

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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12 PAGES



## Friday

June 19, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Jon Rowh

**State Track  
Congratulations  
Pages 6-7-8**

*Briefly*

### Area fire leaders retiring from posts

Lawrence "Sonny" Ruff and Reno Hildebrand are retiring as chief and assistant chief, respectively, of the Logan Fire Department. Sonny joined the department in 1950 and has served as fire chief since 1962. He was named National Volunteer Fireman of the Year in 2007. He retires with 49 years of service to the Logan Fire Department.

Hildebrand joined the department in 1980 and has been assistant since 1998. He served the department for 29 years. Both will continue to serve on the fire department.

A retirement reception will be held June 28 from 1-4 p.m. at the Logan City Building and the public is cordially invited to attend.

### Norton runner captures top spot

Staci Manning of Norton won first place in the 20-29 age group 2 Mile Run in the Riverless Fun Run in Phillipsburg on Saturday, June 6. Her gold medal performance was unintentionally omitted from the story on Riverless Run results in Tuesday's Norton Telegram.

### Meals on Wheels

The Women's Council Christian Church is delivering Meals on Wheels through Sunday. Starting Monday and continuing through June 25, Trinity Episcopal Church will deliver. Contact Connie Johnson at 877-5251.

## weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 62. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday - Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 81.  
Saturday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 66.  
Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 94.  
Sunday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 69.  
Monday - Sunny and hot with a high near 98.

### Kingham report:

Tuesday, June 16 ..... Low 54, High 100  
Wed., June 17 ..... Low 59, High 97  
Thurs., June 18 ..... Low 54, High 90  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for being aware of our every need. Bless us with your love, and provide for us. Amen.

## A meal to remember



Jake Durham, right, and AJ McMullen served Delores Stapp at the Honor Flights fund raising luncheon at the Pamida's parking lot in Norton Wednesday. Darren McMullen organized the event, which raised more than \$2,000. This was the first time the American Legion has partici-

pated in the event. "It went off great. It is great any time we are able to thank our vets for what they did for us. I want to thank everyone who donated their time and effort," Mr. McMullen said.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## Indoor swimming pool discussed at city meeting

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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The Frontier Community Foundation presented its indoor swim pool project to the Norton City Council Wednesday evening. Norton County Commissioner Carolyn Applegate said, in an interview Thursday morning, that the foundation has been researching the idea of an indoor pool for three years. A location has yet to be determined.

The board of trustees include Scott Sproul, Mrs. Applegate, Amy Griffey, Doug Ray, Larry Enfield Sr., Mary Jane Meyer and Kim Wicker. The advisory board was made up of Diane Becker, Kip Johnson and Brandi Lyn Seamon.

The foundation presented their proposal on Monday to the Parks and Recreation Committee, and to the city council and hospital board on Wednesday.

Joe Leroux, city council member, said the plans are in the preliminary phases, and the city is looking at how they will be able to afford the pool.

The pool would incur a lot of expense. Construction, maintenance, staff and utilities would be very costly to the city, he said.

"By no means do we think this is a bad idea. We're just trying to figure out how to pay for it," Mr. Leroux said.

## Healthcare a local concern

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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There are 665 people in Norton County who are uninsured, and the national debate about universal healthcare has left many to wonder how many people will be covered if legislation is passed.

Kansas Senator Pat Roberts said a preliminary study found that the Kennedy-Dodd healthcare reform proposal could cause millions of insured Americans to lose their healthcare.

He said the number of people who would lose their insurance through their employer would decline by 15 million, but an estimated 39 million people would be able to obtain coverage.

More details are to be released on the plan in the coming weeks.

Locally, the plan is not fully supported.

Mr. Leroux stressed that this is a community pool and it would be paid for with community money.

"This is their money, this is their community. We want to hear their input," he said.

Mrs. Applegate said the foundation is researching grants and endowments to help support the pool after it is constructed. She also said an endowment is being set up to help run the pool. The Legacy Endowment will be set up to receive grants and donations.

"We're not grant writers, but we're grant seekers," Mrs. Applegate said.

Research done shows 196 foundations with endowments that could give money for the pool and 1,000 endowments that could help support some of the operating costs.

A new pool would provide several benefits to the community, despite the costs, it was pointed out.

Benefits would include saving money on insurance through a wellness plan, physical activity would decrease childhood obesity, quality of life would increase, a year-round program for the hospital's water aerobics program and it would be a safe place for youth and sports teams to train.

(Council - Continued on Page 5)

## Show stoppers

Story on Page 3



An electronic scale was used to weigh each tractor as it prepared to participate in the tractor pull at the Sunflower Pioneer Power Show at Alma. Seated on the IHC McCormick Farmall tractor was Brad See, Grand Island, Neb. Assisting in weighing the tractors were from left, Don Johnson, Minden, Neb., Dennis DeWitt, Prairie View and Marlin Fike, Glenville, Neb.

- Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson



Roberta Martin, Norton, kept busy working on a quilt project while assisting visitors inside the Depot which is home to many antiques from local displays. A wide variety of quilts were also on display in one of the rooms.

- Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson