

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Tom Miller

Briefly

Norton council agenda released

The Norton City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, at City Hall. New business includes: Northwest Kansas Community Corrections Governing Board appointment; resolution authorizing an order of continuance on property abatement; city administrator's report; Public Safety Committee meeting report; Public Works Committee meeting report; Utility Committee meeting report.

Old business involves the second reading of Ordinance #1572, amending mayor and council compensation.

Building/Demolition permits: Valor Construction Co., \$800,000, Subway building at 207 W. Holme; Tim Boteler, \$10,000, remove old garage and build new one at 320 S. State Street; Keith Baker, \$750, construct wood deck at 513 N. Graves; Dennis Nickell, \$1,000, construct deck at 602 Sun Ave.; Brandon Peterson, \$2,500, construct one room addition at 804 N. Second; Jim Broeckelman, renew demolition permit for 605 N. 2nd; Leon Shoemaker, \$18,000, construct garage at 604 N. Jones; Steve Simmons, \$4,000, construct deck at 205 W. Wilmington; and Norton County, \$5,300, demolish building at 205 S. State.

Hospital board sets meeting

The Norton County Hospital Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, in the board room. The agenda includes: February meeting minutes; hospital website presentation; bills review; statistical/financial reports; renovation progress plans; Fiscal Year 2009 budget presentation; personnel report; quality improvement summary; patient survey summary; board member reports; CEO report; and other business.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 28. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 61. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 29. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 63. **Thursday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 32. **Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 57.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 30, High 55
Saturday Low 17, High 48
Sunday Low 28, High 37
Monday Low 30, High 37, .50 Rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us not to be envious of others' gifts, but to be good stewards in using the ones you have given us. Thank you for those whose lives teach us more about you. **Amen**



-Telegram photos by Sherry Hickman

Sergeant back from abroad

There was no mistaking what was about to take place at a home at 407 N. 2nd, Norton, on Friday. The U.S. flag, the sign and the nameplate on the front porch (photo above) told it all.

S/Sgt. Jerry W. Tolle, was due home on that date from a tour of duty in Afghanistan where he had spent the last year. He and wife Teresa (photo to the right) engaged in a long awaited embrace.

Sgt. Tolle is not a stranger in that part of the world, having served a one and a half year tour in Iraq, and two tours in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm.

Sgt. Tolle served with Bravo Battery 1-129th, Field Artillery, out of Chillicothe, Mo for 21 years. He moved to Norton in 2003 and was employed at the Norton Correctional facility.

The sergeant will go to Fort Riley as a warrior trainer for benefit of soldiers going to Iraq and Afghanistan. He will then retire.

S/Sgt. Tolle thanks the Norton Christian Church and Norton Correctional facility for the letters and packages they sent while he was overseas. Most importantly, he thanks Teresa for standing behind him and for all her support.

The sergeant has a new son-in-law, Chris Bellinger at Fort Campbell, Ky., who will leave in nine days for Afghanistan. He is married to daughter Desiree.



Preparations begin for 'T' time

By TOM DREILING
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It's hard to believe we are at that time again.

That time was driven home last Tuesday when, around 1:30 p.m., the Norton sirens sounded as the National Weather Service conducted its annual statewide tornado drill.

Also this month, Spotter Training Classes are being held all over the state. The Norton class is scheduled for Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative on West U.S. 36.

Additionally, the class at Oberlin is scheduled for March 26, also at 6:30 p.m., at the Gateway Building, 1 Morgan Drive.

The classes, the National Weather Service said, are open to everybody of all ages who have an interest in learning more about High Plains storms, weather safety or storm spotting. There is no charge.

Because March is viewed as the kick off month for tornado activity, the storm spotter classes and the tornado drill serve as a means to set the stage for the season at hand. It also allowed all communities to revisit their tornado safety procedures, according to the National Weather Service.

Kansas set a new tornado record in 2007, with 137 of the tail whippers swirling through the state, claiming lives and leaving behind indescribable damage. The National Weather Service said the 2007 record surpassed the record 135 set two years earlier.

