

Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 57
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Norton American Legion baseball and Norton K-18 results.

Pages 8 & 10

Friday
July 22, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Sylva Whitney

Briefly

Rural fire to hold an open house

The Norton Rural Fire Department, and Fire District No. 2, will hold an open house from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 30, at the new fire building.

Refreshments will be served and a ribbon cutting will be held at 10 a.m.

The district purchased the new building at 914 N. State St., which is on the west side of U.S. 283 north of U.S. 36, around July 1.

Christmas will be here on Aug. 6

Prairie Dog State Park is sponsoring its second annual Prairie Dog Christmas on Saturday, Aug. 6.

Campers at the state park are encouraged to decorate their campsites in a Christmas theme.

Campers need to register at the park office by 1 p.m. Aug. 6.

Campsites will be judged between 9 and 10 p.m. Saturday night and prizes will be awarded at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7 at Campsite No. 8, the Camp Hosts' site.

A vehicle permit is required. For more information call 877-2953.

'J', 'K', 'L' tags need renewal

July is the month for renewing vehicle tags for those whose last name begins with "J", "K" or "L", or businesses whose name begins with "J", "K" or "L".

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 for the Norton County Treasurer's office are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have questions, call 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Clear with lows in the lower 70s. Gusts up to 30 mph early in the evening. **Saturday** — Breezy and sunny with highs around 106. South winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. **Saturday Night** — Clear with lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 98, Low 75
Wednesday High 107, Low 72
Thursday High 103, Low 72
Week ago High 98, Low 65
Month ago High 97, Low 67
Year ago High 98, Low 68
July precipitation 2.68 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 13.20 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, help us trust you to achieve more in our lives than we can imagine. Amen



Carissa Lacy, (above) puts some finishing touches on Kelli Johnson's make-up before Miss Johnson changed clothes to model her new outfit in the buymanship portion of Tuesday afternoon's 4-H judging. Skylar Johnson (below) looked intent as he answered questions from the buymanship judge, Sandy Jacobs, of Phillipsburg. Jade Cressler, (right) of Prairie Dog 4-H Club, tries to explain the steps she took when she made her new pajamas. Jade's mother, Trish Cressler, sat with her daughter during the judging.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Council is going forward with Sunday sales

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council is going ahead with its plans to allow Sunday liquor and beer sales.

The council held the first reading of Ordinance No. 1549, authorizing the sales of alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverages in the original package within the city limits.

Beer sales would be legal on every Sunday, between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., except Easter. Liquor sales would be allowed on every Sunday, between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., except Easter

and the Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day holidays.

If passed, the ordinance will take effect 61 days after the final publication or on Nov. 15, whichever is later, unless a sufficient petition is filed allowing the question to be put on the ballot.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city office received one complaint against the ordinance.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she has had several people ask her to vote against it.

Councilman Ron Briery said he

brought up Sunday sales because he had a retailer ask him to do it.

"My feeling is the pool hall is open on Sunday so people can drink," he said. "Also, if Oberlin or Phillipsburg passed an ordinance like this, then people would be driving there. I'd rather have them staying in Norton."

Mr. Briery said Sunday sales are also available in Nebraska, so people are driving there to get alcohol and beer.

Councilman Jerry Jones said a similar ordinance just passed in Hays.

"If we pass it, it doesn't mean it will

happen," he said. "Stores don't have to be open on Sunday because of this."

Mrs. Mann said retailers sell liquor six days a week and there should be one day when it isn't sold.

The council passed the first reading with a 5-1 vote, with Mrs. Mann voting no.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the swimming pool will close for the season at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13 because of a lack of lifeguards available after that time.

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County commission sets preliminary 2006 budget

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Commissioners reviewed the preliminary budget for 2006 at Monday's meeting.

The commissioners met with John Mapes of Mapes and Miller CPAs, who said at the beginning of the meeting that the county was at 73.9 mills, with preliminary figures showing the county assessed valuation as \$39,783,981.

Mr. Mapes said the mill levy was 75.526 in 2004 and 68.7 in 2005.

By the end of the meeting, the commission had managed to lower the preliminary

mill levy to 68.598.

Commissioner John Miller said they should put the mill levy at 69, so they have a little cushion in the general fund.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said it would still be below 70, if they chose to do that.

Commissioner Leroy Lang wanted to know how that compared to other counties.

Mr. Mapes said it's a pretty low number for western Kansas but was about in the middle statewide.

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Norton students will get some extra time away from school

By VERONICA MONIER

Students of the Norton School District will have a little more time away from school than expected.

Superintendent Greg Mann asked the board at the July 11 meeting to have special dismissals so that staff can be trained to use the new computerized learning software.

He said everyone would be trained on SiPPS, a web-based program that parents can use to check their children's attendance and grades, for two days before school starts.

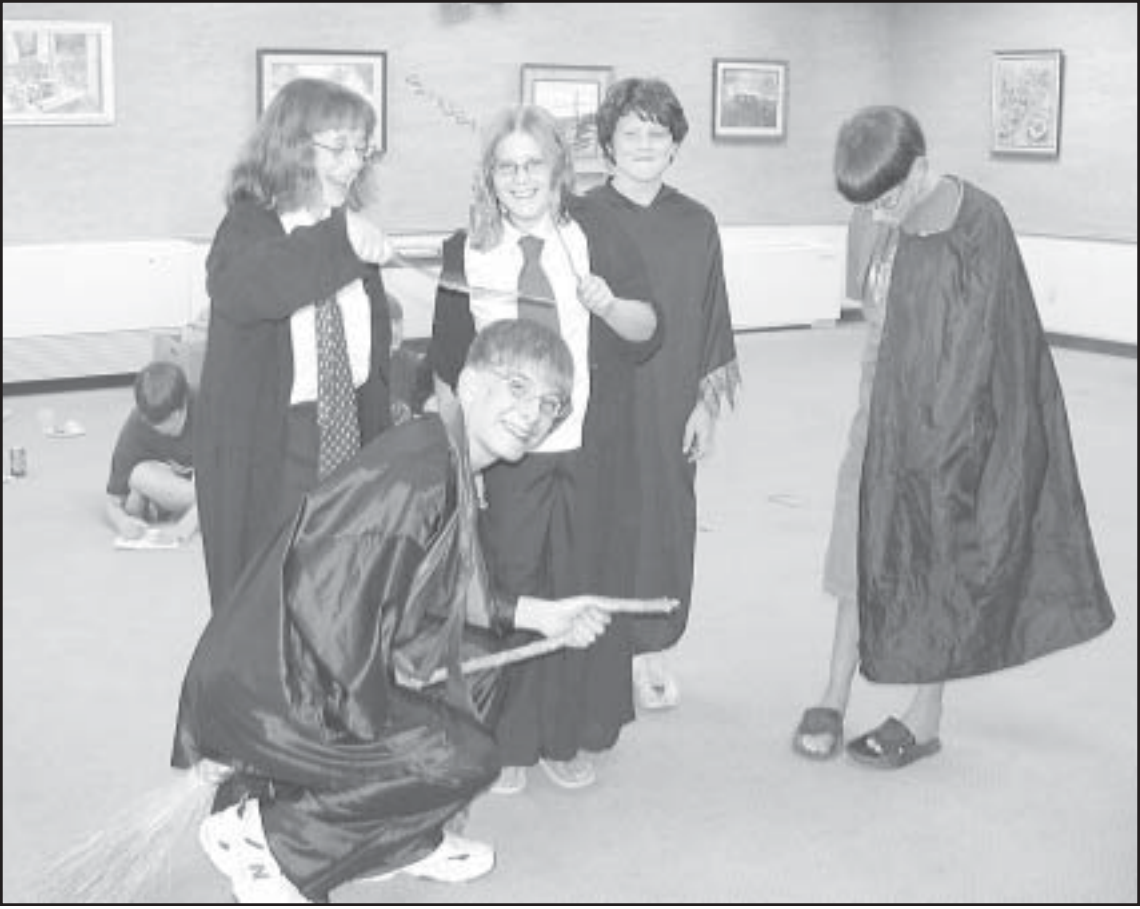
As for the state assessment programs

Compass and Pass Key, he said training will need to be done after school starts. He said Compass was purchased for the grade school and Pass Key for the junior high and high school.

"We don't have enough substitutes to train and still have school," he said. "And we have to work around the trainers schedules."

Mr. Mann said the teachers for kindergarten through second grade need to be trained on Wednesday, Sept. 7, those for grades three and four need to be trained on Thursday, Sept. 8, and

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Josh Gallentine, on the broomstick, won the Harry Potter costume contest during Fun Night Thursday evening at the Norton Library. Other Potter wannabes were, L-R: Emily Grose, Katie Grose, Brady Riggins and Matthew Carlton.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Book comes alive for fans at library

Even Harry Potter enthusiasts succumbed to the heat. But the dozen or so loyal, hale and hearty fans turned out for Fun Night Thursday evening at Norton Public Library, where the theme was anything to do with the popular Harry Potter book series.

Students from seventh through twelfth grades dressed as their favorite character. Josh Gallentine won the costume contest sporting a flowing cape he picked up at the thrift store, a red necktie and his own spectacles.



These boys put their heads together to find hidden words relating to the Harry Potter stories in a maze. Dakota Dreher, left, Bryce Lofgreen center and Matt Miller, right.

Winners of the creative drawing contest were Jacob Mizell, first and David Mizell, second.

In between snacks and "Butter Beer" (cream soda and butter-

scotch topping mixed) the youngsters played a Harry Potter trivia contest, word find and Quittich, a favorite game of Harry's.

Endowment program helps county 4-H

The Norton County 4-H Endowment Development was organized in 2005, as a means to provide a structured mechanism to receive private donations and direct these funds into 4-H programs in Norton County.

It is important that donors do not confuse the 4-H Endowment Fund with the operation of the local 4-H Council. The Council has its own operation budget for expenses to carry out events, educational activities, leader training and purchase materials to conduct the 4-H Council and assist in operating the 4-H program with the 4-H clubs in Norton on a daily and monthly basis. The Endowment would build a foundation for the future sustainability of the local 4-H Council and 4-H program effort.

Youth ages 7 to 19 and adult volunteers in Norton County re-

ceive direct benefits, through educational activities and programs. Indirectly, the entire community benefits as those involved in county 4-H become better citizens who are more capable of making worthwhile contributions.

4-H involves urban and rural, young and old alike. 4-H members are guided by volunteer leaders in club sittings where parliamentary procedure, public speaking and leadership skills are practiced and in a variety of enrichment activities outside of the club setting. By being involved through various projects, participants find that confidence and self-esteem are enhanced for a lifelong benefit.

Some Programs and Events

- State Judging/Quiz Bowl Teams
- Kansas City Conference
- Leader Resource and Training
- 4-H Ambassadors/Youth

Leader Forum

- County Achievement Night awards
- 4-H Discovery Day
- 4-H Camp, 4-H Day Camp
- 4-H Enrichment programs, community activities

- Project Resources and Materials
- Shooting sports
- Livestock and horse events
- Lawn mower safety clinic, hazardous occupation farm safety program.

How do you give to the Endowment? By giving funds payable to the Kansas 4-H Foundation and ear-marking your check to "Norton County 4-H Endowment Fund". This entitles Norton 4-H access to the funds and gives you the tax deductible contribution.

Contact the Norton County Extension office at 785-877-5755 for more information.

County sets preliminary budget

(Continued from Page 1)
As far as department budgets go, the commission set preliminary budgets at:

- county commission budget — \$73,000
- county clerk — \$105,000
- county treasurer — \$89,000
- register of deeds — \$40,000
- sheriff's department — \$395,000
- county attorney — \$67,359
- unified courts — \$20,000
- 17th judicial court — \$17,000
- juvenile detention — \$7,500
- probation — \$13,350
- courthouse general — \$409,265
- emergency preparedness — 31,000

- data processing — \$35,000
- environmental — \$15,000
- road and bridge — \$1,058,193
- solid waste — \$228,000
- emergency medical service — \$236,582
- county health — \$318,584
- noxious weed — \$104,905
- election — \$87,550
- economic development — \$94,057
- appraiser — \$100,000
- 4-H — \$12,000
- fair — \$11,000
- soil conservation — \$10,000
- airport — \$33,000
- mental health — \$29,000
- mental retardation — \$54,000
- community college — \$15,750

- Andbe Home — \$19,638
- extension council — \$71,500 (county money only)
- historical society — \$4,550
- senior citizens — \$45,406
- hospital — \$90,064 (2 mills)
- employee benefits — \$1,084,000
- bridge bond — \$320,062

Mr. Mapes said this year's preliminary mill levy is almost the same as last year's.

"It's going to be so small a bump that it won't be noticeable on people's tax bill," he said.

"We're all tax payers here," said Mr. Lang. "We have to help pay the bill too."

Teachers need to train on programs

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then fifth and sixth grade teachers should be trained on Friday, Sept. 9.

