \$97,000 and yet showing a profit of \$1.49 (million)," he said. "We understand that without the (disproportionate share) payment, the hospital would be showing a (Continued on Page 5)



Firefighters from Norton Rural Fire Department battled the blaze and smoke Monday afternoon in a stubble field belonging to Warren Harding.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Extinguish fire in wheat field

Rural Fire Chief Steve Otter said it was more than likely the exhaust system on a pickup truck caused a stubble fire early Monday afternoon southeast of Norton.

A witness said it was dripping fire from underneath as it drove out of the field.

A 2002 Toyota Tundra, belonging to Judy Sanders, Norton, was a charred wreck after it was driven out of a stubble field belonging to Warren Harding. (Continued on Page 5)







Assistant coach Steve Otter watched closely as Brad Nuzum squeezed off another round from his BB gun during the Norton team's final practice Friday evening

# Team gives prizes to get to competition

By DICK BOYD

It takes a lot of money to attend the state and international BB gun championships. The Norton Rotary Club helps but travel is expensive and the Norton BB Gun Club does its best to raise the money for out of town trips.

For this year's trip to the international shoot, the team members accepted prize donations.

Winners were Charles Kent, Norton, a \$50 gas certificate, donated by Norton County Co-op; Russ Erbert, Norton, an \$70 electric weed eater, donated by Engel Sales and Service; Ron Hager, Norton, a \$100 toy John Deere combine, donated by SW Implement, McCook; Paul Nuzum, Phillipsburg, 10 car washes worth \$60, donated by Walter Motor; Dale Mulford, Norton, two 10-pound bags Science Pet Food, donated by Norton Animal Health Center; Jane Mindrup, Norton, one medium single-topping pizza per month for one year, donated by Norton Pizza Hut.

Prize winners can pick up their prizes after July 7 at Kansasland Tire in Norton.

Head Coach Dan Lauer thanked the parents who helped their children to do their best and practice regularly.

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 and studying for the written test.

In the past, teams have used the National Guard Armory for practices but the team practiced in the Rural Telephone building on the east side of the courthouse square in downtown Norton until remodeling of the armory was complete.

Coach Lauer thanked the First State Bank; New Age Industrial

Corp., City of Norton; Norton Rotary Club; Alberta Byrum; Rural Telephone; the National Guard; First Security Bank & Trust; Norton American Legion and McMullen and Wyatt Auctions for their support of the program.

He also thanked the Pheasants Forever for donating money for the shotgun which was given away prior to the state shoot and the Center Gun Shop for selling the shotgun at cost.

Coach Lauer thanked assistant coaches Cameron Archer, Steve Otter and Kirk Nuzum and other volunteers for their help. He also thanked his wife, Teresa Lauer, who provides much assistance in addition to being the classroom instructor. Assisting her in the grading room and classroom have been Misty Nuzum, Michele Sprigg, Lynette Archer and Penny Otter.

"We have the best community support anywhere in the nation," said Teresa. "Thanks to the entire community for their support, including the prizes, car wash and donations."

"The parents deserve a really special thank you this year. With all this moving around for practices, the parents have been awesome."

The International BB Gun Championships are the highlight of the Jaycees Shooting Education Program and State Shootoffs. The program was designed to introduce young shooters to the basics of safe gun handling and marksmanship. About 250,000 young people take part in the program each year.

The safety program is based on a format proposed by the late Norton Jaycees member Duane Winder. This was adopted nationwide when Daisy and the U.S. Jaycees began the program.

# Norton team will be shooting to win

(Continued from Page 1)

Norton finished with a shooting score of 1,803 and total score with written test of 2,285 to win state.

Manhattan Purple was second with 1,784 shooting and a total of 2,262. Third place went to Ark City No. 1 with a shooting score of 1,779 and total of 2,239.

This year's Norton international team are Brad Nuzum, 15; Nish Millan, 15; Brittany Otter, 14; Cole Archer, 12 and Kylie Nuzum, 11.

Brad Nuzum was a member of Norton's 2003 international team and Otter and Kylie Nuzum were international alternates in 2004.

Alternates this year are Dustyna Sprigg, 12 and Lane Archer, 10. They were both members of the Blue team at state.

Cole and Lane Archer and Nish

Millan are second generation BB gun shooters for Norton. Their fathers, Cameron Archer and Fig Millan, were Blue Jay marksmen when they were teens.

The Norton team had its final pre-international practice on Friday at the National Guard Armory.

"Practices have been going well," said Head Coach Dan Lauer. "Our shooters have an idea where they want to be and what they want to do in the shoot."

"Written test scores have been up and down but that's normal."

"They have made the bull's eye on the target harder to hit. It is just a dot. Before, it was the size of a BB. The target is now more like an air rifle target."

