

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
August 9, 2005

Swimming pool to dry up early

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton kids still have a few more days to swim this summer.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson said the pool will be open until 8 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Lawson said the pool is closing a little bit early this year because there aren't enough lifeguards to keep it open through Labor Day.

"We would only have one (lifeguard) available, because the rest have to start

sports," he said.

Friday, he said, was Pool Manager Joy Lauer's last day. Assistant Manager Kai Mann is running things until the pool closes.

The week after the pool closes, the fire department will be taking its trucks to the pool to pump water, which is required to certify them.

Other cities in the area use the Norton pool to certify their fire trucks as well. He said using the pool water is the best way

to get the certification done, because otherwise the department would have to take the trucks to Hays or would have to pump out of a pit, which could cause problems if something is sucked up.

Once the pool is closed, city crews will be cutting out concrete under the slide to repair a leak.

He said the pool hasn't been losing water, but it is something that needs to be repaired.

After that, the pool will be winterized,

which involves draining everything, taking all of the valves out of the showers, putting antifreeze in the drains, and putting the diving boards, chairs, ropes, chair lift, steps and anything else that's outside inside.

Winterizing has to be done before the weather turns cold.

The swimming pool is open from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Norton, Kansas
Home of Alfred Benien

Briefly

Motorcycle races

set for Sunday

The National Flat Track Racing Association will be holding motorcycle racing at Elmwood Park Speedway on Sunday.

The gates are set to open at 4:30 p.m., while races will start at 6 p.m.

In addition to motorcycle races, professional and amateur all terrain vehicle racing will also be held.

Sponsors of the event are Jamboree Foods, McMullen Real Estate, Holly's Playhouse, Engel's Sales and Service, Norton Travel and Tourism, Jerry's Body Shop and Time Zone Bar of Lenora.

Tickets will be available at the gate.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers

Community volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels next week, Aug. 15-21. If you can help, call Norton County Hospital at 877-3351 and ask for the dietary department or Alice Hawks.

Norcatour plans family fun day

A Fun Day is planned for Saturday in Norcatour. There will be games for the entire family all day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be water balloon volleyball, turtle races, a horse shoe tossing tournament, a dunk tank, a cow chip throwing contest, a cake walk, Bingo, and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. A dance starts at 9 p.m., featuring karaoke singing. For more details call Momma Millies in Norcatour at (785) 693-4000.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 90s. Wednesday Night —

Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Thursday — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 90s

Howell report:

Friday High 84, Low 69
Saturday High 91, Low 67
Sunday High 96, Low 66
Monday High 100, Low 69
Week ago High 108, Low 67
Month ago High 97, Low 71
Year ago High 91, Low 60
August precipitation03 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 13.83 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Your will be done, O Lord. When we walk through the dark valleys, help us to remember that we will reach your kingdom of eternal joy and peace.
Amen

Yuletide visits park in August

Campers decorate for Christmas party

The Prairie Dog State Park held its second annual Prairie Dog Christmas this weekend.

Last year was the park's first year to hold Christmas in the summer as something fun for campers to do during a slow time.

Campers staying at the park are asked to decorated their campsites as if it were Christmas. The campsite that was decorated the best wins.

This year, the park had six decorated sites.

Vicki and Charlie Taylor, Oberlin, and Harold and Janelle Shinn, Norton, teamed up to take first. The Taylor's were last year's winners as well. For their out-of-season Christmas spirit, the Taylors and Shinns received a tool set and a set of steak knives.

In second place were Bob and Sandy Husted, Norton. They won a set of cooking utensils for an outdoor grill and a set of steak knives.

Ray and Leta Koel, Norton, who are also the park's summertime camp hosts, took third, winning a camp table and an extension cord.

Fourth place was taken by Don and Marlene Skipton, Norton. They won a camp chair and an extension cord.

J.D. Sanderson, Norton, and Ken Roberts, Lenora, teamed up to win fifth. They received a folding cooler and an extension cord.

In sixth were Mike and Vickie Bailey, Jennings. The Baileys won an extension cord and two Prairie Dog State Park hats.

"I think it went very good this year," said Park Ranger Steve Mathes. "There were a lot of sightseers out this year to see the lights from 9 to 10 p.m. We were happy with the turnout."

Judging this year were Deena Wentz of KQNK Radio and Veronica Monier with *The Norton Telegram*.

