

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

**Tuesday**  
August 26, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Steve Horney

## Briefly

### Booster Club to huddle Wednesday

The Blue Jay Booster club will meet on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Norton Community High School cafeteria.

### Junior high game change announced

The junior high football game scheduled for Sept. 11 at Ellis has some changes. There will be two games that evening, with the first one starting at 5 p.m.

### Volleyball game date moved up

The Norton Community Junior High volleyball game scheduled on Sept. 20 in Goodland has been changed to Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. in Goodland.



Congressman Jerry Moran, left, Doyle Rahjes and Janene Schneider enjoy a visit during the Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic in Logan on Saturday evening.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

## Issues aired at Republican annual picnic

By DICK BOYD

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)

The 28th annual Phillips County Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic was held Saturday at the Hansen Plaza in Logan and attracted another large crowd of area residents who had the opportunity to visit with national and state Republican officials over a fried chicken dinner.

Through the years, the picnic has drawn many Republican dignitaries, including U.S. Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum, former Kansas Governors Bill Graves and Mike Hayden and current U.S. Senator Pat Roberts.

The fried chicken, baked beans, corn on the cob and watermelon meal was followed by the speeches and patriotic music.

Jerry Moran, Hays, U.S. Congressman from the Big First District, is a regular attendee and was the keynote speaker.


Other speakers were Dan Johnson, Hays, State Representative, Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, State Senator; John Faber, Brewster, State Representative; Randy Duncan, Salina, First District GOP Chairman; Larry Salmans, Hanston, former state senator who is a candidate again and Sally Cauble, Liberal, member of the State Board of Education.

Other dignitaries present were Robert Keese, Phillipsburg, Phillips County Register of Deeds; Bonnie Leidig, Phillipsburg, District Magistrate Judge; Judy Rowland, Phillipsburg, Phillips County Treasurer; Linda McDowell, Agra, Phillips County Clerk; Joann Freeborn, (Continued on Page 5)

McCain. Obama  
local poll  
Check page 4

## Weather

**Forecast:**



**Tonight** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 63.

**Wednesday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 85. Breezy with a north wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph.

**Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 61. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 88. North wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57.

**Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 85.

**Friday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 58.

**Saturday** — Sunny with a high near 89.

**Saturday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 62.

**Sunday** — Sunny with a high near 89.

## County tusk may be 50,000 years old

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

While driving a road grader on a county road in early July, county road worker Herman Pfannenstiel scraped dirt away from something unusual. Unsure what it was, he called his supervisor, Tom Brannan.

After looking at it, Mr. Brannan decided to call the Sheriff's department, to get confirmation. It was a bone — a mammoth-sized bone. A mammoth tusk, to be exact. Most likely from *mammuthus columbi*, or a Columbian Mammoth, according to Fort Hays State University, and its age is somewhere between 10,000 and possibly as many as 50,000 years. Radiocarbon testing could give a more precise measurement of age, but the testing is expensive and "not warranted on this specimen," according to the university at Hays.

Columbian Mammoths stood on average more than 12 feet tall at the shoulder and weighed more than 10,000 pounds. It was an herbivore, meaning its diet consisted of plants. It was one of the largest of the mammoth species and also one of the largest elephants to have ever lived.

While Norton was celebrating the Fourth of July, four students from the Geo-Sciences Department at Fort Hays State University came out to dig up the tusk. Reira Konuki, Japan; Seth Hammond, Oklahoma; Miranda Lucas, Georgia; and Crystal Podlena, Kansas, spent

