

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Friday

September 5, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Margaret Richards

Briefly

## McCain continues lead in local poll

By TOM DREILING  
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Sen. John McCain continues to hold a lead in The Telegram's presidential poll, although the gap has narrowed two points from the initial 10-point spread.

As of Thursday evening (6 p.m.) McCain leads Sen. Barack Obama 27-19. The first results published on Aug. 29 had McCain with a 13-3 advantage and 17-9 on the Sept. 2 report.

A total of 46 readers have taken part in the poll as of Thursday, which will continue for several more weeks. It's easy to participate and it takes only seconds. To find out how, see page 4.

## Pre-Natal class scheduled Sept. 13

There will be a Pre-Natal class at the Norton County Hospital on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. conducted by certified birth educator registered nurses. The classes will take place in the conference room in the basement. Topics include staying healthy, what to expect, labor management, post-partum and baby care, home safety, feeding baby and infant CPR/choking. There will be an optional tour of the birthing room as well. To pre-register, contact the Norton County Hospital at 877-3351. There is a \$25 pre-registration fee.

## Hospital to hold car seat checks

Free car seat inspections will be held at the Norton County Hospital on the third Wednesday of every month. The car seats will be inspected by a certified car seat technician. Call Shawn Area to set up an appointment.

## Weather

**Tonight** — A 30 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 45. **Saturday** — A 30 percent chance of showers before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 71. **Saturday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 50. **Sunday** — Partly sunny with a high near 73. **Sunday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Monday** — A slight chance of showers.

## Kingham report:

Sept. 2..... Low 59, High 71, .50 Prec.  
Sept. 3..... Low 43, High 69  
Sept. 4..... Low 42, High 74  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gifts you have given us. Help us to use them so that others see and experience your unconditional love. **Amen**



Assistant Chief of Police Jeremy Hartwell went over the details of an accident with Officer Adam Wahlmeier Thursday morning on Highway 36 in front of the Brooks Motel. The Ford minivan (above) was driven

by CJ Woodmansee of Almena and the Mercury sedan (below) was driven by Carol Hrabec, also from Almena.

— Telegram photos by Brandy Leroux

## Wreck sends two to hospital

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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An accident on U.S. 36 in Norton on Thursday at 7:30 a.m. tied up traffic and resulted in two people being taken to the Norton County Hospital. The two vehicles involved sustained heavy damage.

Norton City Police Officer Adam Wahlmeier was dispatched to the scene, and Assistant Chief of Police Jeremy Hartwell assisted.

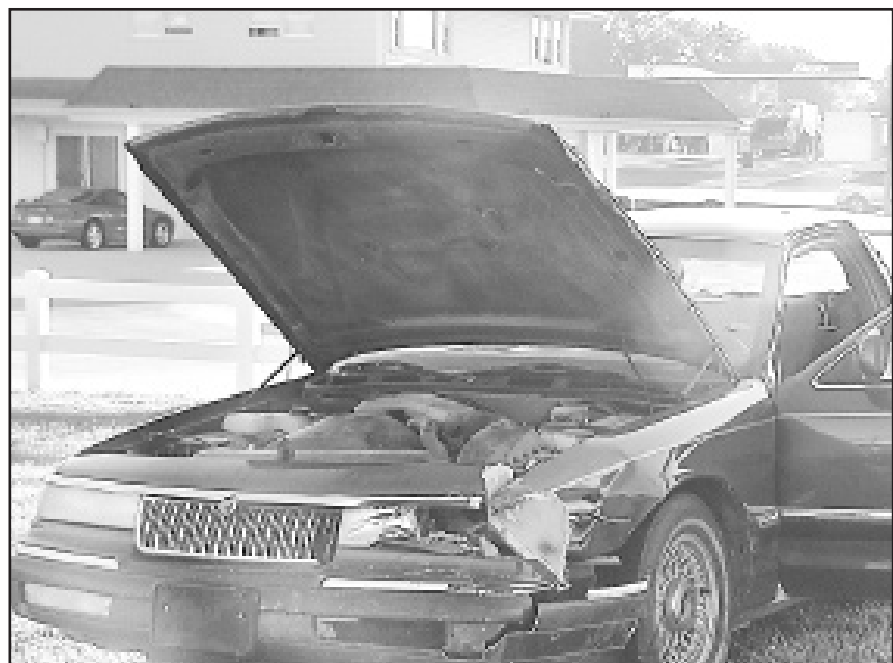
CJ Woodmansee, Almena, and passenger Anna Bullines of Norton were traveling in a Ford minivan, going east and turning into the Brooks Motel driveway.

Carol Hrabec, also from Almena, was driving a Mercury sedan, traveling west.

Ms. Woodmansee's vehicle turned into the path of Ms. Hrabec's vehicle, causing the collision, according to the accident report.

Norton Emergency Medical Services was called to the scene to transport Ms. Hrabec and Ms. Bullines to the hospital with undetermined injuries. No one was available at the hospital to disclose extent of the injuries.

At this time it is unknown whether citations will be issued.



## Council grants project firm extra time

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Reed Miller of Miller and Associates went before the Norton City Council Wednesday evening to ask for additional time in completing the water treatment plant project. Mr. Miller said that due to unforeseen events such as water changes and an elevator that broke down, BRB Contractors are behind schedule.

Mr. Miller said BRB Contractors are proposing to do some extra work at no charge in lieu of a cash fine for the days they are past the contract deadline. He said if they were charged for each day past the deadline, the total penalty would be about \$78,000. BRB Contractors is asking for a 55-day credit, which would reduce the fine to \$50,000, and are offering to provide \$36,000 in additional work at no charge to the city, if the late penalty is waived.

The motion was passed, 5-1, with Ron Briery voting no.

The city council voted 5-1 to approve the final payment to BRB Contractors in the amount of \$160,107.76 for the water treatment plant project. Mr. Briery voted no.

Miller and Associates was authorized to prepare a Certificate of Completion for the water treatment plant, with the one year warranty starting July 11, 2008. Councilman Briery voted no.

The formal second reading of Ordinance #1570, relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles on city streets, was waived. Council members Toby Kuhn and Donna Foley voted against the waiving of the formal second reading.

The formal second reading of Ordinance #1581, designating a three-way stop intersection at East Washington and South Archer Streets was waived.

Mayor David Corns reported that the city sales tax receipts collected in July 2008 totaled \$20,083.75, and the county sales tax receipts were \$15,906.89, for a total of \$35,990.64. The 2008 year to date sales tax receipts total \$299,371.76.

Mayor Corns said one of the handicap parking signs in front of the Norton Library has been vandalized, and also reminded the council that 2008 is the 100th Anniversary of the Norton Public Library.

The City Council approved a motion to discontinue requiring the Norton Library to pay \$140 per month for utilities since the city owns the building.

Mayor Corns asked the city council why the fair rides haven't been taken down yet. City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city crews haven't had time to get to them, that city crews were needed to do the most pressing work first. Councilman Jeff

Otter asked about hiring temporary help for setting up and taking down fair rides. City Administrator Lawson said they had a hard time filling all the open positions this past summer, and it is safer to have the city crews, who have experience in dealing with the fair rides, to put them up and take them down.

Councilman Briery made a motion that effective in 2009, the fair rides be taken down within two weeks of the fair being over every year. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilman Briery said he thinks that leaving the fair rides up for so long is a liability issue, because the Norton County Community Service Association's insurance is no longer in effect. City Attorney Karen Griffith said the city would be held liable if there were to be an accident. City

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## Emergency plan approved

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Norton County Sheriff and Emergency Preparedness Director Troy Thomson said he has received "unofficial" confirmation that the emergency operations plan he submitted has been approved by the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

The plan includes every scenario possible, from the highly unlikely — a major earthquake causing serious damage — to the yearly events, such as severe weather-related damage. Director Thomson said it took about a year and a half, from gathering all the information to formulating the plans, to get it approved.

"The plan meets all Kansas planning standards as well as the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act

standards and the National Incident Management System standards," said Director Thomson.

This year, the plans are going to be available online for viewing — though not everything will be available for the public to see — instead of being kept in a binder in the sheriff's office.

The plans include locations of emergency shelters, plans for evacuations and contact information for government agencies to assist.

The emergency operations plan will be reviewed and updated every year.

"The plans will be able to be viewed by all emergency heads of departments and as their capabilities, personnel and equipment change they will be able to submit that to me and then I can immediately update it," said Director Thomson.

*Treasurer to offer additional driver's license services here*

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner has undergone training to offer more driver's license services. Soon she will be getting more training, as well.

"When the Phillipsburg Department of Motor Vehicles dramatically changed their hours, I decided to pursue this training to be able to offer these services in Norton," said Mrs. Linner.

The treasurer contacted the State of Kansas in June, but wasn't able to begin her training for a couple of months. Then on Aug. 13, Mrs. Linner received training on how to issue instructional permits.

Instructional permits are for drivers 14 or 15 years of age. The student needs to bring an original certified birth certificate — one with a raised seal,

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