The annual event is sponsored by Prairie Dog State Park and Norton Travel and Tourism.



A giant Santa Claus welcomed visitors during festivities at the second annual Prairie Dog State Park Christmas celebration last weekend.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Norton officials practice emergency procedure plans

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton officials want to be ready for any emergency so on Monday they got together for a tabletop practice session in the basement of Prairie Land Electric.

Representatives from the hospital, city, mental health, fire departments, law enforcement, Kansas Department of Transportation, county health and emergency medical services showed up to see how their emergency plans would work together.

Dennis Colsden, north central Kansas regional coordinator for Kansas Homeland Security, said the drill was to test emergency plans.

"We want to make sure everyone knows what to do in an emergency situation," he said.

Mr. Colsden said they were there to check problems that would arise during a large scale emergency, which could be anything from terrorist attacks to flu epidemics.

"The biggest threat out there is still mother nature," he said.

When a problem arises, he said, everyone needs to know who was doing what.

Therefore, an instant command center needs to be set up and a chain of command established. Also, it needs to

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Logan couple hopes to buy vacant lots in Densmore

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

A Logan couple would like to purchase some property in Densmore but they aren't sure who owns the land and whether it's for sale.

Doyle and Lois Archer took their questions to the Norton County commissioners on Monday.

Mr. Archer told the commissioners that he and his wife own some property in Densmore and are interested in buying some lots across the road.

The property in question, he said, is east of the Catholic church. The property has been kept up and Mr. Archer said he thinks that the person mowing the church lots has been mowing this area also. Commission Chairman Dean Kruse

asked if they had checked with the county appraiser on the ownership.

It was learned that a school district had owned them at one time. It was sold and the deed given to the West Union Township, which is no longer in operation since it has no board or trustees.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said he had checked and the property was deeded to West Union Township in 1966 from Densmore Rural High School. However, he said, the township is inactive.

"It would appear to me, that this reverts back to the county," Mr. Wyatt said. "But I'm certainly not a lawyer."

Commissioner Leroy Lang suggested that the Archers should talk to County

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Airport board should get cash to pay for bond

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
The Norton City/County Airport board does not have enough in its account to pay a \$25,000 bond payment which will soon be due.

But, on Monday night, Board Treasurer Jim Williams told members that there was enough money coming in to take care of it.

Mr. Williams reported a balance of \$12,607 with \$10,000 due from the county with another \$5,000 promised before the end of the year. The city has already fulfilled its \$20,000 obligation to the board.

Board Chairman John Miller, a county commissioner, told members that Jeffrey Deitering, the Federal Aviation Association airport planning engineer, will try to visit the airport and attend the next board meeting on Monday, Sept. 12. Mr. Deitering is the decision-maker regarding the \$77,600 in non-primary entitlement funding that the airport is eligible for next year, Mr. Miller said.

Attorney Karen Griffiths distributed a draft of the board's by-laws and explained the document, including procedures, duties of the officers, voting and purchasing policies.

In other business the board:

- Dropped access fees from the budget and approved it.
- Agreed to have Gale Boller contact hangar owners regarding the dismissal of access fees.
- Accepted a bid from Nelson Brothers Construction for \$936.55 for a new door at the airport, if it meets the specification.
- Accepted a bid for \$447 from Don's Floor Covering for window blinds for three windows at the airport.
- Learned Buddy and Mary Oswald have paid for their share of the dirt work done at their hangar.
- Discussed buying a courtesy car for the airport.
- Learned hangar owners paid property taxes of \$1,343.92.



Betty Heitman (left) inspected her stitches while Verla Chambers read some of the names on quilt blocks she found when cleaning out a dresser that had belonged

to her mother, Mabel Coomes. Mrs. Heitman pieced the blocks together and did the quilting.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Old quilt blocks lead woman to treasure

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
When Verla Chambers, Norton, was cleaning out a dresser that had belonged to her mother, Mabel Coomes, she was pleasantly surprised to find a stack of 24 quilt blocks.

Her mother died in November. The blocks were embroidered with her mother's name and the names of her mother's friends. Mrs. Chambers estimates the

blocks were made sometime in the 1930s.

The women whose names appear on the blocks were from the Dellvale and Oronoque area. Making "Friendship Quilts" was a popular practice in those days.

Mrs. Chambers took the blocks to her friend, Betty Heitman, who pieced the blocks together and did the quilting.

