

A chocolate lover's dream...



Fun Night, last evening at Norton Public Library, featured chocolate. Those attending made creations using marshmallows, graham crackers, pretzels, strawberries, bananas and, of course, chocolate. Finishing their masterpiece, "The Alien-Ate-Er", were Stephanie Hager, left, and Brianna Karnopp. The two were among approximately 20 youngsters who came to Fun Night. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Accident causes death of Logan man

By VERONICA MONIER
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A farming accident caused the death of a Logan man Saturday afternoon.
Lewis Schneider, 77, died after being run over by his truck while trying to open a gate.
A report by the Kansas Highway Patrol said Mr. Schneider stopped his 2000 Ford pickup on Quail

Road in Phillips County, put it in neutral and then stepped out to open a pasture gate. The truck rolled off the road and into the ditch and struck Mr. Schneider as he was opening the gate. The truck continued to roll for about 20 feet before stopping.
Mr. Schneider was taken to the Phillips County Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

U.S. 36 clear for travelers between Norton and Oberlin

By VERONICA MONIER
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Travelers on U.S. 36 now have a clear path from Norton to Oberlin.
Harold Schleicher, area engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the highway is now open and traffic has been moved to the new road alignment.
Driver's shouldn't have to wait for pilot cars to take them through the construction. He said the new road was opened around June 7.
Mr. Schleicher said all that's left

to finish are things that couldn't be done before the new road was opened. He said they still have to finish the box extensions on the south side of the highway, pave side roads, do a little grading work and add a few concrete ditch liners on the south side.
Mostly, he said, people will notice this happening between Reager and the K-383 junction.
He said there are no other projects scheduled in the Norton area. The closest, he said, is work being done to the intersection of highways 83 and 36 in Oberlin.

Rural Fire Department gets grant from forest service

The Norton Rural Fire Dept. District No. 2 has been awarded a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant through the Kansas State Forest Service.
This grant is a 50 percent matching grant that is available to rural fire departments in the State of Kansas. The fund awarded to the Norton Rural Fire Dept. will go towards four water nozzles, wildland fire fighting tools, i.e., shovels, brush rakes and fire rakes, structural fire fighting tools

(Hooligan tool and two pike poles) and some training materials.
The total amount of the grant is \$2,248. The actual amount of federal funds to be provided is \$1,124, which is 50 percent of the approved total.
Norton Rural Fire Chief Steve Otter said, "This is the second year for this department to receive this grant. The first time, the grant was used for bunker gear which is personal protective gear."

Rattlesnake sends woman to hospital

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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A Norton County woman was bitten, in her own garage, by a rattlesnake.

Starla LeClair's car was parked in the garage at her country home located about 12 miles southeast of Norton. Mrs. LeClair was preparing to get in her car when she heard a buzzing sound. She said, "I turned around and it struck right above my right ankle." She estimated the snake was about 18 inches long. She said it hung on for a little bit before it let go and slithered off. She said her husband and some friends looked for the culprit later, but did not find it.
This happened June 12 at 11:40 a.m. She immediately drove herself to the Doctor's Clinic in Norton. The staff there took her on to the Emergency Room at Norton County Hospital where they had the anti-venom serum and intrave-

nous lines to administer the medicine. A call was made to Hays Medical Center and a Flight for Life helicopter was dispatched to take her to Hays.
She said, "I think the Norton medical staff (clinic and hospital) made the difference between my life and death. I really appreciate the quick thinking of the nurses, Dr. McKinley, Ricki Rhodes and Jennifer Wildman. The helicopter crew was very professional and really got things going."
Mrs. LeClair said she received a total of 12 doses of anti-venom and had to stay in the Hays hospital for two or three days. She was allowed to come home but after spiking a 102° temperature, she was re-admitted to the Norton hospital for two more days. She said the side affects of both the bite and the anti-venom were some swelling in her leg, extreme pain and terrible vomiting.

She said, "It's going to take quite awhile before I feel better. I am just resting and trying to drink lots of clear liquids. Each day I am just a little bit stronger, but I am taking it one day at a time."
Mrs. LeClair said this was not her first encounter of the close kind with rattlesnakes. She said one had been in her yard, one on the sidewalk and a neighbor had killed one in her driveway. She said, "The doctors in Hays said the recent heavy rains have flooded the reptiles out of their holes. And that's why we're hearing multiple reports of snakes; even in town."
She is, understandably, a little nervous about going back into the garage. "They are very dangerous," she said.
Mrs. LeClair has not decided, yet, whether she will return to her hospital job.
Mrs. LeClair and her husband, Jeff, have three children, Danielle,

