

# Norton County designated as Natural Disaster Area

The United States Department of Agriculture has designated Norton and surrounding counties as primary natural disaster areas due to losses of wheat and forage crops caused by drought, excessive heat and high winds that occurred from Jan. 1, and continuing. Those counties affected are Norton, Phillips and Graham.

"Assistance at this point and time is critically important for Kansas producers, especially in helping them keep their farmland healthy for the remainder of the year," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I realize that during this time of disaster, federal assistance will be needed until conditions improve as farmers strive to recover their losses."

Farmers and ranchers in Decatur, Rooks and Sheridan also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

These counties were designated natural disaster areas June 23 making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible

counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Farm Service Agency has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

United States Department of Agriculture also has made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local United States Department of Agriculture Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

## 4K for Cancer team to visit Norton

The 4K for Cancer bikers (the San Francisco team), comprised of 27 riders, are riding into Norton on Wednesday, June 29.

The 4K for cancer mission is to cycle, inspire and unite. Their website and organization details can be found at [www.4kforcancer.org](http://www.4kforcancer.org).

Three groups of bikers left Baltimore, Md. on May 29. Their destinations are Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, arriving Aug.

6. They ride 80-100 miles per day to make their daily destination.

The details of each route and the personal biography and blogs of the riders can be accessed through the 4K site by clicking "Follow Us."

All of the riders have been affected some way by cancer and some riders are even battling the disease themselves.

The San Francisco team is staying overnight in Norton on

Wednesday.

Lodging is being provided by The Norton Junior High School. Dinner on Wednesday is provided by Pizza Hut.

Breakfast on Thursday will be pancakes.

To view daily progress of the team, visit <http://4kforcancer.org/follow-us/2011-baltimore-to-san-francisco/>

## Nationals

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by all shooters.

Firing from the sitting and kneeling positions will take place on Sunday morning.

The Barter Bar, during which marksmen, parents and coaches exchange gifts from their respective states, will be held from 2:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Awards Ceremony will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Having won the championship eight times and finished high in the running many, many more times, the Norton County BB Gun Team is well known in national shooting circles.

### Norton BB Gun Museum

Since assuming sponsorship following the dissolution of the original sponsor, the Norton Jaycees, the Rotary Club has established a Norton BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway. The museum displays the rich history of the Norton shooting education and marksmanship program.

Norton has won the state championship 38 times, more than any other Kansas community. The young Blue Jay shooters placed third in this year's Kansas State Rifle Association State Shoot in Alma.

The top three teams in each state shoot qualify for the national championships. In recent years, the Kansas 4-H has also sponsored BB gun shooting teams and the top three in their state shoot also qualify for what has in recent years, with the absence of teams from other nations, become the national shoot.

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000, placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. In 2008, Norton finished runner-up in shooting and fifth overall. Last year's Norton County Rotary team placed ninth.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. The written test will contain questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule Book.

### Team members

Norton's team members and their ages are: Cameron Heikes, 13; Dalton Vanover, 13; Trenton Sprague, 12; Justis Posson, 11 and Scott Sansom, 10. Alternates are James Berry, 12 and Dallas Gosselin, 10.

Sixth year head coach of the Norton County team is Cameron Archer. His assistant coach is Shawn Gosselin and Chandra McKenna is the classroom instructor for the second straight year. Other adult helpers have been Keri Vanover, Jodi Sprague, Joni Berry, Kendra Heikes, Steve Sprague and Rodney Sansom.

Trenton Sprague and Justis Posson were alternates on the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team in the

National Shoot last year. James Berry shot last year as a member of the Norton County team. Rules state that no shooter can compete in the national shoot in consecutive years but this rule does not include alternates, so Posson and Sprague are eligible this year and Berry is not but is going as an alternate.

As in the past, Norton has been involved in the BB gun program long enough that several shooters are second generation marksmen.

The only second generation shooter on the team going to Rogers this week is Dalton Vanover. His mother, Keri, who will be along as the scorer for the team, was also a Norton shooter.

The Norton team scheduled its final pre-shoot practice for this evening in the Norton BB Gun Museum building. The team has been practicing twice a week the last two months and the marksmen have also been practicing shooting at home.

### Coach's comments

"We are shooting more consistently than we were at the state shoot," said head coach Archer.

"If our guns hold together, we should be okay. We're looking for a top ten finish is we shoot like we are capable of.

"Our youngsters are doing very well on the written test, too. They know the material and will just need to concentrate so they understand each test question.

"I am happy to have Chandra back teaching in the classroom. She went through our program and was an outstanding shooter for us. She also shot competitively in college."

A perfect score on the written test would be 20 percent of the total possible points in the shoot. The written test can make or break a team. Norton always concentrates on the written test during practices.

### Began in October

Norton's preparation for regional, state and national shoots began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, they began practicing marksmanship and studying for the written test.

The program was designed to introduce young shooters to the basics of safe gun handling and marksmanship. About 250,000 young people take part in the program each year. The safety program is based on a format proposed by the late Norton Jaycees member Duane Winder. It was adopted nationwide when Daisy and the U.S. Jaycees began the program.

"The community has supported this program because they know it passes on to the children and parents the proper safety knowledge of hunting," said coach Archer.

"These youngsters have stepped it up in both the classroom and shooting since the state shoots. They'll do the best they can and will make a strong showing."

## Moran

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and the current administration has chosen greater regulations and higher costs for businesses."

Senator Moran also expressed a concern for energy development and the nation's dependence on foreign energy like oil. He explained that he would like to see more emphasis on developing domestic industry sources like natural gas and petroleum.

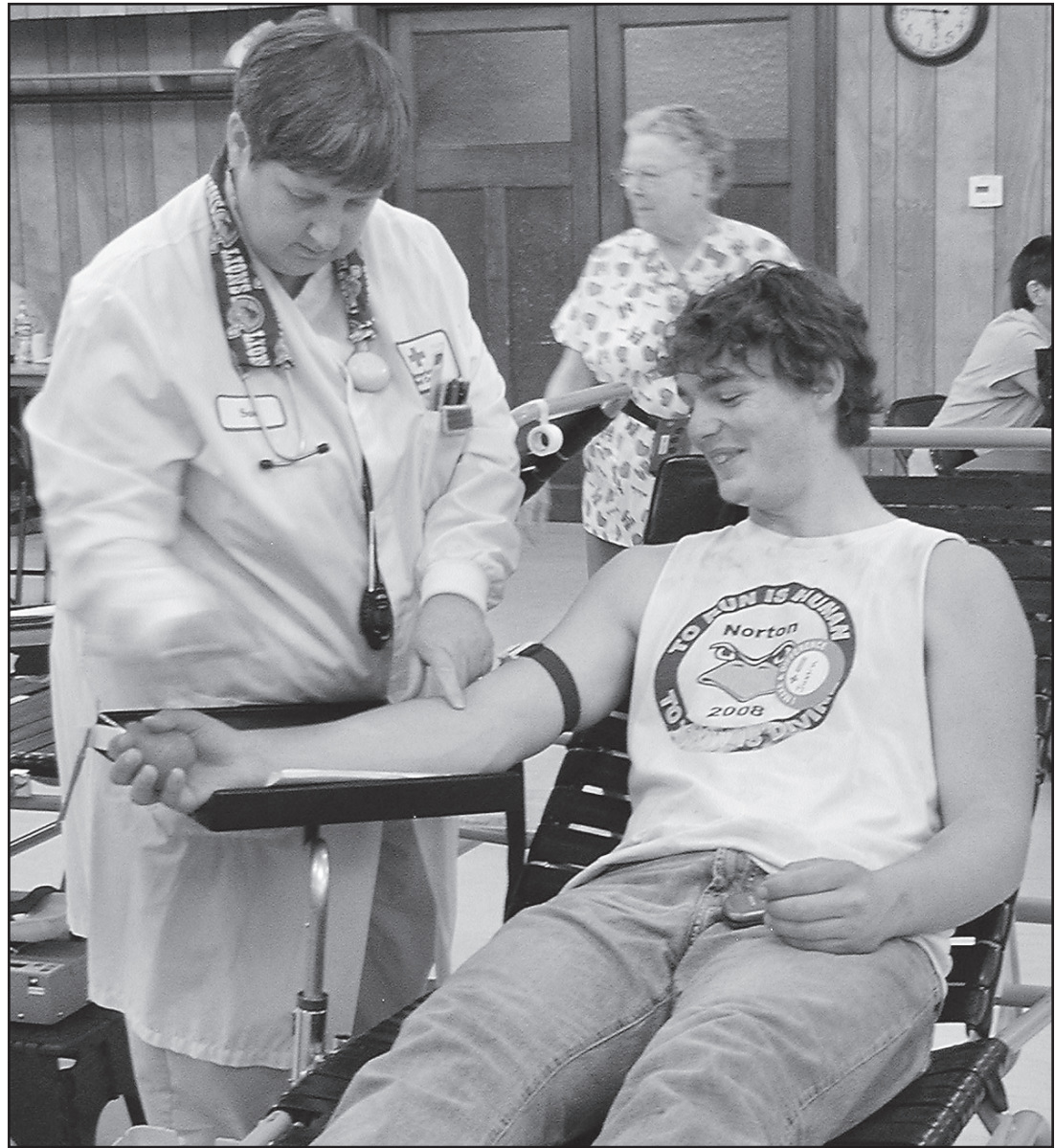
"We need policies to encourage domestic energy development," he said. "We are so dependent on foreign oil that it affects foreign policy and how our nation interacts with the world."

All in all, Moran said, he is very pleased with his experience in traveling the state on his listening tour and praises Kansans for their dedication to the future.

"I want to make sure the people of Kansas know that I haven't

forgotten them now that I'm a Senator," he said. "The greatest issues for Kansans are the deficit and spending, but I see that they really care about their children and grandchildren. They aren't asking what I can do for them, but what I can do help make sure their grandchildren can live the American dream. I love the long-term view that Kansans have."

## Saving a life



Justin Griffith of Norton does his civic duty by donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive held at the Norton Legion last Friday. Over 100 people came in to donate the gift of life.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Technology

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information about their service calls. "We do a 10-point check at each service call and plug that information into the computer," Patterson said. "We can also plug in test results like the contents of a septic tank and the program sets up a maintenance contract and schedule for us. We are the only

company using this program to provide septic services."

Since opening in March, Patterson has been in the process of renovating a set of three adjoined spaces at 111 South Second Street in Norton. The building, incorporating three separate spaces, has been fitted with a new roof and over the coming months, the

spaces will become an office/shop area, a public use area with offices, and a warehouse and showroom for tanks and equipment.


Septic Tech can be reached at 111 S. Second Avenue or by phone at 785-871-8324. More information can also be found online at [www.septictech.org](http://www.septictech.org).



# Attention Norton and Almena Residents:

Nex-Tech will be replacing the battery on the outside of your house throughout the summer. This replacement will not require entry into your home, only access to the outside equipment, and will be completed free of charge.

If you have any questions, please call your local Nex-Tech store at **785-877-4135**.



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