

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



## Friday

May 22, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Veryl Nyland

Color Courtesy  
of the Businesses  
Honoring Our Veterans

## Good way to end the school year



Tyson Glennemeier, (left) a first grader, competed in a jumping contest during activity day. Tyson was one of the farthest jumpers in his class. Payton Files, (center) had to put a hat and sunglasses on and race back to another student. Payton was in kindergarden this year. Katie Gleason,



(right), a second grader, competed in the sack race. Many of the children fell during the race, but Katie pulled it off with little trouble. Eisenhower Elementary holds activity day at the end of every year.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

**SPRING SPORTS Album**  
Featuring: Soccer - Northwest Valley - Kaps  
Friday, May 22, 2009

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

*Spring Sports Album inside today's Telegram*

## Briefly

### See you Wednesday

The Memorial Day holiday has created a schedule change for next week's newspapers. There will be no Norton Extra on Monday. The Tuesday Norton Telegram will be put together Tuesday and printed and distributed on Wednesday. "We are doing this to allow our employees to also share in the Memorial Day holiday," said publisher Tom Dreiling.

### Meals on Wheels

Immanuel Lutheran Church is distributing Meals on Wheels this week through Sunday. Next week, May 25-31, it will be the Child Study Club, contact Theola Otter at 877-3669.

## weather forecast

**SCATTERED SHOWERS**

Tonight - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a low around 56. Saturday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 85. Saturday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 57. Sunday - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 82. Sunday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Memorial Day - A 50 percent chance of showers.

### Kingham report:

Tuesday, May 19 ..... Low 52, High 91  
Wed., May 20 ..... Low 58, High 88  
Thursday, May 21 ..... Low 54, High 80  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Today, O God, help us to honor the privilege of sharing the values you have taught us. Help us live our faith. Amen

## Swim pool ready to open

**By ERICA BRADLEY**  
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Norton swimming pool will open Monday after completing construction on their drainage system this week, said Norton City Clerk Darla Ellis.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was passed in December and requires pools to install new drainage systems to allow the system to shut down if something gets caught in the drain.

Accidental drowning is said to be the second leading cause of death among children.

The update cost an estimated \$5,000, said city administrator Rob Lawson. Mr. Lawson said city employees were able to complete the job quickly; it would have taken until the end of July if the work had been contracted.

Mrs. Ellis said the pool is fully staffed with nine lifeguards, an assistant pool manager and a manager. Jill Lively will continue to manage the pool, and Ashley Smith LeVion will serve as the assistant pool manager.

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## Choice: clean up or move

**By ERICA BRADLEY**  
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Shawn and Melissa Wiltfong may be asked to vacate their home if they fail to comply with City Inspector Jeff Wolf's inspection, the Norton City Council learned at their Wednesday meeting.

On March 31, 2009, Mr. Wolf said he inspected the Wiltfongs' property, finding them guilty of 18 violations of Ordinance 1569. The violations, he said, included children's toys and bicycles being strewn in the yard, garbage in the yard, overgrown vegetation, electrical appliances in the yard and abandoned vehicles on the property.

Mr. Wolf returned to the property on April 13 to do another inspection and take pictures of the violations. He then issued a notice and order letter to the Wiltfongs about their property, giving them 10 days to clean it up. The Wiltfongs requested an extension on April 22, and a seven day extension was granted.

On April 23, Mr. Wiltfong requested a hearing in front of the city council. "I requested the hearing because I don't agree with some of the violations. My kids should be able to have their toys and bicycles in their yard, Wiltfong said."

Mr. Wiltfong defended many of the

violations, citing his disability and lack of storage space as reasons for so much clutter.

The issues disputed were the children's toys in the yard, a hot tub and two abandoned vehicles.

Mr. Wiltfong felt he should be able to have the hot tub because it wasn't inoperable and had a locking cover, he should be able to park his vehicles on his property and he has neighbors with more vegetation in their yards. The hot tub was uncovered at the time of inspection and had six inches of water in it, Mr. Wolf said.

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## Historic railroad transition set for June 1

The Mid-States Port Authority will officially transfer the Kyle Railroad to KYLE and its parent company RailAmerica on June 1. The transfer of ownership has been more than 25 years in the making.

KYLE's rail lines were once part of the larger Rock Island Railroad. When Rock Island shut down in the early 1970s, local residents and businesses feared that more than 400 miles of track would be abandoned and a critical service to farm-

ers, businesses and communities in the region would be lost.

To ensure the continued operation of the line, in 1984 fourteen Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado counties partnered to form the Mid-States Port Authority to acquire a portion of the bankrupt Rock Island Railroad. Local port authorities such as the Mid-States were authorized by the 1969 Kansas Port Authorities Act, which was originally intended to enable

cities and counties to take advantage of federal funding to improve local airport and water-port facilities. It was eventually amended to include railroad facilities.

On April 30, 1984, the Federal Railroad Administration agreed to loan Mid-States \$18 million to purchase the Rock Island Railroad line. That same day, Mid-States and KYLE entered into a long-term lease-purchase agreement whereby (Continued on Page 5)

## Natoma Corporation to begin expansion in 2010

**By ERICA BRADLEY**  
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Natoma Corp. will be the recipient of a United States Agriculture Department loan that will be used to expand the manufacturing part of the building and create an additional six jobs, CEO Gail Boller said.

According to Rural Development Acting State Director Darla Buckman, the loan is a zero interest, 10 year loan which is designed to help expand existing businesses and create economic opportunities for rural residents.

The loan will be distributed to Rural Telephone of Lenora. CEO Larry Sevier said, "We are happy to be the conduit for rural service."

Mr. Boller said the loan is for \$740,000. Natoma will provide an additional \$775,427. The total amount for the project is expected to be \$1,515,427.

The process for applying for this loan began 18 months ago, Mr. Boller said.

Construction will begin next June when Mr. Boller hopes the economy will improve. Business has slowed in the recent months, and he said they are working at 50 percent of what they were a year ago.

Natoma has weathered other down times in the economy. According to Mr. Boller, the company employed 40 people before 9/11; half of them were laid off after business then slowed.

The company then grew to 70 before having to layoff 20 employees in the current economic downturn.

"We'll work our way out of this, just like we have in the past," he said.

Mr. Boller attributed Natoma's success to being located in Norton. He said Natoma wouldn't be able to compete in larger cities like Denver or Wichita.

Natoma is one of the highest-paying companies in Norton. Manufacturers go through a two-year training period, making them highly skilled in manufacturing small parts for the aerospace, medical and environmental fields. They do 99 percent of their business in the United States

Mr. Boller said Natoma received a similar loan nine years ago from the United States Agriculture Department.

They are paying the last of the loan back now and are looking forward to having another opportunity to expand, Mr. Boller said.



Natoma CEO Gail Boller motioned toward the area where construction will begin in 2010 on a 30,000 square foot addition. Mr. Boller plans to create six new jobs as a result.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley