

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

## Friday

### May 9, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Darin Campbell

Color courtesy of  
**Ashley Furniture**

Briefly

### Service Sunday for Norton County grads

A baccalaureate service for all Norton County seniors will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the East Campus Auditorium. Football coach and teacher Lucas Melvin will be the guest speaker. The service is sponsored by Norton's Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

### Norcatur set for big city-wide sale

Norcatur's third annual City-Wide Garage Sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Organizers Twila Forbes and Sherri Regal have lined up more than 20 families to participate. A sign will point the way into town from U.S. Highway 36 and maps of the sale locations will be available in front of the town's Post Office on the main street.

A wide variety of items are being offered from cars and trailers, iron collectibles, bedding plants and vegetables to toys and horse tack.

To learn more, call Mrs. Forbes at 785-693-4203.

### Adventures plans benefit dinner

Adventures Restaurant will host a benefit dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday for Chris Richard. He was injured in an accident several years ago, and as a result he is facing another surgery on May 19. The restaurant will serve roast beef or ham dinners from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 1 to 6 p.m. orders will be taken from the regular menu. Ice cream and fruit smoothies will be served all day. If you cannot attend, donations may be left at Adventures or mailed directly to the family at 312 W. Holme, Norton 67654.

### Weather

#### Forecast:

**Tonight** — A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Saturday** — A 50 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 59. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 34. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 68.

### Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 48, High 82  
Wednesday ..... Low 50, High 71  
Thursday ..... Low 39, High 72, .30 Rain  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Thank you, generous provider, for the gift of your creation and of our lives within it. Help us to make creative use of everything we have received from you. **Amen**

## He's growing like a weed!



Dawson Smith, 2, son of Doug and Shelly Smith, enjoyed the great outdoors during Outdoor Kansas for Kids Day Saturday at Prairie Dog State Park, but was just a bit unsure in weeds that were taller than he.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Council takes look at future

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Mayor David Corns polled the Norton City Council at one of their recent sessions about their goals for the city over the next year.

√Kim Snyder said fixing streets and curbs needs to be addressed.

√Elaine Mann said safety is one of her first priorities, and finishing the water plant project is also important.

√Ron Briery would like to see the restrooms in Elmwood Park completed in the next year, and move forward with the demolition of dilapidated properties. He also hopes to complete the phase I project and start Phase II at the water plant in the near future. Additionally, he agreed the streets need to be improved, and said he would like to attract new people and new businesses to Norton for the betterment of the community.

√Jeff Otter would like to see new businesses in the community, and likes what economic development has been doing. He saw a need to attract more businesses downtown to keep younger people here.

√Donna Foley sees healthy drinking water as a priority so the city can stop sending out the violation letters. She also mentioned curbs and gutters need to be fixed, and she wants to continue with demolishing the substandard structures in the city. She also wants the city to continue its support of economic development, and also wants to see the water tower painted this year.

√Toby Kuhn wants to learn as much as possible as fast as possible. He would continue to use different avenues to increase interest and find out the issues of the citizens. He noted economic development and fixing the streets are important, and he hopes to develop long-range planning by each department to know the major expenditures needed, and the goals of each department.

√Mayor Corns said he would like to see the city follow the budget more closely, rather than purchasing things that have not been budgeted. He also believes discussions need to continue on a new swimming pool.

## Sebelius files for county attorney

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

A check with the office of Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt on Thursday showed one additional filing for the Aug. 5 primary since *The Telegram's* last report on April 25.

R. Douglas Sebelius, currently county counselor, has filed for the office of county attorney.

Previously, John Miller, current county commissioner from District 3 filed for re-election, and Carolyn Applegate filed for the county commission seat in District 2.

The deadline to file is June 10 at 12 noon.

Other local offices up for election include:

- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- County Register of Deeds
- County Attorney
- County Sheriff

Three area filings have taken place on the state level. They are:

- Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, Republican incumbent, Grinnell, Senate District 40.
- Sen. Janis K. Lee, Democratic incumbent, Kensington, Senate District 36.

• Rep. John M. Faber, Republican incumbent, Brewster, House District 120. Also filing were Republican incumbent Sen. Pat Roberts, Dodge City, and Lee Jones, Democrat, Overland Park.

The August ballot will also include District Court Judge District 17, as well as Township Trustee, Almena, Center, Highland, Solomon Township; Township Treasurer, Almena, Center, Highland, Solomon Township; and precinct committeemen and committeewomen.

Incidentally, if you are not registered to vote in the primary, now would be a good time to do that.

## Tornado activity sparks question

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Are there more tornadoes now than in past years in the nation?

That was the question put before David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, at the National Weather Service, Goodland.

He hesitated for a moment or two, then indicated in his answer, he didn't think so.

*The Telegram* wondered because seemingly each morning when we turn on the television, there are more pictures of more tornado destruction and unfortunately deaths. It gives the impression the activity is on the rise.

Mr. Floyd indicated that violent tornadoes, nationally, have remained on what he called a *flat curve* the last 55-60 years (little or no increase), while lower level tornadoes have shown an increase.

Mr. Floyd reasoned that with much improved technology, more trained spotters, cell phones and phones with picture capability, we are being made aware of these storms and their aftermath much sooner than in the past.

He said when you go back 50-60 years, there wasn't a whole lot to go on. He said it wasn't until some years down the road that a more detailed approach to tornado reporting and record keeping surfaced.

When asked if the eight-county area

of northwest Kansas — Cheyenne to Norton, south to Graham and west to Sherman — had any tornado touchdowns this early in the 2008 tornado season, he said there have not been any *confirmed* reports. There have been some strong thunderstorms with winds of from 60 to 80 miles per hour, however, causing damage and accompanied by large hail.

In May of 2007, 77 tornadoes were reported in Kansas with 22 touching down in the eight-county area. Sherman had seven, Cheyenne four, Rawlins three, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham two each, and Decatur and Norton one apiece, according to the National Weather Service.

Last year was a very active year for tornado activity in Kansas. All total, there were 137 of those things, 80 above the 1950-2007 average of 57. Those storms claimed 14 lives and injured 82.

Interestingly, the 2007 total of 137 tornadoes set a new record, surpassing the 135 set just two years prior.

Since the year 2000, 834 tornadoes occurred in Kansas, which is greater than any decade since 1950.

The 137 tornadoes in 2007 in Kansas, were the result of one EF5, one violent, ten strong and 125 weak tornadoes.

*The Telegram* will continue to keep readers updated as we move through the '08 tornado season.)

## Outgoing councilmen honored

Norton Mayor David Corns took time at the city council meeting to thank outgoing members Jerry Jones and Jim Williams for their service to the city. He presented *Plaques of Appreciation* to teach.

Mr. Jones served as Ward I Councilman from Dec. 1, 1987 to April 20, 1993; from April 19, 1994 to April 16, 1996; and from April 21, 2004 to April 16, 2008.

Mr. Williams served as Ward III Councilman from Nov. 19, 1996 to April 16, 2008.

## A little color does it



Gloria Nelson, member of the downtown park committee, filled one of the new pots at the park with spring flowers. Mrs. Nelson said the fountain in the center of the park is nearing completion and a brick sidewalk is the next project.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts