

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Norton, Kansas
Home of Tom Montoya

Briefly

Obama gains some in Telegram poll

By TOM DREILING
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The Telegram poll shows Sen. Barack Obama closing in a little on Sen. John McCain since the first report in last Friday's paper.

On Friday, McCain held a 13-3 edge. Since that time, and up to Tuesday afternoon, McCain added 4 votes and Obama 6. The total as of Tuesday stands 17-9, McCain's favor.

To take part in the poll, please see the boxed information on page 4 today. And note we also added an e-mail address to help you become a participant.

We also encourage high schoolers who are of voting age to take part, and in the process also urge them to register and then show up at the polls on Nov. 4.

With Sen. McCain announcing his selection of Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska as his running mate, interest in the poll is expected to increase.

Tailgate Party on tap here Friday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club's annual Tailgate Party will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. in the livestock barn at Elmwood Park on Friday. The party will be held prior to the Norton-Phillipsburg football game which begins at 7 p.m. at Travis Field. The tailgate menu will be roasted pork sandwiches or hot dogs, baked beans, potato chips, watermelon and drinks. Blue Jay Booster Club memberships will be sold and a free gift will accompany every membership.

Weight room open

The Norton School District's East Campus weight room is now open to the public from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The weight room will not be open on Wednesday or Friday evenings or during the weekends.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 47. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 76. **Thursday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 50. **Friday** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Friday Night** — A 30 percent chance of showers.

Kingham report:

Aug. 29..... Low 51, High 85
Aug. 30..... Low 59, High 90
Aug. 31..... Low 63, High 89, .22 Prec.
Sept. 1..... Low 68, High 92
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us to live in gratitude for all you have given us and to honor you by how we use those gifts.
Amen

Birds take to featherless 'parents'

By BRANDY LEROUX
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"It's absolutely amazing," said Norton City Animal Control Officer Sherry Hickman. "Newborn birds and rabbits are almost impossible to keep alive."

But one Norton couple has come through that trial with flying colors. Jim and Reges Ohlsen have managed to save two baby kingbirds.

On an early morning almost a month ago after a wind storm the night before, Mr. Ohlsen went out to his back yard and found a bird nest with two baby birds under their maple tree. The birds' mother was nowhere to be found. After showing his wife, they called Officer Hickman to ask if she took in birds. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hickman had no way to care for the baby birds.

The Ohlsens decided to take care of the birds themselves. Throughout the years, after having had several pets, to include parakeets, they thought they might have a chance of saving the baby birds.

"We thought we could wing it," said Mrs. Ohlsen with a smile.

What they have are kingbirds, which are common to Kansas.

They fed the babies grapes and plums from their backyard, and at Mr. Ohlsen's suggestion for protein, raw ground hamburger. Occasionally, they'll catch a grasshopper to feed to the babies. They fed the baby birds every few hours during the day, and put them in an old parakeet cage dug out of the garage during the nights to keep them safe from predators and the weather.

"Every time the babies would see us, they'd open their beaks and cheep. We'd feed them, and when they were full, they'd turn their backs on us as if to say 'okay, we're full,'" said Mrs. Ohlsen.

"At night, they let us put them in the parakeet cage and they'd huddle together, and sleep like that," she said.

Mrs. Ohlsen looked outside a couple of days after they'd found the baby birds and saw what could have been their mother. The mother didn't stay around, and that



Reges Ohlsen, Norton, hand fed Big Boy, one of two baby kingbirds her husband found in their back yard after a stormy night three weeks ago. The Ohlsens are hoping the babies will fly off and migrate with other kingbirds in the area.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

was the only time they saw her.

Mrs. Ohlsen named the one they believe is a girl — due to its dull coloring — Tink. Mr. Ohlsen started calling the one he thinks is boy — because his coloring is much brighter — Big Boy, and the name stuck.

The baby birds have thrived under the

care of the Ohlsens, and have recently learned to fly.

"Tink was sitting on the low branch on the maple tree, and something must have spooked her, because she scooted away and just took off flying," said Mrs. Ohlsen. Big Boy had figured out how to fly a couple of days before, without any

help from the Ohlsens.

Tink and Big Boy never fly far away from their backyard, and always come back to be fed, and every evening to go back into the parakeet cage.

When Mrs. Ohlsen is hanging laundry out, Big Boy is sitting nearby on the line.

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New daycare seeks money from county fund

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Holly Puga, Norton, went before the Norton County Commissioners with Economic Development Director Diane Becker to request funds from the Norton County Rural Business Enterprise Fund.

Mrs. Puga will soon be opening a new daycare, and though she has received a couple of grants from a local bank, there is still equipment, such as toy shelves and tables, that need to be purchased.

The commissioners asked Mrs. Puga to work with Miss Becker and County Clerk Robert Wyatt to complete the necessary forms to apply for the funding.

Miss Becker told the commissioners the new Norton County Rural Fire District

truck will be delivered Sept. 4, and invited the commissioners to attend.

Miss Becker also talked about the Aug. 13 wind energy conference she attended. (Story elsewhere on page 5 of today's Telegram.)

County Clerk Robert Wyatt talked with the commission about issuing a check to Sporer Land Development Inc. of Oakley for the Norton Airport renovation. The airport received two grants, one from the Federal Aviation Administration, from which it has received funds, and one from the Kansas Department of Transportation, though they have not received those funds yet.

Mr. Wyatt also told the commissioners that if they send the check, it will cause a negative balance. The commission

approved the check for \$146,730.25 to Sporer Land Development, Inc. with the understanding that the City of Norton will reimburse some of the funds and other funds will be available to cover the account.

Cynthia Linner, Norton County Treasurer, reported to the commission on upcoming meetings hosted by the State of Kansas on driver's license training. The closest meeting will be in Colby in early September. Mrs. Linner requested closing the treasurer's office again this year for one day in order for all the staff to attend.

Miss Linner also reported on the new changes in her office with licensing, the new services available, and that she has been trained in the new services, though

she'll need additional training in the near future.

The commissioners discussed the issue of Emergency Medical Service personnel under the age of 21 driving the Norton County Ambulance. The commissioners felt they had some type of policy to enforce the rule, but were not sure.

The commissioners held a public hearing to consider closing a road one mile east of Densmore. Several landowners were present to oppose the road closing. They included Ron Archer, Rita Hockman, Norman Voss, Dave Wyrill, Justin Hogan and James Glennemeier. The commission also received several letters from landowners protesting the road closing.

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Lakeside leisure



Trey Mindrup walked his 10-week old mini Australian Shepherd puppy, Gracie, at the Sebelius Reservoir Monday morning. Trey and his family spent Labor Day weekend at the lake.

— Telegram Photo by Brandy Leroux

Football contest begins

By DICK BOYD
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The 39th annual Pigskin Pick-Em Contest for area football fans begins in this issue of *The Norton Telegram*.

Each week during the season, football fans will have a chance to win prizes by guessing who will win high school and college football games.

The weekly prizes will total \$30 in scrip money. First place will be \$15, second, \$10 and third, \$5.

The fan who picks the most correct games during the 12-week contest will receive \$50 in scrip money plus an engraved trophy.

The great thing about the Pick-Em Contest, the most popular event ever conducted by *The Telegram*, is that it's fun and doesn't cost you a cent.

And, even better, the rules are as simple as Hut-One, Hut-Two, Hut-Three. Turn to the Pick-Em page and find the games listed in the sponsors' ads.

Pick the team you think will win each game and write the winners on the entry blank beside the corresponding sponsors' names.

Then pick the score of the tiebreaker

game. Winners will be announced in the following Tuesday's *Telegram*.

Fans are asked to bring their entries each week to *The Telegram* office by 5 p.m. on Friday. Of course, those who mail their entries to *The Telegram* at 215 South Kansas must make sure they are postmarked by 5 p.m. each Friday and they must arrive at the office with the Monday's mail.

Prizes must be picked up within three weeks.

You are only allowed to enter once per week but extra entry blanks for every member of the family are available at the sponsors' places of business.

Official entry blanks must be used; no reproductions will be allowed.

Entry blanks may be picked up from these 2008 sponsors: Attitudes, Norton Shop and Save, Kellie's Alltel, Long Island Grain/The First National Bank & Trust/Island Insurance, Moffet Drug, O'Brien's Pit Stop, Jamboree Foods, Town and Country Kitchen, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse, Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc. and *The Norton Telegram*.