

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

November 29, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Ann Lacy

Briefly

Storm delays
papers for a day

The Tuesday *Norton Telegram* and the Monday *Telegram Extra* were a day late this week after a winter storm closed roads and shut off power to the presses in Goodland.

Snow and high winds closed most roads in Norton County.

In Goodland the Nor'West Press was temporarily shut down by a power outage, which lasted most of Monday.

Booster club
to hold meeting

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will preview the upcoming seasons.

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

November tag
deadline nears

November is the month for renewing vehicle tags for those whose last name or business name begins with "T", "V" and "W". The deadline is Wednesday.

You must bring in or include proof of insurance for each vehicle, including the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date.

Norton County treasurer office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The computers shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance each day's business.

The treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station for renewals on regular and commercial licenses. Hours for license renewals are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

If you have questions, call 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Lows around 11. Thursday — Highs in the lower 30s. Friday — Highs in the upper 30s.

Howell report:

Monday High 28, Low 20
Tuesday High 00, Low 00
6 inches of snow
Month ago High 74, Low 42
Year ago High 31, Low 7
November precipitation70 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 22.20 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm
10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, help those who at this moment are struggling in emergency situations. Give them a strong sense that you are with them, no matter what the circumstances. Amen

Winter's first blizzard hits Norton

Businesses close, travelers stranded as state closes Kansas highways

By VERONICA MONIER and CAROLYN PLOTTS

High winds and snow gave the residents of Norton and the rest of northwest Kansas more than a few problems this week as a winter blizzard closed roads Sunday night, all day Monday and into Tuesday.

Dave Floyd, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said there was six inches of snow on the ground at the Norton Dam on Tuesday morning.

But, he said, snow wasn't the problem. The 18-hour stretch of gusting winds that reached between 50 and 80 mph caused most of the trouble.

Mr. Floyd said Norton had wind speeds of 60 mph, while it reached around 70 mph in McCook. Eastern Colorado, he said, had winds that reached up to 80 mph.

The high winds and snow shut down highways in the area and also closed 360 miles of I-70 from Salina to Denver.

"People were stranded all over the place," Mr. Floyd said. "The National Guard was out getting people to shelter."

"It was a pretty big storm for the normal travel day after Thanksgiving," he said of Sunday.

Both U.S. 36 and U.S. 283 were closed and weren't reopened until Tuesday morning.

The roads weren't the only thing to close. All of the area schools, including Norton, Northern Valley, Jennings and Logan were shut down Monday and Tuesday.

In Norton, beginners wrestling was postponed until next Monday, while Monday night bowling at Rainbow Lanes and Vita Band at the Senior Center were canceled. The Norton Recreation Center, Norton Theatre and Norton Public Library were all closed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency office was closed Monday; the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center in Oakley was also closed.

All Colby Community College classes were canceled, as were all appointments at High Plains Mental Health Center.

However, the city office and court-

house were both open, although the commissioners didn't meet Monday. They rescheduled to meet Wednesday.

Both Jamboree Foods and Shop and Save, as well as Love's, TimeSaver, Diamond Shamrock, Dairy Queen and McDonald's were open. Town and Country Kitchen was closed and the Norton Rotary meeting was canceled.

The storm caused the city some problems.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson said they had several calls about power outages. On Thanksgiving, a vehicle hit a power pole and knocked out the power. Sunday, the storm hit and the city had a lot of power bumps, he said.

Mr. Lawson said one of the main feeder

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Drifting snow and high winds forced the closing, above, of U.S. 36 from Norton westward. One Norton home, below, sits in a winter wonderland.

— Telegram photos by Vicki Henderson and Susie Marble



Children enjoy visit with Santa

On Friday at Norton's Christmas opening, Lena Shelton, above, is lost in thought as she tells Santa what her friend wants for Christmas. Santa and Mrs. Claus are played by Mike Wentz and Renee Schaffers. Below, from left, Sierra Black, Cody Land and Nate Land enjoy a ride in Santa's sleigh.

— Telegram photos by Charlotte Stephenson

Man earns Bronze Star for Iraq service

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen R. Peak, 56, has received the Bronze Star for exceptional service in Iraq.

He graduated from Norton Community High in 1967 and is the son of the late Dean and Catherine Peak.

Peak, who has more than 34 years of military, received the award for service from November 2003 until January.

In Kansas he was a supply systems technician with 74th Quartermaster Co., Kansas Army National Guard, and also a full-time employee of the adjutant general's department as a mobilization planner.

While in Iraq, he was assigned to the 30th Brigade Combat Team of the North Carolina Army National Guard and attached to the headquarters and headquarters company of the division support command, 1st Infantry Division, as the liaison officer for the 30th Brigade.

As a material manager in Iraq, he managed more than 275 pieces of wheeled and tracked combat vehicles, tracked supply status for more than 300 requisitions daily and assisted in getting all the newly issued equipment in place and ready for the road march north out of Kuwait. He also coordinated soldier care and equipment maintenance during convoy halts.

