

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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

10 PAGES

## Friday

### May 2, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Barbara Porter

### Briefly

## Kids Day Saturday at Prairie Dog Park

The eighth annual Outdoor Kansas for Kids Day is planned to begin at 8:30 a.m., Saturday at Prairie Dog State Park west of Norton. It is hoped that dozens of Norton area children will be able to enjoy a day of outdoor activities. A fishing clinic will be sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norton County and Longspur Chapter of Pheasants Forever; an archery clinic will be sponsored by the Norton Archery Club; and a trap shoot for youth 10 and over will be sponsored by the park and the Longspur Chapter. The park will also provide a laser hunting and shooting simulator.

All participants will receive a free T-shirt and be registered for additional prizes. They can also enter an OK Kids Picture contest for a chance to win a cash prize.

## Speedway readies for Saturday night

Due to wet weather, the races at Elmwood Park Speedway were canceled last Saturday. Boy Scout Night, which was scheduled for Saturday evening, will be rescheduled at a later date. Racing action returns to Norton this Saturday evening. The regular four divisions will be joined by the Mod Lites. Race time is 7 p.m.

## Downtown focus of Tuesday meeting

Kim Wicker will make a presentation about plans for the downtown restoration project to the United Resources group at 7 a.m., Tuesday, May 6 at the Town and Country Restaurant. This will be the last meeting before the group breaks for the summer. Everyone is invited to attend. Breakfast is "Dutch treat".

The winners are...

Page 8

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — A 50 percent chance of showers, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 34. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 58. Breezy with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 37. **Sunday** — Partly sunny with a high near 73.

## Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 31, High 70  
Wednesday ..... Low 39, High 82  
Thursday ..... Low 47, High 66  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Loving God, teach us to be active and fruitful every day. Help us to sink our roots deep and to grow in your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**



Assistant Norton City Police Chief Jeremy Hartwell helped adjust the helmet for Kade Melvin, during the bicycle safety program held Wednesday at Eisenhower Elementary School. Looking on is Lea Morel. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# 'S' is for safety

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

The family of a little boy killed in a bicycle accident four years ago has turned their personal tragedy into a mission to promote bicycle safety for children in Norton and Phillips counties.

In 2004, Chaston VanDerVeen, 6, was killed when he failed to stop at a stop sign, and rode his bicycle into the path of an oncoming semi-truck. His family created the Chaston VanDerVeen Memorial Bicycle Safety Program that they take to local schools in Phillips and Norton counties during the last week of April and first week of May. The program is for kindergarten and first grade students. Local and state law enforcement officers help

conduct the program, emphasizing to the children the importance of obeying traffic laws and wearing a safety helmet.

Chaston's family donates bicycle helmets to any kindergarten student who does not have one and to any first grader who has outgrown their helmet. They also provide extra bicycles the day of the program so that every child will have a bike to ride.

On Wednesday, the bicycle program was presented at Eisenhower Elementary. It had already been presented in Logan and Lenora schools on Monday and in Kirwin on Tuesday.

It was scheduled to be held today in Almena and on Monday it will be delivered to Phillipsburg Elementary School.

## Half marathon honors memory of family member

### Former resident seeks funds for illness

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

A former Norton woman has set a lofty goal for herself to honor the memory of her father.

Shelly (Mapes) Cruz, Council Bluffs, Iowa, is a 2002 graduate of Norton Community High School. Her father, Dan Mapes, died in July of 1992 from Hodgkins Lymphoma and for the second time she has chosen to run a half marathon (13.1 miles) as a fund raiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She has set a goal of raising \$1,800 to help in the search for a cure for cancer.

She will be running in the Lincoln, Neb., half marathon on Sunday. Mrs. Cruz said she is appreciative of the help Norton residents have already given her. Anyone who would like to contribute online may go to: [www.active.com/donate/tntneSCruz1](http://www.active.com/donate/tntneSCruz1) or send her a check at 3610 2nd Ave. No. 3, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51501. She will be accepting donations until May 16.

All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Mrs. Cruz is the daughter of Mary and Wayne Byler.

Her grandparents are Jim and Maggie Dykens and Bob and Joyce Mapes, all of Norton.

She and her husband, Gilberto Cruz, have a one-year old daughter, Elizabeth. Mrs. Cruz works for United Parcel Service, Omaha, Neb.

## Kids, TV keep grad on the go

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

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Television news show producer.

It sounds like a plate full, but for a Norton Community High School graduate, it's all in a day's work.

Stefanie Sloan, who graduated in 2002, was named TARC's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year at Topeka. The organization uses an acronym to identify itself, but it works with people and children with developmental disabilities.

She was cited for dedicating endless hours and energy to the organization's Tiny Tot Tech Time program, which involves working with children. She was described as adding a ray of sunshine to her co-workers, and also being much loved by the children.

Stefanie was also described as a person who can be counted on and leaves you with the secure feeling the children's needs are being addressed.

The awards presentation was held April 29.

## Resignations, letter of intent addressed by board

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

The Norton School District's Board of Education held a 45-minute meeting Tuesday morning at the Alice Tweed Center, with much of it in executive session.

Three of the sessions dealt with non-elected personnel, and another with matters relating to employer-employee negotiations.

Ensnuing action after the first three sessions resulted in accepting two resignations and approving a letter of intent.

Resignations accepted, by motion and vote, were:

• Cheri VanDoren-Cook, Norton Com-

munity High School cheer sponsor, effective April 14. 7-0.

• Lynette Archer, Norton Junior High School social studies teacher, Norton Junior High School assistant volleyball coach and Norton Junior High School assistant girls basketball coach, effective at the end of the school year. 7-0.

Letter of Intent approval:

• Tamra Cochran, 7-12 vocal music teacher for the 2008-09 school year. 7-0.

No action was taken after the third executive session.

The board moved to offer work agree-

ments to current classified staff who have

not resigned, 7-0; and to offer contracts for 2008-09 to all certified staff who have not resigned, 7-0.

Salaries and benefits to be determined.

Nobody showed up for the budget hearing at the start of the meeting, so a motion to adopt the budget as republished, carried 7-0.

Board members present were Craig Renner, president, Mark Keilig, vice president, Jennifer Terrell, Elaine Lofgreen, Scott Ellis, Jeff Nielsen and Chris Harting. Others present were Greg Mann, superintendent and Janice Russell, board clerk.

anchors get to where they are supposed to be and give them time cues during the show. "I am also partially responsible for reading over reporters' scripts, making sure they are accurate and make sense," she said.

"During the show, I have to make sure we get out on time, give time cues to our weatherman, and make decisions on what to do when things go wrong," she said.

Stefanie attended Hutchinson Community College on a volleyball scholarship, where she received an Associate's degree in Telecommunications in 2004. While at Hutchinson, she worked for *The Hutchinson News* as a sports clerk.

From Hutchinson Community College, she went to the University of Central Arkansas, also on a volleyball scholarship, where she double majored in television-broadcasting and speech communications. Additionally, she worked as the sports anchor and community forum reporter for the university's Channel 6.

(Continued on Page 5)