Names on the blocks include:

"Mother Coomes", Mrs. Chambers' grandmother, Bessie Ellis, Blanche Strickland, Joyce (Bedore) Beebe, Ella Porter, Aunt Mary, Clara Wheeler, (one of Mrs. Chambers' grade school teachers), Grace Fitch, Addie Coomes, Leone Beebe, Nellie D. Laura Elliott (a preacher's wife), "Mother", Peggy Strickland, Eva Shoemaker, Minnie Fought, Faye Wheeler, Eva Cuthbertson, Faye

Sidman, Sylvia Youngs, Josephine, Hazel Brown, Elsie Hazlett and Velma Gooder.

Mrs. Cuthbertson is the only one of the women still living.

Mrs. Heitman's husband, Vernon, plans to take the quilt to the next Dellvale/Oronoque reunion. It should bring back lots of memories.

Couple looks at property in Densmore

(Continued from Page 1)
Councilor Doug Sebelius, who is on vacation at the moment.

Mr. Wyatt suggested since Mr. Sebelius is not available, the Archers could visit with County Attorney Karen Griffiths.

"Do a quiet title and purchase it then," he suggested "That way everyone has a say."

Mr. Archer said that there is a pump house on the lots he is interested in and he believed that is

where the school had gotten its water.

He said he was interested in the property but it depended on how much it would cost.

"If it can be sold, are you the ones who make a decision on the purchase price," he asked.

The commissioners said that they didn't do this sort of thing very often but would be happy to see the property back on the tax rolls.

Mr. Wyatt said that the quit title procedure isn't too expensive and lots in the Densmore area aren't being sold for a lot of money.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss acquisition of property.
- Heard from Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan that he had been able to purchase two pickups for the county from a

state-wide auction of surplus government property.

- Learned that millings will soon be available from the U.S. 36 project from the west edge of Norton to the six-mile corner.

The county will be starting to put them down as soon as possible, Mr. Brannan said.

- Was told by Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that BG Consultants, the county's engineering firm, had done core samples for soil compaction in the bottom of the new landfill pit and sent the information in to the state.

The worst case scenario for the county, he said, is if the area has to be repacked.

In that case, there is six inches of gravel in the bottom of the pit that will need to be moved.

- Told Mr. Archibald that the landfill needs to keep service records on its equipment since it had the track loader in for repairs several times before it seemed to be finally fixed.

Officials practice emergency plans

(Continued from Page 1)
be determined who needs to be involved.

"When the pressure is on, we expect people to make mistakes," he said. "But, hopefully, you'll make the mistakes in the exercise and learn from it, so you won't make those same mistakes if it really happens."

He then handed the group an

anthrax epidemic.

Whatever happens, it is a local problem, he said. Other agencies, both state and federal, can give assistance, but this county might not be the only one with a problem.

To spot large-scale problems, like an anthrax epidemic, he said people need to use common sense and to recognize when things are not normal.

Also, he said, it's a good idea to call for help before the problem is too big.

After the exercise, Mr. Colsden said everyone did a good job working together and realizing what the different agencies' limits were.

The roundtable is just the first step, he said. The next one is a functional exercise, where people would actually have to make decisions, rather than just talking about what to do.

It's a bit more pressure, he said, but a good exercise to do.

After that, he said, it's good to do a full-scale exercise with victims, fire trucks, emergency medical service personnel, law enforcement and anyone else who needed to be involved.

Norton did a full-scale tornado exercise last year.

Man injured in accident

An accident Sunday night has left a Norton man in critical condition.

At 9:15 p.m., James R. Lawrence, 66, was driving east on K-9 in a 1996 GMC pickup truck when he ran into a disk being pulled by Robert Clydesdale, Edmond, who was also driving east, reported the Kansas Highway Patrol. The disk separated from the 1993 John Deere tractor pulling it.


Mr. Lawrence's truck and the disk went into the north ditch. Mr. Lawrence had been extricated

from his truck by Norton County emergency workers using the Jaws of Life.

He was taken by ambulance with Dr. Jeff McKinley, who was at the scene, directly to the Norton City/County Airport, where he was flown by Air Care of Kearney to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Mr. Lawrence is in the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The highway patrol reported that he was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.



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Invites Pre-Schoolers through Sixth Graders to a Swimming Party
at the Norton City Pool
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
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For More Information Contact: Cheri Renner 877-2420

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