

## Sink or swim



The water level at Sebelius Reservoir has risen several feet in the last few weeks, thanks to heavy rain. At Leota Cove, the entrance to the boat dock is partially submerged in water.

—Telegram photo by Harriett Gills

# Norton school district discusses state tests

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Each school made Annual Yearly Progress, but Norton Community Schools did not since too many special education students were allowed to take the Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures, an alternate form of the state assessment.

During the June 14 Norton Community Schools board of education meeting, Superintendent Greg Mann said the district did not meet Annual Yearly Progress.

In an interview after the meeting, Mann said the district will not have any new rules or regulations for next year.

“Whether it is the district or a building not making AYP, we must miss AYP two years in a row for there to be sanctions,” he said.

“We will have to do a better job of (a) determining who is to be allowed to take the test and (b) communicating between the buildings as to how many KAMM tests are being considered to be given,” he said.

In other school board business:

- Mann said most of the things from Lenora are here. The Legislative Post Audit will not do the efficiency audit due to budget cuts, he said.

- Norton Community High School Counselor Shane Miller

presented information about scholarships received by 2010 seniors.

- A motion was made to approve the recommended student members of the appreciation plaque. The members include: Billy Broeckelman, Rebekah Streck, Melinda Becker and Ryan Blecha. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to have the superintendent contact three adults to service on the committee. Adults that could be contacted include: Pam Shirk, Chad Manning, Joy Johnson, Nancy Hager and Steve Streck. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to adopt the 2010/11 student/parent handbook for Norton Community High School, Norton Junior High School and Eisenhower Elementary School. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to approve participation in the 2010/11 Head Start program through the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska and NWKESC. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to participate in the Federal School Nutrition program for the 2010/11 school year. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to increase student lunch price by 5 cents per meal with no change to the breakfast meal cost. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to have no change in the textbook rental and enrollment fees. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to set the mileage reimbursement rate at 26 cents per mile for staff using private vehicles on school business with prior approval. Vote taken, motion passed. A motion was made to set the mileage reimbursement rate at the state rate for parents who transport their children to school when they have an IEP and transportation is required. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to accept the bid from Boxler Insurance for the district’s property, inland marine, workmen’s compensation, liability and auto insurance at a cost of \$62,074 for the 2010/11 school year. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to accept the bid from Jim Gill Agency of Cherryvale for the district’s student accident insurance at a cost of \$13,317.50 for the 2010/11 school year. Vote taken, motion passed.

- Mann reported on board goal number 3, the school climate survey.

- Jeff Nielsen announced his resignation from the board, effective June 30. Mann thanked him for his years of service to the district.

# Practice caution when driving during harvest

The wheat is turning golden and the harvest season is set to begin.

Now’s an important time for drivers to exercise extra caution and patience when operating a motor vehicle around farm trucks, tractors, and combines.

Every year the Kansas Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies investigate numerous crashes between passenger vehicles and farm vehicles, many of which could have been prevented.

“Sharing the road with farm implements requires different precautions than sharing the road with passenger vehicles,” said Patrol Superintendent Col. Terry Maple.

“The time, space, and differences in vehicle operations need to be understood in order for our farmers to be kept safe, as well as

other motorists.”

Most farm equipment is not designed to travel at highway speeds, and may only be designed to travel 15-25 mph.

Farm equipment is often wider than other vehicles, and sometimes wider than the lane of traffic, so extra room should be allowed when traveling near a farm implement on the road.

Extra caution should be practiced on all roads, but especially on the busy rural roads with unmarked intersections.

Two years ago in the state of Kansas, 109 crashes involved farm equipment.

Two people were killed, and 42 injured. In the 10 years from 1998 to 2008, a total of 1,351 crashes involved farm implements and other vehicles.

In the 10 year time frame, 48 people were killed, and 493 in-

jured in those crashes.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when sharing roads with farmers:

- Don’t assume the farmer knows you’re there. Most operators of farm equipment regularly check for vehicles behind them, however most of their time must be spent looking ahead to keep the equipment safely on the road and to watch for oncoming traffic. Farm vehicles are extremely loud, often hindering the farmer’s ability to hear your vehicle.

- Pass with extreme caution. Do not pass a farm implement unless you can see clearly ahead of both your vehicle and the farm equipment you are passing.

If there are any curves or hills blocking your view of oncoming traffic, wait to pass until you can clearly visualize the area you’re passing in. Another important

thing to remember is you should not pass in a designated “No Passing Zone,” even if you are stuck behind a farm vehicle. Do not pass if you are within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevated structure or tunnel.

- Allow extra room when following farm equipment. With slow moving vehicles, a passenger vehicle can close in on the empty space much more quickly than you close in on a regular vehicle. Just because a farm vehicle pulls to the right side of the road does not mean it is turning right or allowing you to pass.

Due to the size of some farm equipment, the farmer must execute wide left turns, so when following a farm implement, allow it plenty of room and time to turn, and be alert to the surroundings to see if there might be a driveway or

field they are turning into.

- Be patient. Don’t assume a farmer can move aside to let you pass. Shoulders may be soft, wet or steep, which can cause the farm vehicle to tip, or the shoulder may not support the weight of a heavy farm vehicle.

The farmer understands you are being delayed and he or she will move over for you to pass at the first safe location available.

- Think of the slow moving vehicle emblem as a warning to adjust your speed.

When you see the slow moving vehicle emblem, you should immediately slow down. While the emblems are visible from a long

distance away, it is often difficult to judge the speed at which you are closing in on a vehicle, especially at night.

- Pay attention. Don’t allow yourself to be distracted by the radio, cell phones, other electronic devices or anything else while you are driving.