February, March and May of last year set new records for the number of tornadoes in each of those months — 9, 26 and 77, respectively. Also, notes the National Weather Service, the first tornado last year occurred on Feb. 23 in Meade County at 9:56 p.m. The last tornado of the year occurred on Sept. 28 in Gove County at

7:21 p.m.

The 137 tornadoes were 80 above the 1950-2007 average of 57. The 2007 tornadoes claimed 14 lives and injured 82 persons.

The longest tornado track in 2007 — 34 miles — took place in northwest Kansas on March 28 in Sherman and Cheyenne counties. The strongest was an EF5 in Greensburg on May 4. And Stafford County had the most tornadoes with 11. The most tornadoes in one day was May 5 with 36 reported and the most in one month was 77 in May.

Here are more facts about Kansas tornadoes:

- The EF5 tornado that hit Greensburg on May 4, was the first (E)F5 tornado in the nation since May 3, 1999.
- Ten strong tornadoes occurred in 2007, with 125 weak tornadoes.
- 2007 is now ranked 6th highest in Kansas fatalities since reliable records

began in 1950.

• Since the year 2000, 834 tornadoes have occurred in Kansas, which is greater than any decade since 1950.

• Monthly totals in 2007: January 0; February 9; March 26; April 18; May 77; June 3; July 1; August 2; September 1; October-November-December 0.

Here are the tornado statistics from 1950-2007 for the eight counties making up the northwest corner of the state, including Norton:

Number of tornadoes, fatalities, injuries, in that order:

Cheyenne, 37-0-0; Rawlins, 46-0-4; Decatur, 40-0-5; Norton, 19-0-0; Sherman, 91-0-0; Thomas, 40-0-1; Sheridan, 20-0-0; and Graham, 33-0-0.

In 2007, here are the number of tornadoes for each of the above counties: Cheyenne, 4; Rawlins, 3; Decatur, 1; Norton, 1; Sherman, 7; Thomas 2; Sheridan, 2; and Graham 2.

Board sets fees for summer driver's program

By TOM DREILING
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Student fees for the summer driver's education program in the Nortom School District were approved during the school board's March 10 meeting on a 5-0 vote.

The fee will be \$50 per student enrolled in the program who are attending the Norton District, and \$100 for students who live out-of-district and only if space is available. Important to note is that Lenora School District students attending the Norton District as part of the educational services contract are not, for the purpose of this fee, considered as out-of-district students.

The five present board members voting for the fee motion were Craig Renner, president, Elaine Lofgreen, Chris Harting, Scott Ellis and Jennifer Terrell. Board members Mark Keilig and Jeff Nielsen were absent. The five members present constituted a quorum.

The board went into executive sessions to discuss matters relating to non-elected personnel, and employer-employee negotiations. No action was taken as the result of the sessions when the meeting reopened to the public.

The board accepted the resignations of Dale Engelbert as the high school Student Advisory Council sponsor at the end of the 2007-08 school year, and the resigna-

tion of Valerie Leising as the 7-12 Vocal Music instructor at the end of the 2007-08 school year. The board also accepted the resignation of Cheryl Roberts for the purpose of retirement as the Eisenhower Interrelated Teacher, with great appreciation for her 29 years of service.

Briefly, in other matters, the board (all votes were 5-0 unless noted otherwise):

- Accepted the financial audit for the 2006-07 budget year as presented by Steve Zodrow CPA, of the firm Mapes & Miller CPA's.
- Accepted the high bid from Brock Ellis for the 1988 Chevrolet pickup for \$751.
- Approved the amended 2008-09 cal-

endar as presented on a 4-1 vote, Elaine Lofgreen casting the no vote.

• Approved bid specifications as presented for the concrete projects and to advertise the project.

• Approved the 2008 summer school plans and recommended staff as presented.

• Adopted Resolution #2008-06, which authorizes city, county and state law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction to enforce local or state laws to enter upon property owned by the Norton Community Schools, USD 211, for the purpose of the enforcement of such laws.

The board called it a night at 9:55 p.m.