

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

March 7, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Erma Belden

Briefly

Norcatur church hosts supper

The Norcatur United Methodist Church is hosting its annual pancake, sausage and egg supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Norcatur Educational Building. Free will donations will be accepted.

Spotter classes coming to area

A reminder was issued today of the 2008 Spotter Training Classes for the Norton area.

The first, on March 19, will be held at Prairie Land Electric Coop (basement), Norton, at 6:30 p.m. The second, on March 26, will be held in Oberlin at the Gateway, 1 Morgan Drive, also at 6:30 p.m. The classes are expected to last two hours.

The classes are open to everyone with an interest in learning more about High Plains' storms, weather safety and storm spotting.

David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Goodland, will also discuss the 2007 record number of tornadoes reported in the area, as well as the devastating Greensburg tornado.

Time moves up an hour Sunday

Daylight Saving Time moves into the picture this weekend, meaning all clocks will need to be moved up one hour. The official time change is at 2 a.m. Sunday; however, most people will take care of that chore before going to bed Saturday night. Daylight Saving Time remains in effect until Sunday, Nov. 2 when Standard Time returns.

Weather

Forecast:

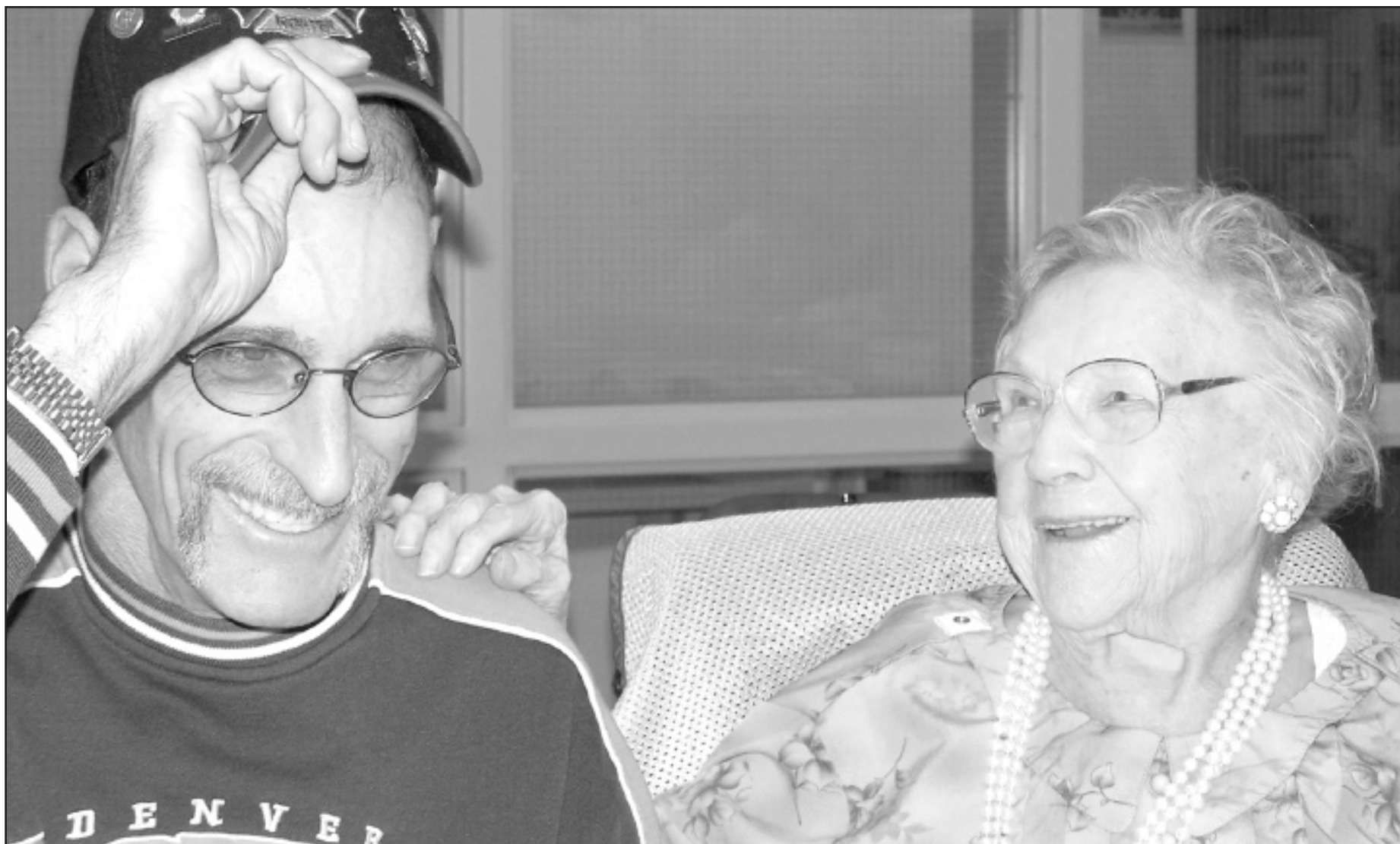
Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 14. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south. **Saturday** — Partly sunny with a high near 53. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 24. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 51. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Sunday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 26. **Monday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 59.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 21, High 55
Wednesday Low 28, High 41
Thursday Low 13, High 48
Friday Low 5, Trace of Snow
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God, remind us that when we can't be close to our families, we can find comfort in helping others who are near to us. **Amen**



After 50 years of not knowing who his blood family was, Mike Barrett was reunited with his 90-year-old birth mother, Mertal Clark, (above) when he and his wife, Tina, went to Canada in February. When he met his sister,

Bonnie, (below) for the first time, they stood hugging in the pouring rain in the middle of the street. Bonnie found Mike, who was adopted when he was six months old, after more than 20 years of searching.

— Photos courtesy Mike and Tina Barrett

Man reunites with family after a fifty year absence

By VERONICA MONIER
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Fifty years ago, a baby boy was adopted from an orphanage in Canada. Last month, that baby, now a man, met the family he never knew he had.

Mike Barrett is that man.

Mike, a longtime Almena resident who recently moved to Norton, found out about his here-to-unknown family on New Year's Day when his birth sister, Bonnie, called him. Bonnie had been searching for her lost brother for more than 20 years when a chance meeting on the Internet with an ex-girlfriend of Mike's led her to the right place.

When Bonnie told Mike he was her brother, he felt mild disbelief. When she told him he had four sisters and nine brothers, he was shocked. Mike had grown up with one sister, Suzie, who had been adopted from the same orphanage by their parents, Harold and Dolores Barrett.

After many phone calls talking to his new family, Mike was finally able to meet some of them. In February, he and his wife, Tina, flew to Seattle and then took a clipper, or ferry, across the border into Canada to Vancouver Island. After a two and a half hour boat ride, they landed in Victoria, the island's capital city.

That's where they met Brian, one of Mike's older brothers, who is 53 to Mike's 50. After spending a few hours with Brian, they were off to meet Bonnie in Nanaimo, the halfway point between Brian's home in Victoria and Bonnie's in Courtenay.

"We were supposed to meet her at Starbucks," Mike said. "When we got there and she saw us crossing the street, she rushed out into the pouring rain and just hugged me. We stood there hugging for a long time, blocking traffic."

When they made it back to Courtenay, Mike and Tina met Mike's brother, John.

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Council lowers amount of raise

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton City Council is giving itself a raise, but not as big a raise as was originally suggested.

Mayor David Corns said at Wednesday's meeting that, personally, he felt a raise for the council was worthwhile.

"It's a difficult job that few want to do," he said.

After the last council meeting, when the council decided to raise its monthly pay from \$234 to \$500 a month, he said there was a lot of public input. It's good, he said, when the council hears from the public, so it knows what direction to go in.

All of the people who spoke to him about it thought a raise was warranted,

he said, but they thought the amount was too high. One suggested \$400, while several others suggested either \$325 or \$350. Several didn't know what the raise should be, he said.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said Ordinance 1572 would give the council and mayor their raise. However, she said, if the council chose to hold the first reading of the ordinance and accept the raise, they could also choose to amend the amount. All raises for the council and mayor should be done by ordinance, she said.

A motion was made to accept the first reading of the ordinance and amend the amount from \$500 to \$350 a month.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she felt they should do this later, when they

could put it in the budget.

"I ran for this office knowing what the pay was," she said. "We should make this decision at budget time, not now."

Councilwoman Donna Foley said she would feel more comfortable with the raise being \$300 a month, rather than \$350.

When the council voting on the ordinance, Councilman Jim Williams, Councilwoman Kim Snyder and Councilman Jerry Jones voted yes, while Councilman Ron Briery, Mrs. Foley and Mrs. Mann voted no. Mr. Corns broke the tie with a yes vote, accepting the ordinance's first reading and the amended amount.

Mr. Briery said later that he apologized

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Emergency service building new facility

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Emergency Medical Service is finally going to get a new facility.

The service, through the county, has been trying to get a grant for the past five or six years, said Commissioner John Miller. At the end of January, they were notified that they were awarded a Community Block Development Grant for \$283,750.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said to get the grant, they had to put up \$283,750

in matching money, which has been budgeted for out the the county's general fund and the ambulance fund. If the project goes over the \$567,500 allotted for it, the county and service will have to pay for it.

The new facility will be 4,420 square feet and will include four ambulance bays, a meeting room and classroom, offices, a storage area, a small sleeping area, a kitchen area and handicap accessible bathrooms.

The current facility is only 2,000 square feet and is nearly 30 years old. It doesn't

have a handicap accessible bathroom and only has one small office, a bay that only accommodates two ambulances and no classroom space.

"We've known for years that we needed a new building," said Commissioner Leroy Lang. "It's too crowded up there and there's no room to expand."

The old facility is just east of the hospital. The new one will be just west of Norton on U.S. 36. Mr. Wyatt said they bought the land on contract from Prairie Land Electric.

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Easter Bunny here for hunt on March 22

The Easter Bunny and his helpers will be at the annual Easter Egg Hunt, beginning at 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 22 on the lawn of the Norton County Courthouse in downtown Norton.

If the weather is bad, the hunt will be moved to the National Guard Armory in Norton. An announcement will be made that Saturday morning on KQNK Radio if it is to be moved.

In addition to hunting eggs, children can get their photograph taken with the Easter Bunny. Each photo will be \$3 with the proceeds going to support the annual hunt. Photos with the Easter Bunny will begin at 1 p.m. and will be available throughout the hunt. There is no charge for children to participate in the hunt.

The Easter Egg Hunt is again being sponsored by the Norton American Association of University Women Child Study Club, whose members will be assisting.

So parents with more than one child can enjoy seeing all of their

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