When you are not focused on the road, you increase your chances of a collision, especially if you should come upon a slow moving farm vehicle.

- Always wear seatbelts and use child safety seats. This is the best defense against injury and death should you be involved in a motor vehicle crash.

## Sheriff’s Log

**May 17**  
5:32 p.m. Advised Deputy Annon and Under Sheriff Wenzl of drag racing.

5:32 p.m. Received second call in reference to above drag racing, one vehicle is an older silver Mustang and the other is an older green Lexus.

5:32 p.m. Advised Deputy Annon and Under Sheriff Wenzl of vehicle descriptions.

**May 18**  
12:08 p.m. Received a call from reporting party that the County Grader Operator advised him by radio of a diesel or gas truck that had wrecked at Rd Q and W2 and reporting party advised could possibly have a hazardous material spill, reporting party does not have any other information at this time.

12:11 p.m. Advised Sheriff and Deputy of above accident.

12:20 p.m. Sheriff Thomson advised this was not an accident, driver just ripped fuel line loose and all units responding can slow down.

3:25 p.m. Received a report of an orange car that is weaving all over the roadway south of Norton approximately 4 miles and heading northbound on Highway 283.

3:26 p.m. Advised Deputy Bohl of above.

4:20 p.m. Received a 911 call from reporting party that she had hit a little girl with her car in

Almena.

5:26 p.m. Received a call from Mental health therapist from Hastings wanting to let us know she is looking for a female subject that left Valley Hope yesterday and has not reported to her office today and has not been home yet. She is very concerned the female subject is suicidal, gave information on car tag and color.

5:28 p.m. Advised Deputy Bohl in reference to above.

5:50 p.m. Received a call from female subject at Total in reference that someone had a check declined and this subject took check and drove off in a Red Chevy dually pickup. They will get more information and let us know.

5:51 p.m. Advised Deputy Annon in reference to above.

**May 19**  
7:13 a.m. Received call from Phillips County advising a roll-over accident on K9 between E12 and E13; no further information could be provided.

7:25 a.m. Public serviced Deputy Bohl and advised of above.

9:49 a.m. Advised Deputy Bohl of a vehicle that is stuck just south of reporting party residence on E2.

**May 21**  
1:18 a.m. Received a 911 call from subject advising that he hit a deer on Highway 383 almost to the roadside park and needed a report.

1:20 a.m. Advised Deputy Land of the above call.

9:56 a.m. Received call from subject reporting that she thinks her Dad’s building has been broken into and there are items hidden; put call through to Deputy Land.

9:57 a.m. Received call from subject reporting a black cow out in the middle of the road 2 miles east and 2 miles south of Norton.

10:02 a.m. Advised Deputy Land of above.

12:18 p.m. Received 911 call from male subject reporting an erratic driver east bound on Highway 36 just pulling into Norton. Vehicle is a red Ford F150 and has nearly caused an accident.

12:21 p.m. Advised Under Sheriff Wenzl of above.

9:13 p.m. Received a 911 call from reporting party in reference that someone is in a white pickup driving east bound on K9 just west of Edmond shot at the 55 mph sign.

9:18 p.m. Advised Deputy Bohl of above.

**May 22**  
8:41 a.m. Received a report of someone that has been inside an RV in Almena and rummaged through the RV, keys are missing and also they pried open another camper at location, door left wide open, reporting party is unknown if any items missing at this time.

8:42 a.m. Called and advised Deputy Bohl of above. He will

be en route.

7:30 p.m. Received call from reporting party about an older blue car sitting on Highway 383 in the curves right before the Highway 36/383 junction; has been there since 3:30-4 p.m.

7:34 p.m. Advised Deputy Bohl of above vehicle.

9:56 p.m. Deputy Bohl took a call from subject about two subjects being in another subject’s house and drinking. Subjects that live at house would like them to leave because they are not there and the subjects don’t have permission to be there.

10:16 p.m. Deputy Bohl called Officer DuBois and advised of call.

**Metcalf Real Estate**  
Homes for Sale in Norton




510 W. CRANE: Simplify your life with this 3 bedroom all one level home, living room, kitchen, utility room, new furnace and air conditioning. Single attached garage.

613 E. MAIN: Built in 1975, 2 story with basement entry, 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen and living room upstairs; 1 bedroom, 1 bath, large rec room and large living room in basement, concrete slab parking area.

*Check Out Our Website at [www.metcalf-realestate.com](http://www.metcalf-realestate.com)*  
**R.J. Metcalf Real Estate, Oberlin, KS • Broker, Kris Randel, 785-475-2111**  
**Duane McEwen, Listing Agent, Norton, KS • 785-877-3032**

### STOP THE CYCLE

**Did you know Kansas ranks higher than the national average for underage drinking in surveys of 8th, 10th and 12th graders?**

Youth under the age of 21 account for 25% of all admissions for alcohol abuse. It is estimated underage drinking cost Kansas citizens \$727 million in 2007. In FY09 treatment of alcohol abuse for underage persons cost Kansas over \$1.4 million. 29.2% of 10th graders and 42.4% of 12th graders report alcohol is easy to get.

**We need to stop the cycle.**

This isn’t about money, it is about the lives of our youth and the next generation. Report persons who are providing or allowing access to alcohol for underage persons. KSA 41-3610 makes it unlawful to host or allow minors access to alcohol with punishment of up to \$2,500 in fines and 1 year in jail. The social hosting law also makes you liable for minors accessing alcohol at your residence even without you being present.

**Get control. Be the adult. Just say NO.**

See [www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm](http://www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm) for more information