

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Norton, Kansas
Home of Lloyd Sproul

Briefly

Almena student named ambassador

Julie Griffin, a Fort Hays State University senior from Almena, has been selected an Anderson VIP Student Ambassador for the 2008-2009 academic year.

In that role, Julie will serve as an official representative at a variety of special events, including homecoming, athletic activities, presidential dinners, alumni gatherings and more. Students must be full-time undergraduates with a minimum 2.5 grade point average and be able to attend nine to 10 events per year.

Brian Feldt, a junior from Hoxie and Devin Scot Rohweder, a senior from St. Francis were also selected to the elite group.

Easter egg hunt slated Saturday

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place Saturday on the Norton County Courthouse grounds. At 1:30, a scavenger hunt will be held for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. At 2 p.m., the Easter egg hunt begins for children age 2 through 3rd grade. In case of inclement weather, the activities will move to the Norton Armory.

The hunt is sponsored by the Norton American Association of University Women's Child Study Club.

Elmwood Park Speedway featured in today's Telegram

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a low around 32. **Saturday** — A 30 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m. Patchy fog before 10 a.m. otherwise mostly cloudy with a high near 55. **Saturday Night** — A chance of rain and snow showers before 1 a.m. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 47. **Sunday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 28. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 68. **Monday Night** — Partly cloudy.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 27, High 55
Wednesday Low 28, High 66
Thursday Low 32, High 70
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Giver of all good things, thank you for your love, mercy, and forgiveness. Help us all to remember that you will never abandon us to walk through our struggles alone. **Amen**



Man and machines moved onto the property at 207 W. Holme this week to begin the initial stages of construction of a Subway restaurant. The building permit carried the name of Valor Construction. The location is

between Brooks Motel and McDonald's. This represents another choice for eating and also an opportunity for employment.

-Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

Construction, destruction in spotlight

Subway restaurant to soon be reality; downtown eyesore comes tumbling down

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

Construction. Destruction. That's the story going on in Norton. Construction is in its early stages at 207 W. Holme — between Brooks Motel and McDonald's — where a Subway restaurant will spring up later in the spring.

That \$800,000 project is the responsibility of Valor Construction. It will not only bring another eating place to the Norton scene, but importantly it will provide employment for an untold, at this time, number of local and area people.

Downtown, in the 200 block of South Kansas Avenue, county equipment moved in to demolish a garage on the Moffet property. It is part of the Norton County Economic Development quest to improve the downtown area. Tom Brannan, Road & Bridge supervisor, oversaw that undertaking.

Late last week, crews demolished a portion of the old gas station in the 200 block of South State Street. The part torn down housed a cafe. At one time, oldtimers recall, it was a gathering place of sorts for the downtown area.

The surviving portion of the building is expected to eventually be used as a community information center, according to reports published earlier by Diane Becker, Economic Development Director.

During a recent economic development board meeting, member Donna Foley had asked if the plan was to make the gas station look new or make it look like it did in the past. Ms. Becker said the short term plan is to just make it look better.



Tom Brannan, Norton County Road & Bridge supervisor, along with Gerald Wetter, watched as Mike Coffey operated the controls of a machine that demolished a garage in the downtown area Wednesday. Mr. Wetter piloted the truck that removed the debris from the scene.

-Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

Lightning called the 'Underrated Killer'

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

There's another weather culprit out there also causing injury and death. It's as quick as the blink of an eye. And because it doesn't carry the fear of a tornado, it sometimes falls through the cracks in conversation.

It's called "The Underrated Killer" by the National Weather Service.

In a word, it's lightning!

The National Weather Service, in its recent Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week, released some statistics that show lightning killed 62 people in our state during the years 1959-2007.

Most deaths occurred in July (15) and August (14). May and June had 10 each,

April and September 4 apiece, November 3 and October 2.

Most of the deaths (24) occurred in a category simply called "Other." Open areas claimed 20 lives, near heavy equipment 10, water related 5, golf courses 2 and under trees 1.

On the injury side of the 1959-2007 Kansas lightning story, the total was 198. July had the most with 51. September recorded 37, August 36, June 31, May 20, April 12, March and October 5 each and November 1.

And where were the people injured by lightning located? Again, "Other" numbered 120. Open spaces 31, under trees 17, golf courses 10, near heavy equipment 9, telephone 8 and water related 3.

The National Weather Service points out an estimated 25 million lightning flashes occur each year nationwide. During the past 30 years, lightning has killed an average 62 people per year, and that ties the average of 62 deaths per year caused by tornadoes.

The weather experts explain that because lightning claims only one or two victims at a time and does not cause mass destruction of property, it is underrated as a risk.

Most important in the conversation about lightning, is what to do if someone you are with is struck. The suggestion is call 911 and get medical help immediately. Cardiac arrest and irregularities, burns and nerve damage are common

under such circumstances. However, with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary, most victims survive a lightning strike. You are in no danger helping a lightning victim. The charge will not affect you, assures the National Weather Service.

The National Weather Service says lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from an area where it is raining. That, they explain, is about the distance you can hear thunder. "If you can hear it, you are within striking distance," they advise. They suggest seeking a safe shelter immediately.

Five words from the weather service puts it in perspective: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"

Local fire trucks render assistance

Fourteen fire trucks from Oberlin, Norcatur, Jennings and Norton responded to a fire along Prairie Dog Creek just southwest of Clayton last Wednesday.

Winds whipping out of the northwest at up to 50 m.p.h. apparently fanned the embers of a controlled burn from three days before, sending flames racing into stubble, grass and the timber along the creek.

Smoke got so heavy in Clayton, that people were calling county dispatch in Oberlin asking if they would have to

evacuate, but the flames did little damage beyond firemen's muscles.

Jennings Fire Chief Kerry Green said the blaze apparently began near some old hog sheds a mile north and a mile west of Clayton owned by Leonard Harris. He figured manure in pits under the shed had smoldered until the wind came up.

"I went out there and checked it Tuesday and there wasn't any smoke," he said.

The fire raced through corn stubble owned by Harold Mizell and grass be-

longing to Max Ward. Some of the Conservation Reserve grass was over three feet tall and thick from years of growth, Mr. Green said.

The first call on the blaze came in about 11:30 a.m., said Decatur County Chief Bill Cathcart. Oberlin volunteers went home about 7:45 p.m., but Jennings firemen were out past 10 p.m. Chief Green said he got to bed about midnight after hours of putting out hot spots in downed and dead trees along the creek.

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4-H'ers heading to regionals

Norton County 4-H Club Day was the featured activity March 15 as members displayed various talents as they gathered at the Norton Junior High School. The gathering helped the members to "Make the Best Better" as the 4-H motto goes, said Keith VanSkiike, Norton County Extension Director.

Presentations given and placings were (Continued on Page 3)