

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Friday  
May 15, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of George Land



Graduation Special  
inside today's Telegram

*Congratulations!*  
**CLASS OF 2009**  
Featuring the 2009 candidates  
for graduation from:

- Norton Community High School
- Logan High School
- Northern Valley High School

A SPECIAL SECTION OF  
**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

featuring: Norton, Logan  
and Northern Valley

## Briefly

### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels will be delivered by Immanuel Lutheran Church, May 18-24. Contact Fonda Lawrence at (785) 877-3145. The Child Study Club will deliver Mary 25-31. Contact Theola Otter at 877-3669.

### Science fair set

Eisenhower Elementary School will host their first science fair on Monday from 1-2 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The fair is for the 4th and 6th graders. Belinda Thalheim's 4th grade class, Kristen Fahrenbruch's 4th grade class and Teresa Schulze's 6th grade class will participate.

### New Lt. Governor

TOPEKA — Gov. Mark Parkinson Thursday appointed Troy Findley to the office of Lieutenant Governor. He served as chief of staff to former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius since 2005 and has remained in that position under the leadership of Gov. Parkinson. Prior to his service in the Sebelius administration, Findley spent seven years as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives representing east Lawrence.

## weather forecast

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 45. Breezy with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph with gusts as high as 30 mph. Saturday - Partly sunny with a high near 68. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 44. Sunday - Sunny with a high near 76. Breezy with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Sunday Night - Mostly clear and breezy.

### Kingham report:

Tues., May 12..... Low 53, High 83  
.05 Rain  
Wed., May 13 ..... Low 59, High 72  
Thurs., May 14..... Low 37, High 76  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

O God, we are quick to see faults in others yet slow to see our own. Help us to repent and receive your forgiveness. Amen.

## State budget for schools 'favorable'

By ERICA BRADLEY  
[ebradley@nwkansas.com](mailto:ebradley@nwkansas.com)

Norton Community School Superintendent Greg Mann said the Kansas Legislature passed the most favorable plan he could hope for the 2009/2010 budget. He said the legislature passed a 2.75 percent cut in the budget, which was not as great as other cuts that could have been made.

Mr. Mann said the \$60,000 cut in the general fund will not affect how Norton Community Schools are run.

"I'm more concerned about the cuts that could be made in the middle of next year when the teachers have contracts," he said.

In Kansas \$4,247 is allowed per student. This has been cut three times from an original figure of \$4,433.

He estimated that the total number of students in Norton Community Schools is 706. "We've been fortunate that while our enrollment is decreasing it is not decreasing at the rate of other small communities around us," he said.

Next year two teachers are transferring to different grades. Terry Hillman will transfer from kindergarden to first grade and Kim Fiscus will transfer from first to second grade. Mr. Mann said there will be one less kindergarden class due to fewer students being enrolled next year.

There is currently a vacant teacher spot in the third grade which will be filled, he said.

Mr. Mann said personnel take up the biggest chunk of any school's budget, usually up to 80 percent. In Norton Community Schools, there are 54 staff which include teachers, librarians and other staff. In total, there are 105 people employed by Norton Community Schools, he said.

The rest of the budget, 20 percent, is not allocated at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Mann said Norton Community Schools recently held an auction for surplus equipment. The school board passed a motion to accept the high bids.

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Economic Development Director Diane Becker picked up tree branches outside the historic Dr. Lyon's House in Norton. The house is one of two historic landmarks in Norton County and is undergoing some preservation work.

-Telegram Photo by Erica Bradley

## Downtown projects continue

By ERICA BRADLEY  
[ebradley@nwkansas.com](mailto:ebradley@nwkansas.com)

Continuing the storefront renewal project, the downtown development projects and designating a downtown historic district, are three big ongoing projects on the agenda for the Norton City/County Economic Development office, said director Diane Becker.

Ms. Becker said there is an estimated 340 businesses in Norton County. The storefront renewal program is open to any business in the county, and Ms. Becker said 15 businesses from Norton and two from Clayton have applied.

The storefront renewal committee has interviewed the last applicants and has decided to fund Boozie's Barber Shop 50 percent of the project costs, up to \$370.50, and they will fund Norton Sports Center up to 50 percent of the project costs, up to \$1000.

Becker said several projects have

already been completed, including the Washington Street Park.

There are three downtown development projects currently being worked on. Roger and Michael Moffet donated the Dr. Lyon's Historic House to the Norton County Community Foundation in April. Ms. Becker said the house is one of two buildings in Norton that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The other historic building is the Barbeau House in Lenora.

"The ultimate goal for the Dr. Lyon's house is to preserve this important piece of our community's history," Ms. Becker said.

She said volunteers have propped up the front porch, secured the house and removed trees that were threatening the foundation.

