

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



## Friday

April 3, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Don Vollertsen

### Briefly

#### Early dismissal for high school noted

Thursday, April 9 is the date of the annual Norton Community High School Track Meet at Travis Field. Competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. Due to the large number of staff and students involved with this event either as coaches, competitors or workers, NCHS will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. on that day. Buses will run at the normal times. This early dismissal affects grades 9-12 only. There is no school in the Norton School District on Friday, April 10.

#### Area resident eyes seat in Congress

Tracey Mann will declare his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Kansas' First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives at his family's farm in Quinter at 2 p.m., Saturday. The Mann farm is located at 2334 County Road 70, approximately two miles south of Quinter off I-70. Questions may be directed to: (785) 829-0055. The seat is currently held by Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Hays, who is seeking the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Sam Brownback, who is not seeking re-election.

Sunday School teachers hear all sorts of chatter

See 'Let's Chat' Page 4

### Weather

#### Forecast:

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 40. Saturday - A chance of rain and thunderstorms, then rain likely after 10 a.m. Saturday Night - Widespread blowing snow. Low around 26. Sunday - Widespread blowing snow and a slight chance of snow before 1 p.m.

#### Kingham report:

Tues., March 31 ..... Low 25, High 47  
Wed., April 1 ..... Low 23, High 59  
Thurs., April 2 ..... Low 22, High 60  
Trace of Snow  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Lord, show us how we may serve you this day. Open our eyes to the small opportunities that come to us. Amen.

### Sky high help



High winds snapped the line for the flag at the National Guard Armory in Norton earlier this week. Dan Sisk, on his first day as a lineman for the City of Norton, was the lucky guy chosen to ride in the bucket to fix the line. The flag pole is 50 feet high, but the bucket didn't quite reach the top. The line was fixed, and a new United States flag and Kansas flag were flying a couple of hours later. In the lower left of the picture, Staff Sergeant Pat Hewitt and Sergeant Brandon Williams held onto the flag's line.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Scam uses local name

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

It happened on April Fool's Day, but it's not a prank. It's an e-mail scam asking for money.

The name of the so-called sender is familiar to most people in the area: Carolyn Plotts, a retired reporter for The Norton Telegram, and currently a columnist for the paper, and The Oberlin Herald, as well as a radio voice on KFNF.

The subject line of the e-mail reads "Urgent" or "Urgent Request." The e-mail address belongs to Mrs. Plotts.

The body of the e-mail reads (unedited):

"Sorry i didn't inform you about my traveling, i am presently in London UK stranded. I misplaced my wallet on my way to the hotel where my money and other valuable things were kept. I will like

you to assist me with a softloan urgently with the sum of 2,250 GBP, is about 2,950 USD. I need to sortout the hotel bills and get myself back home. I will appreciate whatever you can afford, i promise to pay back as soon as i return, Please let me know. Waiting to hear from you. Carolyn"

The e-mail caused suspicion and concern in The Telegram's office, and a quick phone call found Mrs. Plotts at home in Norcatur, not in London. She had received a phone call earlier that morning from her daughter, Kara Bravo, in Dallas, who had also gotten the e-mail.

"She said she didn't think I would have left and not told her," said Mrs. Plotts. "My other daughter, Halley Roberson, also of Dallas, has called, as well as my church. I've been trying to get ahold of (Continued on Page 5)

## Paper goes to \$1 at vendors

The price of The Norton Telegram, available at various newspaper outlets, has increased from 75 cents to \$1, effective today.

"It seems like every time you turn around, something's costing more," said the newspaper's publisher Tom Dreiling. "Newspapers aren't the exception. This year the price of newsprint took another jump and when that happens we look for ways to offset the expense. We decided to raise the price one pays for the paper if purchased at our news outlets."

He said if you are a regular buyer of the paper from our vendors, you might want to think about subscribing and in the process save yourself quite a bundle of bucks. The rates are:

- 3-month subscription, \$20
- 6-month subscription, \$34
- 12-month subscription, \$60

"Do the math," he said. "We publish the paper 104 times a year and at \$1 a throw, well, that comes out to \$104. None of the above figures comes anywhere near that. And it's delivered to your home."

## 'Bid' confusion and sidewalk, curb repair policies addressed

By BRANDY LEROUX  
[bleroux@nwkansas.com](mailto:bleroux@nwkansas.com)

There was some confusion on the wording of a motion at Wednesday evening's city council meeting in Norton. Council member Wally Burton was reporting on the parks committee meeting, and made a motion to purchase a new Grasshopper lawnmower for \$10,000, which was budgeted for, from Engel's Sales and Service.