Pass Key training for seventh through twelfth grade teachers should be on Thursday, Sept. 8.

He said the students wouldn't have school on the days that their teachers are in training.

"I know it will place a hardship on the parents," Mr. Mann said. "But this is the best way to do it. The trainers aren't available until this fall."

Mr. Mann said a letter was being sent out to the parents to let them know what was going on.

The board agreed to the special dismissals.

In other business, the board:

- Continued membership in Schools for Quality Education. Mr. Mann said the group has become the major proponent and

most vocal defender and advocate of low enrollment weighting, and is the major organizational voice of small rural school districts. The membership cost is \$300.

- Went into three closed sessions. One 5-minute session to discuss non-elected personnel, one 10-minute session to discuss employee/employer negotiations, and one 10-minute session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Approved requests for out-of-district transportation.
- Hired Clayton Cox as the junior high school assistant football coach for 2005-06.
- Appointed Board member Elaine Lofgreen to the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperation board of directors; Board member Jeff Nielsen to the professional development council; Board member Jennifer Terrell, as board president, to the

Kansas Association of School Boards governmental relations board; Board member Scott Ellis to the curriculum coordinating council; and Frank Otter, Lenora, as the district's representative to the Northwest Kansas Technical College board of directors in Goodland.

• Appointed Mrs. Terrell as board president and Mrs. Lofgreen as board vice-president.

• Set the monthly meeting for the second Monday of the month at 7:30 with the meeting to last no longer than four hours.

• Approved the 1,116 hour school calendar.

• Signed a resolution allowing for home rule which gives the district permission to do anything not expressly forbidden.

• Discussed having a special meeting to set board goals for the school year.

City okays first reading for Sunday sales

(Continued from Page 1)

- Suspended the rules and waived the three reading rule for Ordinance No. 1547 and No. 1548. The council then adopted both ordinances. The three reading rule was suspended because the ordinances are passed every year. Ordinance 1547 incorporates the state's 2005 uniform public of-

fense code, while Ordinance 1548 incorporates the state's standard traffic ordinance.

Heard from Mr. Lawson that the fair equipment is up and ready for the Norton County Fair. He said the cemetery project is also progressing and that posts and chain have been put up. It looks nice, he said.

Reminded the public that the city has a sidewalk replacement program. Mr. Lawson said he encouraged people to take advantage of it.

Set a budget hearing for 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at the city building.

Harvest for feed grains is approaching

Norton County Farm Service Agency would like to remind everyone the upcoming harvest for feed grains is fast approaching.

There are a few items farmers need to be aware of again for the 2006 harvest.

Anyone intending to deliver their crops to a feed yard or a dairy must file a CCC-709 at the agency's office prior to harvest. If farmers plan to sell their grain upon delivery to any elevator or

have contracted to sell, even if the grain is in open storage, they will need to complete a CCC-709 as beneficial interest is lost upon delivery.

Crop loans are available through Commodity Credit Corporation.

For more information, visit your local agency office.

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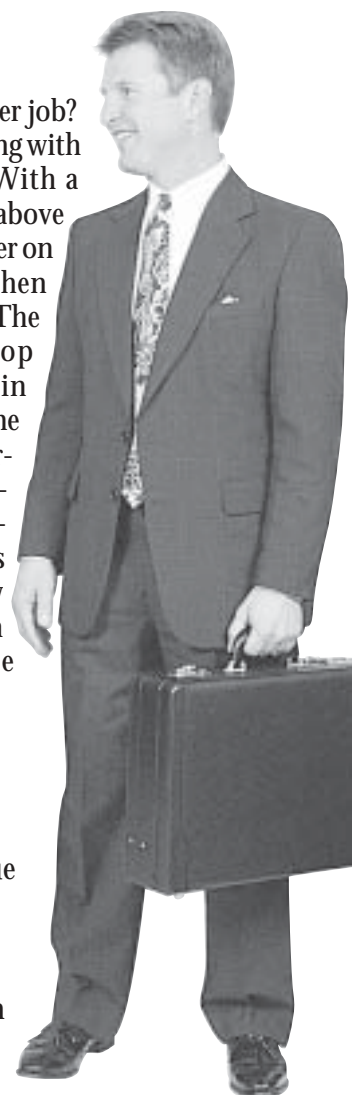
Call Cynthia Haynes, editor and publisher for an interview.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM