



Tuesday
May 1, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of Kyle Jones

Briefly

Special tea a treat for mothers

The Norcat Royal Neighbors will have a Mother's Day Tea at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, at the Norcat City Hall. The Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of Faith Lutheran Church in Oberlin will be the guest speaker as part of Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Service. The local chapter will provide appetizers. Everyone is welcome. Those attending should bring a personal care product and wear an apron. Call reservations to Lora Arnold, (785) 693-4445 by Thursday, May 3.

Prayer day to be celebrated

Thursday is National Day of Prayer. CrossRoads Church, 313 W. Lincoln, Norton, is opening their doors from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. and again from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. to anyone wishing to gather for prayer.

Spring concert tonight at 7:30

The Spring Vocal Concert for Norton Community High School and Junior High will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. in East Campus Auditorium. The concert will be under the direction of Miss Valerie Lee.

Housing, energy forum Wednesday

A housing and energy forum will be held tomorrow at the Huck Boyd Center in Phillipsburg. The Norton County Economic Development office will be providing free transportation to the event.

The first bus will leave Norton at 2:15 p.m. in order to be there for the 3 p.m. housing segment. The bus will return to Norton by 5:45 p.m. and make a return trip at 6:15 p.m. for the 7 p.m. energy segment.

This forum is open to everyone. If interested, call the Economic Development Office, 874-4816.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 48. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 73. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 53. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 71. **Friday** — Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 47, High 70, .15 Rain
Saturday Low 43, High 87
Sunday Low 52, High 86
Monday Low 53, High 86
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, let others see in us your face of steadfast love and forgiveness.

STRIKE!



Corey Puga gave his niece, Mercedes Gonzalez, a little encouragement before she pushed her bowling ball down the lane towards the pins at Rainbow Lanes Saturday. Mercedes bowled for the first time Saturday

during the last activity celebrating Week of the Young Child. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Week celebrating kids ends with bowling party

By VERONICA MONIER
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With the Week of the Young Child ending last Saturday, parents and their children are already looking forward to next year.

Holly Puga, owner of Holly's Playhouse and organizer of the week, said the week went very well.

"We finally have one completed week of activities in the books," she said. "This year turned out better than last year. The weather cooperated, unlike last year. We also had more help planning and following through this year, but are still in need of more help to keep improving year to year."

The parents, she said, were all very happy with the cooperation between the daycare providers in planning such a fun week for themselves and their children.

Mrs. Puga said other organizations, in addition to daycare providers, have offered to help next year. Hopefully, she said, with more help, they can squeeze in a few more events and activities next year.

"People are ready for next year," she said. "The parents and children really enjoyed the whole week. Those who I've talked to said they had a hard time picking which night they liked best."

She said a lot of the kids liked the parent night, when they played a special game or made a craft with "mom and dad". Others liked tracing their parents in chalk on art night. A couple of families went to supper with their children at participating restaurants, where the kids received a special treat. Saturday finished the week with a bowling event. She said the children really liked that; some had never been bowling.

Throughout the week, they had trivia on KQNK Radio. Participating daycare providers donated so many items, they were able to make six give-aways, she said.



Coral Stewart traced her mother, Teresa, with chalk on the Norton County Courthouse's sidewalk Thursday evening for Art Night. The activity was one of many children enjoyed last week as part of the Week of the Young Child. — Photo courtesy of Holly Puga

Winning were Jean Johnson, Monday; Lisa Day, Tuesday; Deona Cook, Wednesday; Linda Scheetz, Thursday; and Gail Roy and Lacey Roe, Friday. "A big thank you to everyone who helped plan and organize the week and a huge thank you to those parents who took their children and got them involved," she said. "It was a fantastic week and I can't wait until next year."

Power lines across area being rebuilt

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Prairie Land Electric Cooperative has hired an Oklahoma contractor to rebuild about 1,200 miles of power lines damaged in winter storms over the last two years, and the company has bought at least four houses and possibly a motel in Oberlin.

The crews are settling in for the long haul, with the work expected to take about three years. At least 40 men and women are working in the area, staying here three weeks and going home for the fourth.

Jimmy Moore, vice president and superintendent of distribution of the firm, C&H Power Line, said the company got the job through an engineering firm that works with Prairie Land. The firm has an approved list of electric companies to help electric co-ops, he said, and Dewey-based C&H Power was on that list. Mr. Moore said the company bid the job in Decatur County and got it.

The crews have worked in Decatur and Norton Counties and have lines west of

Oberlin to repair too.

Mr. Moore said he thought that most of the project is getting done with money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The damage the last few years was really heavy to the power lines in the western part of the county in 2005 and last year it was more near Oberlin and Dresden and C&H crews are upgrading those lines.

Earl Hansen, director of operations with Prairie Land, said the lines were damaged in the blizzard in 2005 and storms at the end of 2006 and the first few days of 2007. In 2005 alone, he said, about 500 miles suffered damage.

"It is way too big a project to do by ourselves," said Mr. Hansen, "so we had to bring in help. There is lots of line to rebuild and we need to keep up with our current work."

At the end of last year when the ice storm hit the area, said Mr. Hansen, some C&H crews were already in the area working.

They had started on the damaged line from 2005 and will continue working until lines damaged this year are fixed.

C&H's contract with Prairie Land doesn't have a time for completion, he said. It is based on a unit or pole-by-pole basis, said Mr. Hansen. The company will probably be here around three years.

Mr. Moore said he isn't exactly sure what the crews have to rebuild. It started with 600 to 800 miles of line and has grown to about 1,200 miles, he said.

The crews are taking down the old wire and putting in type T2 wire, a stronger, two-strand wire which is twisted. The idea, said Mr. Moore, is that twisting the two wires will keep a lot of the vibration out of the wire and deter ice build up. Since Kansas has a lot of wind and seems to have lots of ice storms, he said, the T2 wire should help.

Mr. Moore said C&H has grown a lot in the last year and will most likely continue to grow. The company was just

Mother makes difference by helping soldiers

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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It's true. One person can make a difference.

Melanie Elliott, Kensington, is a mother on a mission. And, she told the Norton Lions Club, she has helped make a difference in hundreds and hundreds of lives. One of the founding members of Operation SOS (Supporting Our Soldiers), she and several other mothers of soldiers who were deployed shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, got together to send boxes of "goodies" to their sons and daughters.

When her son told her of soldiers in his unit who had never received a letter or a package, her mission grew