

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Joe Ballinger

Briefly

Legion baseball eyes 2009 season

The Norton American Legion Baseball team is preparing for the 2009 season. Any young man interested should contact coach Louis Keiswetter at 785-202-0294 or coach Steve Jeltz at 785-871-7393. Any player who has not returned his uniform from last year needs to contact coach Joe Durham at 785-202-1736 to return it.

Vaccination clinic for animals set

The Norton Animal Health Center will be holding a vaccination clinic Friday, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon. The public is welcome to get their dogs' and cats' vaccinations up-to-date, with no exam fee. For dogs, the distemper-parvo-rabies vaccine will cost \$16, and the kennel cough vaccine will cost \$14. For cats, the distemper vaccine will cost \$16, and the feline leukemia vaccine will cost \$19.

Raccoon culprit of power outage

Rob Lawson, Norton city administrator, said the power outage in Norton early Sunday morning was caused again by a raccoon getting into the substation.

The power went out at around 6 a.m. Sunday, and it took Mr. Lawson, Brian Hickman and Curt Bozarth about an hour to restore power. They had to remove the raccoon from the transformer, inspect the insulators, and check for any other damage in the substation.

After that, according to Mr. Lawson, the electricity had to be restored slowly.

Weather Forecast:

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 10. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 33. North wind around 10 mph.
Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 12. Southeast wind around 10 mph.
Thursday - Mostly sunny with a high near 41. Thursday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 20.
Friday - Partly sunny with a high near 47.
Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 24.
Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 53.
Saturday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 28.
Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 57.
Sunday Night - Partly cloudy.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for always being there for us. Help us to enjoy your presence. Amen

From the author's pen



Sandy Worden, left, watched as Kansas author Nancy Pickard signed one of the books she'd written. Ms. Pickard was at the Norton Public Library Friday evening to speak about her new book, "The Virgin of Small Plains."

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Historic district in city's future

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Nearly 13 blocks of downtown Norton could one day be considered a historic district. Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker said they have been awarded a state grant from the Historic Preservation Fund to start on the first step — conduct a Historic Survey of downtown Norton.

"This is just the first step," said Miss Becker. "The historic survey process will gather information both on the history of the downtown buildings and community support for the designation. Throughout the survey, we will be educating the public on the benefits and restrictions of creating a historic district and how it will affect everyone."

The survey will include the buildings in the downtown area, south of Wilton, west of Second, north of Park Street,

and east of Wabash. The survey, which will be put out to bid, has to be done by a historic surveyor certified by the Historical Society, and will take about a year to complete. Once the survey is complete, more than half of the building owners in the proposed area have to approve the area being designated as historic.

From there, they will apply to the state for the designation, which could take up to another year.

"One of the greatest benefits of designating a downtown historic district is the eligibility for tax credits," said Miss Becker. "Non-profit businesses are eligible for a 30 percent tax credit for the costs to upgrade and repair their building, for-profit businesses are eligible for up to a 45 percent tax credit, if they comply with the Historical Society's rules and regulations regarding upgrades and repairs. If a business would rather not follow the

Historical Society's rules, they can still make whatever changes they'd like, but they will not be eligible for tax credits."

One of the common concerns with the historic register is the restrictions on how a building that has been designated "historic" is renovated. In order to qualify for tax credits, the renovation plans must be approved by the historic society.

"Some changes that affect the historic integrity of a building are not allowed, such as metal siding or additions to the building, but other changes, such as the color of paint, are allowed," said Miss Becker. "The purpose is to preserve the buildings to accurately represent their history, and the interior renovations are even less restrictive."

Designating a historic district is important to downtown re-development be-

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Big change at credit union here

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Mark Keilig, president of United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Norton, and president of the Norton School Board, will be moving later this month to Cairo, Neb.

"This was one of the hardest decisions my family has had to make," said Mr. Keilig. "We have family near there, and getting closer to family is what lured us back to Nebraska."

Denise Bailey has been approved by the credit union's board to replace Mr. Keilig as president.

"I look forward to stepping up and fulfilling the duties of a credit union president," said Ms. Bailey. "Mark has done a wonderful job here, and we will all miss him. We all wish Mark and his family the best."

Norton School Superintendent Greg Mann said, "We are sorry to see him go. He was a good board member, a good member of our community, and had a good family."



Mark Keilig and Denise Bailey went over some things on the computer before Ms. Bailey takes over as president of United Northwest Federal Credit Union. Mr. Keilig and his family are moving to Nebraska, and his last day at the credit union will be March 26.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Department names new engineer

Professional Engineer Jeffrey A. Stewart has been named district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation's northwest Kansas, 18-county region. He assumed the post Monday.

Stewart will serve as the top manager, supervising more than 300 KDOT employees who work in the agency's Third District.

Stewart graduated from Kansas State University in 1995 with a degree in civil engineering. He began working for Kansas Department of Transportation in 1994 as a summer employee in the Great Bend construction office. He was hired full-time as an engineer associate in 1995 for the Marion construction office.

In 2002, he was promoted to construction engineer in Norton's district office.

"I am excited for this opportunity and remain committed to working with everyone on transportation issues in northwest Kansas," said Stewart.

Stewart and wife Teresa, who is also a civil engineer, live in Norton with their two children Coral, 5, and Tyler 1.

Stewart succeeds Chriss McDiffett, who retired last week from the district engineer's position and the agency after 25 years of state service.



Jeffrey Stewart

Prison still on minds of meeting crowd

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, 40th District and Representative John Faber, 120th District, were at the Town and Country Kitchen Saturday afternoon to talk with the public and give some insight into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) money that will be distributed to Kansas. And the Norton Corrections Facility was also a continuing topic.

Representative Faber said the Department of Corrections budget has been finalized and they took a 10 percent cut. He said the Norton Correctional Facility would have been closed if they had needed to cut 18 percent.

"It [closing the Norton facility] was quite a ways down the line," said Representative Faber, and assured everyone that the Norton facility would be alright.

He said the stimulus money would go to various departments, such as transportation and education.

Senator Ostmeyer said he checked with the budget chairman and was told the Norton Facility is not on any list to be shut down. He said closing the prison facility in Norton is like closing down Boeing in Wichita.

"It would be devastating to the community," said Senator Ostmeyer.

He said there has been an increase in federal and state jobs, while the private sector has lost hundreds of thousands of jobs, and they are trying to figure out how to fix that problem.

When Senator Ostmeyer said he is concerned about the federal stimulus, Steve Berry, Norton County Republican Central Committee chairman, said, "That's our grandkids' money."

Senator Ostmeyer said he doesn't know what will happen after the 27 month period of the stimulus has ended, and people still need to be extra-careful. He also urged schools to make cuts anywhere they can and said they should not wait until next year.

The senator also said the bill dealing with public legal's being published in the newspapers doesn't have any teeth, and probably will not pass.

Cynthia Linner, Norton County Treasurer, said the treasurers' association

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