

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday
May 27, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Ann Lacy

Briefly

E, F, G vehicle tag deadline May 31

May 31 is the deadline to renew your automobile, light truck, motorcycle or motorized bike tags if your last name or business name begins with "E", "F" or "G".

When renewing your vehicles, remember to include your current proof of insurance for all vehicles. The county treasurer's office needs to verify the VIN number, policy number and current expiration date. Remember, computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. daily for balancing.

The office can only renew regular driver's licenses and issue identification cards. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All CDL licenses have to be renewed at a full service office: Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

If you have questions, please call the office at (785) 877-5795.

Summer reading sign-up begins

Registration for the summer reading program at the Norton Public Library began Tuesday. The program will explore the amazing world of insects and is open to young people, preschool through adults.

Programs being presented are: Rolling Hill Wildlife Adventure of Salina, 10:30 a.m., June 5; Smoky Hills Public TV, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., June 26; Puppeteer and storyteller, Priscilla Howe, 1 p.m., July 17 and more. All programs are free.

For more information call the library at 877-2481.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 54. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.



Thursday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 87. **Thursday Night** — a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before. **Friday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 85. **Friday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57. **Saturday** — Sunny with a high near 84.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 52, High 64, Prec. 1.20"
Saturday Low 55, High 84, Prec. 5.0"
Sunday Low 52, High 84
Monday Low 56, High 70
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for creating us to be varied threads in the intricate design of your world. **Amen**

Norton Lady Blue Jays State Champs!

Complete coverage Page 10



This trailer floated like a cork in the flood-swollen waters of Sebelius Reservoir following Friday evening's torrential rains. The trailer had been parked south of the main camping area. No one was in the trailer.

— Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

Strong winds, heavy rains a local pain

5-10 inches close roadways, inflict damage

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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The deluge of rain Friday night that swamped parts of Norton County caused extensive damage to many roads and bridges. Sheriff Troy Thomson said, "There is no way to tell at this point, but preliminary reports indicate we already have about a half million dollars worth of damage."

There were no reports of personal injuries and Sheriff Thomson said everyone in the county was contacted by the Code Red System. This system placed phone calls to every home in the county, alerting them to dangers.

Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan and his crews were out early Saturday morning accessing the situation. Mr. Brannan said the good news is all residents are back in their home with temporary access, at least. "There are 30 roads that are closed and ten bridges that sustained damage," he said. "One bridge is 100 percent gone and there are 100 more that need to be inspected."

Mr. Brannan said the county work crews will be all summer repairing the damages.

Sheriff Thomson said some bridges are still under water and that he was part of a conference call with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Kansas Emergency Management asking for a Declaration of Disaster for Norton County.

Mr. Brannan said the Norton County Commissioners would make a formal request for assistance on Friday. At this point assistance will only be available to public utilities, local governments and municipalities. He said the most serious damage was done in the western half of the county.

Between five and ten inches of rain fell in the county. Sheriff Thomson said one farmer told him that he had never seen the Solomon River that high since 1976. The river was completely out of its banks. In some places it was a half mile wide.

Both he and Mr. Brannan urged the public to be very cautious of road closures (Continued on Page 5)



This huge cottonwood tree in Elmwood Park was toppled during Friday night's wind and rain storm. There were other unofficial reports of tree damage in the community.

— Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

More filings reported here

By TOM DREILING
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The deadline to file for the Aug. 5 primary election is June 10 at noon, and a check with the office of Robert Wyatt, Norton County Clerk, shows a few more names in the hat.

They are:

- Wanda M. Vincent, Republican incumbent, Register of Deeds.

- Cynthia Linner, Republican incumbent, County Treasurer.
- Ruth Lofgreen, Republican precinct committeewoman, Ward 2.
- Earlier filings included:
- John Miller, Republican incumbent county commissioner, District 3.
- Carolyn Applegate, Republican

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Norton graduate authors article

A Norton Community High School graduate can add "author" to his accomplishments.

Ed Howell, who graduated in 1979, is the Director of Police, Security and Parking at Fort Hays State University's Police Department.

Mr. Howell recently authored an article, "College and University Policing: Community Policing in a University Environment," which appeared in the March issue of *The Police Chief, The Professional Voice of Law Enforcement*.

Mr. Howell writes about the functions of the university's new Center of Public Safety. This facility handles all operations

of the university's police department.

Departments operating out of the center include law enforcement, public safety education, emergency management, and planning and public safety communications.

Specifically, the facility houses a state-of-the-art interview room for forensic interviews, training and conference area, administrative offices, dispatch, patrol section, investigative sections for computer forensics and the Ellis County High Technology Crime unit.

The university police department is responsible for providing protection to the university, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, University Foundation property, the Farm and Livestock Pavilion, parking lots and residence halls.

Mr. Howell is the son of Joyce Howell and the late Elmer Howell, long-time Norton law enforcement officer.



Ed Howell

Vocal teacher hiring among board's actions

By TOM DREILING
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Hiring, reassignment, contract extension and resignations were among the many topics facing the Northern Valley Board of Education at its May 13 meeting.

In the mix were two executive sessions that necessitated extensions to allow further discussions.

Following the two sessions and returning to open meeting, the board approved a motion to hire Sue Ann Stutheit for the vocal teacher position.

The board also moved and approved a motion to reassign Ken Tharman to teach 5-8 science, and other duties.

Additionally, the board approved a motion to allow a contract extension for Laryl Rous for two weeks at the end of the school year and two weeks before school starts. His salary will be prorated.

A motion to accept the following resignations was approved: Jim Springer as junior high assistant volleyball coach and junior high assistant boys basketball coach; Vicki Enfield as school nurse; Manuela Matos as Spanish and 8th grade (Continued on Page 5)