

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

September 16, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Carolyn Applegate

Briefly

Sen. McCain - 60

Sen. Obama - 43

Still time to take part in
The Telegram Poll

Details Page 4

City Council set for next meeting

There will be a Norton City Council meeting Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Building.

Items on the agenda are building/demolition permits for Delvis Miller, Ed Berlier, Lillian Snodgrass, Jeff Otter and Mark Keilig.

Old business to be discussed is the formal third readings of Ordinances 1580 and 1581.

Also on the agenda is the discussion of the appointment to Norton City/County Economic Development Board, the City Administrator's report, Public Works Committee Meeting report, and appropriating Ordinance 18 to pay the bills.

The meeting is open to the public.

Booster club to meet Wednesday

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Speakers are head football coach Lucas Melvin, head volleyball coach Peggy Cox, head cross country coach Tom Hehn and head tennis coach Marianne Wicker. Coach Melvin will also show the video of Friday night's victory over Oberlin. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited. You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend.

Weather

Tonight — Clear with a low around 51. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday — Sunny with a high near 84. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Clear with a low around 53. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Thursday Night** — Clear and breezy with a low around 55. **Friday** — Sunny with a high near 84. **Friday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 56.

Kingham report:

Sept. 12..... Low 57, High 66, .95 Prec.
Sept. 13..... Low 52, High 75
Sept. 14..... Low 44, High 67
Sept. 15..... Low 39, High 77
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, help us attend to your Holy Spirit to see the larger picture as we make decisions affecting our lives and those of others. **Amen**

Easy does it!



Cathy Brennan, a custodian at Eisenhower Elementary, has been taking three children in the mornings to help her put up the flags. Here, Jenna Ricker, Tucker Pfannenstiel and Slayton Braun help lower the flags at the end of the day. Mrs. Brennan teaches the kids how to handle and fly the flags.

— Telegram Photo by Brandy Leroux

'Dream' is cause for celebration

By BRANDY LEROUX
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A dream has come true for the Norton Downtown Restoration Committee. The Washington Street Park is nearly finished, and the committee is having a celebration at the park on Friday at 6 p.m. The Norton Community High School Marching Band will start things with *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Gloria Nelson, chairman of the committee, will give a speech, then the Trevi Fountain will be dedicated and lit in memory of Jay Ryan.

After the fountain dedication, Karla Reed, from the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, will host the ribbon cutting and turn the park over to Mayor David Corns and the City of Norton.

In the summer of 2007, Mrs. Nelson and Elaine Johnson, secretary for the Downtown Restoration Committee, attended a Kansas Main Street meeting in Belleville. They gathered a group of interested people and began planning the

restoration of downtown Norton.

"The meeting in Belleville really got us motivated," said Mrs. Nelson.

The first project the committee chose to undertake was fixing up the lot on the corner of Washington and State Street. In 2006, a fire burned down two buildings and the lot had remained empty ever since. The committee met once a week last summer and decided to build a park. When the plan was finished, they presented it to the Norton City Council who gave them permission to proceed.

"Everyone on the committee had wonderful ideas," said Mrs. Nelson. "We want to thank the city for having the foresight to approve this project."

The pergolas were designed by the Fullers, who own Rawhide Ironworks.

There is one addition left to finish in the park — a fence on the side that runs along the alley. It will be black steel, and will have lights. Brian Hickman, working on his off time, has been building the stone

housing for the fence.

"It has gone amazingly well," said Mrs. Nelson. "It has all happened beautifully."

There were more than 30 people who gave talent, time or money to the project, and the Norton County Community Foundation played a key role in financing the park.

Downtown Restoration Committee Members are Elaine Johnson, secretary, Connie Glenn, Judy Holzapfel, Colette Miller, Carolyn Applegate, Mary Strutt, Kim Wicker, Roberta Ryan, Wade Carter, Connie and Leon Stromer and Diane Becker.

Individuals are able to make 100 percent tax-deductible donations through the foundation for future community projects.

For those interested in making donations to the project of their choice, forms are available at the First State Bank or online at <http://www.discovernorton.com>.

Lack of funds hurt organization

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas recently announced a restructuring of services affecting several locations in their western region. The evaluation and restructuring process is the result of funding shortfalls.

"These announced closings do not affect our services in Norton nor do we expect an influx of new people served due to the closings in surrounding areas," said Mary Ahlemeyer, manager of the Norton Intermediate Care Facility of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

Due to the lack of funding and rising costs, Developmental Services is having to do major restructuring. Senate Bill 365, which was to give about \$70 million to developmental disability services, the frail elderly, the physically disabled and those with traumatic brain injuries, passed in the House of Representatives last session 118-4.

The bill then went to a conference committee where the multi-year funding was stripped away. What passed in the

Senate was the dollar-free version. "We did receive a modest two percent rate increase from the legislature. Although appreciated, our ability to cover rising costs and increase the wages of our dedicated and underpaid staff, this increase is once again insufficient," said Jerry Michaud, President of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. "Adjusting the wages of our employees has been and remains our highest priority at DSNWK. We have been left simply with no other alternative but to reassess the current services offered and determine what options can and cannot be provided in our 18-county region."

Under legislative intent, the 2 percent increase is earmarked to be used to increase employees' wages.

President Michaud said, "DSNWK's actions honor this intent, however, this is a near impossible task when the rate increase alone falls short of covering the increased cost of our health insurance, let alone the other costs we are all experiencing at the gas pump and the grocery store."

Last session, the bill (SB 365) went to conference committee late in the legislative session, which some could say is the reason why it failed to pass. Mr. Michaud hopes that next year, the essence of the bill will come to the table again, earlier, addressed as the first priority.

Their Colby location, Wheatland Developmental Center, is shutting down completely, effective Oct. 1. Developmental Services is currently working with the individuals and their families to work out the details regarding transportation to the Atwood facility. The day services program in Colby will no longer be available, and the building will be put up for sale.

Atwood is losing its ceramics shop, which has been a point of pride for Developmental Services. "For the individual with developmental disabilities in Atwood with artistic abilities, it was just the right employment, and now a lost opportunity for them," said President Michaud. "It is unfortunate to have to remove that option from people, but it's

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U.S. 36 to become shoppers' paradise

By TOM DREILING
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Sixty local businesses and individuals will be participating in this coming weekend's third annual "U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt," one giant yard sale stretching across all 13 counties from the Colorado line to the Missouri line. The event begins Friday and ends Sunday.

This treasure hunt, and the two preceding, is designed to encourage travel on U.S. 36 so those taking advantage can experience the friendliness of the people, the attractions the various towns offer, and to allow the communities involved an opportunity to visit one another.

Some people come from long distances — other states — to shop for bargains at this 'yard sale' that consumes hundreds of thousands of acres. And as the word gets around each year, the crowds grow larger.

If Mother Nature cooperates this year, another positive report will describe the '08 effort. The forecast for the rest of this week and into the weekend, calls for temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s with no rain in sight. Perfect!

In the immediate Norton area, here is a list of participants (along with an accompanying map):

1. **Norton Rotary** — 410 East Holme (BB-Gun Museum) (Hwy. 36 East) Friday and Saturday, 8-6; Sunday 9-5. MAPS, information booth and multi-family yard sale with antiques, collectibles and holiday items

2. **James Moser & Company** — 410 East Holme, Friday and Saturday 8-5; Sunday 8-3, moving sale, tools, fishing stuff, camping stuff

3. **Cindy's Country Quilts** - Inside Town and Country Kitchen — Friday

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Nebraskan top picker in latest Telegram test

By DICK BOYD

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Christal Rose of Arapahoe, Neb. stood all alone atop the many entries in this week's Pigskin Pick-Em Contest with just one miss and will receive the \$15 scrip first prize.

Her only miss was the Ellis win over Oakley.

In contrast, seven fans were in contention for second and third prizes with two misses. Eric Farber of Norton was closest to the tiebreaker score and will receive \$10 in scrip for second place. Southern Cal defeated Ohio State 35-3 in the tiebreaker and Eric chose USC by 28-13 or a total of 17 points off. He also missed the Fort Hays upset of Washburn and the Thunder Ridge victory over Logan.

Third place of \$5 in scrip money was won by Doug Ray of Norton. He won a drawing over Randy Springer of Hoisington. Each missed two games and was 18 points off on the tiebreaker score. Both missed the Fort Hays and Ellis wins.

Douglas Daniels of Norton also missed two games but was 29 points off on the tiebreaker. Also missing two games but incorrectly choosing Ohio State to win the tiebreaker were Carol Voss, Almena and Tina Tanner, Ryan Blecha, both of Norton.

Correct on all but three contests were: Jim Springer, Long Island; Evelyn Springer, Hoisington; Dorothy Shearer, Dale Shearer, both of Edmond; Nathan Morse, Dustan Daniels, Deanna Gallentine, Sady Keilig, all of Norton.

Missing four games were: Nancy

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