"We didn't shoot the new targets at the state shoot but have

been practicing with them in recent weeks. I guess they wanted to make it more challenging but our youngsters haven't had any trouble with it."

This is at least the third time in the history of the program that the bull's eye has been reduced.

The team has been practicing twice a week since the state shoot.

## Shooting to start Saturday

The shooters will be allowed to practice on the range on Friday. The opening ceremonies will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday. Shooting gets underway at 8 a.m. Saturday with firing from the prone position, followed by the standing, the most difficult position. The written test will be taken from 1-2 p.m.

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, the popular barter bar will be held. This is a fun event where shooters, coaches and parents exchange memorabilia from their states and become better acquainted.

Marksmanship from the sitting position will begin at 8 a.m. Sunday and will be followed by the kneeling competition. The awards ceremony will be held in the arena gym from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday.

# Hospital requests more money

(Continued from Page 1)

loss. But a lot of other people don't get that.

"Our hospital is still maintaining better than a lot of others in the area and we're grateful for that and need to support it."

Commissioner Miller said another comment he's gotten is if the county does give the hospital 4 mills, then what is it going to do with the money and can it be earmarked for something specific.

Mr. Miller said county appropriations, or the mill levy, is only a small part of the hospital's budgets. Somewhere around 2 percent, he said, so there would not be a large amount of the budget earmarked.

He said the hospital is beginning to pay off loans from the renovation project, which was necessary to keep the hospital as up to date as possible.

Hospital Board member Dennis Gilhousen said just because the hospital is done with the renovation, that doesn't mean it is done updating.

"We have to maintain our hospital so it can be something we are proud of," he said. "So that it can stay competitive."

Mr. Miller said possibly in a couple of years, the hospital might renovate the second floor and surgery department.

"Surgery is the most expensive to renovate," he said. "It would be nice to renovate in a couple of years, but right now, we just need a break to see where we are financially."

The hospital also just bought the rural fire building to use for storage and a place for maintenance work. Also, he said, it is looking at adding partitions to the clinic for privacy in the reception area, installing closer handicap parking at the clinic, and possibly renovating the physical therapy department. It is also going to be replacing concrete in the north parking lot over the next three years.

Commissioner Miller said he understood that the county money wasn't unencumbered and that the hospital needs to be maintained.

"The hospital is a critical link to what we have," he said. "Is it going to keep costing us money? Yes. But the hospital's staff and board do a good job of keeping us where we are."

Mr. Gilhousen said running a hospital required a delicate balance between looking at the present and looking to the future.

He said the hospital staff, when forming the budget, could start with the bottom line and work backwards, but it was more fiscally responsible to be realistic about what is needed and what prices are going to be.

Mr. Miller asked if the county was going to give the hospital 4 mills.

Commissioner Miller said they were in the process of looking at everything.

"Some people are going to get it (more county money)," he said, "and some people aren't. That's just the way it has to be."

# Youth cook up fun at 'Kids A Cookin' class

(Continued from Page 1)

They used a watermelon slice for the head, parsley for hair, bananas for the mouth and baby tomatoes for eyes. One creative team sliced their banana in half and placed on the watermelon face with the inside out. They said that was to represent braces.

After finishing their faces, they were allowed to eat them.

Ms. Watts had prepared a table with almost every kind of fruit and vegetable imaginable. Next, she invited each team to select two

fruits for the "fruit salsa". After thoroughly blending the fruits in a blender, the teams dipped graham crackers in the "salsa".

It was unanimous, they liked it.

"It's good," one youngster exclaimed.

To which Ms. Watts replied, "Of course, it is. I told you I wouldn't make you try something bad."

Part of the "Kids A Cookin'" program was to encourage children to at least try a new food. They were also taught to say, "M-

m-m, interesting," instead of "Yuk."

The final recipe created was a vegetable salsa using cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, cilantro, a little jalapeno and celery.

The reception for that creation was not quite as enthusiastic, but they ate it.

One final exercise was prepared for the children with a life skills judging. It was monitored by Beverly Kindler, a former Norton and Decatur County Extension agent. Miss Kindler said the judg-

ing covered several practices designed to develop critical thinking and decision making.

Assisting Ms. Watts during the cooking demonstrations were Patsy Maddy and Mary Wentz.

Taking part in the cooking class were Landon Porter, Adrienne Hager, Dustyna Sprigg, Kyrá Fulton, Jared Wente, Ryan Johnson, Dylan Sprigg, Jordan Wahlmeier, Carissa Wentz, Marisa Maddy, Skylar Johnson, Molly Maddy, Quinton Porter, Shantae Ebner and Emily Schulze.

# Firemen get blaze put out

(Continued from Page 1)

Seven to eight acres of stubble was lost along with one to two acres of waste ground just north of the field.

Norton Rural Fire Department sent six men, two grass rigs and a tanker truck. Chief Otter said it took them about two hours to put out the fire.

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