

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

Friday

July 25, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Charles Ross



Briefly

## Here's what's left of the Norton Fair

- Today**  
6:00 p.m. - Pedal Power Pull for Ages 4-11  
6:30 p.m. Home Owned Carnival Kiddie Armband Night  
7:00 p.m. - "Norton Idol" - Sponsored by Area Businesses  
7:30 p.m. - McClain's Mutton Busting for Kids
- Saturday**  
6:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. - Home Owned Carnival Armband Night (All 1 and 2 Ticket Rides, No Games)  
7:00 p.m. - Elmwood Park Speedway Car Races-Bud Shoot-out
- Sunday**  
6:30 p.m. - Elmwood Park Speedway Car Races-Bud Shoot-out

## Telegram needs address changes

If you have received a new 911 address, please contact The Norton Telegram office at 877-3361, so your subscription can be changed to reflect the new change.

The newspaper's business manager, Sherry Hickman, thanks you for your cooperation in this important matter.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Scattered thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 71. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 93. **Saturday Night** — Isolated thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Chance of precipitation is 20%. **Sunday** — A slight chance of thunderstorms before 1 p.m.

## Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 68, High 94  
Wednesday ..... Low 69, High 100  
Thursday ..... Low 67, High 104  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for the glory of each season. May we fulfill your purposes throughout our lives. **Amen**

## Lego lingo



Tony Anderson, 10, describes his Indiana Jones lego creation to judge Steve Kuhlman Monday afternoon at the 4-H building. It took Tony 2 hours to build.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Big mill levy hike faces Husky nation

## Northern Valley superintendent points to facility updates

Special to The Telegram

The Northern Valley School Board voted July 21 to authorize Superintendent George Griffith to publish a proposed budget with a 7.064 mill increase in the Local Option Budget.

This increase was recommended by Superintendent Griffith as a way to make much needed updates to the facilities. He said the high school gym floor is in need of replacement due to age and prior termite damage. Many of the sidewalks around both the Almena and Long Island buildings are in need of replacement, the roofs on all the buildings need to be repaired or replaced, and the playground equipment in Long Island needs to be replaced.

Mr. Griffith proposed the increase in the Local Option Budget because the state contribution is much higher if the district raises the mill levy rather than to pass a bond issue or increase the Capital Outlay fund.

The facilities at Northern Valley have been undergoing updates over the past two summers with major work being done in all three libraries, updates in technology, remodeling of the high school auditorium, the installation of security doors for all the classrooms, and ongoing classroom repairs and updates.

"Maintaining the facilities on an ongoing basis will ensure that the school buildings and the district remain a viable,

safe and effective place to learn," Mr. Griffith said.

"The proposed increase in the Local Option Budget is being considered as a part of a two-year plan to get all the buildings and facilities in a condition that maintaining them will be less costly," Mr. Griffith said.

He also said, "The need to replace two buses every four years due to the age of our fleet limits the amount of funds available to make these needed repairs without a mill levy increase."

Mr. Griffith explained the cost of a mill levy increase to the board. Here is an example of what the mill increase would cost for property with an appraised value

of \$50,000. Taxes are assessed on 11.5 percent of the appraised value (\$5,750 would be the assessed value of a \$50,000 piece of property). The tax increase would then be calculated by multiplying the mill increase times the assessed value (\$5,750 X .007046 = \$40.51). So the proposed mill increase would cost an individual with a home appraised at \$50,000 an additional \$40.51 per year. Basically one mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 dollars of assessed value of property.

Mr. Griffith concluded by saying "Anyone having a question on why this increase is needed should feel free to contact me or any of the school board members."

## Scooters will be focus of local meeting

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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The City of Norton will hold a hearing to review and set policy for the use of "low-powered mechanically-propelled devices" in areas open to pedestrian use.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she's been working with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Department of Transportation regarding handicapped mobility, and that the Federal government will be adopting new guidelines regarding these devices. The government will ask municipalities to adopt some standards for the mobility devices, and there are some state guidelines that have to be met, she said.

"The city can require proof of disability and a doctor's statement," she said. "An example of proof of disability is if you have a handicap sticker for your vehicle, (Continued on Page 5)

## 2,884 registered to vote

By TOM DREILING  
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Primary election day is Tuesday, Aug. 5 and if everyone who is registered to vote in Norton County actually votes, that means 2,884 people will be making their way to the polls.

The voter registration roll is pretty much a one-sided thing with 2,266 Republicans vs. 618 Democrats. Unaffiliated counts for more than the Democrats — 794 — but they are not eligible to cast a primary ballot.

Advanced voting continues. In order to cast a ballot prior to election day, a request form for such a ballot needs to be signed. A voter can mark an advanced ballot at the county clerk's office, or can take it home and return it when finishing marking it. The mail can also be used to secure an advanced ballot, but with election day just around the corner that might not be the best route to take.

All ballots need to be returned to the county clerk's office prior to election day. Further detailed explanations are available by contacting the helpful people in the county clerk's office and that number is 877-5710. (Continued on Page 5)

The lone primary race locally involves incumbent Sheriff Troy Thomson and challenger Brent Bohl. (The Telegram did an in-depth interview with both Mr. Thomson and Mr. Bohl that appeared in Tuesday's edition.)

- Here are the voting locations:
- Almena City-Township & Harrison, Almena City Hall
  - Center Precinct No. 1, courthouse lobby
  - Center Precinct No. 2, courthouse lobby
  - Highland Precinct No. 1, Lenora Community Building.
  - All of Modell, Lenora Community Building.
  - Highland Precinct #2, American Legion Building
  - Highland Precinct #3, courthouse lobby
  - Solomon Precinct No. 1, American Legion Building
  - Old Belle Plain, courthouse lobby
  - Solomon Precinct #2, American Legion Building
  - Norton City:
    - Ward One, Ward Two and Ward Three, (Continued on Page 5)

## City council hears water plant update

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson told the city council at its July 16 meeting that he and City Attorney Karen Griffiths met with Chris Miller of Miller and Associates and representatives of BRB Contractors to discuss the water plant renovation project.

Mr. Miller said they have been trying to start up the water plant for several weeks, and have had several problems that need to be fixed.

He said training has been taking place to familiarize staff with the new equipment, and they hope to start up the plant and begin using lake water again next week.

BRB Contractors will prepare a list to present to the council regarding issues that have caused delays in the construction process, and Mr. Miller will give recommendations regarding each issue. (Continued on Page 5)