

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Friday,
July 28, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Donna Roberts

Briefly

District requests notification of address changes

Norton Community Schools asks residents to notify them if they have a change of address or are new to the area. Call the unified office at 877-3386 if you have updated information.

Summer reading to include craft, game night

The summer reading program at the Norton Public Library will include Patsy Maddy, from Farm Bureau Insurance, will share a few stories and a fun craft at 10:30 a.m. At 2:00 p.m. Tranda Watts, from the Norton County Extension Office, will be demonstrating how to make a patchwork quilt. At 7:00 p.m. Teen Fun Night, our last for the summer. Pizza and games will be provided. Bring your favorite board game and come share the fun.

Moffet poll tally to appear in Friday's paper

The Moffet station straw poll came to an end on Friday. Community participation was high, and The Telegram staff will spend the week tallying the votes. The results will be reported in Friday's Telegram.

weather forecast

Tonight - Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 58. Wednesday - A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 77. Wednesday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 56. Thursday - Partly cloudy with a high near 77. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 57. Friday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday, July 24..... Low 61, High 102
Saturday, July 25 Low 64, High 93
.05 Precipitation
Sunday, July 26 Low 62, High 92
Monday, July 27 Low 63, High 88
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, help us trust you so we can encourage others when they face troubling times. Amen

County considers extra money for mapping

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The Norton County Appraiser requested additional funding to complete a digital mapping software package during the June 20 Norton County Commission meeting. The software could cost Norton County almost \$100,000.

In an interview after the meeting, Alan Hale, county appraiser, told The Telegram the software has already cost the county \$75,000 in the past 18 months. He estimated that it would cost over \$20,000 to complete the software package.

Mr. Hale said the software is for digital mapping.

"The mapping system we have is vintage 1985," Mr. Hale said.

He said the new software would better identify and evaluate property, especially agriculture property.

Mr. Hale said the system has different layers, meaning each department in a county or city would be able to input data. He said it would allow departments, such as utility companies, real estate agents, the sheriffs department and emergency personnel, to share information.

"It allows more efficiency," Mr. Hale said.

Mr. Hales said the county appraiser's office began preparing for the Geographic Information System two years ago when county finances were not as tight. He said the current finances makes it harder

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Town resident is the next Norton Idol

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton Idol held its third annual competition last Saturday with 26 contestants from Kansas and Nebraska competing for first place.

Troy Leiker from Norton won first place, Stacey Wehner from Trenton, Neb. won second place. Brandon Smith from Hays won third place and the People's Choice Award went to Lucas Maddy from Wichita.

Mr. Leiker received \$500, 2 tickets to American Idol Live in Kansas City, a portrait package from Lacey's Place in Norcatour and a recording session.

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Troy Leiker



Seven cars in this wheat train derailed early Friday morning in Norton. Three of the cars were demolished, spilling wheat over the tracks and into nearby yards. The damage has been estimated at \$150,000.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Wheat train derailed Friday

By ERICA BRADLEY
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A Kyle Railroad train filled with wheat derailed early Friday morning, damaging hundreds of feet of track and seven train cars.

Todd Bjornstad, Kyle Railroad, estimated the damage at \$150,000. He said seven cars were derailed, three cars were demolished and 500 feet of track will need repair.

Pat Morel, Norton Police Chief, said the accident was reported at 2:51 a.m.

He said one Kyle Railroad crew arrived on scene at 8 a.m. and another crew arrived later that morning.

The intersections from Archer to Graves were closed along the tracks.

"We have to clear or re-rail the cars, fix the track and go back to work," Mr. Bjornstad said. Several tons of wheat also had to be removed.

Heather Cole was asleep in her living room when the train derailed.

"I thought the whole train was going to come through the house. I seen the sparks coming. They were flaming all over. It was scary," Mrs. Cole said.

Mrs. Cole had her young granddaughter, Emily, sleeping in the next room. She said Emily slept through the crash and was enjoying playing in the wheat on the side of the house early Friday morning.



Kyle Railroad workers survey the spilled wheat from one of the damaged rail cars. An estimated 15 bushels was lost from the train and 500 feet of track is under repair.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Cleanup continued throughout the week.

"We'll be back in service by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday," Mr. Bjornstad said.

Mr. Bjornstad said the railroad lost 15 bushels of wheat. The rest was picked up and shipped.

The wheat on Mrs. Cole's property had not been picked up by Monday morning. Mrs. Cole said she was told it would be picked up soon.

Station only one of economic development's goals

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton City/County Economic Development is continuing to work towards downtown development and other goals even though they have spent time recently working on the Moffet station.

Economic development was founded five years ago by local leaders with the hopes of creating an organization to promote development in Norton County.

Norton City/County Economic Development serves Norton, Alma, Lenora, Clayton and Edmond.

Diane Styles, director, said funding is contributed by the five cities and Norton County.

Norton County contributes 59 percent, the city of Norton

contributes 40 percent, Alma and Lenora pay \$500 yearly and Clayton and Edmond pay \$100 yearly, she said.

Mrs. Stiles said Clayton and Edmond pay less because they do not receive as much service.

Representation on the board represents the monetary contribution of each represented entity. Norton County and the City of Norton each appoint four members. Alma, Lenora, Edmond and Clayton each appoint one member.

Chairperson Deena Wentz represents the City of Norton, Vice Chairperson Brad Hopkins represents Alma, Secretary Gayle James represents Lenora and Treasurer Barb Brooks represents Clayton.

Other board members include Jim Akers, Edmond; Carolyn

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Prices Gone CRAZY!

Crazy Day — Sat., August 1 in Norton! See Page 8 for Participating Businesses