

Friday  
July 6, 2007

## Highlights of the 4th

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Gail Boller

### Briefly Town huddle set at Almena

The Almena Chamber of Commerce is hosting a community meeting at 7 p.m., Friday, July 13 at the Almena Community Center. The meeting is to discuss a fund-raising campaign for the "Community Improvement Plan of Almena." The plan may involve the building of a new community center, improvements of the fire department, roads or beautification projects. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Reminder goes to wheat folks

A reminder was issued today to wheat producers to enter the Market Wheat Show at the Norton County Fair. Collect a bin run sample of about five pounds, and fill out a date-entry form. The form can be picked up at the Norton County Extension Office at the courthouse (call 877-5755 with questions). Or you can contact Dwight Heikes, superintendent of Crop and Wheat. Producers can leave their sample at the Extension Office before the fair, or they can take it to the 4-H Building on entry day, July 24, by 1 p.m.



Justin Chandler, member of Boy Scout Troop No. 181, was part of the color guard that retired the colors before the Fourth of July fireworks display started at dark Wednesday at Sebelius Reservoir.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



One of the hundreds of fireworks displays that wowed the crowd gathered on the shore of Sebelius Reservoir. Pyrotechnician Russ Erbert and his crew ignited the display using electronic switches.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

### What's this all about?



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### Weather Forecast:

**Tonight** — Clear with a low around 65.  
**Saturday** — Sunny and hot with a high near 99.  
**Saturday Night** — Clear with a low around 67.  
**Sunday** — Sunny and hot with a high near 98.  
**Sunday Night** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 69.  
**Monday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

### Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 64, High 92  
Wednesday ..... Low 61, High 92, 1" Rain  
Thursday ..... Low 60, High 99  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Wonderful Lord God, though we cannot see you, we know you are always with us working for our good and deliverance. Thank you. **Amen**

## Fireworks Show 2007 said biggest yet

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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The biggest fireworks display in the 11-year history of the Fourth of July celebration at Sebelius Reservoir came off without a hitch Wednesday night.

Licensed pyrotechnician, Russ Erbert has been coordinating fireworks displays for 14 years. He has been responsible for the displays at the lake since they started. Of this year's display he said, "Everything went off when it was supposed to."

"I really appreciate the crew who worked with me this year. Some of them have helped me for years," he said. His crew consisted of Karla Reed, Dan Hazlett, Steve Meese, Travis Chisham, Larry Nelson, Joyce Quinn, Mike Barrett, Tim Kelly, Jim Sharp, Harold Shinn, Wally Burton and Mick Kier.

Mr. Erbert said it took seven hours for he and his crew to wire the entire display.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent of the display is fired electronically," he said. "But, a few are still fired manually."

"Safety is a big issue," he said. "We all wear hard hats and safety glasses."

He said, "Up close where we're sitting, it's quite a show. And, loud, too."

Following the show, he and his crew policed the area cleaning up debris from the explosives. Thursday morning he made one more sweep of the area just to be sure there were no unexploded rounds missed in the dark. He said he was tired, "But, it's all worth it."

Sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, hundreds and hundreds of people took the time to drive out to the reservoir Wednesday evening. A free watermelon feed, sponsored by Jamboree Foods, began at 8 p.m. Jamboree owner, Rich Risewick and his wife, Dawn, served hundreds of plates of chilled watermelon.

As Boy Scout Troop No. 181 posted the colors, Steve Seaton, Lenora, sang the national anthem. In the interim before the fireworks display, Jam Session DJ and Karaoke Service provided music for the crowd.

As the sun went down, the Boy Scouts retired the colors as taps were heard in the background.

Karla Reed, Chamber director, said 1,551 cars entered the park this year, as compared to 824 in 2006. Ms. Reed praised the Prairie Dog State Park employees for all their hard work in preparing the park area for the show. She also said the Norton County Sheriff's office did a great job of getting people in, parked and out again.

Fire departments from Almena and Lenora also helped direct traffic and Norton Rural Fire Department set up on the south side of the park to handle any

emergency. Emergency Medical Services was at the park, on standby, for any medical needs.

The display is supported by local merchants and individuals. Sponsors were: Norton Travel and Tourism, Russ' Jewelry, Bev and Chuck Kohfeld, Prairie Land Electric, City of Norton, Valley Hope Association, First State Bank, First Security Bank, Nex-Tech/Rural Telephone, Lida and Jim Sharp, Jane Kelling, Norton Flowers Gifts and Greenhouse, Norton Archery Club, Enfield Funeral Home, Natoma Corporation, Don's Floor Covering, R.W. Yeager, Gail and Cindy Boller, End Zone Sports and Office Supply, Western Distributing, Norton Rotary, Security Abstract, Dr. Craig Krizek, Norton Glass Co., Almena State Bank, United Northwest Federal Credit Union,

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## BB gunners' effort keeps Norton's name going

By DICK BOYD

The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team continued the winning tradition of past Blue Jay marksmen by placing No. 2 in shooting and No. 5 overall in the 42nd annual U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships held over the weekend on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky.

Norton County BB Gun Teams have qualified at the state level and competed 39 times in the international shoot, the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world. Norton has won the international championship eight times, more than any other team in the world, and was

in the hunt for another title had Appling, Ga., not turned in an exceptional performance to win it all.

The young Norton girls and boys proved they could shoot as well as the best when they outscored Appling in the final kneeling position. Appling was an easy winner in the other three shooting positions.

Norton scored 37 more points in shooting than the young Blue Jays did in running away with the state championship earlier this year. Their total score of 2,319, which included the written test, was one point out of fourth, two points out of third and just 10 points from second. Appling scored 1896 in shooting, 486

on the written test for a total of 2382. Pierre, S.D., placed second overall with 1853 in shooting, 476 test and 2329 total. Pierre won the championship in 2004 and 2005.

Third place went to Washington, Mo., the defending international champion, with a written test score of 472, shooting of 1849 and 2321 total.

Just one point back in fourth overall was Buffalo, Minn., with a 470 test, 1850 shooting and 2320 tally.

Norton was just one more point off in fifth with a 462 test, a second best shooting with an 1857 for a 2319 total.

In sixth with a 474 test, 1844 shooting and 2318 total was Marshall, S.D.

Homestead Shooters, Beatrice, Neb., were seventh with a 462 test, 1854 shooting and 2316 total.

Eighth place went to Penns Valley, Pa., with a 478 test, 1836 shooting and 2314 total.

Nottoway, Va., was ninth with a 466 test, 1845 shooting and 2311 total.

Rounding out the top ten were the Bend of the River shooters from Tennessee. They had a 468 test, 1841 shooting and 2309 total.

The Manhattan, Kan. team placed 17th with a 472 test, 1807 shooting and 2279 total. The Flint Hills Shooters from Alma,

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