

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday  
June 19, 2012

## Briefly

### Norton Thunder to hold a fund-raiser

The Norton Thunder 16 and Under softball team will hold a fund-raiser on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Downtown Carwash. Freewill donations will be accepted for the automatic car wash. Team members will dry vehicles and operate a bake sale.

### BB Gun team will be hosting trap shoot

The Norton Rotary BB Gun Team will host the third annual Wobble Trap Shoot on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Blackpowder Range. Entry fee is \$5 per round and participants should bring their own guns and ammunition. Rocks will be supplied and a lunch stand will be available. All ages are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Chandra McKenna at 785-871-1314.

### Musician planning program at library

Norton native Randy Sauer will present an entertaining and interactive music program on Thursday at the Norton Public Library. The program is planned for 10:30 a.m. and children of all ages are invited to attend. The program is presented by the Norton Public Library, Friends of the Library and the Hems-worth Foundation.

### Learning Center plans graduation

The USD 211 Learning Center will hold a graduation ceremony Friday evening at the East Campus auditorium. The ceremony honoring three graduates will be held at 7 p.m. with a reception for the graduates to follow at the USD 211 Learning Center at 126 South State Street.

### Blood drive set for this Wednesday

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Wednesday from noon-6 p.m. at the 4-H building in Norton.

## Markets

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Wheat	.....\$6.13
Milo	.....\$5.63
Soybeans	.....\$13.26
Corn	.....\$6.39

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Wednesday - Mostly sunny and not as warm. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon with highs in the lower 80s. Thursday - Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s.

## Kingham Report

Friday, June 15	.....Low 58, High 92
Saturday, June 16	.....Low 61, High 92
Sunday, June 17	.....Low 62, High 100
Monday, June 18	.....Low 66, High 106

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God of our deliverance, help us to overcome the challenges we all face on our physical and spiritual journeys. Amen

# Thunderstorm brings damaging winds



**By Carleen Bell**  
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Though bringing much-needed moisture, a severe thunderstorm that swept through the area brought damaging wind and up to quarter-sized hail to much of Norton County Thursday evening.

Norton County Emergency Management Coordinator Justina Smith reports that the northeastern part of the county was hit worst with Norton and Alma sustaining the most damage from winds that may have been as high as 90 miles per hour. Much of Norton lost power during the storm and, for some customers, wasn't

restored until overnight Thursday and into Friday morning.

Several damage incidents were reported from the storm around the county. Smith reported that shingles and siding were torn from houses, car windows were broken and tree limbs were down throughout the area, some of which fell onto power lines. A camper was blown onto its side near the Norton airport and a semi truck and trailer southwest of Norton was blown off the road and rolled over.

No injuries were reported from the storm and up to eight tenths of an inch of rain fell in some areas of the county.

(Top) The tarp roof at Ag Valley's grain storage building just east of Norton was ripped off Thursday evening in high winds from the storm. (Right) A large limb near the Norton swimming pool fell into the toddler pool at the facility Thursday evening, and was removed Thursday evening. Minimal damage was reported at the pool.

—Telegram photos by Dana Paxton



# Redistricting maps changing election line-ups

**By Kevin Bottrell**  
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Maps drawn by federal judges in Kansas City left Norton's state Senate district with two incumbents and put the county in a new House district with no incumbents at all.

Maps proposed in the Legislature would have avoided the head-to-head election matchups, but none of them was ever passed. A fight over control of the Senate between conservative and moderate Republicans left the redistricting process up to the courts.

That means Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, a

long-time incumbent Republican from Grinnell, and Sen. Allen Schmidt, a Hays Democrat, both now live in Ostmeyer's 40th District, which shrinks from 17 counties to 13 1/2 but now takes in Democratic-leaning Hays.

"This is bad for Kansas," State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer said last week, summing up the opinions of many state officials toward the redistricting maps handed down by three federal judges nearly two weeks ago.

"I'm tremendously disappointed," he said. "We're elected to do this job and we failed."

While the House had a map done and approved quickly, he said, the Senate didn't even start until late in the session. The process became bogged down in a fight between conservative and moderate Republicans.

When the session ended, several days over the usual 90-day limit, no new legislative district maps had been approved. The process went before three federal judges, who issued their opinion, along with new maps, on June 7.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has announced that the filing deadline, which was noon Monday, will not be extended, and the primary election will go forward as scheduled on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Both the House and Senate maps are drastically different from the current district layout.

The old 120th included Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties. The neighboring 121st District — Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham — has been shifted to Olathe, and its territory divided.

With the 121st moved, the new 120th includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Wallace and the northwest part of Thomas County, including Colby. The rest of Thomas as well as Sheridan and Graham counties are now in the 118th.

Norton and Phillips counties are now in the 110th, which also includes Rooks, parts of Ellis County — excluding Hays — and a small sliver of Graham County — including Hill City.

This means that Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis is no longer the state representative for Norton County. Cassidy remains in the 120th, but now faces Rep. Rick Billinger of Goodland, who had represented the old 121st.

This new map pits 23 incumbents against each other and made 25 districts that suddenly had no incumbent. In many cases, Billinger said, there hadn't been anyone filed in those new districts. After Thursday's announcement, party officials scrambled to find candidates for these districts before the Monday deadline.

Both Billinger and Cassidy said they expected it to be a friendly campaign.

"Ward's a friend of mine, has been for many years," Billinger said. "Neither of us wanted to run against each other, but circumstances have thrown us together."

Cassidy said it is not a nice scenario. He had been campaigning across five counties, then suddenly three of those

**Senate: 40th district**  
Allen Schmidt, Democrat, Hays  
John Miller, Republican, Norton  
Ralph Ostmeyer, Republican, Grinnell

**Kansas House: 110th district**  
Philip Martin, Democrat, Ellis  
Travis Couture-Lovelady, Republican, Palco  
Lawrence Reichert, Republican, Hays

**Congress: 1st district**  
Tim Huelskamp, Republican, Fowler

were taken away and new ones added. "When the legislature draws a map they favor incumbents," he said. "We were told that if the judges were to do it, they wouldn't care."

Cassidy estimated that in both houses there would likely be a minimum of 50 new legislators. The House will also be electing a new Speaker, since current Speaker Mike O'Neal isn't running for re-election.

One way or the other, either Billinger or Cassidy won't be heading back to Topeka for next year's legislative session. "Both of us look out for western Kansas," Billinger said. "It's tragic that two good voices for western Kansas are pitted against each other."

The 40th Senate district is in the same boat. The district now covers 13 1/2 counties instead of 18. The redrawn district includes Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and half of Phillips county — not including the city of Phillipsburg.

The old district boundaries stopped at Trego County and extended south to Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Lane and Ness counties. It also included Rooks County. To make up for losing these six counties, the district picked up half of Phillips County and Ellis, including the city of Hays.

"It'll all work out," Ostmeyer said. "Ellis County is a rural area, its got small schools and a college I support."

Having the city in the district does change the dynamic though. Ostmeyer said that Hays holds 33 percent of the new district's population, and a Democratic challenger. Sen. Allen Schmidt, a Hays resident who had been in the 36th District, has now been put in the 40th.

(Districts - Continued on Page 5)

## Candidates file for county primary

**By Carleen Bell**  
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For the 2012 primary slated for Aug. 7, several local candidates have filed for election for county offices and positions.

Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt reports that for county commissioners, five candidates have filed for two open seats on the three-member board. For District 2, those filing are Carolyn Applegate (incumbent) and R.A. Peterson. Filing for District 3, a seat left vacant by John Miller who has decided not to run for re-election, are Charles Posson, Brock Ellis and Curtis Eveleigh.

On the ballot for Norton County

Treasurer are Cynthia Linner (incumbent) and Sarah Durham.

Several county office candidates are running unopposed on the ballot, including R. Douglas Sebelius for Norton County Attorney, Robert Wyatt for Norton County Clerk, Wanda Vincent for Register of Deeds and Troy Thomson for Norton County Sheriff.

Several candidates have also filed for the Republican Central Committee. Those candidates are Steven Berry, Maron Goldsby, Clarence Wetter, Joni Berry, Jennie Goldsby, Rebecca Wetter, Joe Ballinger, R.A. Peterson, Curt Archibald, Jon Lofgreen, Jeana Cozad, Elaine Lofgreen and Samantha Hager.