He and his wife Nancy live in Silver Lake. They have two grown daughters.



S. Peak



Stretching their way to good health at a Vita-Band class in Norcatgur were (from left) Rochelle Mather, the Rev. Kathy Aeillo, Veda Wood, Marguerite Clark, Norma McAllister, Bea Nelson and Lula Hix. — Photo by Carolyn Plotts

Class stretches rubber bands, muscles

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
They're stretching rubber bands in Norcatgur, or to be more accurate, they're stretching Vita-Bands.

Vita-Bands are exercise tools and at 10 a.m. each Tuesday several women assemble in the Educational Building next door to the United Methodist Church, one block east of the main street, for an exercise class.

The class isn't limited to women but, so far no men have been brave enough to try it out.

Led by Bea Nelson, the women pull the elastic Vita-Bands this

way and that. They wrap the bands around their ankles, around their knees or perhaps behind their back. The bands offer a safe, low-impact resistance exercise that is perfect for senior citizens or those just beginning an exercise program.

Several months ago, Kathy Aeillo, the minister at Norcatgur, Alma and Clayton United Methodist churches, conducted a survey of her congregations and the communities. She learned that not only were people concerned about their spiritual health but also about their physical health.

The Rev. Aeillo applied for a grant from the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, that was established when the United Methodist Church sold Wesleyan Medical Center.

Her grant application was approved and money was provided to support the community exercise program for 18 months.

In addition to the Vita-Bands, one- and two-pound weights, weighted balls, exercise tapes and exercise wands have been purchased. Nutritional information has also been included.

"We are hoping that at the end

of the 18 months, this program will be a part of our lives, and it will continue," said the Rev. Aeillo.

In addition to the Vita-Band class in the morning, a more energetic aerobic class is held at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"We do the exact same thing, in Alma at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursdays," the Rev. Aeillo said.

Norcatgur organizers are Bea Nelson, Sheree Milnes, Gail Brooks and Rochelle Mather. Alma organizers are Elaine Johnson and the Rev. Aeillo.

The classes are free and open to anyone.

Phone company gives capital credit refunds

Rural Telephone will give \$614,456 in capital credit refunds to its members.

The board of directors authorized the refunds in October. Those who had telephone service with the Lenora-based cooperative from 1985 through 2004 are eligible for the checks.

"This is the 21st consecutive

year in which capital credit checks were issued to Rural Telephone members," said Larry Sevier, chief executive officer and general manager. "Capital credit refunds in the past 21 years have totaled over \$21.6 million."

Director of Finance Diana Smith said the checks will be sent out the second week of December.

"Capital credits provide the financial basis to invest and plan for the future of the organization and to offer broadband and other advanced services to our customers, while maintaining an adequate debt/equity ratio," Mr. Sevier said. "Due to the competitive environment, Rural Telephone must continue to invest in new and ad-

vanced service offerings to ensure a strong cooperative in the future.

"The Board of Trustees is committed to managing funds in a manner which allows the cooperative to return some capital to members while retaining sufficient capital to continue to maintain and improve advanced communications services."

Northern Valley girls basketball opens season at Atwood on Friday

By DICK BOYD
The Northern Valley High School girls basketball team will open the season Friday in Atwood for a 6:30 p.m. game with the Lady Buffaloes from the Northwest Kansas League.

Coach Bill Lowry has two returning starters from last season's 9-12 team which posted a 2-3 record in the Cheyenne Conference. Serena Woodside is the only returning senior starter and is one of only two seniors on the squad. She is a 5-foot, 9-inch post player who averaged 8.1 points per game and 5.2 rebounds per

contest. The other returning starter is junior Kelli Cole, a 5-7 guard who averaged 9.6 points and 4 rebounds per game.

Five other players expected to play key roles for the Lady Huskies are Jena Jessup, 5-5 junior guard with a 4.7 points and 2.5 rebounds per game average; Jessica Holmes, 5-5 junior post; Andrea Lowry, 5-5 junior guard; Kelsey Kinderknecht, 5-5 sophomore point guard and Jessica Largent, 5-8 sophomore post.

Other team members are: Sarely Salazar, 5-1 senior; Alysia

Shearer, 5-10 junior; Stephanie Tubbs, 5-8; Kylena Hager, 5-9; Amanda Turman, 5-1; Joni Hilburn, 5-1; Amanda Hopkins, 5-6, sophomores; Brittney Braun, 5-8 freshman.

"Our team speed has increased and we will have a deeper bench," said Coach Lowry.

"We lack size but can make up for it with extra hustle and aggressiveness."

Coach Lowry said he felt that Eastern Heights and Western Plains would be the strongest teams in the conference. Logan is the Lady Huskies' biggest rival.

Coach Lowry has been at Northern Valley for 23 years. His career record is 257-147. His assistant coach this season is Erin Manning. Student managers are Hope Hansen and Maxine Counter.

Northern Valley boys team has four returning starters

By DICK BOYD
The Northern Valley boys basketball team will open the season on Friday in Atwood against the Buffaloes from the Northwest Kansas League.

Both boys and girls games will be held, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Huskies compiled an 8-10 record last season and were 2-3 in the Cheyenne Conference.

Head coach will be A.J. Landon, who graduated this spring from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. His assistant coach will be Chuck Fessenden. Cameron Duede is the team assistant.

In his initial year as coach, Landon welcomed four returning starters: Joey Copper, 6-foot-2-inch guard/forward; Avery Thalheim, 5-10 guard/forward; Cole Kinderknecht, 6-foot guard/forward, seniors and Henry Griffiths, 6-1 guard/forward, junior.

Copper was a first team all-conference selection at the end of last season. He averaged 15.4 points

per game. Thalheim averaged 10.8 points per contest and Kinderknecht averaged 8 points per game.

Other squad members are: Andrew Sheley, 5-11, Cody Lowry 5-10, seniors; Chase Miller, 6-2; Chance Miller, 6-3, juniors;

Blake Johnson, 5-6; David Harris, 6-foot; Bryce Marble, 6-foot; Richie Kersch, 6-2, sophomores; Stanton Nelson, 5-6; Ethan Hays, 5-3; Drew Britt, 6-1; Cody Callaway, 6-foot; Tanner Jessup, 6-2; Eric Woodside, 5-7, freshmen.

Northern Valley Basketball Schedule	
Friday, Dec. 2—Atwood, There, 6:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Dec. 3—Golden Plains, Here, 4 p.m.	
Friday, Dec. 9—Hill City, Here, 4 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 13—Smith Center, Here, 4 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 20—Brewster, There, 4 p.m.	
Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 29-30—Franklin Tournament, There, 3 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 6—Eastern Heights, There, 4:30 p.m.	
Mon.-Fri., Jan. 9-13—Cheyenne Conf. Tourney Phillipsburg TBA	
Tuesday, Jan. 17—Southern Valley, Here, 3:15 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 20—Logan, Here, 4:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 27—Kensington, Here, 4:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Jan. 31—Alma, Neb., Here, 4 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 3—Bertrand, Neb., Here, 4 p.m.	
Tuesday, Feb. 7—Arapahoe, Neb., There, 3:30 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 10—Palco, There, 4:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Feb. 14—Victoria, There, 4 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 17—Western Plains, Here, 4:30 p.m.	

Snow causes havoc for area residents

(Continued on Page 5)
lines in the city came undone, which had to be fixed and city crews were out in the cold for long hours so that residents would have power, heat and light.

Snow removal went well, he said, and there was no need to use the emergency snow routes.

"People really cooperated," he said. "And the city crews and law enforcement need to be commended for the great job they did."

Sheriff's Deputy Scott Bohl said there were a lot of stuck vehicles Sunday and Monday and local law enforcement officers were busy helping people, but there were no accidents in the county that he knew of. He said it slowed down Monday night.

The storm forced several people to look for lodging in Norton. Motels were full so several families stayed at the Norton Christian Church. The church opened its doors to about 35 motorists and two dogs from Texas, Colorado and Nebraska.

Church secretary, Karen Van Skike, said members of the congregation brought in food, blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and videos. She said several motorists had their own food because they had stopped at Love's Country Store prior to going to the church. Mrs. VanSkike said some ate in town and Monday night all pitched in and ordered pizza. She said the little group had formed a bond and, when given the choice to split up and go to individual homes, most opted to stick together. Some, however, did spend Monday night at two Norton homes, Jim Rowh's

and Bob and Ila Virgil's. The Rev. Lew Van Der Wege of Norton United Methodist Church said he and his wife Sherri hosted a family of three from Farmington, Neb., at the church's parsonage. He said the husband, wife and little boy, had been to McPherson for Thanksgiving and were on their way home when the weather stopped them.

In the Norcatgur area, at least 20 motorists were lodged in private homes and in the Educational Building of the Norcatgur United Methodist Church. Brian and Tammy Cook, co-owners of the Cardinal Cafe in Norcatgur, could not get to town, but called an employee, who lived in Norcatgur, to open the cafe and "feed the people whatever they wanted".

During the storm, Norcatgur was a town divided as some people had electricity and some did not. Power was restored to all residents by noon Tuesday.

Jim Plotts, Norcatgur's water and waste water treatment operator, said around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, he discovered the town was low on water.

A trip to the pump house found that it didn't have power, which meant no water was being pumped into the tower. Mr. Plotts called Prairie Land Electric and they fixed the power problem. Everyone had full water pressure again in a couple of hours.

By Tuesday morning the winds had abated, the sun came out, snow plows were opening roads and the accidental visitors to Northwest Kansas were back on their way.

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