

Homecoming:

Join in the fun as students celebrate all week long

Pages 10 & 11

Tuesday
October 4, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Vida Perrill

Briefly

Author to sign books at libraries

Author Douglas Yocum will hold a book signing at 3 p.m., Thursday at the Lenora Library. On Friday, he will be at the Norton County Library at 3 p.m. His book, "A Matter of Chastity, The High Plains Saga of a Woman's Revenge," the true story of his grandmother's murder trial in Norton County in 1894 will be available for purchase.

Young musician to give concert

Local violinist Stanton Nelson, 14, a freshman at Northern Valley, will perform in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday at East Campus Auditorium.

The Norton County Arts Council is sponsoring his performance. He will play selections from Copland, Granados, Handel and some of his own original compositions. His accompanist is Jennifer Ruder.

Arts Council members are admitted free with membership card; adults, \$5; students, \$2; and reciprocity, \$2.

Learn how to manage time

A time management program, sponsored by the Norton County Extension office will be held at 1 p.m. next Tuesday at the 4-H Building.

Amy Taylor, Trego County agent will be the presenter discussing time management skills, how to say "no", and the art of "discretionary neglect".

Please call the Norton County Extension office at 877-5755 by Thursday to pre-register.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Much cooler and windy. Mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms in the evening, then a chance of showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 40s. **Wednesday** — Much cooler and windy. Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. **Wednesday Night** — Cooler and mostly clear with lows in the lower 30s.

Howell report:

Friday High 85, Low 55
Saturday High 79, Low 60
Sunday High 94, Low 74
Monday High 91, Low 72
Week ago High 80, Low 52
Month ago High 92, Low 66
Year ago High 79, Low 44
October precipitation 0.00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 19.55 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, merciful Lord, for the abundance of blessings that you give day after day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prairie Land buys part of Aquila

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative will be adding a few more customers to its lists. General Manager Alan Miller said Prairie Land, along with five other cooperatives, is buying Aquila's Kansas Electric Network.

The six cooperatives, which also own Sunflower Electric Power Corp., formed Mid-Kansas Electric Co. to make a bid on the Kansas Electric Network, he said.

Co-ops take on added customers

Mid-Kansas got the bid for \$255.2 million.

He said the price will go up depending on Kansas Electric's inventory and account receivables.

Prairie Land is still assessing what will be needed, Mr. Miller said, but he expects

it will add a few more jobs. But, before that can happen, the buy-out has to be approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission first. That is expected to take anywhere from six to nine months, he said.

"We're really excited about this," he said. "It's probably one of the biggest cooperative buy-outs in electricity there has been."

Prairie Land will more than double its current customer base, adding about 15,200 customers, 65 communities and 1,500 miles of line.

Mid-Kansas will have about 68,000 (Continued on Page 5)



It's Spirit Week at Norton Community High School as students prepare for homecoming on Friday. Super Bluejays senior Jessica Cook (left) and junior Gena Myers are ready to fight the evil Ellis Railroaders on Monday's Twin Day. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Petition may push election

Council to decide to dump resolution or go to special vote

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council will decide Wednesday whether or not to go ahead with a special election that would determine if Norton should continue to have Sunday sales of beer and liquor.

In August, the council adopted Ordinance 1549, allowing for the sale of beer and liquor on almost all Sundays. The ordinance was protested by some of Norton's registered voters, who managed to get a petition signed that would let the issue be decided by special election.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said 202 signatures from registered voters of the 226 that were turned in were valid. The petition only needed 130 valid signatures to put the issue to a citywide vote.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said that Wednesday the council will discuss whether to rescind the ordinance or have a special election. He said the county clerk has estimated that a special election will cost a minimum of \$3,000.

If the council repeals the ordinance, the issue can be put on the April ballot and will only cost around \$1,500.

He said if the council decides to repeal the Sunday Sales ordinance, it is likely that it will go on the April ballot so that the whole community can vote on the issue.

"If the voters vote for it, then it will be a done deal," he said.

The council originally passed the ordinance because it had received a request from a business to do so.

Mr. Wyatt said if the city does decide to pay for the special election, then the clerk's office has 45 days after the petition was turned in to get a special election in place. He said the petition was turned in on Sept. 27.

Once notified by the city, he said his office will begin the process immediately. The election can be held anytime within the 45 days.

He said there had also been some discussion in other cities, including Oberlin, of holding a mail-ballot election. But, he said, that would be out of the question for Norton because a city has to have approval by the Secretary of State's office 90 days before the election was held. Norton has less than 45 days to hold an election.

The city council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the city building.

