

# Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 51  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Norton K-18 splits games with Stockton, American Legion team defeats Plainville and Division II boys baseball action.

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Friday  
July 1, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ermalea Mason

## Briefly

### Telegram will be closed Monday

The Norton Telegram office will be closed on Monday for the Fourth of July holiday. No Monday paper will be printed. Instead, the Tuesday, July 5 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 and happy Fourth of July.

### Fireworks set for Monday at lake

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, on Monday. Free watermelon will be served beginning at 8 p.m. near the bathhouse at the east end of the park near Sebelius Lake. Also around 8 p.m., Master of Ceremonies 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. 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. Just before dark, Troop No. 181 will retire the flag and then the fireworks will begin.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.  
**Saturday** — Highs in the lower 90s.  
**Saturday night** — Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s.  
**Sunday** — A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s.  
**Sunday night** — Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.  
**Monday** — A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 90.  
**Monday night** — A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 103, Low 73  
Wednesday ..... High 97, Low 65  
Thursday ..... High 92, Low 59  
Week ago ..... High 98, Low 69  
Month ago ..... High 63, Low 53  
Year ago ..... High 85, Low 66  
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

Companion God, thank you for watching over us all the time. Help us to share your love and grace with everyone we meet. Amen



Hay bales smoldered, smoked and burned (above) while rural firemen from Norton and Almena along with local farmers and friends tried to save what they could. Spencer Braun (below) maneuvered

his tractor with a front-loader and hook, to move a smoldering heap of hay.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



## Bales, windbreak catch fire

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Spontaneous combustion is the suspected culprit as the cause of a fire late Thursday afternoon that damaged or destroyed about 100 large round bales of first-cutting hay at the Dwight and Michelle Sprigg farmstead northwest of Norton.

Cutting wheat in a nearby field to the southeast, Dennie Lofgreen was the first to spot the smoke and radioed his mother, Ruth Lofgreen to call 911. Two units from

the Norton Rural Fire Department responded immediately to the call. However, it soon became apparent they would need more help. Another truck and more men soon arrived, followed by units from the Almena Rural Fire Department.

The large, round hay bales were stacked, two-deep, parallel to an established cedar tree windbreak on the north side of the Sprigg's ranch-style farm home.

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## Businesses close for holiday

Patriotism is at an all time high each year on the Fourth of July.

This year is no exception with many businesses closing early so their employees can take part in the annual fireworks display at Sebelius Reservoir. The display is sponsored by the Norton County Area Chamber of Commerce with assistance from many businesses and private donation.

All banking institutions and credit unions will be closed Monday in observance of July 4.

Jack Rabbit Service station will be closed Monday but the other gas stations/convenience stores will be open their regular hours. Time Saver's regular hours are 5 a.m. to midnight and Love's and Diamond Shamrock are always open, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Almena Market had decided to close Monday while Jamboree, Norton Shop and Save and The Country Corner in Lenora all have shortened hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

It shouldn't be hard to find a good place to eat on the Fourth of July. In Norton Adventures in Eating will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; McDonald's from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Town and Country Kitchen from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Dairy Queen from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Pizza Hut/Taco Bell from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Quizno's Sub from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In Norcatat Mama Millie's will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and The Cardinal Bar and Grill will serve from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Nathan Donahey, elevator operator at Reager for the Norton Co-op, and Don Jones, employee, went top-side Wednesday evening to tighten the drag conveyor on top of the bins.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Harvest is much better than last year

By VERONICA MONIER

Harvest in Norton County is well on its way and is looking much better than last year.

Linda Donovan, co-manager of the Norton Co-op Association, said she thinks they are about 70 percent through harvest, with the first load coming in on June 22.

Test weights have been very good at 60 plus pounds per bushel, she said. Yields have been anywhere from 20 to 50 bushels per acre.

Mrs. Donovan said it was much bet-

ter than expected.

"We thought we'd be lucky if we had 50 percent of a normal crop," she said. "The late rains were really beneficial. We've already gotten twice as much as last year."

But, she said, the Co-op also has another elevator, which is probably why there is twice as much as last year. The Norton Co-op bought the Brady Grain elevator in Norton in May.

In Lenora, test weights are also good. Peggy Ninemire, an employee of Hi-Plains Co-op in Lenora, said their test

weights have been anywhere from 59 to 64 pounds per bushel. She said she's heard of yields in the 50 bushel per acre range. But, she said, farmers haven't really been saying.

"This year's a lot better," she said. Mrs. Ninemire said Lenora's first load came in on June 22.

The first load came into the Almena Agri-Service on June 17, said Manager Rod Johnson.

Test weights have been between 50 to 61 pounds per bushel with yields

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# PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

On Tuesday, June 14, Vivian Jansonius went to Phillipsburg to work in the hospital. Later she visited at the home of her daughter, Anita. They visited friends at the Golden Years Center and then ate dinner at the Pizza Hut. Mrs. Jansonius also visited at the home of Chet and Darlena Rumbaugh. Others present were Lucille Hofaker, Logan; Dawnita Reese, Lyle Rose, Eve Hansen, Virgil Whitsill and Kathy Nerlkein, all of Phillipsburg.

Those who attended the noon carry-in dinner at the Prairie View Senior Citizen Center on June 15 were: John and Doreen Hoffman, Logan; Glen and Linda Hultgren, Marvin Harbers, Burdett and Belva Leydig, Wilmer and Marie Hogan, the Rev. Jeffrey and Linda Van Der Weele and Philip, Faith Van Diest, Goldie Barker, Julianna Lasniewski, Rodney Jansonius, Clazine Engelsman, Vivian Jansonius, Clorisa Abel and Roy, Pamela Abel and Alex Araujo, Gertrude Erickson and Erma Jean Nyland, all of Prairie

View.

The following relatives went to Phillipsburg Saturday to the home of Kerry and Rhonda Kellerman, Jordan, Jaron and Jacy to celebrate Jordan's 11th and Jaron's 8th birthdays. They were: Vivian Jansonius of Prairie View; Kenny and Cindy Gavin of Ellinwood; Tammy Slayton and Brooke from Dodge City; Jerol and Jennifer De Boer, Kelsee and Taylor, Mark and Lisa Grieve, Kaiden and Megan, and Heath and Lori Bogart, Kali, Alex and Kambri, all from Hays; and Ivan and Mary Heersink, Wilma Kellerman and Eddy and Anita De Boer, all from Phillipsburg.

A nice crowd of people from the Prairie View Reformed Church, went to Phillipsburg after church Sunday, June 19, to attend the Father's Day potluck picnic at the home of John and Juanita Mason.

The Prairie Homemakers met June 27 at the Prairie View Senior Community Center for the lesson by Nancy Kent on "A Place For Everything". Hostesses were Gloria DeWitt and Beth Ponstien.

# ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Last Tuesday afternoon, June 21 Larry Miller came to Esther Marble's home and said a man wanted to take pictures of my house. He was a grandson of Clifford Stover. His name was Clifford also and said his dad's name is Clifford and he is 79 years old and they live in California. He remembered eating mulberries when he came to visit his grandfather years ago. But this year there aren't many berries as it froze too late. We had a nice visit and he took lots of pictures to show his dad.

Alice Kuiper and Lois Schamber drove to Salina June 21 to visit Ross and Margaret Reeves. They spent a few hours visiting before going to the Ken Kuiper

home. They spent the night with Ken and Marla and visited in the Reeves retirement home before driving home the next day.

Visitors of Reva Smith during the week were Rita Bieber on June 22, Evelyn Zellmer and Andy on June 22. Beth Heikes and daughter Cindy McKenna and granddaughter Shelbi McKenna came June 24 and brought supper for everyone. Levina Ingram came June 24 and Jean Leuszler and Laura Craig came June 26. Esther Marble visits Reva every day.

Ellis and June Fisher visited Esther Marble Friday afternoon.

Visitors of Dick and Betty Baker the last two days has been Dick's daughter Bobbie, husband and children from Beatty, Nev.

# Harvest is looking good

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anywhere from 30 bushels per acre to 60 bushels per acre.

This year is much better than last year, he said.

"It's tenfold," he said. "We didn't have a crop last year."

A Norcat area farmer also reported a good crop.

The Brian Kelly farm had a test weight of 63 pounds per bushel and an average yield of 50 bushels per acre.



Almena firefighters aimed a high-pressure jet of water at blazing bales during Thursday afternoon's fire at the Dwight Sprigg farm home.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Hay bale fire spreads to windbreak

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Working through the thick smoke, firemen fought the blaze while friends and neighbors with tractors equipped with bale mover spikes, front loaders and blades moved bales out of the way. Some bales were almost untouched, others were blackened, some were smoking and others were fully afire.

It was like a choreographed

dance as the equipment whipped around the confined space of the Sprigg's yard. One tractor would move in, pick up a bale, back out and take it out of the way. Another tractor was in the que, waiting his turn to move in for another bale. Some of the bales had to be spread around the yard so David Sprigg, Dwight's brother, could drive over it with his tractor, pulling a disc.

Tony VanPatten, an Almena

firefighter said, "That's one of the few ways to put out straw or hay fires. You just have to tear 'em apart."

Assistant Rural Fire Chief Ed Witt said, it might take several hours before the fire would be completely extinguished.

The fire was contained to the bales, although a few trees in the windbreak were damaged or destroyed.

It was not known if the house sustained any smoke damage.

A more complete story will appear in Tuesday's edition of *The Norton Telegram*.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprigg are out of town with the Norton BB Gun team as they compete in the national finals in Bowling Green, Tenn.

# NORTON MANOR NEWS

By DORIS MIZELL

June 18 James and Lena Skrdlant were guests at a barbecue at Leroy Atwells for Leroy's 80th birthday. Leroy's children cooked up the surprise for their father. Those present were Lila, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie LeCount, Norton; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Atwell, Glen Elder;

Mr. Lance Atwell, Garner, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. David Kindall, Norton; Mr. and Mrs. Matsin, Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Zeigler, Amber and Brett, Oakley and James and Lena Skrdlant, Norton.

Tuesday, June 21 Mrs. Brock Miller, also Grandma Skrdlant and two little girls, Emily and

Ericka, stopped to visit Great-Grandma Ethel Miller before they went back to Texas. Also stopping by to see the visitors were two Aunts, Lena Skrdlant and Mary Keith.

Saturday Brandon Otter called Anetta Knapp from Germany. All was fine. He was getting ready for his brother from Iraq to come spend some time with him. Rex Knapp spent Saturday evening with his mother Anetta.

Dorothy Foland was surprised to have her daughter Terri and husband Toby knock on their door last Friday night. She thought they were camping in the hills of Idaho. When she answered the door she was surprised to see Terri after three years. The rest of the family was in on the surprise.

June 19, Doris Mizell accompa-

nied Ray and Ruth Mizell to Norfolk, Neb., to attend the New Way Singers concert at the Johnny Carson Theater. It was an experience to go to the theater as well as to hear the concert. This was the end of the tour so Stephen came home with them and Janice and Elaine from Lamar, Colo.

June 17, Mr. and Mrs. James Skrdlant were surprised by Robert and Dawn Pauley who popped in with pizza and muskmelon for James' Father Day.

Mary Keith says she is glad to be back home. She has had lots of residents visit recently along with her family.

Manor residents welcome Truman and Catherine Hicks. They are living on third floor.

Twenty-one residents came for coffee Monday morning.



Shoppers have spent the past week getting ready for the Fourth of July holiday by stocking up on fireworks. The Norton Archery Club's fireworks stand is just one of sev-

eral around the county that people can go to.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

# Some businesses set to close for July 4 holiday

(Continued from Page 1)

Restaurants choosing to close in observance of the Fourth are The Beacon Cafe, Pure Prairie, K & S Center Cafe, Norton; and The Station, Almema. China Garden is closed while the owners are on vacation in California.

O'Brien's Bar in downtown Norton will be open from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Norton Theatre will be closed Monday. Call 877-2045 to find out show times for the rest of the week.

Both discount stores in Norton will be open Monday. Pamida from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dollar General from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pamida Pharmacy and Moffet Pharmacy will both be closed July 4 as will the Doctor's Clinic and the Norton Health Department.

All public offices including the Norton County Courthouse, Norton Public Library, Norton City Offices and the unified school district office will all be closed Monday.

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Upcoming Events:

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