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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Danette Wood

Briefly

Baseball, softball on board agenda

Norton American Legion baseball coach Joe Durham invites all in favor of adding baseball and softball to the Norton Community High School sports program to attend the Norton School District board of education meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday in the Alice Tweed building.

The American Legion's Rich Miller will make the presentation in favor of the proposal.

Schools to dismiss early on Nov. 11

All schools in the Norton School District will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11 to allow students and school district employees the opportunity to watch and participate in the Veteran's Day Parade. Busses will run their normal routes at the 1 p.m. dismissal time. If the parade is canceled due to weather, school will not be dismissed early.

Northern Valley to salute veterans

The Northern Valley High School KAY Club invites the public to attend their Veteran's Day Program on Nov. 11at 8:30 a.m. at the Northern Valley High School gym.

The KAY Club will serve coffee, rolls, and breakfast casseroles from 7:45-8:15 a.m. in the lunch room prior to the ceremony.

Please contact KAY sponsor Monica Wilson at 669-2445 with any questions.

Beloit invites fans to tailgate chilifest

The Beloit PTO invites the Norton community to its tailgate chili feed starting at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday at the stadium. The Norton Blue Jays and Beloit will clash Saturday evening as both strive to continue their march to the state championship.

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 31. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 50. Saturday Night - a slight chance of snow and freezing drizzle after midnight. Mostly cloudy with a low around 26. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Sunday - a slight chance of snow and freezing drizzle before noon.

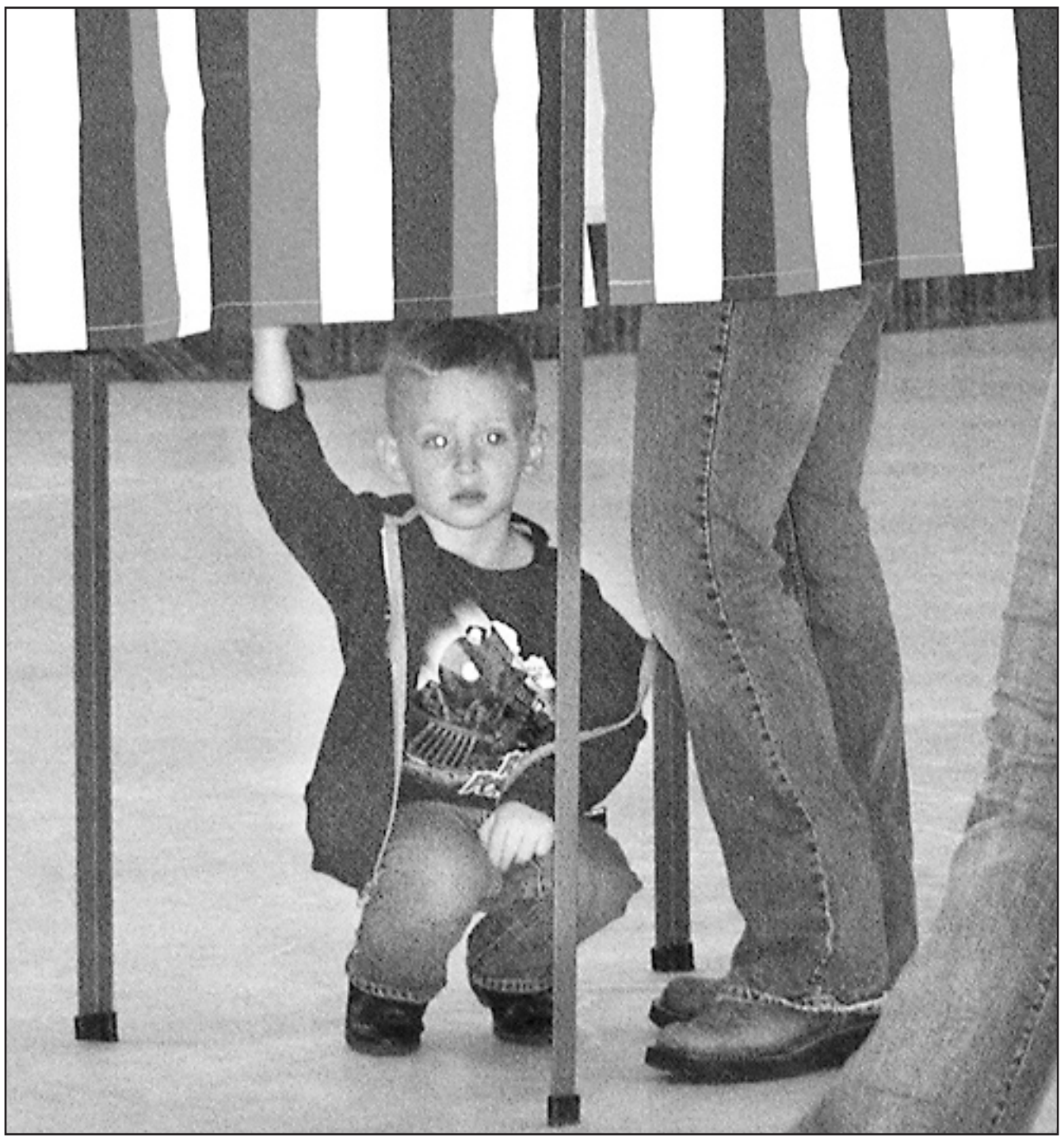
Kingham report:

Tues., Nov. 3 ..... Low 46, High 71
Wed., Nov. 4 ..... Low 43, High 59
Thurs., Nov. 5 ..... Low 32, High 40
.20 Moisture
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, help us to see how struggles in our lives can help us grow and make us more like Christ. **Amen**

'My turn!'



Dylan Jones peeked under the curtains while his mom, Becky Jones, Norton, voted Tuesday afternoon at the American Legion. Sixty-seven percent of the registered voters in Norton County turned out for the election, and 620 students voted in their own special area at the American Legion.
— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Norton County goes McCain

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Tuesday's election in Norton County brought 2,472 voters to the polls, out of the 3,728 registered for a turnout of 67 percent. That was not, however, a record, according to County Clerk Robert Wyatt who said in the 2000 election 70 percent of the registered voters cast ballots.

"This was certainly one of the largest voter turnouts in Norton County in the last 10 years," Mr. Wyatt, said. "I'm very pleased with the turnout and interest prior to the election. We had a lot of phone calls from people asking about registration and where they're supposed to vote in the weeks prior to the election."

Mr. Wyatt said there was a very long line when he unlocked the doors at the American Legion at 7 a.m., and for about 30 minutes the building was packed. There was also an influx of voters during the lunch hour and again after normal working hours.

Here's how the Norton County voters marked their ballots:

President: The McCain/Palin ticket (Republican) received the most votes with 1,836, while the Obama/Biden ticket (Democrat) received 488 votes. Nader/Gonzalez (Independent nominations) received 23 votes; Barr/Root (Libertarian) 10; and Baldwin/Castle (Reform) 4.

U.S. Senate: Roberts (Republican) received 1,906 votes; Slattery (Democrat) 391; Hodgkinson (Libertarian) 36; and Martin (Reform) 20.

U.S. House of Representatives, 1st District: Moran 2,084 votes; Bordonaro (Democrat) 166; Burton (Reform) 47; and Warner (Libertarian) 37.

40th Senate District: Senator Ostmeyer (Republican), unopposed 2,044.

120th House District: Representative Faber (Republican, 1,433 and Bob Strevey (Democrat) had 866.

17th Judicial District Court Judge: Judge Elliott (Republican), unopposed, 2,071.

County Commissioner, 2nd District: Applegate (Republican), unopposed, 580.

County Commissioner, 3rd District: Miller (Republican) 495, and write-in candidate Ellis, 263.

Norton County offices (all unopposed, all Republicans): Wyatt, County Clerk, 2,059 votes; Linner, County Treasurer, 2,123; Vincent, Register of Deeds, 2,172; Sebelius, County Attorney, 1,976; and Thomson, Sheriff, 2,081.

Almena Township voted Chandler (Republican) for Trustee with 215 votes and Williams (Republican) for Treasurer with 226 votes.

Also on Tuesday's ballot were questions on retaining judges in the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals. In Norton County, all the judges were re-elected: Rosen, 1,327 yes and 493 no; Johnson, 1,318 yes and 500 no; Leben, 1,312 yes and 484 no; Pierron, 1,297 yes and 493 no; Marquardt, 1,307 yes and 485 no; and Greene, 1,382 yes and 419 no.

The ballots will be canvassed on Monday.

Rep. Faber wins re-election bid

Republican incumbent John Faber was re-elected to his 120th District House seat in Tuesday's general election.

Unofficial results gave Mr. Faber 6,605 votes to 2,571 for Democratic challenger, Bob Strevey.