Homecoming festivities underway

Homecoming week at Norton Community High School began yesterday and will culminate with Friday's events.

On Friday, Blue and Gold Day, students at the junior high and high school will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. so they can watch the parade, which starts at 2:45 p.m. in front of the junior high. The parade will end at the Norton County Courthouse, where the pep rally will be held beginning at 3 p.m.

Later that night, the cheer-

leaders and dance team will perform at 6:30 p.m. at Travis Field, followed by the crowning of the king and queen at 6:43 p.m. The marching band will perform a pre-game show at 6:50 p.m. and will perform again at half-time. In case of bad weather, the coronation will be held at 10:15 p.m. in the junior high gym. Kick-off is set for 7 p.m. in the football game against Ellis.

The Homecoming dance will be held in the junior high gym from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Boosters to meet

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton Community High School football coach Bruce Graber, volleyball coach Jill Lively, tennis coach Jim Green and cross country coach Deyton Hager will report on recent competition by their teams.

Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton Community High School athletics are invited.

Andbe Home looks at building more apartments

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Andbe Home is considering building more moderate-income apartments similar to those at Prairie Meadows.

Board members Ruth Burd and Norma Browne and Andbe Home Administrator Coni Park met with the Norton County commissioners recently to discuss feasibility and financing.

Commission Chairman Dean Kruse asked about the previously proposed apartments.

Ms. Browne said it was something they

would like to do but money is a concern.

Prairie Meadows was built in 1996, she said, and has been paying its way but there is still a balance of more than \$238,000 owed to the Andbe Home.

"We're very interested in building more but we don't want to go into any more debt," Ms. Park added.

There is no regular schedule of payments, the women said but when Prairie Meadows has money it pays on the loans. It has been able to pay about \$75,000 a year, which will make another three years

for the loans to be paid if major work doesn't have to be done.

However, Ms. Park said, with 10-year old apartments, more maintenance costs can be expected.

Mr. Kruse said that it looked like the profit margin would justify another set of apartments if the demand is there.

Ms. Burd said the demand is there. There is a waiting list.

"We have about 65 names on our waiting list and more people asking to go on all the time," Ms. Park added.

Mr. Kruse said he understood that similar facilities in Hays and Salina also have waiting lists.

"Western Kansas is aging and the percentage of people who want places where they don't have the upkeep to take care of and also have the Andbe Home is going up" Ms. Browne agreed.

The cost, which was \$800,000 in 1996, would be about \$1.5 million today, Ms. Browne said. And it might be hard to get materials when New Orleans and other (Continued on Page 5)

Cattle killed in truck wreck

Several head of cattle were killed and the westbound lane of U.S. 383 was mostly blocked in an accident near Alma early Monday morning.

At 2:30 a.m., Tyler A. Green, 32, Winner, S.D., was driving a 1997 Peterbilt semi-truck west on U.S. 383, near a park on the southeast side of Alma, when he took the curve too fast and the load of cattle in the trailer shifted, said a report by the Kansas Highway Patrol. The semi rolled onto the passenger side, partially blocking

the westbound lane of traffic.

Trooper Phil Henrickson said 12 head of cattle were killed and one more was injured and taken to a veterinarian. Trooper Henrickson said 27 head were taken to the Norton Sale Barn and 32 more escaped. The escapees were eventually rounded up and penned to be loaded at a later time.

Mr. Green, the report said, was taken to the Norton County Hospital with a possible injury. He was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

Blue Jays name top booster

By DICK BOYD

Connie Green has been named the 14th annual recipient of the Blue Jay Booster of the Year Award.

She received a plaque for the honor prior to the Norton-Osborne football game. Making the presentation was Dan Pfannenstiel, last year's winner. A photo of the presentation is on Page 11.

The award is made possible by a memorial in honor of the late Tommy Davison. Mrs. Green's name will be engraved along with the names of previous winners on a plaque in the high school gym.

"I've belonged to the Booster Club for many years," said Connie after receiving the award.

"I got actively involved in 1998 when our oldest son Nick was a freshman."

She was club treasurer for two years, vice-president and president. She helped organize the tailgate parties and the concessions for the junior high and high school track meets.

"What better way to spend our time than supporting our children in the activities in which they are involved," said Connie.

"I believe the Booster Club is a wonderful organization for parents and other community people to be involved in. I would really like to see more members of the community involved in the Booster Club."



Travis Chisham, Swiss lathes foreman, operated one of the precision instruments at Natoma Corp. The company on East U.S. 36 in Norton will hold an open house on Friday. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Natoma celebrates opening of larger facility

In 1982, Gail Boller and one employee, started a precision machine manufacturing company in Natoma.

