

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



## Friday

### August 14, 2009

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Jack Ward

## Briefly

### Teachers' Welcome Picnic on Tuesday

The Norton School District's annual Teachers' Welcome Picnic is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m., in the 4-H Building adjacent to Elmwood Park. Co-sponsoring the event with the school district are the Norton Lions Club and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce. Welcome bags will be given to the eight new teachers. Fried chicken, rolls and drink will be furnished. Please bring two dishes, salad and dessert and your own table service. Lions Club members, returning school staff and school board members are asked to bring two dishes.

### School staff to be guests at breakfast

The annual Back to School Breakfast for all Norton School District staff will be held Aug. 20 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church. The event will be hosted by United Methodist Women to show appreciation for school personnel and welcome them back for the new school year.

### Delivery of meals Aug. 17-23 noted

Meals on Wheels will be delivered by community volunteers Aug. 17-23. Please be at the hospital by 11:30 a.m. Contact Alice Hawks 877-3351.

### Races Saturday

Next races at Elmwood Park Speedway are scheduled for Saturday. Pits open at 3 p.m., iron out track 4:00, hot laps 5:00, grandstand opens 5:30, pit, drivers meeting 6:00 and racing starts at 6:30.

## weather forecast

### SCATTERED SHOWERS

Tonight - A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 67. Saturday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 92. Saturday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 a.m. Sunday - Isolated thunderstorms.

### Kingham report:

Tuesday, August 11 ..... Low 59, High 91  
Wed., August 12 ..... Low 64, High 98  
Thursday, August 13 .... Low 54, High 96  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for answering our prayers in times of trouble and exasperation. May we learn to trust you totally in every moment of our life. Amen.



Norton County Sheriff's Deputy Larry Land, Norton Wildlife Area Manager Chris Mulder and Prairie Dog State Park Manager Steve Mathes discussed how to move the tractor from the accident site. The tractor belongs to wildlife and parks and was totaled in the accident with the Kyle Railroad train.

— Telegram photos by Erica Bradley

## Train, tractor involved in county accident

A Kyle Railroad train was involved Thursday morning in an accident southwest of Norton with a tractor belonging to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. No injuries were sustained, according to officials on the scene, but the tractor was demolished.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson, who is investigating the accident, told The Telegram late Thursday afternoon that the tractor was crossing the railroad tracks at 10:43 a.m. and was struck by the on-coming train.

The train struck the front end of the tractor and spun it off the tracks, causing extensive front-end damage. The train was not damaged.

Bernie Bowen was driving the tractor. This is the second incident in a matter of weeks involving a Kyle train. Early on the morning of Friday, July 24, 15,000 bushels of wheat were deposited on

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## Meeting discusses lobbyist for prison

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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The Norton City/County Economic Development Board met Tuesday night, discussing a range of topics from the Moffet building to hiring a lobbyist for the Norton Correctional Facility.

The lobbyist, Pinegar, Smith and Associates, would charge an estimated \$30,000

In an interview after the meeting, Diane Stiles, city/county economic develop-

ment director, said \$30,000 is a rough estimate.

She told the board that she has spoken to local business leaders to gauge their support for hiring a lobbying firm.

"They were very supportive. Unanimously supportive," she said.

Mrs. Stiles invited two local business leaders to the board meeting. First Security Bank President Karl Kohfeld and First State Bank CEO Norman Nelson explained why a lobbying firm should

be hired.

"There isn't anything that bothers me more than spending money on politics. But I don't think we have a choice," Mr. Nelson said.

Mr. Nelson said he believes Norton Correctional Facility is an important business, and closing it would be bad for the county.

"It would be a disaster," he said.

Norton Correctional Facility Warden Jay Shelton also attended the meeting. He

said he does not believe there is a lobbyist who can promise the facility can stay open, but he doesn't think it can hurt.

"I don't think it ever hurts to have someone speak well of you," he said.

Mr. Shelton discussed the prison's budget with the board. He said the Kansas Department of Corrections cut its budget by eight percent state-wide which closed the Stockton facility, two vocational programs and most of the general education

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## School district prepares for flu outbreak

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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The H1N1, or swine flu, virus is a big concern at schools all over the country, and the Norton School District Board is taking the necessary steps to prepare for an outbreak.

Superintendent Greg Mann told the board during last Monday's meeting that Norton has had no reports of swine flu yet, but he is taking precautions.

"We will have sanitizer and hand wipes

in place in every classroom. A lot of it is common sense," he said.

Mr. Mann said anyone who has symptoms of swine flu will be separated from the rest of the school until they can be picked up by a parent.

He said he is concerned about having to close the schools due to staff coming down with the virus.

"Our plan is to stay open as long as we can," he said.

Mr. Mann said he is participating in

meetings with county health officials and said schools will be the focus for vaccines.

In other school board business:

• Mr. Mann asked that the board adopt two new policies. Policy B604.7 would require a child to get a doctor's release to return to school if they have had any of the diseases on the Kansas List of Communicable Diseases. Mr. Mann said the list is always changing, and the list is available from the school nurse or one

of the principals. Policy B604.8 would require a student with head lice to be seen by the school nurse before returning to classes. The nurse would have to give permission to each student before they would be allowed to return. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Mr. Mann reported that the summer projects have been completed, vehicle inspections were done last week and staff will be taken to Phillipsburg on Monday

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