After the motion was seconded, City Attorney Karen Griffiths asked if the purchase had been bid. City Administrator Rob Lawson said that because there was only one business in Norton that sells Grasshopper lawnmowers, it didn't have to be bid. Mrs. Griffiths said the motion would have to be amended to reflect that only one bid was received.

The motion was amended to show only one bid and to not exceed \$10,000 and accepted.

Mayor David Corns also said there is a misconception about the city's sidewalk and curb replacement policies. Mayor Corns said that for existing sidewalk replacement, the city will provide the labor, and the homeowner will provide the cement. For the curb replacement, the city will provide the concrete, and it is up to the home- or business-owner to hire a contractor or otherwise provide the labor.

In other business:

• Chris Miller, from Miller and Associates, gave a report on the progress of the city's wells. He said five wells would have to be re-drilled, less than 50 feet from where the wells currently are; the elevator in the water plant will be replaced; a generator would be added; safety fencing around the well field and water plant would be installed. When Mayor Corns asked for a cost estimate to complete

the project, Mr. Miller said it would be about \$1.9 million, but that he thought it would be finished under budget. Mr. Miller said he thought the project would be completed before next winter. Mayor (Continued on Page 5)

## City honored

When Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson attended the 42nd Annual Conference of the Kansas Rural Water Association held last week in Wichita, he was surprised to learn that he would be accepting an award — Norton was named "Most Improved Water System in Kansas". Norton was selected from among candidates nominated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff and the Kansas Rural Water Association.

According to a release from the Kansas Rural Water Association, "Norton was recognized due to the complexity of its operations and the improvements made. The city utilizes a water treatment plant to treat water from both surface and ground water sources. Prior to the improvements, the city was having problems with trihalomethanes — which are created as a result of treatment of surface water, as well as uranium and arsenic from the ground water source.... The city is now in compliance with all drinking water standards."

"I was very surprised," said Mr. Lawson. "It was an honor to accept the award. This is the first time in 27 years working for a municipal government that something like this has happened."

## Norton grad wins big award

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Norton Community High School seemingly has a list of graduate achievers that would easily stretch several miles long.

That list has taken one more step.

Enter: Stacie Minson.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation recently released the names of winners of the 2008 Conservation Achievement Program Awards, and honored these 14 recipients at a reception and banquet in Manhattan.

Among them is Stacie Minson of WaKeeney, a 1991 graduate of Norton Community High School, who received the coveted 2008 Water Conservationist Award.

Stacie serves as the watershed specialist for the WRAPS program for Smoky Hill, Big Creek, and Kanopolis Lake. "While incredibly energetic and active in many areas, Stacie is being recognized for her initiative with the Loder Point Wetland project at Kanopolis Lake," according to information provided by the Federation. "She was the communication link and liaison for a variety of government agencies that successfully cooperated together to leverage resources and knowledge. Stacie served as a common bond to all the agencies, and this project would have never been completed without that crucial effort."

Stacie is credited with leveraging resources and individuals to cooperate

through presentations, letters, media and discussions with political constituents. Through a variety of grants she submitted, she leveraged \$30,000 for the project through a variety of government and private applications.

Through her work she has been involved in a number of education programs she organized for children and adults. "Stacie has an uncanny ability to organize programs and envelope all the agency and individual aspects of stewardship and conservation in one setting. For anybody that has worked with her, it is obvious that she is goal driven, full of charisma and a confident cheerleader for conservation in central and north central Kansas. Her most impressive virtue in her conservation work is her proactive and optimistic attitude," according to the Federation.

"For her many efforts this past year, but particularly regarding her work with water projects, including the Loder Point Wetland Project, Stacie Minson is recognized as the Kansas Wildlife Federation's Water Conservationist of the Year for 2008," the federation said.

Stacie Edgett, daughter of Elvin and Pam Edgett, and niece of David Corns, was born and raised in Norton, graduated from Norton Community High School in 1991, attended Colby Community College where she received an Associates of Science in 1993, and Bachelor's of Animal Sciences and Industry from Kansas State University in 1995.

She served as Trego County Extension Agent/Director until November 2003 and then moved into her current role as the Big Creek Middle Smoky Hill River (Continued on Page 5)



Stacie Minson

## Accident sends three to hospital

A one-vehicle accident sent Renee Rains, New Almelo, and her two young children to the Graham County Hospital emergency room around 7:55 Wednesday morning.

Ms. Rains was driving east on Road BB, approximately two miles west of Lenora,

when she lost control of the vehicle on the gravel.

The vehicle went into the south ditch and rolled, coming to rest on its wheels.

Ms. Rains and her children were treated and released from the hospital emergency room.