

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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**Friday**  
September 17, 2010

*Briefly*  
Ice cream social planned for Sunday

The Board Members of the Haven will be sponsoring an ice cream social at the 4-H building on Sunday at 6 p.m. There will be homemade ice cream, cookies and cake. Free will donations will be accepted. All funds will be used to benefit the Haven, a low-cost weekend housing for families who come to visit loved ones in the Norton Correctional Facility.

School District opens weight room

The USD211 weight room will be open to the public beginning Monday, Sept. 30. It will be open from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Oberlin businesses plan tailgate party

On Sept. 24, the Oberlin Business Alliance is sponsoring a tailgate party before the Norton-Oberlin game at 5:30 p.m. Meet at the Oberlin football stand.

110th Battalion reunion to be held

The members of the 110th Ordnance Battalion will have a 49th reunion in conjunction with the Vietnam Moving Wall that is coming to Norton Sept. 23 through Sept. 27. An Informal Get Together and Happy Hour will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A dinner will be held at 7 p.m. for the cost of \$10 to \$15 per plate. An evening of Fellowship will follow the meal.

For more information contact Jon Boxler at 1-800-569-0151 [jonb@boxler-insurance.com](mailto:jonb@boxler-insurance.com) or Dwight Heikes at 785-877-2584 or 785-871-0727 [ddheikes@ruraltel.net](mailto:ddheikes@ruraltel.net).

## Markets

Friday, September 17, 2010  
Wheat .....\$5.88  
Milo.....\$4.09  
Soybeans.....\$9.43  
Corn.....\$4.27  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

**Tonight** - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Saturday** - Partly sunny with a high near 73. **Saturday Night** - Patchy fog after 1 a.m. **Sunday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 81. **Sunday Night** - Mostly clear with a low around 59.

## Kingham Report

Tuesday, September 14.... Low 60, High 86  
Wednesday, Sept. 15..... Low 62, High 83  
1" Rain  
Thursday, Sept. 16..... Low 49, High 79  
.20 Rain  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, help us desire to do the work that is required in a relationship with you so that we grow in obedience to your word. Amen

# THEY DIED SO WE CAN BE FREE

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DONOVAN

Missing airman had family waiting at home

*This is the third in a four-part series about servicemen killed in the line of duty.*

By Carolyn Plotts  
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The United States Air Force officially declared, Capt. Michael L. Donovan, Norton, dead in 1974, three years after the plane he was piloting failed to return from an operational mission over Laos. He had been listed as Missing in Action (MIA) since Sept. 30, 1971. Flying with Capt. Donovan was his navigator, Ron Bond. The announcement ended almost three years of uncertainty for his widow, Tamra, his two children, Michele, 11, and Todd, 3, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Donovan, all of Norton.

Capt. Donovan and his wife, the former Tamra Neiltopp, had been Norton Community High School sweethearts. They were married in 1962. He graduated from Fort Hays State College in 1966 with a degree in Agriculture. Later that year, he joined the Air Force and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He planned on making the Air Force his career. He received his wings after flight training in Laredo, Texas and in 1967 became a pilot of the F-4C Phantom jet after training in Tampa, Fla. He was promoted to rank of Captain while on tour flying the F-4E jet in Misawa, Japan and returned state side in 1970 to Tucson, Ariz. The Air Force gave permission for Captain Donovan to stay state side for the birth of his son, but in January of 1971, Capt. Donovan left for his last assignment in South Vietnam and was stationed at Da Nang Airfield with the 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron.

At the memorial service for Capt. Donovan, his widow was presented a U.S. flag "on behalf of a grateful nation." His mother has a box containing



B.J. Donovan, proud father of Captain Michael L. Donovan, shows the display of his son's honors received due to his military service. Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

16 MIA bracelets worn by people all over the country. She said, "I received another one just a month ago." A military marker for him is located in the Norton Cemetery. Capt. Donovan's son, Todd, was ten months old, and his daughter, Michele, was eight years old when their father was declared missing in action. Todd and his wife, Sheila, live in Lenexa and have a son, Tyler. Michele lives in Norton. She has a daughter, Amanda Majors, and a son, Elliott, who is deceased. Capt. Donovan also has a great-granddaughter, Hailey Majors. Besides his children, Capt. Donovan is survived by his widow, now Mrs. Richard Miller, his parents, a brother, Pat Donovan, Norton, and a sister, Carol Leighton, Andover.

The elder Donovans have visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington and saw the Moving Wall when it came to Atwood. Several members of the Donovan family will take part in the opening ceremonies for the Vietnam Moving Wall on Sept. 23. They will receive special recognition as a family who lost a loved one in the Vietnam War.



Captain Michael L. Donovan. A Norton resident who died for his country so that we could be free. Courtesy photo.

## Setting up for the big game



Norton high school art students, Cole Archer, Katie Gall and Justin Chandler hang Homecoming posters in downtown Norton. The Norton Blue Jays will play against the Plainville Cardinals tonight. Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Norton youths given jail time, public service

Two Norton youths went to court on Monday to face sentencing for charges against them.

In August, Landon Hamel pled guilty to and was charged with one count of unlawful voluntary sexual relations, a level 8 person felony. This was in connection with two incidents that occurred in December of 2009. District Court Judge William Elliot sentenced Hamel to eight months with the Kansas Department of Corrections. He ended with 18 months of Community Correction.

No fine was assessed but Hamel and the victim's family agreed to restitution in the amount of \$1000. He is to serve

60 days in the Norton County Jail. Ten days of that is to be during the holidays as Hamel is attending Barton County Community College. The remaining 50 days will be spent under house arrest while at school. This will be done by an electronic monitoring system.

Hamel is to maintain a 3.0 grade point average and must give two presentations to a local high school about his experience. Mr. Hamel must also complete 100 hours of community service work and pay the court costs and fees. The final sentence against him states that he is to have no contact with the victim or (Youths - Continued on Page 5)

## City, business owner spar over burst pipe's aftermath

By HARRIETT GILL  
[hgill@nwkansas.com](mailto:hgill@nwkansas.com)

Strong words and feelings were expressed at the regular meeting of the Norton City Council on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Richard Stull, owner and operator of the McDonald's in Norton, was present and he stated the City had undertaken the task of being a municipal water and electric supplier and is obligated to provide clean, consistent and dependable power and water. He presented the council with an estimate of his incurred costs as the result of the water main break that occurred on Friday.

Jeff Otter stated, "You can play the

victim, but the break was a natural disaster and the City will not reimburse for a natural disaster." Otter further stated, "We had a 12 inch main rupture and unless the City gets funds from FEMA or other financial aid, the City would not reimburse anyone."

"You can be a hero or a heel," said Jeff Otter in response to Mr. Stull's statement that this was not a natural disaster.

"If you want to get personal, Jeff, this was not a natural disaster or an act of God," said Stull. Stull said the City has a responsibility to provide the capital outlay to maintain and upgrade their facilities, including their distribution (Pipe - Continued on Page 5)

