

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



## Friday

### June 24, 2011

## Briefly

### Clinic dedication set for Sunday

The ribbon cutting for the new Norton Medical clinic will take place this Sunday at 2 p.m. Tours of the new facility will be available.

### Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

Community volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels delivery until next Friday. Please call the Norton County Hospital's dietary department at 785-877-3351 for more information.

### Don't forget to vote for Catchy Award

The Fourth Annual Catchy Awards have been launched by CatchItKansas.com. Tawni Griffey of Norton has been nominated as the Girls Tennis Player of the Year.

Voting runs through July 31. The poll can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.catchitkansas.com/aboutus/catchys/>

### Huelskamp to visit Norton on Monday

Congressman Tim Huelskamp will hold a town hall meeting Monday at the Norton Town and Country Kitchen, starting at 2 p.m.

### Reminder for Norcat families

Norton U.S.D. #211 would like to remind parents of children who reside in Norcat, and who will be attending the Norton Schools in the 2011-12 school year that out of district transportation using applications need to be sent to the Oberlin School District Office. Current statutes allow the Norton buses to enter Norcat to pick up students providing the student's application has been filed with the Oberlin School District.

## Markets

Friday, June 24, 2011

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Wheat    | .....\$6.84  |
| Milo     | .....\$6.02  |
| Soybeans | .....\$12.55 |
| Corn     | .....\$6.63  |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - A slight chance of thunderstorms. Saturday - Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the morning. Sunday - Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 90s. Monday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

## Kingham Report

Tuesday, June 21 .....Low 55, High 80  
.30 Rain  
Wednesday, June 22.....Low 55, High 90  
Thursday, June 23 .....Low 52, High 93  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm  
9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Please make us more aware, dear Lord, of daily reminders of your call to give - even when the calls come from never-dreamed-of people and places. Amen

# Monday tornadoes leave path of destruction, but cause few injuries

By Carleen Bell  
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Local emergency response personnel have reported this week that severe storms and tornadoes that swept through the area early Monday afternoon have left extensive damage to areas of Norton County, but no severe injuries.

According to preliminary reports from the National Weather Service office in Goodland, the storms blowing through northwest Kansas Monday afternoon included severe thunderstorms and tornados in the counties of Wallace, Logan, Sheridan, Cheyenne, Gove, Graham, Dundy, Norton and Red Willow.

The Goodland office website at [www.crh.noaa.gov](http://www.crh.noaa.gov) reports that the storms in Norton County included at least eight separate tornadoes spotted by citizens, trained weather spotters and law enforcement officials.

Though official damage reports were not available Thursday afternoon, Norton County Public Information Officer Robert Wyatt reported that even Thursday morning, reports of damage were still coming into county officials.

"As of (Thursday) morning there continues to be damages reported and we are sure not all damage has been identified," Wyatt said. "At this time an estimate in damages has not been completed due to the volume being reported. We will continue to work with those affected by the storms."

Even with extensive property damage, particularly northeast of Alma where at least one house was reduced to a pile of rubble and another had a portion of its roof torn off, local EMS personnel said Tuesday that no major injuries were reported as a result of the storms.

"We didn't have any patients to transport at all," said Jane Wyatt, Norton County EMS Director. "We triaged injuries on the scene and all the patients were code green, which means their injuries weren't severe enough for them to be transported to a hospital."

Though no serious injuries were reported, at least one Alma family narrowly escaped a tragic situation when a tornado struck their home northeast of Alma on Highway 383.

Catrina David was at home at about 2 p.m. Monday

afternoon with her four young children while her husband, Preston, was working in Alma. When Alma's tornado sirens sounded at 2 p.m., Preston called his wife to tell her to take the kids to the basement because the sirens were going off.

With the hail, the David children asked to say a prayer and the end of the prayer, David said, was the beginning of some terrifying minutes for her and her children.

