

Fireworks can be shot, bought

By VERONICA MONIER

With the Fourth of July almost here, people can expect to see fireworks lighting up the sky.

In both the city and county, fireworks can be both sold and shot off from today until July 5. This is the only time of year they can be legally sold or shot off in the county. The burn ban that has been in effect for the county was lifted yesterday, said the County Clerk's office.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said city ordinance lets people shoot off fireworks in town from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day except July 4, when they can be shot off until 1 a.m.

All class C fireworks, which can be bought at stands around town, are legal, except bottle rockets, which are illegal statewide. It's also illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored, and within 50 feet of gas stations or any place where liquid gas or propane are stored.

The state Fire Marshall's office said some tips to remember when shooting fireworks are:

- Always read and follow label

instructions.

- Always buy high quality fireworks from a reliable, legitimate source.

- Don't drink alcohol and shoot off fireworks, instead have a "designated shooter".

- Never give fireworks to small children.

- Adults should supervise the use of fireworks by older children.

- Never ignite fireworks indoors and make sure your outdoor area is safe for firework use.

- Never point or throw fireworks at a person, building, or animal.

- Have a source of water handy, in case of a fire.

- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

- Light only one firework at a time.

- Never attempt to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.

- When lighting fireworks, never position any part of your body over them.

- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

- Never experiment with homemade fireworks; they are dangerous and illegal.

Swimmers' delight...



Several members of one of the water aerobics classes worked with foam "noodles" during Thursday's 5:30 p.m. to 6:30

p.m. class. The class is sponsored by Norton County Hospital and taught by Jan Volgamore

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Leadership looking for new blood

Leadership Norton County is seeking applications for the upcoming class roster. The goal of Leadership Norton County is to establish a network of present and potential leaders and to give upcoming leaders an opportunity for growth and experience with the guidance and assistance of those who presently hold positions of leadership.

The 2006-2007 class is scheduled to meet eight times, including an "Introductory Session," Aug. 29, and conclude with a graduation banquet, March 14. In between, class members will participate in six, fast-paced, full-day sessions which will deal with local government, health care, education, agriculture, economic de-

velopment and a state government field trip to Topeka.

The driving force behind Leadership Norton County has been the Economic Development Program Development Committee, of the Norton County Extension Council. Keith VanSkiike, Norton County Extension Director, is excited about the program and the benefits it will offer participants and their communities. "Our rural areas are facing many challenges; population decline, tax base erosion, school financing issues, and medical care funding among others. Leadership Norton County can play a vital role in identifying, training and motivating potential community leaders from throughout Norton County."

Persons seeking more informa-

tion about Leadership Norton County may contact Mr. VanSkiike at 785-877-5755. Leadership Norton County brochures and nomination forms are available at the Norton County Extension Office, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Almaena State Bank, Almaena and Norton, The Bank, Norton and Norcat, First State Bank, Norton, First Security Bank, Lenora and Norton, Lenora City Office, Norton City Office, Rural Telephone, Lenora and Nex-Tech, Norton.

Nominations for class members are due Aug. 2, 2006. Applications are due Aug. 16, and the class member selections will be announced Aug. 18.

Lenora church gets a 'like new' make-over

The Lenora Church of God recently completed a make-over that made it look good as new.

Lee Jones, a member of the church explained what work had been done. New siding was installed on both the church and the parsonage by Voss Siding of Norton. The interior of the church was updated by Jim Riley of Lenora. This included new paint, carpeting and drapes, refinished floors, a renovated sanctuary and

all new windows. "It had been a long time since we'd been able to do anything with the remodeling, but then once we started, where do you stop? The financing came available and we're really happy with the results."

Recently re-elected city councilman, Phil Rule, said, "The City of Lenora truly appreciates the beautification of the Church of God. The remodeling looks great and it will have a positive impact

on the community as a whole."

The Church of God is located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Iowa Avenue, with the parsonage located to its immediate west. Later this summer, the church will host an installment service for its new full-time minister, Maurita Lymer of Phillipsburg.

"But don't wait until then to check out the renovations," said Mrs. Jones. "We have an open house every Sunday morning."

National policy will secure emergency needs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kansas Congressman Jerry Moran has joined Congressional and industry leaders to unveil a national policy to secure America's energy future. The policy, to derive 25 percent of the nation's total energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass and biogas by 2025, will be introduced as a concurrent resolution in the House and Senate.

"This energy vision is important for America," Congressman Moran said. "With the passage of this resolution, it becomes the official policy of the United States to make certain that 25 percent of its

energy needs come from renewable sources."

Rep. Moran is joining others in the House and Senate to promote this policy. Kansas is one of seven states also supporting this effort. In addition to providing an important path forward for every American concerned about high energy prices, the 25x'25 vision will enhance national security, create new job opportunities in rural America, and improve the environment.

"The 25x'25 agenda makes sense and agriculture can play a big role," said Vance Ehmke, farmer in Lane county and mem-

ber of the Kansas 25x'25 State Alliance Team. "Rather than just growing food, Kansas and U.S. farmers will increasingly grow both food and fuel."

Also, in an effort to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil and lower fuel prices at the pump, Congressman Moran recently introduced H.R. 5346, the Alternative Energy Refueling System Act of 2006. This legislation would provide incentives for gas station owners to install alternative fuel tanks to provide greater access to fuels containing ethanol, bio-diesel, compressed natural gas or hydrogen.

Missing girl returned to parents in Oberlin

OBERLIN — With a month as a missing person, 16-year-old Chantelle Beneda is home after being found by police in Tennessee.

The teenager was last seen on Friday, May 26, in her 2004 Dodge Neon heading south on U.S. 83. Her parents, Terese and Greg Vontz and Ron Beneda, called police here to report her missing.

Miss Beneda sent text messages to her mom and a friend here on Friday, June 9, and Tuesday, June 13.

Since then, Mrs. Vontz said, she hadn't heard from her daughter. Around 4:30 p.m. Thursday, though, she got a call from the Decatur County Sheriff's Department saying that her daughter was in the custody of authorities in Sevierville, Tenn.

The family left that day for Tennessee to pick her up. Mrs. Vontz said they drove to Tennessee, picked up Miss Beneda and her car and drove home.

Authorities were able to find Miss Beneda on a tip, said Mrs.

Vontz, but she didn't say who it was from. No charges were filed against the teen that Mrs. Vontz is aware of.

She was suspected to have left town with Sean G. Fife, 21, who is still missing. Mrs. Vontz said Mr. Fife ran from authorities when the two were found and Miss Beneda was brought in. Tennessee officials are still searching for him.

Mrs. Vontz said the family owes a big thanks to law officers here. She said they returned home Sunday and her daughter is doing well.

A bird's-eye view...



Let's talk turkey. This gobbler was found roaming the streets of Norcat early Monday morning. The turkey was camera shy and managed to dodge the photographer, who never could get in front of him (or her).

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

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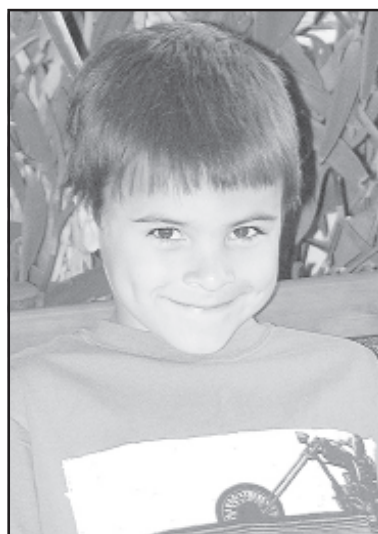


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