

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

10 PAGES

## Friday

### September 19, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ted Sanko

### Briefly

## McCain continues 17-point margin

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

The calls and e-mail keep coming in. And Sen. John McCain, Republican presidential candidate, continues to lead Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic Party's president pick in The Telegram's Presidential Poll.

The last report had McCain with 60 votes to 43 for Obama — a difference of 17 votes. Thursday night, while putting The Telegram to bed, the figure was McCain 67 and Obama 50, still a 17-vote margin.

The poll asks only who you favor, it doesn't get into particulars. And it is the newspaper's hope that respondents are registered voters who will cast a ballot on Nov. 4.

National polls had Sen. McCain enjoying a good sized bump from the convention and subsequent selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate. While Sen. Obama was enjoying leads of varying sizes before the GOP convention, McCain closed the gap and actually moved into the lead.

However, the race is again tightening up nationally as the two candidates get down to issues and discontinue their focus on nit-picking, non-issue shallow warfare. The race today is a statistical tie.

The Telegram poll will continue on. As of today 119 people have responded. Although the McCain-Obama total comes out to 117, one vote each was called in for Republican Texas Congressman Ron Paul and for Gov. Palin.

Details on how you can take part in the poll can be found on Page 4 — the Opinion Page. It's very simple.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with a low around 54.

**Saturday** — Sunny with a high near 82. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 56. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Sunday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 81. Breezy with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph. **Sunday Night** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy and breezy with a low around 57.

## Kingham report:

Sept. 16..... Low 48, High 82  
Sept. 17..... Low 52, High 80  
Sept. 18..... Low 51, High 82  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Lord, help us to obey your word and not judge others. In Jesus' name. Amen



Crime scene tape blocks on-lookers from Helen Keiswetter's house, and a patrol car is also parked nearby to keep the area secure. Kansas Bureau

of Investigation agents were at the house Wednesday and Thursday — Telegram Photo by Brandy Leroux

## Hunt continues for Norton facility inmate

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

A Norton Correctional Facility minimum security inmate walked away from the United Methodist Church late Tuesday morning where he was doing lawn work. As of The Telegram's deadline Thursday night, he was still on the loose.

Authorities have not said positively if he was involved in the attack on an elderly Norton woman in her home at about the same time as he was reported missing, but left the impression he could well be.

The resident hurt in the attack is Helen Keiswetter, in her 80s, who is currently hospitalized in Wichita.

### The Facts:

"We did have an escape, and it has now turned into a criminal investigation," said Norton Correctional Facility Warden Jay Shelton.

Christopher E. Zorn, 46, is 5 feet, 11 inches, 187 pounds, has red/auburn hair and hazel eyes. He has been incarcerated for burglary three times and aggravated burglary once. Included on his history convictions is an aggravated escape from custody in Seward County. According to Warden Shelton, any escape from custody is automatically aggravated, and therefore a felony. Zorn was most recently serving a 130 month sentence for theft and

aggravated burglary.

Zorn walked away from his work detail at the United Methodist Church, on west Highway 36 in Norton.

"The corrections officer assigned to that work detail noticed the inmate was gone at approximately 10:40 to 10:45 a.m.," said Warden Shelton.

The Special Operations and Response Team and the facility's investigators were called in to help the Norton City Police Department and the Norton County Sheriff's Office look for Zorn. Warden Shelton even called the Hutchinson Correctional Facility to request bloodhounds be brought in to help with the search.

"There will be a review of local policies, and every corrections officer will also be reviewed," said Warden Shelton.

The name of the corrections officer who was in charge of the work detail Zorn walked away from was not released.

When asked if he knew of any trouble with Zorn before this incident, Warden Shelton said, "Of the more than 800 inmates I'm responsible for, Christopher Zorn was not one that stood out in my mind."

Warden Shelton said he is not sure if there has been an inmate walk away from a work detail before.

"We are not part of the criminal inves-



Search continues for Christopher Zorn

tigation, but we are assisting by making any resource available to local law enforcement, including manpower and information on Christopher Zorn," said Warden Shelton.

"Last September, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary in Norton. During these 21 years, we've made every effort to be good neighbors, and bring the positive things to Norton from our work details. I'm proud of the record we have earned, and I hope to continue our record in the future," said Warden Shelton.

Sheriff Troy Thomson said when they received the notice that an inmate had walked away from the work detail at 10:43 a.m., he called in every deputy, even those off-duty, to help with the search.

"We started at the Methodist Church, and worked our way out in every direction from there," said Sheriff Thomson.

All together, there were about 45 people — from the Norton County Sheriff's Office, the Norton Police Department, Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Highway Patrol and the Department of Corrections — looking for Zorn, and concentrating on the creek that runs along the west end of town. An airplane from the Kansas Highway Patrol also helped with the search.

The Norton County Dispatch logged between 50 and 75 calls from citizens reporting odd noises on their property, doors open, prowlers and sighting of Zorn.

Sheriff Thomson said he had to call in another dispatcher to help handle the incoming calls.

One report of a sighting led some of the searchers to Eagles Road, where searchers looked for Zorn, checking on people in

(Continued on Page 5)

## Oops, council forgot to do something

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

There was a minor slip-up at the Norton City Council meeting Wednesday evening. The formal third reading of ordinance 1581# — making the intersection of Washington and Archer a three way stop and reducing the speed limit to 15 miles per hour around the curve of that intersection — was waived.

When City Administrator Rob Lawson said he had been asked by citizens to place the sign posting the new speed limit further out from under the overpass, City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she did not include the new speed limit in the publishing of the ordinance, and the council should wait until the next meeting to adopt the ordinance. The motion to adopt the ordinance was withdrawn until an amended version of Ordinance 1581 is published three times in The Norton Telegram to give citizens time to provide their input.

In his report, Mayor David Corns said John Engelbert resigned from the Norton City/County Economic Development Board, and that Dean Esslinger had expressed an interest in that position. The board appointed Mr. Esslinger to the Economic Development Board.

"I think he will be a good addition to the board," said Mayor Corns.

Mayor Corns also handed out copies of a letter sent to the city council from Gloria Nelson, Norton Downtown Restoration Committee Director, inviting them to the grand opening and dedication ceremony for the Washington Street Park Friday evening at 6:00.

Police Chief Pat Morel said though the city council approved the use of the electric-powered scooters for use as a mobility device in August, no one has come to the city office to request a permit sticker, which is required to be on the scooters. City Attorney Griffiths said Chief Morel should call the individuals that he knows

of using the scooters and suggest they come in to get their stickers.

Mr. Lawson said the fair rides are in the process of being taken down, and should be done within the next two weeks. He also said the city refuse collectors had kept track last Friday and that 245 homes had recyclables out at their curbs for pick up, weighing 3,540 pounds all together.

The city administrator reported that the grass is growing at Ward Field and the sprinkler system is working, and a pick-up truck purchased from the Kansas Highway Patrol was brought to Norton two weeks ago. The pick-up truck will replace an old police car the city had been using. The city council initially made a motion, and had a second, to donate the old police car to the Norton City/County Airport, but rescinded the motion and second when questions about the insurance were raised. It was decided to be researched and sent to the finance committee before being given

(Continued on Page 5)

## Picturing America grant benefits school's library

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

Jane Burton, Norton School District librarian, has been awarded a grant for Eisenhower Elementary library.

Last year, Mrs. Burton applied for a grant for Picturing America through the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant provides 20 posters of prints, both paintings and photographs, for teachers to use as teaching aids in the classrooms and also to generate interest in different books.

In the award letter to Mrs. Burton, it says the posters can be used to enhance classroom and library learning in American history, social studies, writing, litera-

(Continued on Page 5)