She relates that they could hear pieces of the house start to fly apart with windows breaking and boards



Among the multiple tornadoes spotted Monday afternoon was this funnel east of Alma off Highway 383. Several homes near Alma were damaged or destroyed when

tornadoes and severe thunderstorms swept through northwest Kansas.

—Courtesy photo by Terry Nelson

"At 2:44, I told my husband that there was nothing going on and that the weather was clear," David said. "Right after that, the hail started. It was pea-sized hail and it was coming from all directions. It was cracking the windows and that's when I knew something was really wrong."

separating. "The sound reminded me of a semitruck going fast down a road with everything creaking and rattling," she said. "I was sitting on a chair with our 2-year-old on

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## Head-on vehicle collision claims Norton County life

By Carleen Bell  
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A two-vehicle crash west of Phillipsburg Wednesday morning has left a Norton County man dead and one other driver critically injured.

According to a crash report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Jacob A. Gallentine, 20, of Alma was driving his 1997 Chevy Cavalier eastbound on Highway 36, two miles west of Phillipsburg just after 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. Gallentine's vehicle crossed the center line and struck headon a 1998 Dodge Caravan, driven by Piper Ladow, 32, of Smith Center. Gallentine's vehicle came to rest facing southwest on its wheels on the south shoulder and Ladow's vehicle overturned and came to rest on its top, facing southwest in the north ditch.

Gallentine was transported to the Phillips County Phillipsburg Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 9:01 a.m.

Ladow was also transported to the Phillips County Hospital and later transported to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Ladow's vehicle was also carrying two passengers, who are listed as Ryan Ladow, 29, and Triston Stewart, 10. Ryan Ladow was treated and released from the Phillips County Medical Center and Triston Stewart was uninjured in the crash.

None of the drivers or passengers involved were wearing safety restraints at the time of the crash.

## Citizens urged to register for Vulnerable Needs database

With the ever-present potential for disasters like severe storms during the summer months, The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is urging residents who have special electricity needs to register with the Vulnerable Needs Planning System.

According to information from the Kansas Adjutant General, the planning tool is intended to assist emergency management professionals and volunteers to better meet the needs of vulnerable persons and the facilities that serve them.

Norton County Emergency Management Director Justina Smith reported to the Norton County Board of Commissioners Monday morning that any local citizens who need constant access

to utility services, such as electricity, for oxygen, mobility, or other health care concerns are asked to sign up for the registry, which creates a database for emergency response personnel. Disaster response teams can access the database to better triage their services to restore utility and emergency services to the citizens who most urgently need help.

Registration for individuals with vulnerable needs are asked to register, free of charge, for the Vulnerable Needs Planning System at [www.helpmekansas.org](http://www.helpmekansas.org). Registration can also be completed by calling 211 from a home phone.

The registry is administered through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

# Medical Clinic to host grand opening ceremony

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

After operating the new clinic for just over a month, leaders of the Norton Medical Clinic will host a grand opening and dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 26 at the facility. The ceremony is slated for 2 p.m. with an open house to follow until 5 p.m. The new medical clinic is located at 807 North State Street, adjacent to the Norton County Hospital.

Norton County Hospital Administrator Rich Miller explained that hospital leaders and Trustees began discussing the construction of a new medical clinic more than two years ago because space and facilities were becoming a major concern at the old clinic, known as Doctors Medical Clinic. The old clinic was constructed in the mid-1960's with an addition in the mid-1990's.

"We looked at the possibility of a new clinic, which seemed like a better option than expanding the existing facility," Miller said. "We needed to think about privacy, regulations, efficiency and the advantages of being connected to the hospital building."

Clinic Manager Amy Griffey explained that one of the major problems was accessible parking at the old clinic, especially for handicapped parking spaces.

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(Right) Aidan Baird of Windmill Farms of Alma helps lay the final pieces of sod on the west side of the new parking lot at the Norton Medical Clinic. The Clinic will host a grand opening celebration Sunday at 2 p.m.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

