

Cleanin' up...



Norton city crews have been out in force this week, clearing up all of the snow left from Tuesday's storm. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Seat belts a must for teen drivers

By VERONICA MONIER
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Drivers who are also minors can and will be pulled over for not wearing their seat belt.

As of Jan. 1, a new state law says that anyone who is 14 to 17 years old and driving can be pulled over for not wearing their seat belt, said Police Chief Pat Morel. The law changed last year on July 1. Before that, not wearing a seat belt was a secondary offense — meaning that police officers could not pull a driver over for not wearing a seat belt, but could give a ticket for the offense if the driver was pulled over for something else, like speeding.

To get young drivers used to the new law, which as of July 1 made it possible for an officer to pull

over a driver 14 to 17 years old who wasn't wearing a seat belt, officers issued only warnings for the last six months of the year.

Now, not only can the driver be stopped and ticketed for not wearing a seat belt, but the driver can be stopped if the front seat passenger isn't wearing a seat belt as well. Both can be ticketed.

Chief Morel said the fine for not wearing a seat belt for 14 to 17 year olds is \$60, plus a \$70 court cost for a total of \$130. The driver, he said, will definitely get a ticket. Whether or not the passenger receives a ticket is at the officer's discretion. Also, the law only covers the driver and the front seat passenger.

"Everyone in the vehicle should be buckled up," he said. "But, the

ordinance is only for drivers and front seat passengers."

If the passenger does get a ticket, it will be separate from the driver's ticket and will also be a fine of \$60 with court costs of \$70.

"The Norton Police Department's main objective is the safety of teenage drivers," he said. "The worst injury accident to work is one where the injury could have been prevented if the seat belt had been buckled. Norton's teens can find a better use of \$130 than paying a seat belt ticket."

As for adult drivers, those who are at least 18 years old, it is still a secondary offense to not wear a seat belt in a moving vehicle. The fine for the secondary offense is \$30 with a \$70 court cost.

Kansas democrats choose Obama at Tuesday's caucus

By KEVIN JOHNSON
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With 100 percent reporting, Kansas Democrats overwhelmingly chose Sen. Barack Obama over Sen. Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's Democratic Caucuses by a margin of 48 percent.

Obama received 73 percent of the caucus vote and Clinton received 25 percent. Though Clinton incurred a crushing defeat in Kansas, the state was not a total loss for the Clinton campaign. Because Clinton finished with over 15 percent of the caucus votes, she is still considered a "viable" candidate and will still have Kansas representation in Kansas Congressional District Convention, and the Democratic National Convention as well. She will not have near the number of Kansas delegates as Obama.

Super Tuesday was an event where 22 states held both Republican and Democratic caucuses and primaries to determine delegates for both Republican and Democratic delegates. Senator John McCain emerged the frontrunner for the Republicans while Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are still running neck and neck for the Democrats.

Kansas Republican caucuses will be held for all 40 Senate Districts on Saturday. Republican party members for the Kansas 40th Senate District, which includes Thomas County, will meet at the Colby Community Building in the little theater to caucus for the delegates of their choice.

Caucusing will begin at 10 a.m. and those wishing to participate must have registered as Republicans by 5 p.m. on Jan. 25 to participate in the Republican

caucuses.

The Kansas Democratic Caucuses on Super Tuesday only make up a part of a long process leading up to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo., Aug. 24-28.

At the Democratic National Convention, delegates from across the country will gather to nominate the 2008 Democratic Presidential candidate based on the results of a caucus held on Tuesday. The results of Tuesday and Saturday's caucuses will be used to determine Kansas' allocation of delegates among the Democratic Presidential candidates to the Democratic National Convention in August.

Once the votes from Tuesday's caucus are tallied, the number of delegates for each candidate will be determined and the results will be called into the Kansas Democratic Party. Delegates will be selected from each of the 40 Kansas Senate Districts and sent to Topeka of the Kansas Congressional District Convention on April 12.

At the Congressional District Convention, the delegates, as selected on Tuesday, for each candidate meet to elect from a list of filed candidates for District Level Delegates to represent their candidate at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

All candidates who were found viable, or receive more than 15 percent of a particular Senate District caucus vote Tuesday, will be allotted a number of delegates to the Kansas Congressional District Conventions on April 12. At each caucus, members of these viable candidate groups will elect delegates to represent their candidate at the Congressional

District Conventions.

The Kansas Democratic State Committee will then meet May 17 to elect Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates and at-large delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Candidates for PLEO and at-large delegates must file by May 2. The Kansas Democratic State Committee will apportion delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention based on the results of the February 5 caucus.

Kansas will send 41 delegates and five alternates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Thirty-two delegates and five alternates will be pledged to a particular candidate at the Democratic National Convention, determined by the results of the Super Tuesday caucuses and the Congressional District Conventions. At the Congressional District level, the delegates will elect district level delegates to represent their candidate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Kansas' un-pledged delegates consist of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, Congressman Dennis Moore, Democratic Party Chair Larry Gates, Democratic Party Vice-Chair Teresa Krusor, Democratic Party National Committeewoman Randy Roy, Democratic Party National Committeeman Lee Kinch and National Federation of Democratic Women Chair Helen Knetzer.

In addition to these, Kansas will send one un-pledged add-on delegate who will be selected by the State Party Committee using a signed, written ballot. The State Party Chair nominates individuals for this position.

Program's focus to be benefits of family meals

Children who can anticipate regular family meals may be less likely to load up on between-meal snacks that add extra pounds, said Sandy Procter, Kansas State University Research and Extension nutrition specialist.

Encouraging family members to help in meal preparation also can benefit them, said Procter, who explained that involving children when preparing meals typically increases their interest in food, nutrition, health, food safety and basic cooking skills.

Family meals bring the family together as a unit to give each member of the family a more stable "home" base, she said. Children who can count on regu-

lar family meals also tend to function better in the classroom.

Pulling the high chair up to the table to include small children can help them improve their communications skills as they grow and develop, said Procter, who is a registered dietitian and coordinator for Kansas' Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

With many potential benefits from family meals, how can busy families make time to eat together?

Plan now to attend "Everyone to the Table: Family Meals Serve Us Well," at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Norton County 4-H Building.

Karen Shepard, the Graham County Family and Consumer Sciences agent will focus on potential barriers that can sidetrack family meals and offers practical how-to tips to carve out time for meals as a family.

Advanced registration is required by calling the county extension office at (785) 877-5755. A minimum of five participants is required to hold this lesson.

Management class takes in-depth look at weeds

K-State Research and Extension of Norton County is sponsoring an "In Depth Weed-Herbicide Management School" at the 4-H Building in Norton. Early Registration is requested by noon on Monday, Feb. 11 to the Norton County Extension Office.

According to Keith VanSkike, Norton County Extension Director, the full day school is an in depth, up-to-date on weed management, weed identification, herbicide use and sprayer technology. This is one of the more popular school provided for crop consultants, chemical applicators, ag-chem dealers, and of course, farmers and operators. Topics will cover all aspects of more common agricultural crop produc-

tion. The program will include a noon meal and end about 4:30pm. Speakers will include Dallas Peterson, Extension Weed Scientist, Dave Regehr, Extension Weed Scientist, Bob Wolf, Extension Application Technology Specialist, and Brian Olson, North West Area Crop and Soil Specialist.

A folder of information of all the speakers' topics will be provided.

The program will qualify for

CCA credit hours and pest management credit hours for commercial applicators re-certification. Contact the Norton County Extension Office to register.

The cost of \$15 and pre-registration is requested by Feb. 8 and can be sent to the Norton County Extension Office, 100 S. Norton, Norton, Kan. 67654.

For more information, call the extension office at (785) 877-5755.

Ron Paul: A Friend of Life

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-Pro-life activist Norma McCorvey "Jane Roe" of Roe v Wade

Dr. Ron Paul is a licensed OB/GYN who has personally delivered over 4,000 babies

- Support Ron Paul in your local Republican Caucus Saturday, February 9 - Find out how at www.RonPaul2008.com or call 913-963-6858
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