

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Tuesday

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Norm Walter

Briefly

City's Wednesday agenda released

Norton's city council meets Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the City Building. Items include action on building and demolition permits, discuss bid received for Phase II of the water plant project; third reading Charter Ordinance #11, exempting city from provisions of K.S.A. 14-201, only as it relates to specification of certain salaries by ordinance; city administrator's report; public safety committee meeting report; utility committee meeting report; finance committee meeting report; Chamber of Commerce meeting report; payment of bills; adjourn. The meeting is open to the public.

Back to School

Breakfast Thursday

The annual Back to School Breakfast for all Norton School District staff will be held Thursday 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.

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Weather forecast

Tonight - A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 61. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Wednesday - Mostly cloudy with a high near 87. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 59. Thursday - Mostly sunny with a high near 79. Thursday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 53.

Kingham report:

Friday, August 14 Low 65, High 93
Saturday, August 15 Low 64, High 94
1" Precipitation
Sunday, August 16 Low 59, High 80
2" Precipitation
Monday, August 17 Low 58, High 82
.25 Precipitation
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, open our eyes to your presence in places we least expect to see you. Amen



It almost looks like this giant Christmas tree was trying to get into the house, but the wind-driven storm Saturday night beat it to the punch, ripping it out of the ground and shoving it onto part of the roof of the home at 613 W. North Street. The wooden fence at the Dan Pfannenstiel

place, 612 W. Wilton, was no match for the storm (bottom photo). For your information, the trash container in the picture next to the fence didn't withstand the wind, it was picked up after the storm.

- top photo courtesy Carol Olliff; bottom photo by Dana Paxton

Wind was a 'wow!'

Saturday started as a typical August day — warm, humid and breezy. It stayed that way until late at night when a wind-driven storm accompanied by rain and some hail, downed leaves and branches and even some trees. Karolyn Kingham, nine miles northwest of town, had 2 inches of rain in her gauge when Saturday's storm was finally over. She added that the rain Friday night left 1 inch. "And Sunday night it rained again, leaving .25 of an inch," she said. That's 3.25 inches of rain in Norton County in three days. The wind was strong. While the National Weather Service at Goodland reported 62 mph gusts in the Norton area, local reports had gusts up in the 70-mph range. A Norton man reportedly told coffee drinkers that he knew it was really windy because his gauge blew away. Boxler Insurance adjuster David Davis said he has gotten an estimated six claims but expects that number to jump this week. He said most of the claims have been for wind and tree damage. Engel's Sales and Service Center said their front window was sucked out by the wind.



Water tower work brings note of caution

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson informs residents that some scheduled maintenance items could affect the city's drinking water for a few weeks. He said the city has hired the firm of Maguire Iron to repair and repaint the city's water tower on North Jones Street. The project was expected to begin today. The city administrator said the tank

will need to be drained and free of water during the painting phase and will need to cure for a total of 10 days before refilling. During this time period, water pressure will be maintained by using the city's pumping system at the water plant. "A pump will run continuously, providing pressure to the entire system; however, in the event of a power failure

the motor would stop running and water pressure would be lost," he said. "We don't anticipate any problems; however, there are many unexpected events that could occur that are beyond our control," he said. The project will conclude in approximately five weeks. During this time, the city recommends that residents keep an emergency supply of potable water for

drinking, health emergencies, and any other instance that might require use of potable water. "The city of Norton will take every precaution available to us to continue to provide service to you," Mr. Lawson said. Anyone with questions is urged to contact the city administrator at (785) 877-5000.

Tractor driver failed to yield

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The investigation into the collision between a Kyle railroad train and a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks tractor is nearing an end, with the Norton County Sheriff's Department saying the tractor driver failed to yield to the train. The train struck the tractor as it crossed the tracks west of Norton. Jacob Dougherty, Kyle Railroad Engineer, told the sheriff's department that the train was going 30 miles per hour and blew the horn before entering the intersection. He said the tractor had already entered the intersection. (Train - Continued on Page 5)

Meeting talks insurance

Blue Cross and Blue Shield reported health insurance premiums for county employees may go up but presented options to the Norton County Commission during their Aug. 10 meeting. Charles Krull, Blue Cross and Blue Shield representative, told the commission that early figures showed the county's health insurance will increase by 23 percent. Mr. Krull presented the commission with options to consider. He said the primary option is to raise deductibles, making the policy a high deductible plan. He said it would save premium dollars, but it will raise out-of-pocket expense. He said the only difference between the options is the out-of-pocket ex-

pense. In an interview after the meeting, Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt told The Telegram the county will take that plan, making deductibles higher. "We have to get our premium lower. It's the only option we have," he said. The commission viewed several charts showing the claims and payments for the current year. Mr. Krull also gave a report showing the areas that are driving the insurance increase. The commission will continue to discuss county health insurance. In other commission business: • Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan delivered (County - Continued on Page 5)

GOP ready for big Logan picnic

By DICK BOYD
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The 29th annual Phillips County Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan. The keynote speaker will be First District U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran who is a candidate for the U.S. Senate. Also invited are Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback, who is a candidate for governor, and other elected Kansas Republican officials. All six First District candidates for Congressman Moran's seat will be present and all will have booths set up from (GOP - Continued on Page 5)