

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

Friday

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Dick Hahn

Briefly

Surplus food set for distribution

The Norton County Senior Center reports the distribution of government surplus food for low income persons of all ages in Norton County will be held in early April. Food available for distribution at this time includes beef stew, apple sauce, corn, cherry-apple juice, carrots, and grape fruit juice. Distribution times and places are: Friday, April 10, 2-4 p.m., Senior Center, Norton; Friday, April 10, 9-11 a.m., Senior Center, Alma; Saturday, April 11, 2-3:30 p.m., Library, Clayton; and Thursday, April 9, 2-3:30 p.m., Senior Center, Lenora. Please call Ramona at the Norton Senior Center, 877-5352, if you need additional information.

Name in story brings clarification

In the news feature about the Larry Zierleins in the March 24 issue of The Telegram, Maxine Zierlein's maiden name should have been listed as Hughes instead of Bolliger.

20-page
Working Women
section in
Today's
Telegram

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of snow before 1 a.m. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible. Saturday - Sunny with a high near 53. Saturday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 28. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 56. Sunday Night - A slight chance of rain showers before 10 p.m., then a slight chance of rain.



Kingham report:

Tues., March 24 Low 26, High 45
Trace of Snow
Wed., March 25 Low 22, High 53
Thurs., March 26 Low 28, High 40
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, we live in the "between." Help us to know and learn from every time and season. We trust your eternal presence. Amen

Bird's-eye view of visitor



Catheryn Leiker took a moment out of her stroll to say hi to her favorite bird, a yellow Canary, at the Andbe Home Thursday morning. Volunteers keep the birds' home neat and clean. Crystal Richards, activity director



for the Andbe Home, said they can always use more volunteers to help out with activities.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Board learns it will need to republish budget

The Northern Valley School District will have to republish the 2008-2009 General Fund budget, due to having more students than originally anticipated. The general fund will be increased by \$101,000, but the budget for the 2009-2010 school year is still uncertain.

- In other school board news:
- Chuck Fessenden, high school math teacher and track coach, said the state is offering the track rules test online this year, which would be cost-saving.
 - Kirsten Baird, grade 5 teacher, shared procedures for the state assessment testing.
 - The board accepted Monica Wagner's resignation as a grade 6 teacher.
 - George Griffith, Northern Valley Schools superintendent and high school principal, reported on upcoming events.
 - Chris Robertson, Northern Valley pre-kindergarten to grade 8 principal, reported on a new student and state assessment testing. She extended her thanks to the Phillips County Sheriff's Department for sponsoring the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and to Phillips County Economic Development for sponsoring the Youth Leadership program.
 - The board thanked Coach Fessenden and Coach Chuck Zimmerman for their leadership during the basketball season.
 - Board member Alan Woodside inquired about the cost per day amount to operate the school. Mr. Griffith said he would find out and let the board know.
- There was no other business brought before the board, and the meeting adjourned.

Escapee back in Norton Facility

Makes first court appearance

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Christopher Zorn has been returned to Norton County, and is being held in a segregation unit inside the main security perimeter at the Norton Correctional Facility. According to the Kansas Department of Corrections website, Zorn's custody level is listed as "Special Management." He stays in his cell 23 hours per day, and does not leave the facility unless he has a court appearance, a doctor's appointment or is being transferred to another facility.

He asked the State of Colorado if he could return to Kansas to face the charges in Norton before finishing out his sentence in Colorado. They granted the request, and on March 12, he was transferred to the Norton Correctional Facility.

His first appearance in the Norton County courtroom was March 17, with Magistrate Judge Debra Anderson presiding. Judge Anderson appointed an attorney, Calvin Williams from Colby, to represent Zorn.

To avoid a possible conflict of interest — Helen Keiswetter's daughter is Darla Engel, Chief Clerk to the 17th Judicial District — William Elliott, Chief Judge for the 17th Judicial District asked that another judge be assigned to the case.

John Cahoj, District Magistrate Judge for Sheridan County, will travel to Norton County to preside over the case.

Zorn faces charges from an escape the morning of Sept. 16, when he walked away from a work detail at the First United Methodist Church. Once authorities were notified of the missing inmate, the Norton County Sheriff's office and Norton Police Department called in all officers — even those who were off-duty — and officers from Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Department of Corrections, even an airplane from the Kansas Highway Patrol, to begin a search, starting at the Methodist Church and working outward in every direction from there. The search team concentrated their efforts on the creek that runs along the west end of town.

Early Wednesday morning, Sept. 17, Helen Keiswetter, an 80-year old Norton resident, was found injured in her home, the apparent victim of assault, and her vehicle missing. Mrs. Keiswetter's house is near the creek.

Police sent out a broadcast for Mrs. Keiswetter's car, which was found in Denver.

Zorn was arrested by authorities in Colorado on Friday, Sept. 19 for unlawful use of a financial card.

Wind energy regulations discussed

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker met with the Norton County Commissioners to go over information about wind energy and turbines or towers, that she received in a meeting with George Alaberta of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Mr. Alaberta gave Miss Becker information on the maximum height regulations on individual wind turbines and other towers in the area around the airport. Miss Becker said if someone would like to install a tower or individual wind turbine, the Federal Aviation Administration would have to evaluate the impact on any surrounding airport. If there is a negative impact, they will make suggestions to mitigate the negative impact, but they do not have any enforcement authority.

In other commission business:

• Miss Becker said it would be helpful to Norton County to have a legislative group. She suggested appointing local officials with interests in Norton County to be spokesmen to attend sessions in Topeka. The commissioners said with recent issues in Topeka that would affect Norton County, such as Department of Corrections and the home-owned carnivals, personal appearance and support from local officials make a big difference.

Miss Becker gave a list of concerns in Norton County to discuss with legislators, including: Norton Correctional Facility, the county's school districts' funding, the home-owned carnival, renewable energy property tax exemption, area mental

(Continued on Page 5)

Norton rental owners share suggestions at Tuesday meeting

The Norton City/County Economic Development office held a meeting with rental property owners on Tuesday to discuss ways to improve the rentals in Norton.

Diane Becker, Director of Norton City/County Economic Development, said she was happy with the meeting and the suggestions given. Those suggestions were:

- Create a blog as a way for rental property owners to communicate with each other and share information.
- Form an organization of rental owners.
- Develop a voluntary inspection program through a third-party inspector, either formally through the City of Norton or informally through the renter owners' organization.

• Create a certification program to validate the quality of rental properties into three quality levels for prospective tenants.

- Produce a guide for both rental owners and tenants.
- List rental properties available on the Discover Norton website

Economic development is working with rental property owners to attain those

goals. Rental properties are already listed on the Discover Norton website, but the group would like to expand the information on individual listings.

"I think it was a very successful meeting, overall," said Miss Becker. "We identified steps that can be taken right now to improve Norton's rentals, and we brought awareness that economic development will help if the group wants them to."