

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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12 PAGES

## Friday

### October 10, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Joyce Garrison

### Briefly

#### Telegram Poll

McCain - 92

Obama - 74

Ron Paul - 3

Bob Barr 2

Gov. Palin - 1

Total - 172

Poll ends Sunday evening.

Call 874-4394

## Serenading the seniors



Mrs. Vincent's first grade class performed for an audience at the Senior Center in Almena Wednesday afternoon. Several students had grand parents, great-grandparents or neighbors in the crowd. Mrs. Stutheit, the vocal teacher at Northern Valley, was the accompanist. Grades kindergarten through fourth grades sang songs for the audience. — Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## BB Gun Team to host visitors

Persons who are interested in learning more about the Norton BB Gun Team or boys or girls between the ages of 8-14 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2008 who are interested in trying out for the team are invited to attend the first meeting of the team's new year on Monday, Oct. 20 in the Norton Rotary BB Gun Museum on East Highway 36 across from Kowpoke Supply in Norton. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short informational meeting explaining what the program is all about. Beginning at 7 p.m., try outs for this year's team will begin. Once the team is established, regular meeting nights will be on Monday of each week. For more information, contact Cameron Archer, phone 877-5567.

## VA representative to town Monday

A representative from the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs will be at the Norton City Office on Monday from 1-2:30 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with veteran's benefits. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be accepted.

## Weather

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 53. **Saturday** — Scattered showers with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 76. **Saturday Night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Sunday** — A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a high near 66. **Sunday Night** — A 40 percent chance of showers.

## Kingham report:

Oct. 7 ..... Low 41, High 66  
Oct. 8 ..... Low 41, High 73  
Oct. 9 ..... Low 42, High 70  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Loving God, thank you for loving and caring for us, and for all the help you bring us. **Amen**

# Million dollars plus invested in Norton

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Norton is on the move. Just ask the city/county economic development director. She has the figures to prove it.

"More than \$1,000,000 has been invested in Norton in this past year alone," said Diane Becker, who directs Norton City/County Economic Development.

That money comes from new businesses opening, and existing businesses expanding.

Subway, Downtown Car Wash, Stitch Up A Storm, the Stonehouse Restaurant, Destination Kitchen, and Holly's Clubhouse are all businesses that have opened in the last year. Kowpoke Supply, the Mystic Moonstone, and the Norton School District Learning Center have all expanded, with the Learning Center doubling their clientele from the previous year.

Community projects this past year have been the Washington Street Park — which

was dedicated Sept. 19 — the Moffet Station and the State Street Buildings, both of which are still in the process of being completed.

All of this is good news for Norton, city and county, Ms. Becker said. New businesses generate additional sales and property tax, capture disposable income of people who would normally drive out of town to get some specialty items they can now get in Norton, and it also generates interest in Norton from other companies outside the area, she said.

"The core of our economy here in Norton is strong, mainly from agriculture, manufacturing and the overall employer diversity," said Miss Becker.

"We helped some of these projects by providing educational opportunities, obtaining financing, or offering technical assistance. Others expanded or opened entirely on their own. Economic Development does not have its own loan fund, but partners with Norton Development,

Norton County USDA Revolving Loan Fund, Pioneer Country Development and others to help businesses access the money they need to finance their business ventures. We also have access to many educational resources for those interested in opening a business," she said.

Economic Development is also pursuing two companies to open businesses in the area. One is the Rural Telephone Call Center, a service center, and the dairy industry is also being looked into as another possibility.

Economic Development is in the process of getting environmental reviews for the Downtown State Street Building at 112 South Kansas Ave., which could take as long as 30 days to complete, and when that is finished, they plan on preparing to apply for grants to fund the project, including cleaning and repairing the exterior brick, cornices, roof, skylights and windows.

"The private investment in the Wash-

ington Street Park and other downtown projects brought back hope to our downtown and encouraged further investment. I think we are only beginning to see the positive effects of the Norton County Community Foundation. As the foundation becomes more known, I believe more people will begin to take advantage of the opportunity to help our community while receiving a tax benefit. The results of everyone's charitable contributions are easily recognized," Ms. Becker said.

The exterior of Moffet Station is complete, except for some painting touch-ups and landscaping. Plans are being drawn up for the interior to solicit bids for the work.

New niche businesses are working with Economic Development to open businesses in Norton.

"We are currently working with local entrepreneurs on additional business ventures, including a women's clothing (Continued on Page 3)



Wednesday was "International Walk to School in the USA Day" for Eisenhower Elementary students. This group of parents and students met at the Unified Office and started walking at 8:00 a.m. to the school. — Telegram photos by Brandy Leroux

## Norton kids join kids worldwide walking to school

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Wednesday was "International Walk to School in the USA Day." Joan Streck, Eisenhower Elementary School Nurse, sat down with Norton School District Superintendent Greg Mann and Eisenhower Principal Corey Roy to plan a morning of walking to school for the Eisenhower

students.

"The goal of walk to school day is to have children and parents all over the state walk to and/or from school together, and in the process, raise awareness of the importance of teaching children safe pedestrian behaviors and how easy and fun it is to enjoy healthy, active time together doing the world's simplest exercise —

walking," said Mrs. Streck.

"I wanted to teach kids pedestrian safety rules and that walking is a fun and simple exercise the whole family can do together. I also wanted the children to broaden their awareness that this is an international event, a unifying event for children all over the world experiencing 'Walk to School Day,'" said Mrs.

Streck.

Eisenhower students and their parents were encouraged to participate in the event by walking on their own or with a small group of friends, or walking in a larger group that met at the school district office. The group walking from the office included Mr. Roy, the Norton Blue Jay (Continued on Page 3)

**YOU!** unfolds on Page 5

**4-H Week** inserts today