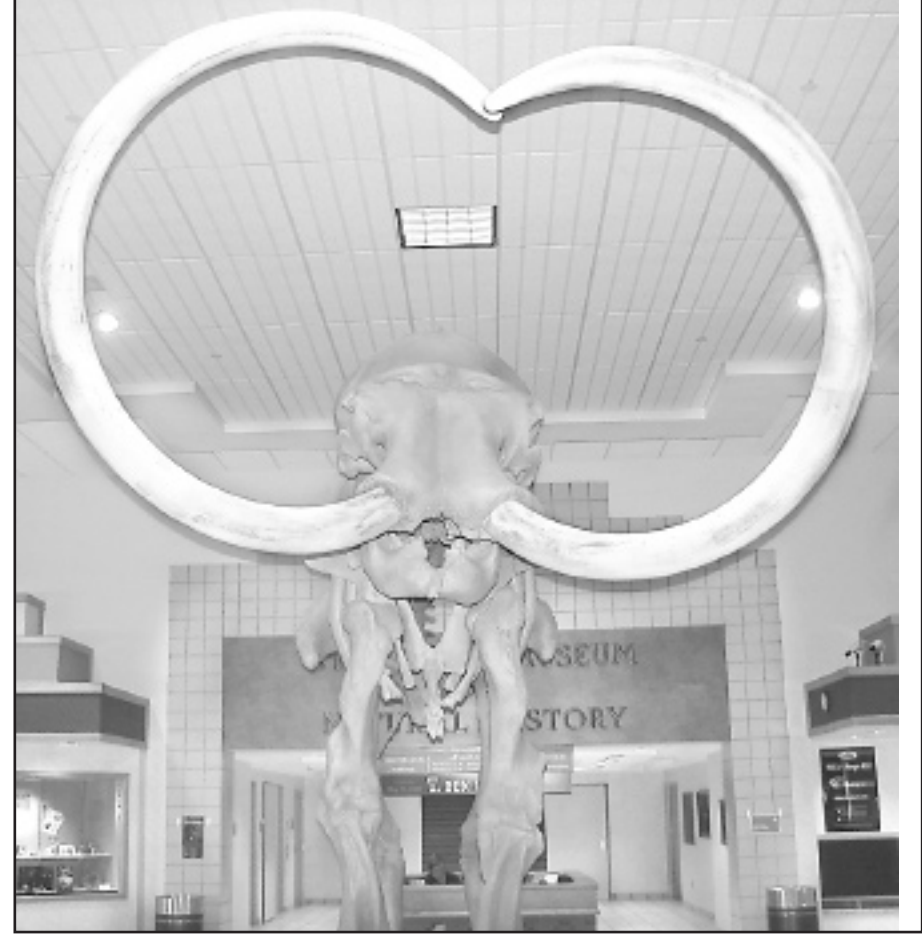
the afternoon using small tools, such as brushes, shovels, picks and small dental tools. The tusk was covered in plaster to preserve it. The students worked throughout the day uncovering the tusk, and went back to Hays after dark. The tusk was about five feet in length, and with the dirt and plaster, weighed about 200 pounds.

The following Tuesday, three students returned, plus one more to replace Ms. Podlena, who had been ill. Adam Conkey, a native of Norton County, returned to his family farm to help finish digging out the tusk. Removal of the tusk wasn't easy, and it ended up breaking into pieces before they got the tusk loaded.

Interestingly, they found a cable running under the tusk. Mr. Hammond, one of the student diggers said, "That could be why the tusk was in such rough shape, it could have been disturbed, even struck, while running a cable under it."

Mr. Hammond also said, "Mammoth tusks and even skeletons are fairly common finds throughout the Great Plains. There must have been herds of these creatures roaming throughout the Great Plains during the last ice age."

The gender the mammoth tusk belonged to is impossible to tell. Both males and females had tusks, and only a well-preserved pelvis could be used to determine the gender. Mr. Hammond did not say what will become of the tusk, only that "considerable reconstruction will be necessary."



This mammoth greets people as they walk into the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays. Though not a Columbian Mammoth, it is about the same size as the one whose tusk was found in rural Norton County several weeks ago.

— Courtesy photo

### Kingham report:

Aug. 22..... Low 60, High 80  
Aug. 23..... Low 53, High 78, .25 Prec.  
Aug. 24..... Low 66, High 81, .10 Prec.  
Aug. 25..... Low 61, High 82, .10 Prec.  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

O God, thank you for guiding us as we strive to follow you. Help us trust you more each day, knowing that following your way will always bring us safely home. **Amen**

## Pumps apparent problem at sewer plant

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

City Administrator Rob Lawson told the Norton City Council at its meeting last Wednesday, that he has received a proposal from BRB Contractors regarding the sewer plant problems at the influent pump station.

The pumps are showing excessive wear, he said, and the contractors believe the reason is due to abrasive material in the wastewater. They are proposing to rebuild the three pumps with the following components: the impellers will be replaced with special hardened ductile iron impellers; the wear rings will be replaced

with hardened stainless steel ear rings; the lower seals will be replaced with silicon carbide seals; and other components will be replaced as needed.

Two of the rebuilt pumps will be put into operation and monitored, and they will be inspected at six months and again at one year of service. If signs of excessive wear develop during that year, the city will provide random sampling of the influent wastewater over a two month period to determine the nature of the grit, abrasive material and other detrimental elements present.

If the wastewater is found to have grit content equal to or lower than state aver-

ages defined by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the pumps will be replaced with another brand of pump that meets the original specifications. If the grit limit is higher than the averages, the City of Norton would be responsible for corrective measures, and reimbursement of costs.

The council approved the proposal from BRB Contractors, with the elimination of the clause stating that the city will be responsible for the reimbursement of costs if the grit limit is higher than the averages defined by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The city council also adopted Ordi-

nance #1577, to increase solid waste collection charges. The collection fee will be \$13 per month for every household. Refuse landfill fees will be \$3 for single, and \$6 for families. These fees take effect today (Aug. 26).

Mr. Lawson said the amount of recyclables collected on the first Friday of the new pick-up schedule, totaled 2,640 pounds, and on the second Friday there was a total of 3,300 pounds collected.

Ordinance #1580, an amendment to Ordinance #1570, regarding the operation of all-terrain vehicles on city streets, was adopted on a split vote. The new

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