

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Tuesday
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Norton, Kansas
Home of Tom Montoia

Briefly C, D tag deadline just one day away

One more day left. Wednesday is the deadline to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycle or motorized bike tags if your last name or business name begins with “C” or “D”. When renewing your vehicle tags, remember to include your current proof of insurance for all vehicles. The County Treasurer’s office needs to verify the VIN number, policy number and current expiration date. Computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. daily for balancing. Second half of 2007 property taxes are due by May 10. Since that is a Saturday, the office will extend the date to the 12th. To ensure proper credit to your taxes, bring or send your payment stubs. If you have questions, please call the office at (785) 877-5795.

National Day of Prayer Thursday

Thursday is the observance of National Day of Prayer. The Norton County Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a service at 7:30 p.m. at the First Church of God, 1010 Churchill. Everyone is invited to attend. Speakers from the community will represent family life, government and the media. For more information, call Kirk Kasson 669-2453.

Memorial Bicycle Safety Program set

The Chaston VanDerVeen Memorial Bicycle Safety Program is scheduled this week for area schools in Norton County. Law enforcement officers will be on hand to instruct kindergarten and first grade students on proper safety laws and the prevention of head injuries by wearing safety helmets. Each child will be given a bicycle safety helmet which will be properly fitted. After safety instructions, the students will be able (weather permitting) to practice their new skills on a riding course. Extra bicycles will be provided. The safety program will be held at noon Wednesday at Eisenhower Elementary and Friday at Northern Valley in Almena. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 46. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 85. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 51. **Thursday** — A 40 percent chance of showers. **Thursday Night** — A 40 percent chance of rain, mostly cloudy and breezy.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 38, High 59, .20 Rain
Saturday Low 33, High 50, .25 Rain
Sunday Low 29, High 62
Monday Low 29, High 62
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to discover where we have gone wrong and through your power, bring us back to faithfully serve you. **Amen**

Strike up the band!



Sixth grade band students at Eisenhower Elementary School presented a music recital Wednesday in the school’s band room. Playing French horns were Desiray Skrdlant and Leif Carlson; on saxophone was Tanner Furbush; in the back on Sousaphones were Kolton Harting and Maggie Spradlin.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Trucks, troopers, cameras eye motorists

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

Something went on in the northwest part of the state a week ago dealing with safety, and chances are it was taking place right under your nose and you didn’t know it.

The ingredients included a truck, a truck driver and a highway patrolman. It was the start of the second year for the TOPS program — Trucks on Patrol for Safety. And on April 18, in Colby, those involved held a media conference to discuss the results.

Under the program, commercial vehicle companies and drivers are paired with Kansas Highway Patrol Troopers in an effort to help reduce injuries and deaths related to large truck crashes on the state’s roadways. The program has the support of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The truck-patrol program for 2008 rolled out onto northwest Kansas high-

ways with the help of the ABF Freight System Inc., which provided the truck, trailer and driver.

The program, according to the state patrol, gives troopers a chance to ride with professional semi truck drivers with a front seat to view and document and report violations to other troopers on patrol in the selected area.

Each truck is equipped with a temporary five-camera system that records violations by both passenger vehicles and other commercial vehicles. It’s the trooper’s responsibility to enforce state laws and federal regulations in and around large trucks, and in the process educate the public of the dangers that exist around semis.

Reports say that in 2006, large trucks were involved in 5.3 percent of all traffic crashes and 14.3. percent of all fatal crashes in Kansas. The Kansas Department of Transportation said there were 61 fatal collisions involving large trucks,

and the driver had at least one contributing factor in 23 (or 38 percent) of these crashes.

The transportation department reports 3,447 crashes in 2006 (latest available figures), involving heavy trucks, which equates to one crash every 2.54 hours involving a large vehicle. Sixty-nine people were killed and 1,026 injured in those 3,447 crashes.

Col. Terry Maple, Patrol Superintendent, said one of the primary focuses of the TOPS program is to raise the public’s awareness of the added precautions that must be taken when sharing the road with large trucks.

“Last year’s program was very successful,” the superintendent said. “I am pleased that our efforts will continue with another year of TOPS.”

He also said the “participation of our partners in the trucking industry demonstrates their commitment to traffic safety in Kansas and educating drivers about

safety around large trucks.”

The Kansas Highway Patrol passes along these safety tips while sharing the road with large trucks (and *The Telegram* suggests cutting this part of the article out and now and then rereading it and passing it along to your teen-age drivers):

- **Stay out of truck blind spots.** Although every truck has side mirrors, the driver still has blind spots, areas directly behind and on both sides of the truck where the driver cannot see cars. Look at the truck, if you can’t see the driver’s side view mirrors, you are in a blind spot and the driver can’t see you. If your car is beside a large truck, either drive on past or back off.

- **Never follow a large truck too closely.** Stay behind large trucks by at least one car length for every 10 miles per hour of speed. Providing extra distance allows you to see in front of the truck. If there is congested traffic or a crash ahead

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Five positions open

High school’s Site Council seeks nominations for 2008-10

Rudy Perez, principal of Norton Community High School, told *The Telegram* Monday that the high school’s Site Council is seeking nominations for positions becoming vacant at the end of the school year.

He said the positions in question are three parent representatives and two certified representatives to serve during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. He said these positions may be one- or two-year to help balance the Site Council

terms. The parent representative must have a child who will be in the high school next year. All nominees must live in the Norton School District.

Mr. Perez said nominations will be accepted until May 9 by contacting the Norton Community High School office at (785) 877-3338.

Additionally, if you desire more information, you may contact Mr. Perez at the same number.