Ms. Becker expects this project to have a tremendous impact on downtown Norton. She believes the best use of the

property would be for a small business, such as a spa, wedding boutique or bed and breakfast.

The Norton County Business and Visitor Center is another ongoing project. It is located on the same block as the Dr. Lyon's House and was also donated by Roger and Michael Moffet. The former gas station will be transformed into a Chamber of Commerce and Travel, a tourism office and will also feature a community room, Ms. Becker said.

She has applied for a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank, and the Norton County Community Foundation has agreed to match the amount of the grant. Ms. Becker plans to purchase the supplies for the renovation and use volunteer labor to complete the project.

The Heaton Building Apartments is the last ongoing project of the downtown development. Warren and Wanda Heaton (Continued on Page 5)

## 1930s ushered in first Norton library building

*Editor's Note: Part two in a series of three articles about the history of the Norton Public Library follows. These three articles lead up to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the library on June 11, 2009. Information for this article is taken from the history of the library by the late Lydia Bishop and from Rita Shelton, who was librarian from 1975 to 1983.*

**Norton Public Library  
1909-2009  
Part Two**

It was not until the 1930s, after many hours of planning and work by the library board members, city leaders and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), that the first Norton Library building was constructed at the corner of State Street and East Lincoln in Norton on the lots purchased many years before.

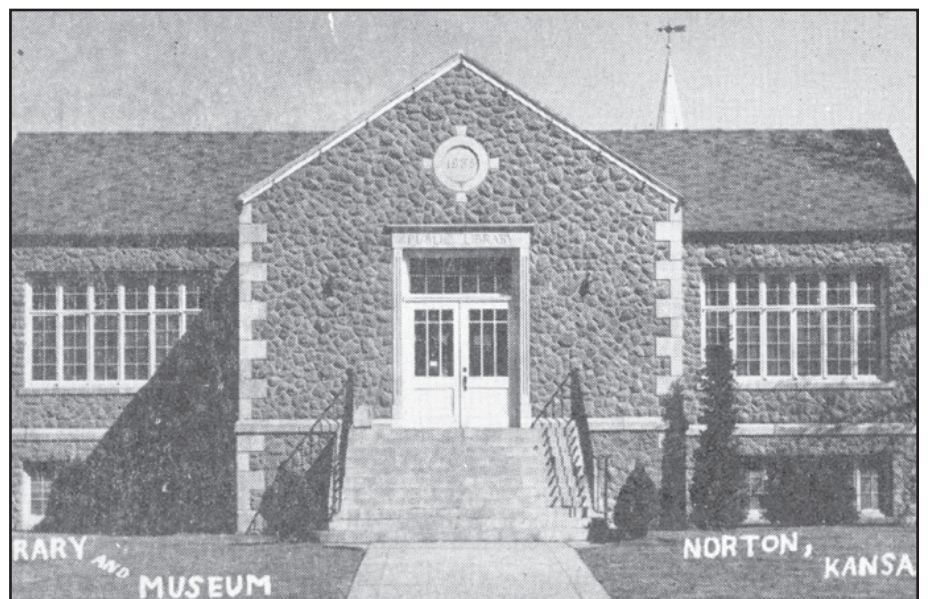
The building was dedicated in 1938 and was made of native stone from a quarry in Norton County.

The library was housed on the main floor with the "charging desk" (where books were checked out) near the entrance. The room was designed to be as open as possible with designated places for fiction, non-fiction, reference books, magazines and newspapers.

The room was equipped with tables and comfortable chairs. There were also lower tables and chairs to accommodate children. New steel book shelves, charging desk, fluorescent lighting and fans were also improvements.

The lower or basement floor contained the furnace room, two storage rooms and one large room known as the museum. Here were displays of a number of articles depicting early Norton County history, pre-historic rocks of the county, bones and many other things of interest prepared and arranged by R.D. Bower and his son, Richard Bower.

Librarians through these years have



This post card photo of the Norton Library building constructed in 1938 was taken by the late B.W. "Bill" Belt, Jr., local photographer and long-time community leader. Bill served on the Norton Library Board and the Norton Public Library Foundation Board of Trustees. This building is now the home of the Norton County Historical Society and Museum.

- Courtesy Photo

been Etta and Myrtle McMahon, Mrs. M.J. Heaton, Mrs. Marie Lee, Mrs. Carrie Muir and Mrs. Minnie Colman. Mrs. Bessie Foley served as librarian for 12 and a half years from 1945 through 1957.

Library patrons who were residents of the city could check out books for free, however, county residents outside the city

were required to pay a fee of one dollar annually for the privilege of checking out books or magazines.

The library was open 30 hours per week. Open hours were from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. every day except Sundays and holidays. Anyone was welcome to (Continued on Page 5)