

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Bruce Farber

Briefly

All's go for big Almena festivities

Almena will be busy Saturday with city-wide garage sales and the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association's antique machinery and engine show. There will be a parade, demonstrations of pioneer power, kids events, food, prizes and music. Sunday the association will continue the show. Non-denomination church services will be held on the grounds at 8:30 a.m. A parade will be held both days at 1 p.m. Breakfast will be served both days beginning at 6:30 a.m.

Lenora Jubilee kicks off tonight

The annual Lenora Jubilee kicks off tonight with a concert on the newly completed stage in Larrick Park. Jake Owen is heading the show which includes Whiskey Falls and Heartland. Saturday holds a full day of activities including a 3-5K walk/run. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at Larrick Park. City-wide garage sales will run from 7 to 11 a.m., when the parade winds down Main Street. There will be entertainment for the kids, bingo for the seniors and a carnival for everyone. At 7 p.m. Tate Stevens takes the stage along with Wahly and The Bassbones and The Carbon Cowboys. For event and ticket information go to www.lenorajubilee.com.

Norcatur benefit to help area family

Everyone is invited to a benefit supper to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday at the former Norcatur School for Charlie and Judy (Magers) Easton, Quinter. Mr. and Mrs. Easton lost their home, outbuildings and vehicles to a late May tornado. Mrs. Easton is the sister of Jane Engelhardt, Norton, and the daughter of Margaret Magers, Lyle. Free will donations accepted.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 55. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 91. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. **Sunday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 54, High 95
Wednesday Low 64, High 79
Thursday Low 47, High 85
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God, thank you for your endless forgiveness and patience with us. Help us to be patient and forgiving with others. **Amen**



A 40-foot by 80-foot section of turf had to be tilled under from the football playing field at Travis Field after vandals poured harsh chemicals on the grass.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Vandals target Travis Field

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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What began as a prank has taken a serious turn. With serious consequences.

In the early morning hours of May 22, Norton police discovered vandalism to the football field at Travis Field located on the southern edge of Norton.

Someone had mixed what appeared to be a cocktail of Round-Up, Weed-be-Gone and a petroleum distillate (i.e., turpentine) and written "20" and some unintelligible scribbles in the grass.

Assistant Police Chief Jeremy Hartwell said the incident is under investigation and the case is in the county attorney's office. Officer Hartwell said the police de-

partment's investigation led to the names of multiple suspects. He said charges are expected to be filed early next week when the culprits will be named.

Ray Hillebrand is the director of maintenance and grounds for the Norton school system. He said the affected area measures about 40 feet by 80 feet. It has been tilled to a depth of six inches.

The grounds maintenance crew has been advised by a soil testing laboratory to till the ground multiple times. Tilling will aerate the soil and allow the chemicals to evaporate.

School superintendent Greg Mann said, "I am so disappointed. Travis Field is a showcase for our community....it is

our front door. It is something so many people enjoy. I can't imagine why someone would want to do something like this. Their intent was to totally kill the soil."

Mr. Mann said repairs will be done "in house" as much as possible. He said the City of Norton will help some, too. He said the only estimate available at this time is a minimum of \$600 to replace the sod.

Officer Hartwell said several vehicles were vandalized with spray-paint the same night the football field was damaged.

He said the incidents are all tied together and are part of an on-going investigation.

Most roads open, but much work remains

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The roads in Norton County still have a long way to go before they'll be back in shape; however, most of them are open again after storms a couple of weeks ago wreaked havoc with dirt and gravel roads and bridges.

"Basically we're still trying to get things open," Tom Brannan, county road and bridge supervisor, told the commissioners on Monday. "We had 30 miles closed. We're down to nine."

Commissioner John Miller warned Mr. Brannan that everything his crew did needed to be documented so that, hopefully, the county can get some of the money its expending on repairs back as disaster assistance from the federal government.

"If we don't get this federal money with these repairs," he told Mr. Brannan, "your department will be broke."

"With gas prices, it's going to be broke anyway," Tom quipped wryly, noting that diesel has gone up 62 cents a gallon since the last time he ordered it.

He added that he has been saving all notes, records and photos of the work on the damaged roads and bridges.

"We're documenting everything that we're doing," he said. "The roads that were damaged, we've taken pictures. We learned a lot from the storm last year — the ice storm."

Mr. Miller said that he expects an inspector from the state to come out and look over the area. If the state decides that there is enough damage it will recommend that the county get money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.)

"If there isn't enough to ask for federal money," Mr. Miller said, "we're stuck with it (the repair expenses)."

The further south and west you go in the county, the worse the damage, Mr. Brannan said.

"We've got everybody doing tubes and blades and getting roads reopened," he said.

Mr. Miller agreed with his assessment.

"There are places in the south part of the county where we had ditches, now they're six-feet deeper," he said.

Commissioner Leroy Lang noted that people in the country have been pretty understanding about the problems the road and bridge crew has had in fixing the roads.

Mr. Brannan said that his crew is just doing what they can to get people in and out.

"It's taking time to get washouts filled in," he said. "We're just getting them filled in; not trying to make them smooth."

He added that there will probably be a couple of roads that will be closed all

(Continued on Page 5)

State park roads project begins

Special to The Telegram

A construction job to seal the roads and parking areas at the Prairie Dog State Park west of Norton will begin next week, said the Area One Office of the Kansas Department of Transportation in Phillipsburg.

The prime contracting firm — Hi-Plains Sand Inc., of Kanopolis — will start the resurfacing project the week of June 16, weather permitting. The process will smooth the roads and fill surface defects that can eventually shorten the pavement life. Workers will first spread

a thin layer of asphalt over the pavement then coat it with a layer of lightweight aggregate, which is then pressed into place with heavy rollers.

"Areas of the park will be inaccessible for a short period of time as this fast-moving process occurs," explains Transportation Department Construction Engineer Travis Scott. "People wanting to gain access to the park may experience a short delay during the construction process."

(Continued on Page 5)

Race for sheriff assured

By TOM DREILING
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The local portion of the ballot for the Aug. 5 primary election in Norton County is now set, and if you are a Democrat, well, your hand won't tire marking your ballot.

The final filings, as reported this week by the office of Robert Wyatt, county clerk, lists no Democrats.

One incumbent county commissioner, Republican Leroy Lang, District 2, isn't seeking re-election.

But there are a couple of races. Sheriff Troy M. Thomson, Republican incumbent, is being challenged by fellow Republican Brent A. Bohl.

And in Highland Township #3, Republican incumbent Clarence E. Wetter is being challenged by fellow Republican John Miller.

Here, then, is the list (again, all Republicans)

County Offices

• 2nd District county commissioner, Carolyn Applegate.

• 3rd District County Commissioner, incumbent John Miller.

• County Clerk, incumbent Robert D. Wyatt.

• County Treasurer, incumbent Cynthia Linner.

• Register of Deeds, incumbent Wanda M. Vincent.

• County Sheriff, incumbent Troy M. Thomson, and Brent A. Bohl.

• County Attorney, R. Douglas Sebelius.

Township Trustee and Treasurer

(Continued on Page 5)



Rub-a-dub-dub. Brandon Vacura learned the hard way how clothes were washed in the good 'ole days. As part of the "Then and Now" Day Camp, he scrubbed "clothes" on a wash board, rinsed them and then hung them to dry on a clothesline.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Ah, yes, the good 'ole days

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Ever wish you lived back "in the good 'ole days"? Wednesday at the "Then and Now" Day Camp, 109 campers got a small taste of what life might have been like for their grandparents or great-grandparents.

The event was sponsored by Norton County 4-H Council, Norton County Farm Bureau Association and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation for Financial Support with funding assistance provided by Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Children were divided into groups with leaders. Each group rotated to see and/or experience the different crafts and exhibits. They learned from Pauline Poage how quilts were hand-made using scraps of clothing; from Ada Arford they learned about hand utensils like a butter churn and a clothes stomper; Extension agent

Tranda Watts demonstrated how wheat is ground into flour and helped the children make and bake a pretzel. Kara Miller showed campers how to wash clothes on a washboard and hang to dry on a clothesline; they learned how to plant a "Garden in a Glove" from Rhonda Browning; and Norton County Extension Agent Keith VanSlike exhibited his collection of antique hand tools. Campers got some real hands-on experience in rope-making from Bob and Phyllis Winslow; and leather tooling from Rick McChesney; and Bob Underwood shared some of his antique tractors and motors.

Recreation even harkened back to another era when the campers played games that did not require any batteries. They had sack races and had a tug-of-war.

Other adults helping with the day camp were: Garrett Beydler, Jeremy Wetter, Doug Zillinger, Joy Johnson, Keesha Deetlefs and Patsy Maddy.