Mr. Boller said that, thanks to Bill Sharp and Norton Development Corp., he brought his Natoma Corp. to Norton in 1984.

The original building housing the business that focuses on aircraft and avionics parts, the medical industry, laboratory instruments and environmental testing equipment had 3,000 square feet.

One addition was completed in 1988. The building grew again in

1995 and, finally in 2004, Natoma reached its present size of 40,000 square feet and 52 employees.

"We've got advantages here in Norton that no shop in a large city would ever have," Mr. Boller said.

Natoma Corp., owned by Mr.

Boller and his son, Todd Boller, is holding an open house from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday to show their expanded facility to the public. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be served all day.

The Natoma Corp., website is www.natomacorporation.com.

Andbe Home looks at adding more apartments

(Continued from Page 1) hurricane damaged areas start to rebuild.

There is probably no grant money available for this sort of project, County Councilor Doug Sebelius said, but local financing can be obtained through borrowing and by using industrial revenue bonds.

The city or county could partner with the Andbe Home, he said, and issue the bonds.

This is used across the country as an economic development tool, he said, since it keeps the people from moving out of the county to go live near their children.

Since the Andbe Home and Prairie Meadows already have a good track record of these making money and the county is interested in having available reasonable housing for people, industrial revenue bonds would be a good fit, he said.

"There would have to be a hearing," Mr. Sebelius said. "The public would have their input."

Revenue from the project pays back the bonds, he said and, since they are bonds, they are not a problem for the taxpayers.

"The taxpayers are never liable," Mr. Kruse said.

"Investors are looking for tax-free income," Mr. Sebelius said. "I don't see a down side to it right

now. It just depends on whether your board wants to step off onto another project."

However, he said it will take awhile to get things done. It would be unlikely that the bonds could be let before the end of 2006 and construction would take about a year to complete after that.

"So we would just about have them (Prairie Meadows) paid off before we take this on," Ms. Burd mused.

The women still had questions. "Could the Andbe Home or Prairie Meadows be jeopardized in any way?" Ms. Burd asked.

"Only if there is intentional malfeasance (misuse of funds)," Mr. Sebelius said.

"What's the time frame on paying back the bonds?" Ms. Browne asked.

Payments would be due so many months after the construction is completed, Mr. Sebelius said.

"It's like a neighborhood up there," Ms. Browne said of Prairie Meadows.

"The reason that they like to move there is they're in a community and the apartments themselves have been very easy to maintain and very workable for the people who live in them."

Ms. Park said that what is needed is an easy to understand explanation of industrial revenue bonds to give to all nine Andbe Home board members. Ms. Brown asked if Mr. Sebelius could talk to the board.

"If there is some information ahead of time and you come, then we can ask more intelligent questions," she added.

Mr. Sebelius said that he thought that the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing would have something on the subject.

"You have an established track record and a demand business," he said.

"I would say it would be a shocker if these bonds weren't picked up."

Commissioner John Miller wanted to know if the proposed

new apartments would be competition for Whispering Pines but was told by Ms. Burd that the two would provide different services.

Ms. Park added that both facilities have waiting lists so there is obviously a need in the community.

The commissioners suggested the women go back to their board with the ideas they had received and proceed from there.

Doctors Clinic

711 N. Norton—Norton, Kansas
785-877-3305



Front Row: Kay Garman, Glenda Maurer; Back Row: Ruben Silan, Jeff McKinley, Roy Hartley

Kay Garman, ARNP/CNM
Glenda M. Maurer, M.D. - Family Practice/Obstetrics
Ruben D. Silan, M.D. - General Surgery/Family Practice
Jeffery McKinley, D.O. - Family Practice/Obstetrics
Roy W. Hartley, M.D. - Family Practice

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 S. Kansas—785-877-3361



Prairie Land helps buy part of Aquila

(Continued from Page 1) customers, 176 communities, 32 counties and about 5,300 miles of line.

Among the communities being added to Prairie Land are Phillipsburg, Alma, Long Island, Logan, Prairie View and Smith Center. He said Prairie Land's service area will go as far east as Concordia.

"There are a lot of smaller communities that we will be adding to our service area," he said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime deal."

Mr. Miller said rural electric cooperatives usually just serve rural areas. This will allow it to encompass several communities as well. Other cooperatives in Mid-Kansas include Lane-Scott Electric Co-op, Dighton; Pioneer Electric Co-op, Ulysses; Victory Electric Co-op Association, Dodge City; Western Co-op Energy Association, WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Co-op, Scott City.