

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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8 PAGES

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Tim Graham

Briefly

Resident's career covers 20 years

James Antrim, highway maintenance supervisor, was recently recognized for 20 years of state service. Mr. Antrim is currently the supervisor for the Kansas Department of Transportation's District Three Paint Crew, based out of the Norton office.

Norton County Fair a good one

By KEITH VANSKIKE
Extension Director

Exact numbers aren't in yet, but it looks like there was a good turn out for this year's Norton County Fair. Receipts for the Porkburger Special were up from last year. This event is a fund raiser for the 4-H Council. Thanks to Husky Hogs for donating the pork. Also up from last year are receipts for the 4-H food stand. The stand was managed by Marilyn Colip, and Paul Montoia donated the use of his grill. Thanks to the many 4-H/FFA members and families who help work the stand. All livestock numbers, but especially beef, were up. With the extreme heat during the days, we were fortunate with how well the animals did.

Entries in several departments such as photography, arts and crafts, horticulture and quilts, while not record-breaking, were well within some of our bigger years' entries. The 4-H Youth Food Sale went well even with food entries down from past years. Thanks to many volunteers, the 4-H, FFA chapter members, parents, various fair board members, Norton Community Service Association, City and County personnel, the Norton Horse Council members, and everyone else for all their work on the fair to help make it a memorable

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 65. East wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday — Sunny and hot with a high near 99. South wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Thursday Night** — Mostly clear and breezy with a low around 70.



Kingham report:

Friday Low 68, High 86, .25 Prec.
Saturday Low 68, High 85
Sunday Low 65, High 103
Monday Low 68, High 97
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for being with us through good and bad times and for always loving us. **Amen**



Firemen were greeted by heavy smoke when they arrived at the home of Terry Crow in Norton Friday morning. The home is located at 105 N. Wabash. Mr. Crow said he was about 70 percent finished with remodel-

ing. He does not yet know if he will rebuild or not. He said it depends on his insurance.

— Photo by Brandy Leroux

Owner uncertain about home's future

By BRANDY LEROUX
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It started out as a typical Friday morning for Terry Crow of Norton. He was driving around when his cell phone rang. It was his mother, Becky. She called to tell him his house was on fire.

Brenda Husted and Monica Wilson, two workers at Valley Hope, had been standing in front of an office window talking when one of them noticed the smoke. Mrs. Husted ran to a phone to call 911.

According to dispatcher Jane Engelhardt, the call came in at 8:27 a.m., and the fire department was paged at 8:28. First on the scene was Unit 10 of the city fire

department, with an arrival time of 8:32. The police department was on hand for traffic control. At 8:54, the Norton County Rural Fire Department was called to assist with extinguishing the fire. The last fire truck left the scene at 12:46 p.m.

City Fire Chief Mitch Jones said he was grateful for the weather that morning.

"The rain didn't help put out the fire, but the cool weather helped cut back on the heat-related injuries. We had two firefighters with heat stress, but that was it," he said.

Since the cause of the house fire was not obvious, Chief Jones called the state to have an inspector look at the house.

According to State Fire Marshal Inspector Melvin Dale, the cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion from used stain rags left in a pile on the stairwell.

"Under the right conditions, spontaneous combustion will occur. If you have the right amount of humidity, the right temperature, and if the rags are wadded just right, the decomposition of the organic material heats up enough to ignite," he said.

Mr. Crow estimated he was about 70 percent finished with remodeling. He does not yet know if he will rebuild or not.

Extensive damaged resulted from the

fire.

"It depends on what the insurance company decides," he said. Mr. Crow has three sons, but none of them were at home or even in town Friday. His wife is in their other house in Colorado.

Mr. Crow would like to thank the city and rural fire departments, and the ambulance service. He would also like to say a special thank you to the staff at Valley Hope for donating money for lunch for everyone.

Chief Jones would like to thank the American Red Cross for providing sandwiches and Powerade to the firefighters.



Jessica Normile sang "As If" for her first song, and "Purple Rain" for her second song at Norton Idol. Miss Normile won first place.

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson



Jessica Schlingloff won second place at Norton Idol. Miss Schlingloff sang "Last Name" and "When the Lights Go Down."

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

Beaver City singer top Norton Idol

By BRANDY LEROUX
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There were 36 entrants in the 2008 Norton Idol competition held at the Norton County Fair last week. Jessica Normile, of Beaver City was this year's first-place winner. Miss Normile said, "I competed last year, and didn't place at all. My goal this year was to just do my best."

Miss Normile grew up singing with her mom, and still sings in her church and with her children. Her favorite music artists are Martina McBride and Beth

Hart. "Every time I sing, I shake until that first chorus," she said. "If I didn't get butterflies before performing, something might go wrong," she continued.

Miss Normile was thrilled to accept first place, and received \$500, 2 tickets to American Idol Live in Kansas City this August, a portrait package from Lacey's Place in Norcatur, and a recording session at Chapman Recording Studio in Kansas City. "I didn't think in a million years that I would win because there were so many

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Unaffiliated voters can vote in Aug. 5 election

By TOM DREILING
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Who says you can't vote in the Aug. 5 primary election?

You just might be able to.

Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt said the election is known as a "Semi-Open Primary," meaning unaffiliated voters can participate.

How?

Here is the information provided by the county clerk:

1. Semi-Open Primary
As in 2004 and 2006, the Democratic primary will be open to Democrats and

unaffiliated voters. Unaffiliated voters may choose to vote Democratic without affiliating, or they may still choose to officially affiliate with one or the other party and vote that party's ballot, the same as in the past.

The Republican primary will be a closed primary. A closed primary for the Republican Party means the primary will be conducted as it has been in the past: voters already affiliated with the Republican Party may vote, and unaffiliated voters who officially affiliate with the Republican Party may vote.

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Seniors seek half mill increase

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Members of the Norton County Senior Citizen Board went before the county commissioners to ask for a 1/2 mill levy increase. The current mill levy for the Senior Centers is one mill.

Board member Tom Melroy gave a financial report for the first and second quarter. Chairman Wilmer Severns said the Senior Centers are running short of finances in Norton, Almena and Lenora alike, regardless of the projects to raise money — including public transportation, meals, food stands, garage sales and bake sales.

The commission said they would have to look into the legal side of raising the

levy since this is a voted levy. According to statute 12-1680, the county has a maximum levy of one mill.

In other news:

• Ralph Hillebrand talked with the commission about the completion of a bridge in the southern part of the county. Mr. Hillebrand asked about obtaining some grass seed to drill around the bridge in order to keep the water from doing additional damage. The commissioners said they will visit with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan later in the day and one way or another, they will get some grass seed to take care of the request.

• Gina Frack, from the Norton County Health Department, talked with the com-

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