

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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

12 PAGES

## Friday

### November 21, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Brad Harding

### Briefly

#### Game/choir tickets available at school

This is a reminder that tickets to the Fort Hays State University-University of Nebraska-Omaha basketball games on Dec. 5, at which the Norton Community High School choir will perform the national anthem before the women's and men's games, are still on sale. The price is \$7 and all tickets purchased will reward the choir with 50 percent of the sales. You can make arrangements for tickets by calling the high school at 877-3338. The games, to be played in spacious Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays, begin at 5:30 p.m. (women's) and 7:30 (men's).

#### Watershed town hall meeting set

Interested parties will have a chance to voice concerns about Watershed Restoration and Protection going on in the Prairie Dog Creek/Keith Sebelius Lake Watershed.

Presentations will be held on practices which will provide protection for the watershed. Those attending will be able to voice their opinion, make suggestions, or just be present to hear citizen concerns pertaining to the watershed. Plan to attend this session to see how you can protect and restore our water resources.

The meeting will be held Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Long Island Community Center.

A meal will be provided at no charge - RSVP's appreciated by Dec 8. Please call the Norton County Conservation District at 877-2623.

2,631 tickets go to Christmas on Us shoppers first week

### Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 20. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Saturday - Sunny with a high near 57. Saturday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 26. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 58. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 26. Monday - Sunny with a high near 52. Monday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 24. Tuesday - Sunny with a high near 57.

#### Kingham report:

Tues., Nov. 18 ..... Low 27, High 58  
Wed., Nov. 19 ..... Low 40, High 65  
Thurs., Nov. 20 ..... Low 27, High 36  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Father, help us never to ignore the presence of evil among us. Teach us to oppose evil by our words and our actions. **Amen**

## Pajama crowd swarms library



Mary Luehrs, Children's Librarian at the Norton Public Library, talked to the jammie-clad kids before Dr. Glenda Maurer read stories to them on Tuesday night. After Dr. Maurer read the stories, Cindy Mordecai led the group in songs, signs reminding kids to wash their hands were made, and milk and cookies were served.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Update given on inmate involved in Norton incident

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

Remember Christopher Zorn, the inmate from the Norton Correctional Facility who walked away from an outside work detail, then reportedly broke into a resident's home, leaving the elderly homeowner in an injured state?

What's the status of this inmate?

Zorn, readers will recall, was taken into custody by the Denver Police Department's financial crimes unit on Sept. 19. He has been charged with unlawful use of

a financial card — a felony — which he got from a purse he snatched in Denver. His case in Colorado is being prosecuted by the City of Denver Assistant District Attorney Gabriella Stear.

According to Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius, he will face that charge in Denver, and serve the time for it, before he will be brought back to Norton to face charges of aggravated escape from custody, aggravated battery, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated burglary and felony theft for allegedly breaking into

Helen Keiswetter's house and taking her vehicle.

After Mrs. Keiswetter was discovered injured in her home early on Sept. 17, Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents were at her house to collect evidence. Mr. Sebelius said, "I know the KBI collected evidence, but I cannot comment on what it was."

Zorn has made at least one appearance in Colorado for the charge filed there, and he does have an attorney. He is not waiving extradition to Kansas, so a governor's

warrant has been filed and is on its way to Colorado.

"Until Colorado is done with their case against Zorn, we won't know when he will be brought back to Norton County to face charges here," said Mr. Sebelius.

Neither the county attorney's office nor the Norton County sheriff's office will comment on any evidence collected by the bureau, only saying that evidence has been collected. "We're anxious to move ahead with his case as soon as we can," said Mr. Sebelius.

## Teachers switch classes to expand students' knowledge

Verlaine Schooler, Northern Valley third grade teacher, reported to the Northern Valley School District's Board of Education at their Nov. 10 meeting, that she and Robbie Griffiths, Northern Valley fourth grade teacher, are switching classes for one period each day.

Mrs. Griffiths is teaching science to the third graders and Mrs. Schooler is teaching fourth graders social studies.

Mrs. Griffiths shared some of the things

the students are doing in her science classes with the board.

Ken Tharman, Northern Valley Junior High science teacher, shared projects that his 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade science classes are doing.

Doug Zillinger, Northern Valley Vocational Agriculture teacher, and Todd Slavik presented the Annual Improvement Plan for the Ag Education Program. The plan was approved by the board.

Niki Kinderknecht's resignation as night custodian at the high school was accepted, and the board hired Alvin Burk for that position at \$9.50 per hour with the possibility of a 50-cent increase after 90 days, depending on performance.

At 8:20 p.m. the board went into executive session. Northern Valley Superintendent George Griffith remained in the room for this session. The board returned to open meeting at 8:28 p.m.

The board approved pay for Pauline Kaiser at \$7.50 per hour when she substitutes as a cook.

A 2005 International IC, 71-passenger bus from Masters Transportation in Kearney was purchased. The bus will replace the one totaled in the accident in October.

The board approved the proposed contract for auditing services from Mapes (Continued on Page 5)

## Norton moving to ankle bracelets to help cut jail's operating costs

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

Norton City Councilman Toby Kuhn said he talked with Norton City Police Chief Pat Morel about using ankle bracelets to minimize jail costs to the city, which run \$52 per day per inmate. Law enforcement would be able to track the persons wearing the ankle bracelet 24 hours a day through global positioning satellites. There is a one-time activation fee of \$50 which the city will pay.

Cost of the unit is \$15 per day that the unit is in use, which the city will require the defendant to pre-pay for, and a \$3 fee for every day that the bracelet is not in use, the cost of which will be passed onto the defendants in the form of surcharges. Chief Morel said they would like to purchase two units through Omnalink.

The city council approved the one year lease of the ankle bracelets.

Board and committee positions that were opened, were filled with the people currently holding those posts. They are:

Travel and Tourism Committee, Al Ebke, Myron Veh, Jim Ray, Vicki Fisher and Ron Fisher, two year terms.

Housing Authority Board, Kyle Jones and Katherine Kohr, four year terms.

Planning Commission, Pat Morel and Karen Reedy, three year terms.

Gail Boller, Airport Board, two year term.

Patsy Barnard and Ruth Hartman, Library Board, four year term.

There were no terms up on the Recreation Commission or Economic Development Board.

The Norton City Council approved all the names to continue serving on the boards and committees.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson said Norton Correctional Facility Warden Jay Shelton met with him to discuss getting city utilities at the prison. A public works meeting was set for Dec. 5 at 5:30 to further discuss the issue.

Mr. Lawson also said engine #8 at the power plant is working well, property clean-up is going well, and the house that was under consideration for a tax abatement has been sold and is being taken care of, and that he has tried to get hold of Terry Crow, whose house caught fire this past summer, but was not able to get a response.

Mr. Lawson said the city's Christmas decorations are up, and will be turned on

(Continued on Page 5)

## It's that time again!



City employees Brian Hickman and Jan Maley worked to put up the Season's Greeting signs over south State Street on Wednesday afternoon. There are decorations all along State Street, Holme Street, around the county courthouse, and three Season's Greetings hanging at the city limits. The decorations will be turned on Friday evening after Thanksgiving.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton