

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Norton, Kansas
Home of John Wetter

Briefly

City firemen fight fire on N. Wabash

The Norton City Fire Department was called to a fire at 1003 North Wabash, lot #12 shortly after 6 p.m. Sunday. The fire was in a trailer occupied by Candace England.

"We think she was trying to start a fire in her fireplace," said Norton City Fire Chief Mitch Jones. "The fire got into her walls and it went from there."

"There were three fire trucks, and 15 men working to put out the fire," said Chief Jones. "No one was hurt in the fire or putting the fire out."

Chief Jones said he doesn't think the trailer is livable now.

Enrollment set for kids' wrestling

Sign up for beginners in Norton Kids Wrestling will be held along with a parents meeting and practice at 6:30 p.m. on Monday in the high school wrestling room, according to Lari Ann Nickell.

Sign up for advanced wrestlers with parents meeting and practice will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the same location.

Board agenda for Monday released

The Norton School Board will meet on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in regular session. On the agenda are: discussion of baseball and softball as school sports; discussion of staff appreciation event; consideration of a change in Professional Development Council by-laws; reports by members of the board of education; personnel actions; appointment of negotiators for the 2009-2010 master contract; and any other business brought before the board.

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 24. Saturday - Partly sunny with a high near 47. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 25. Sunday - Partly sunny with a high near 48. Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 28. Monday - A 40 percent chance of snow.

Kingham report:

Tues., Dec. 2 Low 27, High 66
Wed., Dec. 3 Low 22, High 32
Thurs., Dec. 4 Low 7, High 27
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for being with us, for caring and providing for us, and for guiding us through each day. Thank you for the gift of knowing you and having you as part of our lives.

Amen

'Heads Up!'



A worker from Forest River Colony and Salvage, Fordville, N.D., watched as the old Brady elevator was demolished on Wednesday afternoon. The elevator had been leaning, and had been a source of concern for people in that area of the community. The elevator was located just across the street south of Walter Motor Co., which is located at 124 S. 2nd.

— Photo for the Telegram by Edward Newcomb

Deer accidents keep body shops busy

By BRANDY LEROUX
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If you've been reading the accident reports in The Telegram, nearly every accident report from the sheriff's office has been deer-related.

"This is normal," said Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson. "It's rutting season for the deer, and the farmers are harvesting their milo and corn, taking cover away from the deer."

The sheriff said that in 2008, Norton County has reported 93 deer-vehicle accidents.

Surprisingly, Kansas as a state is about average compared to the rest of the states nationwide in chances of having a collision with a deer, according to a State Farm Agency survey.

The national average is every one person in 209 will hit a deer. Kansas is ranked as a "medium risk state" with a one in 211 chance. Hawaii has the lowest chance, with a one in 10,962 chance; West Virginia is highest with a one in 45 chance.

A collision with a deer generally means major damage to a vehicle, from a full-size pick-up truck or sport utility vehicle

to a economy car.

"Right now, we have a lot of vehicles that have hit deer," said Brad Harding, owner of New Look Body Shop in Norton. "This time of year, it's normal to have a lot of vehicles with damage from hitting a deer. The numbers start to pick up in October and they don't start slowing down until January."

Mr. Harding said prices to fix vehicles, like everything else, have risen.

"It can range anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousands to fix the damage from a deer accident," said Mr. Harding. "I recently had one that the damage would have cost over \$10,000 to fix. It was totaled."

The only thing he can say for sure that limits deer-collision damage is a good grill guard.

"I don't know that the whistles or the super-sonic deer deterrents work. I'm seeing less of them. But a good grill guard, one that replaces the front bumper, will significantly reduce the damage to a full-size truck or SUV if they hit the deer head-on," said Mr. Harding.

A good grill guard will cost about \$800 to purchase and install.

Mr. Harding said it takes around three days to repair a vehicle that has hit a deer, though it's dependent on other factors.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing the losses from crashes on highways, State Farm estimates that there were more than 1.2 million damage claims in collisions with animals during the last half of 2007 and the first half of 2008, and that animal strike claims have increased 14.9 percent over the past five years.

Overall, most deer collisions aren't severe enough to injure people, but deaths are increasing. In 1993, 101 people died in crashes involving animals, in 2000, the number climbed to 150, and in 2007 it was 223. The deaths occurred mostly in October and November.

Autumn isn't the only time deer collisions peak. In the summer, when motorcyclists are out, the numbers increase again, and damage to the motorcycles and drivers are even greater.

According to the institute's website, "Riders typically make up about half

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Norton's water supply passes state test

By BRANDY LEROUX
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"For the first time since the plant has been open, we have passed the state's water test," said Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson at Wednesday's Norton City Council meeting. "It's working."

Councilman Ron Briery asked if dialysis patients could now drink the city's water. Mr. Lawson said no, and the chemicals used to treat the water is what causes that. Mr. Lawson said the report will be on the city's website, www.cityofnorton.com, and it also has the note about dialysis patients. A consumer confidence annual report about the city's water will be sent out to Norton residents within the first quarter of 2009.

Councilman Toby Kuhn said the general public seems to be on-board with the city using the monitoring anklets, and that some have said they're glad the defendants will be paying for anklets instead of everyone else. Councilman Kuhn said the anklets will be delivered shortly, and asked the council to waive the three formal readings of Ordinance #1582 so they can start being used immediately instead of having them sit on a shelf and pay inactivity fees for not using them.

Councilman Briery asked if money for the initial cost had been set aside. Councilman Kuhn said yes. Councilwoman Elaine Mann asked how much money was set aside, and Norton Police Chief Pat Morel said \$100 for the activation fee, and

that's all that the city has to pay.

The city council passed Ordinance #1582, amending Chapter 9 of the Norton City Code relating to municipal court fees to include a daily detention fee of \$15.00 per day, payable by the defendant in advance.

Norton City Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Wolf brought an abatement resolution before the board for property on north Archer Street. Mr. Wolf said the owner has failed to follow the city's environmental code, and the 10 days given to him by the city elapsed last month. The city passed resolution #9-2008, regarding the environmental code violations of article #8-308, which deals with private property

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Extension district plan resolution passes 3-0

By TOM DREILING
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The Norton County Commission, on a 3-0 vote, approved a resolution earlier in the month, expressing its desire to join the Decatur County Extension Council in forming an Extension district.

The resolution, which appears in today's Telegram (Page 6), spells out in detail the county commissioners' intentions and other information necessary as this matter moves forward.

The commissioners — Richard Thompson, chairman, John Miller, vice-chairman and Leroy Lang, secretary — voted to publish the resolution at its Dec. 1 meeting.

The resolution allows for a 60-day period for Norton countians opposed to this joint formation, to circulate a petition and to gather no less than five percent of the qualified electors of Norton County and file the petition with the county election officer. That five percent would be in the neighborhood of 184 qualified voters.

If this results, the commissioners would not approve the agreement and Norton County would not be included in the Extension district unless and until the agreement is approved by a majority of qualified electors in the county voting at a primary election, general election or special election for this purpose.

The feelings of Norton countians as they relate to this proposed joint effort are not known at this time. However, the issue is being hotly debated in Decatur County. The commissioners in Decatur voted 2-1 to form an Extension district with Norton County.

Following is a story on the Extension district plan as it appeared in this week's The Oberlin Herald.

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Decatur County commissioners voted 2-1 Tuesday to form an extension district with Norton County unless someone carries a petition sending the issue to the voters.

Byron Hale, extension agent for the county; Tranda Watts, area specialist for

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8th grade class needs your help

By TOM DREILING
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HELP!
There are some junior high students in Norton needing just that: HELP! And if enough people take a few minutes out of their schedule to do what is necessary to HELP these kids, they'll forever be grateful.

"What's this all about?" you ask?

Well, here's the skinny:

The 7th Hour Computer Applications Class at Norton Junior High School is participating in the *Eat. Move. Score. Video Contest* sponsored by the Kansas City Chiefs and the Midwest Dairy Council.

"We need everyone in Norton to log on, watch our video, and vote for it" said Erin Manning, Computer Applications Teacher at the school.

"The winning school gets to go to Arrowhead Stadium for a pizza party and a chance to meet some NFL players," the teacher said.

Considering there are only about 10 videos in the contest, Norton Junior High has a very good chance of making it but they need the votes. To cast your vote, go to www.kcchiefs.com/mdc or a link from the district website www.usd211.org will take you to the students' video *Get Up and Get Goin'*.

You must vote by Dec. 15! The video is a little over a minute long.

"There will be some very happy 8th graders if we win a trip to Arrowhead. Plus, it's really good!" teacher Erin Manning said, and added, "Thanks for your help!"