

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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

10 PAGES

## Tuesday

### September 23, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Ann Pollock

### Briefly

#### Telegram Poll

McCain - 72

Obama - 55

Ron Paul - 3

Gov. Palin - 1

Bob Barr - 1

Total: 132

Take part. See details Page 4

### Mrs. Keiswetter's condition noted

Helen Keiswetter of Norton, who it is believed was brutally assaulted in her home by an inmate from the Norton Correctional Facility last Tuesday after he walked off a work detail in town is doing better, according to a press release from her family.

The release says: "We want to let everyone know that she is doing better. She is out of ICU and improving daily. However, this is just the beginning of a long road to recovery. We are relieved that the person responsible for this has been apprehended and cannot do this to anyone else. We definitely want to thank everyone for their thoughts, concerns and prayers. They are truly appreciated."

### Booster Club to huddle Wednesday

The weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Speakers will be head football coach Lucas Melvin, head volleyball coach Peggy Cox, head cross country coach Tom Hehn and head tennis coach Marianne Wicker. Coach Melvin will also show the video of Friday night's game with Smith Center. You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend.

### Weather

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with low around 52. East wind around 5 mph becoming north. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 83. East wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 62. South wind around 15 mph. **Thursday** — Sunny with a high near 89. Breezy with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph.

### Kingham report:

Sept. 19 ..... Low 53, High 80  
Sept. 20 ..... Low 50, High 81  
Sept. 21 ..... Low 59, High 83  
Sept. 22 ..... Low 59, High 88  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Loving Father, strengthen our faith in the most painful moments of life.  
**Amen**

## Park becomes reality in downtown Norton



A crowd watched as the Washington Street Park was officially turned over to the City of Norton on Friday evening. The ceremony included the lighting of the flame at the top of the fountain and a ribbon cutting. — Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Threat: 'Very poor attempt at being funny'

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

A suspicious note was found Thursday in the Norton Junior High School boys' restroom that threatened a shooting in the cafeteria on Friday.

The note was taken to a teacher, and the principal and superintendent were notified.

Police were called to investigate and followed a strong lead to the author, a student at the junior high.

Superintendent Greg Mann said he believes that it was a "very poor attempt at being funny."

Norton Chief of Police Pat Morel agrees, saying "I'm not sure if he actu-

ally understood the seriousness of the situation."

The student's statement has been turned over to the Norton County juvenile authorities for determination of further legal and/or criminal action.

As a safety precaution, the school district had law enforcement officers from both the city police department and the county sheriff's office in the school during the day and also in the cafeteria.

"We would like to thank the Norton Police Department and the Norton County Sheriff's Office for making their officers available to the school on Friday," said Superintendent Mann.

Statistics show that students generally

know about school shootings before they happen. In Aug. 1999, just four months after the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado, the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Highway Patrol set up a toll-free, anonymous hotline for anyone to call when they suspect or know of impending violence.

The number for the Kansas School Safety Hotline is 1-877-626-8203. Anyone can call the number. It is completely anonymous. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Personnel at the Salina Central Dispatch of the Kansas Highway Patrol will answer the hotline. The dispatcher, who has had special training to handle the re-

ports, will get as much information about each situation reported as the caller is able to or wishes to relay. The dispatchers will then notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies and the superintendent of the school depending on the severity of the situation and the information given.

Since Aug. 1999, dispatchers have logged 3,570 calls in regards to school violence. Of those, 816 calls have been referred to the school districts and law enforcement officers.

Fifty calls have been about bomb threats, 201 have been weapons threats, 237 calls have been to report the possibility of fights and 328 calls fall into the "other reports" category.

## Inmate still in Denver area

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

Christopher E. Zorn, an inmate who walked away from his work detail at the United Methodist Church late last Tuesday morning, was arrested by Colorado authorities on Friday.

After walking away from the work detail, Zorn broke into Helen Keiswetter's home, attacked Mrs. Keiswetter, locked her in a closet and stole her car and checkbook.

Law enforcement officials from the Norton Police Department, Norton County Sheriff's office, Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Highway Patrol and the Department of Corrections searched the area.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation was at Mrs. Keiswetter's home Wednes-

day and Thursday gathering evidence in the assault.

A warrant has been filed in Norton County District Court for aggravated escape, aggravated battery, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated burglary and felony theft.

Zorn is being held in Colorado until he appears in court to determine if he chooses to waive extradition back to Kansas. If he refuses, the process of obtaining a governor's warrant will be started, according to authorities.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson said Monday he did not know if Colorado will have local charges on Zorn, and that if they do, he will face those charges first.

Calls to Denver authorities and also to local authorities Monday brought no additional information on Zorn's status.

## Top picker hails from Salina

By DICK BOYD  
[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)

Matthew Berneking, Salina, beat nine other football fans who missed just one game in last week's Pigskin Pick-Em Contest by coming closest to the tie-breaker game and earning the \$15 scrip first prize.

LSU defeated Auburn 26-21 in the tie-breaker contest and Matthew picked LSU to win 21-18 or a total of 8 points off the scores of both teams. He also missed the Hill City win over Golden Plains.

Second place of \$10 in scrip money goes to Douglas Daniels, Norton, who missed the Miami, Fla. win over Texas A&M and chose LSU by 21-14, or 12 points off.

Douglas actually tied with Eric Farber, Norton, by missing one game and being 12 points off on the tiebreaker and won the drawing. Eric will receive the \$5 scrip third prize.

Eric missed the Wake Forest win over Florida State and chose LSU by 27-10, (Continued on Page 5)

## Colorado shoppers



Paul and Betty Metcalf, Limon, Colo., were among the thousands of shoppers on U.S. 36 Friday through Sunday as the U.S. 36 Highway Association put on its third annual "Treasure Hunt." The couple was looking at items in Norton when the photo was taken. They said they were unable to secure motel accommodations in Norton over the weekend.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux