

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

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Norton, Kansas  
Home of Dr. Glenda Maurer

Briefly

## Firemen treated for heat exhaustion

A couple of Norton firemen were treated for heat exhaustion at the scene by Norton County Emergency Medical Technicians, while the fire department battled a house fire at 331 W. Main earlier this month. The house is owned by John Little and rented by Bette Rossouw. Fire Chief Mitch Jones said the fire started in the bedroom, but the cause has yet to be determined.

Chief Jones said firefighters had the blaze knocked down in short order and said it was contained within 10 minutes. He said he called for assistance from the Lenora Fire Department and Norton Rural District No. 2 due to the heat and humidity. Chief Jones said the mop-up took about two hours. Other than the firemen treated for heat exhaustion, there were no other injuries.

Damage estimates are not known at this time.

## Relay for Life starts at 6 this evening

The Norton County Relay For Life fund raising event will be held this evening and Saturday at Elmwood Park. Registration of survivors, their families and the Relay Teams begins at 6 p.m. Pizza, furnished by Norton Pizza Hut, will be served to this group.

The opening ceremony and Survivor Lap will begin at 7 p.m. The community is urged to attend and cheer on this group of individuals who have come to celebrate their ability to fight back and continue with life.

The luminary ceremony, with hundreds of white bags lit from within and lining the track, will begin at 10 p.m. These bags represent not only those who lost their battle with cancer but honor those who have survived.

Relay for Life is a 12-hour event concluding at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Weather

## Forecast:

**Tonight** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 88. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 61. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 92. **Sunday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Monday** — A 20 percent chance of showers.

## Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 54, High 88  
Wed..... Low 55, High 86, 2.20 Prec.  
Thursday ..... Low 54, High 83, .30 Prec.  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, remind us often that you place specific people in our path not as an inconvenience but as an opportunity to bless someone. **Amen**

# Tornado scare shakes community

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

Wednesday evening's weather conditions found many Norton County people taking shelter.

One of those was Karolyn Kingham, who lives nine miles northwest of Norton and maintains the weather records for The Telegram.

"When it gets like it was Wednesday evening, you don't fool around," Mrs. Kingman said. "I went to the basement."

She said she could see the clouds rotating, and described the rain as coming down hard and winds very strong. She said there wasn't enough hail to even mention.

Her rain gauge showed 1.50 inches from the Wednesday evening storm, and that, coupled with .70 of an inch Tuesday, gave her 2.20 inches for this week alone.

In the City of Norton, the sirens went off after the tornado warning was issued, followed shortly after with the telephone

contact my the sheriff's department warning of the tornado alert.

The skies were threatening. The National Weather Service's radar indicated conditions were ripe for a possible tornado.

Strong winds and pounding rains did occur, but, according to the National Weather Service office in Goodland, no tornadoes were reported in Norton County or in neighboring Decatur County.

However, a spokesman at the National Weather Service said they had reports of

a tornado on the ground in Red Willow County, Neb., just west of McCook.

The cloud build up started around mid-afternoon Wednesday. By around 5:30, conditions started looking shaky. Computer radar showed a severe storm in the McCook, Neb., area, moving south-southeast. The movement put the storm on a path that included Norton County.

By around 6 p.m., or shortly thereafter, the sirens went off and people took cover. Approximately 20 minutes later, the all-clear was given.

## Worst months for lightning injuries, deaths have arrived

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

Coming up next week — June 22-28 — is an observance that, if taken seriously, could save your life.

Simply put, it's "Lightning Safety Awareness Week."

The National Weather Service in Goodland told The Telegram on Wednesday, that they will issue public information statements discussing a different aspect of lightning each day. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (better known as NOAA) Weather Radio stations throughout this area will also play these short information segments.

The Goodland weather office said, "The Fourth of July holiday is fast approaching, a time when people are outdoors at picnics, at the lake, playing baseball and attending parades and fireworks displays. Many lightning fatalities and injuries occur this time of year, which is one reason why late June is chosen as a time to promote lightning safety nationally."

Statistics for the State of Kansas show that most deaths by lightning from 1959 through 2007 occurred in July, with August right behind. During this time, Kansas recorded 15 deaths in July and 14 in August. May and June accounted for 10 each. Injuries from lightning, from 1959-2007, showed 51 in July, 37 in September and 36 in August. June accounted for 31.

The only months not recording deaths by lightning in Kansas were January, February, March and December. There

were no injuries in January, February and December.

Keep this in mind as we enter the months when most injuries and deaths from lightning occur, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Nationwide, an average of 62 people are killed by lightning each year. In 2007, nationally, 45 people were struck and killed and hundreds injured. Of those killed, 98 percent were outside; 89 percent were male; 30 percent were males between the age of 20-25; 25 percent were standing under a tree; and 25 percent occurred on or near the water.

The National Weather Service points out that the reported number of injuries is likely far lower than the actual total number because many people do not seek help or doctors do not record it as a lightning injury.

People struck by lightning, the National Weather Service says, suffer from a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms, including memory loss, attention deficits, sleep disorders, numbness, dizziness, stiffness in joints, irritability, fatigue, weakness, muscle spasms, depression and an inability to sit for long.

It may sound astonishing, but the National Weather Service says there are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes each year.

What can you do?

• Watch for developing thunderstorms. These are most likely to develop on spring or summer days, but can occur year round. As the sun heats the air, pockets

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Lightning can injure and it can kill. We are in the months when these tragedies are the greatest. The accompanying story details how to handle situations that arise due to lightning.

— Photo for The Telegram by Evan Barnum

## Commissioners not sold on buying recycling bags in bulk

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
[c.haynes@nwkansas.com](mailto:c.haynes@nwkansas.com)

It probably isn't cost effective to buy bags in bulk for recycling.

Although Norton County is dedicated to recycling and helping the City of Norton with its efforts, the Norton County commissioners said on Monday, purchasing thousands of recycling sacks from an outside supplier was not the way to go.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald brought the commissioners figures he had gathered for bulk purchase of the bags. The minimum order is 10,000 bags, he said, and the cost would be \$162 per thousand or \$1,620 for an order. If the bags were printed with the names of the city and county the cost would go up to \$183 per thousand.

The city was hoping to cost share with the county with each paying half the cost, he said. However, the city only needs 1,200 bags to cover its households.

Even at one bag per household per week, he said that's a lot of bags and most households wouldn't fill a bag a week with recyclables.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said he thought the city should just go to a store in town and buy the bags it needs. That would be more cost effective, he said, even though the bags get cheaper per bag the more you buy.

"You might get a good price if you bought 10 million, but what are you going to do with them?" he asked. "You'd have to build a building to put the bags in."

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## Damaged road work continues

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
[c.haynes@nwkansas.com](mailto:c.haynes@nwkansas.com)

The state of Norton County roads has consumed a lot of the county commissioners' time and energy since heavy rains caused flooding in parts of the county last month.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan told the commissioners on Monday that his crews are still busy opening roads and making needed repairs on bridges and tubes under roads.

Two bridges have been completed, he said, and the crew will start on another one as soon as the weather clears since it was rainy on Monday.

"We're about two or three days ahead of schedule," he said.

However, no matter how fast they work, he noted, more problems keep cropping up.

"We're still finding roads that are damaged," Mr. Brannan said. "Since last week there's probably another 15 miles we've added to the list."

The commissioners said they understood and figured that more problems would be found as the crews had time to inspect the less traveled areas and bridges.

Mr. Brannan said that three state and one federal official from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were here last week to look over the problem.

They talked to him for about three hours and looked at all his pictures, he said.

They are supposed to return, he said, although he didn't know when. However, last week they gave the county some hints on what can be claimed and what cannot, he said.

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Next! Lined up to give blood during Tuesday's Red Cross Blood Drive were from front to back: Lee Ann Shearer, and Dave Ashley. The next blood drive will be in August.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Latest blood drive tops goal

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
[cplotts@nwkansas.com](mailto:cplotts@nwkansas.com)

It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off a blood drive.

Anthony Knoll was the coordinator of the Red Cross blood drive held from noon to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday at the Norton American Legion. He said there were four receptionists who checked in the donors, four people who helped load and unload supplies for the Red Cross staff, eight who escorted donors to the canteen after they had donated, plus several canteen volunteers. Richard Wiltfong coordinated

the canteen volunteers.

But he said all the hard work paid off. The goal for the blood drive was 127 units. Mr. Knoll said 130 units were donated, besides six potential donors who were deferred for various reasons. He said there were five first-time donors.

The Red Cross staff provided all the cookies and chips plus the supplies for making all the ham and cheese sandwiches.

Mr. Knoll said the next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Aug. 13 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center.