

Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Friday

October 6, 2006

Norton, Kansas

Home of Mary Ann Taylor

Briefly

Schools note

special dates

The Norton School District has several special dates to pass along to parents and other interests. They include:

- **October 13** — end of the first nine weeks. School will be dismissed at 1 p.m. to give teachers time to grade work and enter grades for report cards. Breakfast and lunch will be served, buses will run at dismissal.
- **October 18** — Parent Teacher Conferences. There will be NO school for students. Eisenhower conferences will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Junior and Senior High Conferences will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **October 19** — No school for kindergarten, due to kindergarten parent teacher conferences. Section "B" of kindergarten will report on Friday, Oct. 20.

Questions? Call the school district office at 877-3386.

Some businesses to close Monday

Monday is the annual observance of Columbus Day and in Norton and surrounding towns most businesses will be open.

Banks, state and federal offices, to include post offices, won't be in operation.

To play it safe, you might want to call ahead to any place where you plan on transacting business to be sure they are open.

Voter sign-up deadline Oct. 23

Norton County voters are reminded of the Oct. 23, 5 p.m., deadline to register for the Nov. 7 election — if you are not already registered.

Registration can be handled at: Norton City Office; Alma City Office; Lenora City Office and Library; Norton County Clerk's Office

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear and breezy with lows in the lower 60s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy and breezy with highs in the upper 80s. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 50s. **Sunday** — Much cooler and breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 60s. **Sunday Night** — Colder and mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 51, High 87
Wednesday Low 53, High 68
Thursday Low 47, High 67

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, forgive us when we fail to love those you put in our lives. Help us each day to show your love to others.

Amen

The man...and the feet



The bare feet (above) of coast-to-coast runner Christian McEvoy show blisters after more than 24 miles of running Tuesday. Against a backdrop of the setting sun (left) Christian McEvoy ran the last few miles into Norton.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Runner gives state high marks

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Coast to coast runner, Christian McEvoy, had nothing but high praise for the hospitality he has received from Kansans.

Tuesday afternoon, 27 runners from the Norton cross country team plus one or two parents, a teacher and Mary Jane Wahlmeier joined Mr. McEvoy about 10 miles west of Norton as he completed that leg of his run. One of his support crew, Kristen Coleman, drove the support ve-

hicle that carries their gear and supplies for the trip.

He said that it was so exciting to run with the kids that he ran an extra four miles.

"Kansas has been the best state so far. It is definitely setting the bar for hospitality and kindness," Mr. McEvoy said. He said one of the highlights of the trip so far was getting to ride a combine and learn a

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County treasurer expresses concern

By TOM DREILING

One Norton County official has raised a concern that she feels will greatly inconvenience residents.

It has to do with driver's license renewals under the Real ID Act, which creates a new federal identification card to be issued to all U.S. citizens replacing existing driver's licenses.

To implement and process this Act, one proposed option is to create regional centers that will replace existing driver's license offices managed by county treasurers, Cindy Linner, Norton County Treasurer said.

Mrs. Linner feels this would create a hardship on senior citizens, disabled drivers and the working class, all of which would have to take time off and travel out of county to a regional center miles away to apply for their federal identification card.

Issuance of this card under the Real ID Act, is an effort to tighten homeland se-

Plan could eliminate issuing driver's licenses in Norton

curity and prevent another 911 disaster.

In an effort to retain driver's license renewals in the Norton County Treasurer's Office, a petition is being circulated requesting signatures.

"If you would like to continue to renew your driver's license in the Norton County Treasurer's office, as opposed to a regional center, stop by the treasurer's office and sign the petition," Mrs. Linner said.

"Hopefully, a large number of signatures will convince state and federal officials to continue service as is and not move this service to a regional center," she said.

To further elaborate on this possible major change, Mrs. Linner has shared her personal thoughts in the following letter:

I would like to bring to your attention concerns that I have regarding the 2005 Real ID Act.

The federal legislation includes language that allows only employees of the state to renew driver's licenses. County treasurers are not employees of the state, but the Kansas Department of Revenue has designated the county treasurers to act as an agent for the State of Kansas to renew driver's licenses. I believe the regulations that are currently being worked on and due by December 2006, should address the issue by having the language in

the regulations specifying that each state may authorize a designee or agent to assist them with the driver's license renewals.

The treasurer's office offers driver's license renewal services for Norton County. Processing driver's license renewals locally is one of the most appreciated customer service programs that my office can offer.

My staff and I process change of name or address and Kansas driver's license renewals and Kansas ID cards. We are renewing non-hazmat Commercial Driver's Licenses but the 2005 Real ID Act forced the State of Kansas to suspend that service at the county level in January 2006.

If county treasurers are not allowed to renew driver's licenses, many citizens in rural Kansas will be forced to drive to a county where there is a regional center.

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Sebelius slips Auditor: city in good financial shape

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The message was clear: the City of Norton is in good financial shape. That is the short version of the auditor's report delivered Wednesday night at the city council meeting.

Steve Zodrow from the accounting firm of Mapes and Miller, listed every fund heading in the city's budget and summarized by saying that his firm gave a "clear

opinion" which was the highest rating that can be rendered to an audit. He said almost all the funds had a positive change, meaning they had more money at the end of the year than what they started with. He also said there were no budget violations and he complimented the city's Revolving Loan fund. There are no bad loans and very little delinquency in payments.

Lee and Siobhan Haynes, owners of the

former US 36 Collectibles Antique Store (destroyed by fire July 24), have offered the city clear title to the property in exchange for cleaning up the debris.

The Archery Club also offered the same deal.

All involved parties will be scheduled to meet with the finance committee.

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Scholarship honors residents, benefits local students

Graduating high school students of Norton County, are eligible for a new University of Kansas scholarship established in honor of two long-time Norton residents.

The Bill and Alice Smiley Scholarship

will provide scholarships to deserving students who have graduated from Norton County high schools and are accepted to attend KU. Gifts from the family of the late Bill Smiley, former chairman and CEO of First Security Bank in Norton,

established the fund.

A Norton native and Norton Community High School alumnus, Bill Smiley graduated from KU with a degree in business in 1938. He served as a Naval officer

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