

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

10 PAGES

## Tuesday

### December 23, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Noel Tier

### Briefly

#### Office closing early on Christmas Eve

This Telegram is the only issue that will be published this week; included inside this paper is the Monday Extra. Telegram staff will be closing the office early on Dec. 24 to spend the holiday with their families. The office will reopen on Dec. 29. Items can be e-mailed to The Telegram at [nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com). After the Christmas holiday, the Telegram will resume the regular printing schedule.

Area business openings and closings for the holidays and the city trash pick-up schedule are on page 3 inside today's Norton Telegram.

From the staff at The Telegram, "Merry Christmas to all our readers."

#### Alliance needs help with funds

The Norton County Ministerial Alliance has operated a Resident Emergency Needs Fund for many years. Due to very high demand this year they are requesting donations to help with this rapidly depleting fund. Send checks to Norton County Ministerial Alliance Treasurer, Pastor Jerry Cummings, 102 PDRA Road, Norton, Kansas, 67654. Or, drop it off at the office of your church with a note on the memo line and it will get to the right place from there.

#### City council, Parks committee to meet

The Norton City Council will meet on Dec. 30 at 5:30 to discuss end-of-year business and pay bills.

The Parks Committee will meet on Dec. 29 to discuss racing promoter applications. Both meetings are open to the public.

### Weather

#### Forecast:

Tonight - Snow likely before 3 a.m. Cloudy with a low around 6. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.  
Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 28. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 16. Christmas Day - Mostly sunny with a high near 40.

#### Kingham report:

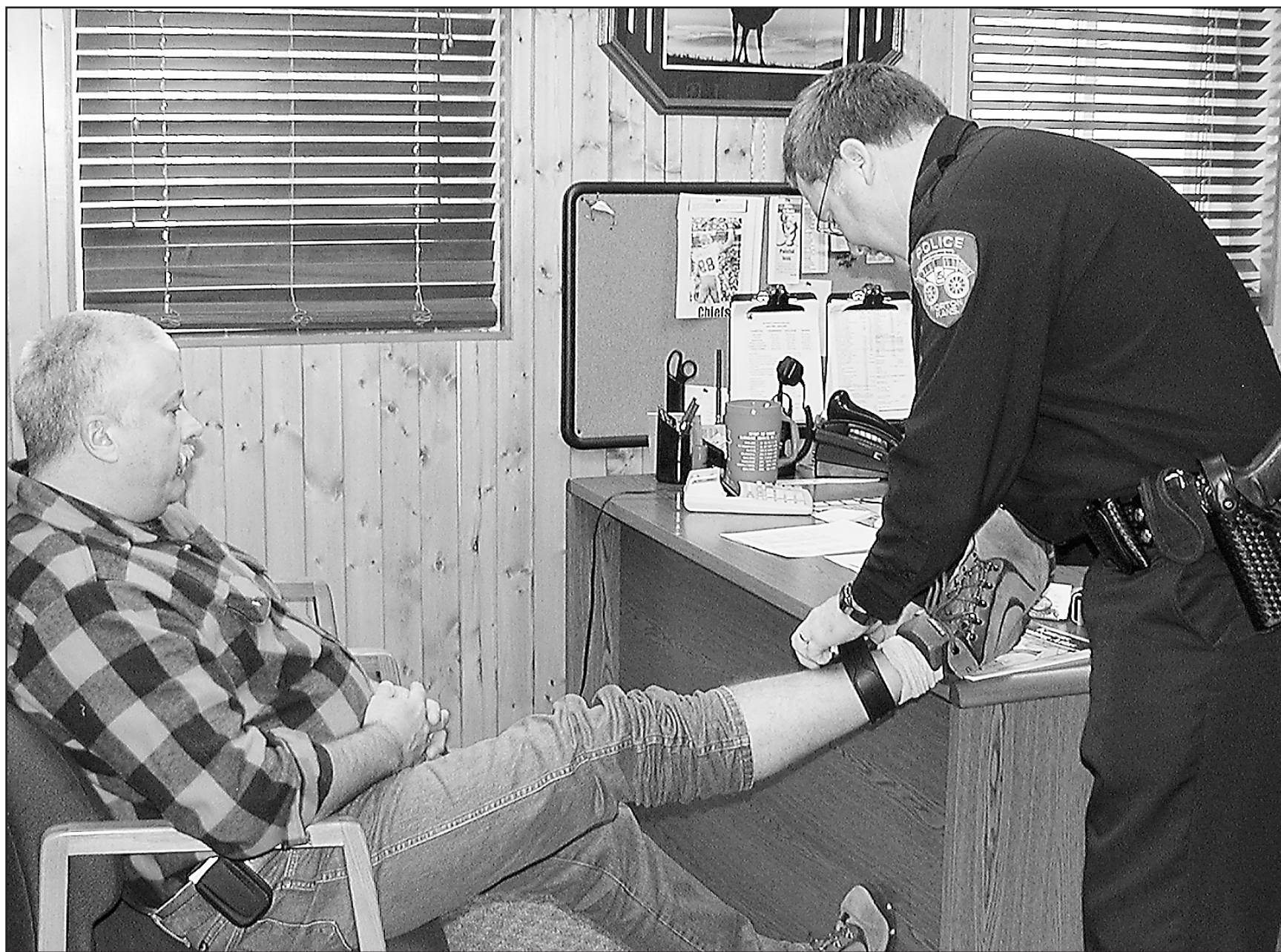
Fri., Dec. 19 ..... Low 8, High 26  
2" Snow; .15 Rain  
Sat., Dec. 20 ..... Low 6, High 12  
Sun., Dec. 21 ..... -4, High 14  
Mon., Dec. 22 ..... Low 3, High 20  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Dear God, give us the strength and opportunity to let your light shine through us. **Amen**



## This won't hurt



Police Chief Pat Morel demonstrated the use of the new offender tracking device on Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson last week. The devices are used to keep track of defendants who are under house arrest. Chief Morel said the devices will help cut the city's cost for using the county jail.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Tracking devices offer alternative to jail

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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The City of Norton has purchased two offender tracking devices which can be used for house arrest instead of jail time for defendants in municipal court.

The devices use global positioning satellites when the defendant is outside

and cell phone signals when indoors to track the locations and movements of the defendant.

"They are 100 percent waterproof, so the person can take a shower with the device on," said Norton Police Chief Pat Morel. "But if the device is tampered with, it will send an alert to the police."

The municipal judge can decide to let a defendant be under house arrest with the tracking device in stead of going to jail.

"There is paperwork to read and fill out information on and sign, and then the defendant has to pay a fee of \$15 per day — up front — to be able to use the device," said Chief Morel.

The police department will then set up exclusion and inclusion zones based on the judge's decision and the information filled out on the forms. The device will track where and when the person goes inside the inclusion zones, and send an alert to the police department if they

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## Sugar Plum Fairy



Eisenhower Elementary performed their Winter Concert last week. The students sang songs from "The Nutcracker Suite"

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Improvements continue despite economic downturn

Special to The Telegram

As the nation's economy continues its downward spiral, more and more companies are projecting decreases in capital spending next year. However, a Kansas business that is vital to the region's economy is bucking the trend, with plans to continue its capital investments despite the economic downturn. The Kyle Railroad, headquartered in Phillipsburg, has routinely invested more than \$2 million per year in infrastructure improvements and maintains that it will continue its maintenance and enhancement projects to preserve the health of the railroad long-term.

"Short lines must invest heavily in repairing and maintaining track, even during difficult economic times," said Todd Bjornstad, the Kyle's general manager. "To ensure the health of the Kyle long-term, we must continue to improve its

infrastructure and physical plant (the ties and track). Short-line railroads are vital to Kansas, especially to farmers and grain elevators in small towns that depend on short lines to move grain to market."

The Kyle Railroad is a short-line railroad that runs from north-central Kansas into eastern Colorado over 510 miles of track. The railroad offers interchanges with two Class I carriers — Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP). Approximately 90 percent of Kyle's annual shipments support agricultural product moves. In 2007, the Kyle moved more than 21,000 cars over its tracks. RailAmerica Inc., one of the nation's leading short-line and regional railroad operators, owns the Kyle.

In November, federal lawmakers extended a tax credit to encourage rural railroads to invest in track improve-

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