

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

10 PAGES

## Friday

### May 30, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Phyllis Annon

### Briefly

#### Cost-share funding sign-up ends June 13

The Norton County Conservation District will be holding sign-up for state cost-share funding, now through June 13. This program is designed to administer state cost-share programs through the conservation district, which provides landowners financial assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Practices eligible for cost-share under this program include terraces, diversions, range seeding, livestock pipeline and wells, feedlot and field windbreaks. Cost-share grants for practices that reduce the risk of water pollution will also be taken for plugging abandoned water wells, septic system up-grades and livestock waste systems.

Anyone wishing to apply, needs to stop by the Conservation office at 11640 Pineview Drive, Norton, or call 877-2623.

#### Locust tree control field day scheduled

The North Central Prairie Weed Management Area, along with the Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., is hosting a Water Quality/Locust Tree Control Field Day west of Glade at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 5. A free meal will be served at the site located four miles west of Glade on Highway 9 and two miles south on West 300 Road. Topics to be discussed include the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Program, chemical control of locust trees, water quality, and controlling locust trees with fire.

To make reservations for the day, call 785-425-6647 or send an e-mail to [teresa.webb@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:teresa.webb@ks.nacdnet.net).

### Weather

#### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 57. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a low around 59.

**Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 59. **Sunday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Monday** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with a high near 86.

#### Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 44, High 50, .12 Prec.  
Wednesday... Low 44, High 57, .20 Prec.  
Thursday ..... Low 57, High 89, .10 Prec.  
Friday ..... Low 58, .25 Prec.  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Lord, teach us to enjoy the gift of life you have given us. **Amen**

## City's highlights 'high' lighted



The light poles on the west side of upper State Street in Norton are now adorned with a variety of decorative scenes created by Roger and Linda Fuller of Rawhide Iron Works. The one pictured above depicts the home-owned carnival. These metal scenes were purchased through the Norton County Community Foundation. If a family or individual would like to purchase a scene in memoriam, orders may be placed with the Fullers at Rawhide Ironworks. The scenes will also hold banners and will be in place throughout the year.

— Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

## Norton County among 59 declared

### Governor acts in wake of damage caused by storms

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Norton County is one of 59 counties Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had in mind when she signed a State of Disaster Emergency declaration as a result of the weather chaos of late last week.

Tornadoes, high winds, hail, lightning, severe thunderstorms and flooding kept residents of most of western Kansas on edge. Dozens of tornadoes touched down, many roads were washed out, structures damaged and injuries and deaths occurred.

Sharon Watson, Director of Public Affairs for the Adjutant General's Department, listed the following area counties included in the declaration: Graham, Decatur, Phillips, Rawlins, Gove, Cheyenne, Rooks, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Trego.

According to Watson, the declaration activates the disaster response and recovery portion of the Kansas Response Plan. It also notes that the disaster period is ongoing and federal assistance may be requested.

Damage estimates, tentative at this time, have been placed in excess of \$8 million. Director Watson explained that exact figures are unknown in many areas due to the continuing nature of the storm system, and the inability to go into the field in many counties due to ongoing flooding and road damage.

She said most damages appear to be to public infrastructure. She said damages to private property will likely not reach the threshold to qualify residents for individual assistance.

Some of the reports coming into the Adjutant General's Department, Watson said, include:

- Norton County, where officials report approximately \$500,000 in damages to roads and an unknown value on private

## 'Fun in the dirt' to kick off Walking Trail project

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Here we go!  
The Lenora Walking Trail, at least a year in the making, is now at show and

go time.

Everybody is urged to bring tools to initiate Phase I of the 3-phase project. The action gets underway Saturday in Lenora's Larrick Park at 5:30 p.m.

A circular posted here at *The Telegram* office says it all, "Bring the entire family for a BBQ and a little fun in the Dirt!"

Diane Becker, Director of Norton City/County Economic Development, said

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued on Page 5)

## Problems holding up approval

By TOM DREILING  
[tom.d@nwkansas.com](mailto:tom.d@nwkansas.com)

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson told the city council at their May 21 meeting that he received a letter from Mike Baird of BRB Contractors, regarding issues at the wastewater plant and what they are doing to solve those problems.

Mr. Lawson said he has hired an independent engineering firm to review the layout, and has hired an independent firm to check the pumps. The plant has been online since September 2007 and it has not been approved yet because of the problems that keep occurring.

"The pumps are running, but they are showing excessive wear and Mark Mayer of EnviroLine Co., Inc., cannot tell us why," Mr. Lawson said. "BRB is investigating the problems and hopes to have some answers in the next few weeks."

He also said they have offered to pay overtime resulting from the problems.

Councilman Ron Briery said he was against awarding the sewer plant contract without a set of plans and he thinks the \$1,000 per day penalty should be assessed.

Other comments by the city administrator were:

A power plant operator has submitted his written resignation and will be leaving Sept. 30. Another employee may be considering retirement around the same time. A motion by Councilwoman Elaine Mann and seconded by Councilwoman Kim Snyder to authorize the city administrator to advertise for a power plant

operator trainee, was approved.

He said the water plant project is going well, and BRB Contractors is 92 percent done with Phase 1. He said they plan to put the water plant online within the next few weeks.

He said the metal banners on State Street have been put up and look "very nice." The banners were donated by private individuals and recognition plates will be put on the banners in the future.

Other council business:

- Twila Dizmang, with the Conservation District, was present to request that they be allowed to have a WRAPS informational booth during the Norton Car Show on July 12 in the downtown area. Motion was made by Councilman Ron Briery and seconded by Councilman Jeff Otter to approve the request. Vote taken. Motion carried.

- Tim Bashford said the Boy Scouts are having a day camp in Elmwood Park on May 30-31; they camp out May 30 and events are scheduled for May 31. Motion was made by Mrs. Mann and seconded by Mr. Otter to allow the Boy Scouts to set tents to camp out in Elmwood Park. Vote taken. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Mr. Briery and seconded by Mrs. Snyder to waive the formal second reading of Ordinance #1574, accepting the dedication of the public right-of-way for a city street, opening an official city street, establishing a street description and minimum widths, providing for the dedication of the proposed street for a public purpose and establishing a

(Continued on Page 5)

## Will the real Mr. Roy...



On Tuesday, during the last week of school at Eisenhower Elementary, a Mr. Roy Look-A-Like contest was held. Dozens of students donned neckties and Dockers, imitating the principal's "look". The winner of the contest stood beside Mr. Roy to show the resemblance. Teacher JaLynn Urban is on the left and the "real" Mr. Roy is on the right.

— Courtesy photo