

Church:

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

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75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

March 16, 2007

A little bit of care

Norton, Kansas
Home of Beth Sharp

Briefly

4-H'ers display talents Saturday

Norton County 4-H'ers will participate in the Annual Club Day events on Saturday at the Norton Junior High school starting at 9:30 a.m.

Events will include junior and senior Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks, Project Talks, Show Me's, Tell Me's and Public Speaking. Also scheduled will be vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles. There will be various talent numbers such as dances, skits and dramatics, readings and other novelty talent numbers.

4-H'ers can sign up starting at 9 a.m. and most numbers should be completed by noon. Placings will be posted at each event's room.

The Regional Club Day will be March 30 in WaKeeney. This will include top selections from Graham, Rooks, Ellis, Trego, Smith, Phillips, Norton and Osborne counties.

The public is invited to come out and watch the 4-H'ers "Make the Best Better." The 4-H Club Days offer the youth a variety of ways to present a skill or talent.

Self defense class set for April 18

Women, prepare to defend yourselves! The Norton County Sheriff's Department and the Kansas Highway Patrol are sponsoring a self defense class at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18 in the wrestling room at East Campus.

Attendees are advised to wear clothing appropriate for physical activity.

Benefit supper supports center

A benefit spaghetti supper will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. tonight at the Prairie View Senior Citizen Center/Community Center. Proceeds will go to benefit the center. On the menu will be spaghetti, fresh vegetables, bread, desserts and drinks. Free will donations will be accepted.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 30s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 60s. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 30s. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 70s. **Sunday Night** — Partly cloudy.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 41, High 79
Wednesday Low 42, High 62
Thursday Low 30, High 57
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Creator God, help us to be patient with others and ourselves as you continue your work in each of us.

Amen



Holly Puga brought her daycare kids from Holly's Playhouse to show their support for "our boys" in Iraq. The kids brought a little something special to add to the care packages being sent to three soldiers in Bagdad. Tom

Brannan and Marvin Matchett held a live remote for KQNK Radio while donations were being brought for the packages Tuesday morning.

— Photo courtesy of Karla Reed

Care packages show the best side of Norton

By VERONICA MONIER

The community showed its true colors Tuesday when it found out three "of our boys" in Iraq needed a little love and care.

Tom Brannan, who with his wife Cathy got the drive for care packages going, said his son, Jason, called him Sunday from Bagdad and asked that they write to three soldiers. The soldiers, he said, hadn't received any mail from home while they've been in Iraq.

Mr. Brannan said his wife immediately wrote letters to the three soldiers — Ser-

gent. Jared McGrew, Private First Class Tyler Grogan, and Private First Class Michael Bono. Then, he said, they started to put care packages together.

"Cathy took the boxes to school and started to work on them," he said. "I called Party Line (on KQNK Radio) to see if anyone would help. Marvin (Matchett) jumped on it."

A live broadcast was held Tuesday during Party Line from in front of the Norton Area Chamber Office on State Street.

"Marvin stepped up and grabbed the

bull by the horns," he said. "He went over and above and that's impressive."

Mr. Brannan said people brought what added up to two or three shopping carts full of goodies and donated money to pay for shipping. He said he and his wife have already sent three boxes and will be sending another three. Mr. Matchett and Chamber Director Karla Reed will also be sending three boxes. The rest, he said, will be sent to his son, who holds the rank of staff sergeant. Sgt. Brannan will pass it on to the other soldiers.

"They (the soldiers in Iraq) share everything, but it's nice for them to get their own mail," he said.

Mr. Brannan said this isn't the end of it. The boys will be getting mail now at least once a week, if not more. People across the county are volunteering to send them packages and letters, and teachers and daycare providers are going to have their students write letters and draw pictures.

It's not just the soldiers people are sending. (Continued on Page 5)

County continues quest for paramedic

By TOM DREILING

The Norton County commissioners, at their Monday meeting, were told by Ruth Schillig, county ambulance director, they were looking at approximately \$5,000 to educate and train a paramedic. She said the course takes 15 months.

The commissioners agreed it may be a good idea to proceed with the program; however, if this is undertaken, they would like to have a written commitment from the paramedic.

Commission chair John Miller and commissioners Leroy Lang and Richard Thompson suggested Ms. Schillig consult County Counselor Doug Sebelius to get contract details.

The commissioners discussed a couple

of possibilities for paramedic contacts obtained from submitted applications and resumes. Ms. Schillig and Patricia McCartney, ARNP FNP-C, medical director for the ambulance service, were encouraged to continue working on filling the position of paramedic.

The commissioners also said that if the package needs to be reviewed, that will be done.

In other business at the meeting:

Economic Development

• Wade Carter, Norton City/County director of economic development, updated the commissioners on the bio-diesel possibilities for the county. He said at this time the price and availability was a factor in continuing talks. The discussion

on bio-diesel boiled down to a feeling that the market was unstable.

Mr. Carter and the commissioners talked about the possibilities of wind farms, in light of the fact such meetings and discussions have been held within the area

Health Department

• Gina Frack, county health director, told the commissioners of a coon bite within the county. The bite, she said, was outside a city municipality, therefore she asked if the county was going to pay the fee to test the animal.

Following discussion, the commissioners agreed that the county counselor should review the billing and give an

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St. Paddy's Day partiers should not drive home

By TOM DREILING

St. Patrick's Day doesn't measure up to other major celebrations when it comes to partying, but nonetheless common sense should be applied.

"Don't push your luck — designate a sober driver before the festivities begin," is the advice from the Kansas Highway Patrol

Patrol Superintendent Col. William Seck, said far too many people believe you have to be "falling down drunk" to be too impaired to safely drive. He cautioned that "buzzed driving is drunk driving."

The superintendent said the state patrol has zero tolerance for impaired driving and if caught you will be arrested. "No exceptions, no excuses," he said.

Col. Seck said alcohol-related crashes occur more frequently on weekends and with St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, the state patrol anticipates impaired driving will be higher.

He said in Kansas, three of seven (Continued on Page 5)

Toy, sports card show on Norton's Saturday agenda

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Hundreds of collectors and hobby fans from hundreds of miles around are expected in Norton on St. Patrick's Day for the annual Toy and Sports Card Show. The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Guard Armory on the north edge of Norton.

Supported by Norton Travel and Tourism, the event is sponsored by the Norton Methodist Men's organization

and is one of the longest running hobby shows in the tri-state area.

Dealers display everything from sports cards to automotive, farm, trucking, construction and other toys of all sizes both new and antique. NASCAR models are becoming more popular and the toy show has a number of dealers carrying race car toy lines.

Proceeds from the annual show are used by the Methodist Men to fund Christian

mission activities, student scholarships and public benefit contributions such as fire department equipment.

A food stand is available, including homemade pies contributed by the Methodist ladies.

Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children under 12 with an adult. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day.