

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

12 PAGES



## Friday

March 12, 2010

### Briefly



## Remember to set clocks back

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, although most people spring their clocks forward Saturday night before they head to bed.

The time change means that as the weather gets nicer, people will have more time to enjoy after work or school.

## Spring break starts Monday

Spring break will be held from March 15-19 for Norton Community Schools and there will be no school in the Norton Schools. This includes the USD 211 Learning Center will also be closed.

**MARKETS**  
Cash Prices-Norton  
March 12, 2010

**CORN** \$3.27  
**SOYBEANS** \$8.62  
**WHEAT** \$3.84  
**MILO** \$2.88

**Ag Valley**  
314 W. North Street  
Norton, Kansas  
785-877-5188

## weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 30. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 51. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 26. Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a high near 51. Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 31. Monday - Partly sunny with a high near 50. Monday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 29.

## Kingham report:

Tuesday, March 9 ..... Low 39, High 45  
.50 Rain  
Wednesday, March 10.. Low 30, High 39  
Trace of Snow, .25 Rain  
Thursday, March 11 ..... Low 29, High 37  
1" Snow, .25 Rain  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm  
9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for showing us your love in the midst of daily events. Help us to proclaim that you are real. Amen.



## Garden gloves



Patsy Maddy, Norton County Farm Bureau representative, helped children at Holly's Clubhouse garden on Wednesday. The kids had 16 seeds to choose from including green peppers, carrots, tomatoes, broccoli and other seeds. The seeds will sprout in a glove and will be planted at the clubhouse this summer. Maddy said they plan to make vegetable soup.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

# School Board okays lawsuit

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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Norton Community Schools will participate in litigation brought against the state by Schools for Fair Funding. The district had previously voted for limited participation.

At the Monday board of education meeting, board member Robert Wyatt made a motion to affirm litigation against the state of Kansas. The motion passed 7-0.

In an interview after the meeting, Jeff Nielson, board of education president, said there are two reasons why he voted to pursue litigation.

He said the state requires schools to meet certain criteria, but they are not funding the programs. Nielson also said the state never made plans to increase funding.

Nielson used the court system as an example. He said employees have had to cut back on their hours due to funding cuts, but they are not asked to show up for work without getting paid.

"If they would ask us to do less, I could live with that. They are saying we have to keep doing what we're doing with a third less pay," he said.

"Even if we were in good economic times, we still wouldn't have the funds," he said.

In an interview after the meeting, Superintendent Greg Mann said the governor has not announced further budget cuts, but the Legislature could still impose cuts. Cuts for next year are still being discussed.

"Cuts for next year will be discussed and are a realistic possibility along with possible tax increases," he said.

Mann said the Legislature did not develop a revenue source for increased school spending. "There was never any plan to sustain the increased expenditures. The current law is not being followed by the Legislature, and their lack of funding plan would lead one to believe it was never their intent to fund their own law," he said.

Norton Community Schools has been a

member of Schools for Fair Funding, the organization initiating the lawsuit against the state, since November. Mann said it will cost the district \$1,389.

In other school board business:

- Mann reported the Kansas Department of Education auditor will be here March 22 to audit Sept. 20 numbers. He said kindergarten roundup had 45 participants, and there are possibly seven others for next year's class.

- The board discussed increasing the fees for driver's education. A motion was made to charge a fee of \$75 per student for enrollment in the USD 211 summer driving program, and that a fee of \$125 be charged for students who live out of district. Lenora students are considered in-district. Vote taken, motion passed.

- Eisenhower Elementary School held an open house for 13 children from Lenora.

- Mann said there will be no football game with Perryton, Texas next year. Norton will play an eight game season.

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# Colby resident indicted for theft

By Kevin Bottrell  
[kbottrell@nwkansas.com](mailto:kbottrell@nwkansas.com)

After a six-month investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a grand jury has indicted a Colby man, Matthew Jones for transporting more than \$1 million worth of allegedly stolen farm equipment.

The indictment was handed up Wednesday. Brian Truchon, FBI special agent in charge of the Kansas City office, issued a statement Thursday, saying that Jones, 31, and a Nebraska man, Ryan Hanzlick, 32, had been arrested. The Thomas County Sheriff's Office took Jones into custody in Colby and the Hayes County Sheriff's Office arrested Hanzlick in Hayes Center, Neb.

While the indictment is a formal charge of a serious crime, Truchon noted, the two men's guilt or innocence will be

determined at a trial.

James Cross, public affairs officer with the U.S. attorney's office said that Jones appeared before U.S. Magistrate Karen Humphreys on Friday in Wichita and has been released on \$10,000 bail.

Hanzlick had not yet appeared in court. Cross said there will be motions and discovery next but U.S. District Court Judge Eric Melgren has not set any further court dates.

"We're very early in the process," Cross said.

Alan Metzger, an assistant U.S. attorney based in Wichita, will prosecute the case, he said.

Jones and Hanzlick each face 12 counts of knowingly transporting stolen property across state lines, one for each piece of equipment seized near Colby.

The counts carry a maximum sentence

of 10 years each. If convicted on all 12, Jones and Hanzlick could get as much as 120 years in prison.

Jones, the son of former Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones, was first arrested Sept. 10 for possession of stolen property. The Thomas County Sheriff's Office had been investigating him after a traffic stop that week. Jones had been pulled over while towing a John Deere tractor on a trailer, and when officers checked the serial number, it turned up as stolen from Colorado.

Deputies obtained a search warrant for Jones' property north of Colby, which turned up more than \$1.3 million worth of allegedly stolen farm equipment. Jones was taken into custody that day, but released two days later on \$50,000 bond. He was arrested again on Sept. (Theft - Continued on Page 5)

# Ward I seat up for grabs

## Jeff Otter

1) Tell us about yourself.

My wife and I have four kids, two of which are in grade school. I currently work at Norton Sheet Metal.



Jeff Otter

2) What has been your involvement in the city?

I have served on the council for the last two years. I was the chair of the personnel committee before becoming chair of the safety committee this year. I also serve on various other city boards.

3) Have you served on the council, or any other board?

I have served on the council and various city boards.

(Otter - Continued on Page 5)

## Veronica Monier

1) Tell us about yourself.

I moved here in 2001 and shortly thereafter started working for The Norton Telegram as a writer/photographer, where I worked for nearly seven years. Also, at one point, I was a co-owner of The Mystic Moonstone, a small boutique-like business.



Veronica Monier

2) What has been your involvement in the city?

My main involvement with the city, aside from living here, came from working at the newspaper. I covered city council and city committee meetings, as well as other city interests for about five and a half years.

(Monier - Continued on Page 5)

# Candidate running unopposed

## Donna Foley

1) Tell us about yourself.

My name is Donna Foley. I was born and raised in California. I'm married to Ward Foley, mother of Pam and Charlie Foley. I was Administrative analyst for the City of Sacramento. I moved to Norton 12 years ago.



Donna Foley

2) What has been your involvement in the city?

I have been a city council member for five years and have served on the economic development board since its inception.

3) Have you served on the council, or any other board?

I have been a city council member for