

Church:

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

Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 100, No. 40
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Page 3

Friday

May 18, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of Judi Carlyle

Briefly

3D shoot helps shooting sports

The Norton Archery Club will be hosting a 3D fund raiser shoot for Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports Sunday at the range in Prairie Dog State Park. The shoot will have a trickle start from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will cost \$5 per round. For more information, call 877-3253 or 877-5269.

Meeting for 'bigs' to be Monday

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County will hold an informational meeting for teens and adults ages 16 and up at 7 p.m., Monday, May 21 at the office, 108 W. Main, Norton. Information covered will include application and screening process, time commitment, types of matches and match supervision. There is no obligation and refreshments will be served. Right now 31 "Littles" are matched with a "Big" in Norton County, but 38 are still waiting for a match. For more information, call 874-4200.

Teachers retire with honor party

Northern Valley Schools will honor Joyce Schemper and Roger Shearer with an open house retirement party from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 23 at the Long Island School gymnasium. Everyone is invited. Mrs. Schemper served for 10 years and Mr. Shearer for 28 years.

Rock celebrates the end of school

The Rock Christian Youth Center is sponsoring a "School's Out Bash" from 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 23 at The Rock. Admission is \$3. The event is open to all Norton County youth, seventh through twelfth grade during the 2006-2007 school year. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. There will be games, a dunk tank, a pie-eating contest, bingo and water balloon toss.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 56. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 85. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 86. **Sunday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 50, High 71, .40 Rain
Wednesday Low 42, High 72
Thursday Low 50, High 77, .40 Rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to remember the faith within us and to seek you in times of peace and in times of hardship.

Amen

A leaky situation



Jim Burns, maintenance supervisor at the Norton Public Library, bailed water from a full container too heavy to move into an empty trash can. The roof covering the Northwest Kansas Library System and parts of the

Norton Public Library has been leaking for a while, but got worse after Monday's rain.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Leaking roof causes problems for libraries

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

Normally, no one complains when it rains in western Kansas. But when water is coming in from the roof, it's another matter entirely.

Tuesday morning when the staffs of the Northwest Kansas Library System and the Norton Public Library arrived at work, they received an unpleasant, but not wholly unexpected, surprise.

The library system's roof, as well as the roof above the genealogy room in the public library, have been leaking for a while, but now water was coming in like a small waterfall.

Large trash cans with plastic sheets to

funnel the water into them can be seen all over the place, ceiling tile is coming down and floors and walls are being ruined. Tarps are everywhere to protect books and equipment.

"We have new leaks and old leaks," said Kay LeBeau, librarian at the Norton Public Library. "In the genealogy room, everything is covered with tarps. We have newspapers that go back to the 1800s. We don't want to lose them."

But, hopefully, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the specifications for a new roof have been sent to the roofing company.

"I talked to them Tuesday," he said.

"We're going to try something that they've never done and we've never done. We're going to roll out a new roof on top of the old roof. Hopefully, that will temporarily stop the leaks and give us the 30 to 60 days needed to get the roofing crew lined up to put on a permanent roof and the new bonds issued."

The city finished paying off the bonds that were used to build the library last year.

He said he and the city attorney have, hopefully, worked it out so that they are considered to be in an emergency situation. This will let them set up a bond council, get the money needed to pay for the roof, and then finish up the rest of the le-

gal work to finish the rest of the project.

The entire project includes a new roof with a 30-year warranty, installing new, more efficient heating and air conditioning systems, installing a fresh air exchanger in the Norton Rec Center gym, and replacing all of the damaged carpet and ceiling tile, as well as anything else that needs to be fixed because of water damage.

Mr. Lawson said if they are allowed to do the partial project, the city council could possibly be able to award the bonds and get the new roof project started at its next meeting.

The bonds will pay for the permanent
(Continued on Page 5)

Library system takes concerns to council

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

The library roof is leaking and the ladies who work there are not happy.

Leslie Bell, director of the Northwest Kansas Library System, told the Norton City Council at Monday's meeting that the library system's executive board and its employees were very concerned about the damage being caused by the leaking roof.

"We have a lot of concerns," she said. "Our concern is the structural damage being caused by the leaks. We're concerned about the safety issues; not only the safety issue of a piece of concrete falling and hitting someone as they are walking out the door, but about the issue of our staff with allergies who can't breathe. We're worried about mold and what the damp is doing to our books and equipment. We're also concerned with the costs to us. We're having to pay the janitor ex-

tra for extra services.

"We've always worked closely with the public library and the city and we plan to continue to do that. We're not here making demands, but we hope it gets fixed quickly."

She said the library system received a \$15,000 grant for high-definition video conferencing equipment, but doesn't want to install it until the leaks are fixed. Because anyone will be able to use the equipment, she said the leak problem is stalling the advancement of the community.

"Why would you not want to fix something that is hindering the progression of the community," she asked.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said they had been waiting on an engineer's report, which is needed to issue bonds. That is now done and the bond process can begin.

Councilman Ron Briery said they are planning on re-doing the roof, re-tiling, re-painting and replacing the heating and

air conditioning system.

"How long are we looking at here — a couple of weeks, months, a year," Ms. Bell asked.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she didn't foresee a long time frame. Everything is done, she said, and now they just need to issue the bonds. They are expecting 30 to 60 days.

"We've been aware of the situation and have been trying to do something about it," said Mr. Briery.

Ms. Bell said if there is an end in sight, she can go back to her staff and board and let them know.

"The roof is a major situation for us that this point," she said. "We worry about our computers and other equipment and appreciate your time and concern."

She said she would appreciate it if they would keep her updated with what is happening, so she can let her staff and board
(Continued on Page 5)

Norton seniors 'walk the walk' this Sunday

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

Fifty-eight seniors from Norton Community High School will be walking across the stage Sunday in celebration of the end of their high school careers.

The graduation ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. in Stull Gymnasium. Courtney Cox, Lacy Ellis, Sara Lentz and Alex Thomas will provide the honor guard for the graduates.

The high school band will play the processional "Pomp and Circumstance" as the candidates for graduation enter the gym.
(Continued on Page 5)