Courtney and Joseph. She said she has really appreciated hearing from her friends. If you would like to send a get-well greeting to her, mail will reach her at Rt. 3 Box 49-A, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Congressman responds to budget's effects

Congressman Jerry Moran has issued the following statement regarding the budget.
"It is ironic that on the same day as the approval of the Democrat crafted budget, the Republican and Democrat members of the House agriculture committee gathered to express their desire to work together to develop the 2007 farm bill. Unfortunately, the budget now being adopted by the House and Senate precludes a farm bill that will meet the needs of our nation's agricultural producers, meet the environment and conservation needs of our country,

nor satisfy the demand for food stamps and nutrition programs. No matter how bipartisan the agriculture committee members are, we can not craft a satisfactory 2007 farm bill. Though the democrats try to mask this reality with a 20 billion dollar reserve fund, those funds exist only on paper. Absent additional dollars the committee can not fulfill its responsibilities to our nation's farmers and ranchers.
Chairman Peterson made a significant effort to get additional funds included in the budget for funding the farm bill, but the House leadership and Budget

Committee failed to heed his plea. At a time with increasing costs of production due to rapidly raising energy prices and when much of the country has suffered multiple year weather related losses, now is not the time to reduce the safety net provided in the current farm bill. Despite the current crop conditions and the financial circumstances our farmers and ranchers face, the commodity title of the farm bill will have 43 percent reduction in available funds compared to the funds available for the 2002 farm bill."

If bitten, people should remain calm

By VERONICA MONIER
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If people see a wild snake, no matter the kind, they should stay calm and stay away from it.
Park Ranger Toby Kuhn said he hasn't noticed an unusually high number of snakes, rattlesnakes or other, this year at Prairie Dog State Park. But, he said, people should steer clear of them if they see them.
"Whenever you see a snake you want to make sure you move away from it slowly and then stay as far away as possible," he said.
If it's a rattlesnake, people

should call the authorities to report it and let them handle removing it to avoid any unnecessary bites.
Ranger Kuhn said you can tell the difference between a rattlesnake and it's look-a-like, the bullsnake, but its coloration and the shape of its head. Rattlesnakes have a viper-shaped head.
If someone is bitten, they need to remain calm, try to identify the snake, and arrange for medical attention, whether it's going to the hospital or calling an ambulance.
He said people should keep the affected limb below the level of

their heart and remove any constricting items, such as rings or bracelets, because the affected area will swell.
Above all, he said everyone involved needs to remain calm and not panic.
"You don't want to cut it and try to suck out the poison," he said. "It's best to use that time to get the person or yourself to a medical facility."
More safety tips are available by Googling "rattlesnake safety" on the Internet.

Veterans to be seeing increase in reimbursements

Congressman Jerry Moran has announced House passage of legislation that provides the largest increase in funding for veterans in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). During consideration of the bill, Congressman Moran successfully offered an amendment to increase mileage reimbursement rates for service-connected disabled veterans traveling to VA medical facilities. Mr. Moran's amendment doubles the reimbursement from its current rate of 11 cents per mile.
"Many veterans must travel hundreds of miles to reach a VA facility and at only 11 cents per mile, the reimbursement rate does little to defray the cost of the drive," he said. "As we work to boost VA health care, it is important to remember that the medical services offered at the VA can only be enjoyed by veterans if they can

get to this care. My amendment will help more veterans afford their trip to the VA to receive the health care they have earned."
While the mileage reimbursement rate for disabled veterans has not been changed from 11 cents per mile since 1978, federal employees continue to see their mileage reimbursement rates increase with higher gas prices. The congressman's amendment doubles the mileage reimbursement for disabled veterans traveling to and from VA medical facilities. The increase in travel reimbursement rates will help veterans access VA health care.
The amendment was part of a spending bill to fund military construction projects and the VA. The legislation provides a 13 percent increase for veterans medical care, including funding to care for veterans returning from Iraq and Af-

ghanistan, expanded mental health treatment and money to address the repair and maintenance needs of VA facilities. This bill also adds more than 1,000 new claims processors to reduce the backlog of pending benefits claims.
The legislation is now being considered by the U.S. Senate. Moran is a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee where he serves on the Subcommittee on Health.

MARKETS

At close of business Jun. 21

Wheat	\$5.42
Milo	\$3.54
Corn	\$3.95
Soybeans	\$7.16

BENEFIT

All-You-Can-Eat

SPAGHETTI DINNER

11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Sunday, June 24

4-H Building, Norton, Kansas
— FREE WILL DONATION —
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HAVEN

The Haven

813 Grant - Norton, Kansas