By county, here is the breakdown:

Cheyenne, Faber 1,212; Strevey 204.
Rawlins, Faber 1,191; Strevey 316.
Decatur, Faber 924; Strevey 547.
Norton, Faber 1,433; Strevey 866.
Phillips: Faber 1,845; Strevey 638.

Race track remake discussed

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Don and Paula Bolt, race promoters for the Elmwood Park Speedway, attended the Norton City Council meeting Wednesday evening to discuss changing the speedway into a three-eights mile track from the one-half mile it is now.

"Most of the racers are used to driving on a three-eighths track," said Mr. Bolt. "We don't have very many racers in Norton, and we're having to bring in racers from outside the area. We have people coming from Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa. Even they aren't coming as much, maybe because of the economy."

Mrs. Bolt handed out information sheets on average attendance at the races, number of racers and different types of races being held.

Mr.. Bolt said he thought it would cost the city about $6,000 for the dirt work.

Councilwoman Kim Snyder, Chairperson of the Parks Committee, said she'd like to have further discussion about the topic during a parks committee meeting, which she scheduled for Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor David Corns gave a report on city sales tax figures. The city received $29,366.10 in sales tax in September, and the county received $18,835.36. The year-to-date total for received sales tax is $391,508.06. For the same time period last year, the total was $353,242.66, and in 2006 it was $327.134.14.

Mayor Corns also notified the council that Kay LeBeau, the head librarian at the Norton Public Library, will be retiring next year. Her last day is March 31, 2009. Mary Luehrs, currently the children's librarian and assistant head librarian, will take Mrs. LeBeau's duties, and Brandi Seamon will take Mrs. Luehrs' position.

Several openings will be coming up on various city boards. Travel and Tourism, the Housing Authority, Planning Com-

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Deer wrecks climb

By TOM DREILING
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Deer-related accidents, unfortunately, seem to be the norm now in Norton County. Within the past couple of weeks the 'Accident Report' appearing in The Telegram, told of 13 deer-related collisions.

Damages, for the most part, were in excess of $1,000. For the most part, drivers had no choice but to slam into the deer as they walked onto the highways and roadways.

Sandy Praeger, Kansas Commissioner of Insurance, said a few days ago that the steadily rising numbers of deer-vehicle accidents call for an emphasis on defensive driving.

She said more than 200 such accidents occurred on Kansas roads in 2007 than in 2006. And from the looks of things, 2008 may top 2007.

The Kansas Department of Transportation said the total for all deer accidents in the state in 2007 was 9,417 compared to 9,197 in 2006. The 2007 statistics resulted in five deaths and injuries to 298 motorists. Those were higher numbers than the year prior.

"A frightening reality of driving on Kansas roads and highways this time of year is the possibility of an unexpected encounter with a deer," the insurance commissioner said. "I urge Kansans to drive cautiously, especially around sunrise and sunset."

Statistics show that one in every 100 drivers nationally is likely to have a wreck with a deer at some time during their driving years. Mid-fall and mid-spring are likely times of the year for deer to be seen on roadways, because of breeding habits during the fall and growth of vegetation during the spring, according to Commissioner Praeger.

The commissioner also advised motorists to check with their insurance agent to find out the type of vehicle accident damage coverage their policies have. Then, she said, if a deer accident occurs, a policy holder should contact his or her agent quickly to start the claims process.

Here is what Commissioner Praeger suggests to help avoid deer-vehicle col-

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Vehicle thefts bring note of caution here

By BRANDY LEROUX
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A rash of vehicle thefts in Norton has been reported by local law enforcement. The owners find their vehicles missing when leaving the next morning for work. The vehicles in question were taken during the last two weeks of October.

"Residents should not leave their keys in the vehicles and need to be locking the doors and removing their valuables when they go in for the evening," said Norton Chief of Police Pat Morel. "If you see any suspicious people hanging around, call 911 or the police department at 877-5010."

A total of four vehicles have been taken from their owners' residences and parked in a different location. Two vehicles taken on different nights were found parked in the exact same spot a couple of days apart. Two others appeared to have been rifled through.

"It is considered Criminal Deprivation of Property, a Class A misdemeanor," said Chief Morel. "The first conviction is 30 to 365 days in jail and a fine of no less than $100. The second conviction carries a jail term of 60 to 365 days in jail and a fine of no less than $200.

Chief Morel said the department is investigating the incidents, and could not give out any more details of the incidents.