

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

Norton Community High athletes take second at Phillipsburg Invitational Track Meet.

Tuesday,  
April 27, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Donal Campbell

### Briefly

## Hospital to show renovation work

The Norton County Hospital will be holding a dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of the addition/renovation project at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, at the hospital.

Following the ceremony, an open house will be held and tours given until 5 p.m.

## Tennis team to hold benefit

The Norton girls' tennis team is hosting a benefit supper from 5-7 p.m. Sunday to raise money to repair the tennis courts.

Porkburgers, chips, baked beans and cake will be served at the tennis courts, or in the high school cafeteria in case of bad weather.

Send donations to Norton County Foundation, c/o Colette Miller, Route 3 Box 85, Norton, Kan. 67654.

## College band to perform here

The Bethany College Symphonic Band will give a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the East Campus Auditorium.

Amanda Donahey, a 2003 graduate of Norton Community High School, is a flutist in the band. She is the daughter of Larry and Marilyn Donahey, Norton.

## Scouts to plant tree on Friday

Boy Scout Troop No. 181 of Norton will preside at a tree planting ceremony at 4 p.m., Friday at the courthouse.

Friday is Arbor Day and Norton County is participating in a state-wide tree planting effort in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Territory.

### Weather

#### Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear and now as cool. Wednesday — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s. Wednesday Night — Chance of showers.

#### Howell report:

Friday ..... High 60, Low 43, precip. .40  
Saturday ..... High 47, Low 37, prec. .15  
Sunday ..... High 70, Low 40  
Monday ..... High 71, Low 43  
Week ago ..... High 69, Low 50  
Month ago ..... High 80, Low 62  
Year ago ..... High 67, Low 48  
April precipitation ..... 2.46  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 5.13  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

### Prayer

Grant us courage, O God, to find and remove the splinters from our souls so that we may thrive. In Jesus' name. Amen



Sam Batson, 20, (above) grabbed some air, as he completed a jump during practice at Norton's skate park. Last week skaters and rollerbladers (below) worked to clean up the park, which is in Elmwood Park. The sign painted on the ramp (below right) is art, not graffiti.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



## Skaters, boarders work on image, park

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Close to 25 youngsters in Norton are "into" skateboarding and rollerblading. Under the volunteer supervision of Tanya Temmel, mother of four, the group is trying to improve their reputation in town.

Mrs. Temmel and her family moved to Norton a few months ago from Garden City. She said her children were excited to see a skate park in Norton since they were leaving a big skate park in Garden City. After spending many hours at the park with her own children, she got to know some of the regulars.

Mrs. Temmel said she knows that some of the youngsters have been skating in places they shouldn't, like East Campus and the Doctor's Clinic.

She said she isn't making excuses for this but reminds people that because of vandalism last fall, there are no lights at the skate park. Someone broke the lock on the electrical box and cut the wires.

Some of the skaters asked Mrs. Temmel to help them improve their image in the community and improve the skate park.

She agreed to help them; with a few conditions. First, they would clean up their language; second, they would take better care of the park; and third, they would respect the curfew law.

Improvements have already been made. Last week the group cleaned up the park. They picked up trash, they repainted the ramps and filled holes in the concrete. "What a great bunch of kids," Mr. Temmel said. "They have done it all. I just

want to try to help these kids stay out of trouble."

She is aware that most people in the community consider the paintings at the park, graffiti. However, she points out that the youth consider it as an expression of art. She also said they have never painted profanity.

She said that as more and more youth of all ages are taking an interest in skating and rollerblading and the park has become crowded at times.

The youngsters would like to expand the skate park so bigger ramps and a few rails could be built for "grinding," skating along the rails.

The skaters are not asking for money from the city. They just want approval, she said, to renovate the park and have the lights turned back on. They have set a goal of \$1,000 for the improvements and are willing to have bake sales and car washes to earn the money.

"We need to make the park way bigger," said skater Casey Temmel.

Rollerblader Brevon Sondergaard, 7, said, "We need more stuff like rails."

The group is planning a skate competition to be held in June. They would like to invite a skate club from Hays called, "White Chocolate" for the competition.

Mrs. Temmel said, "All it takes is for someone to believe in them. They have a lot of great ideas and their potential is endless."

Anyone interested in helping with the park can call her at 874-4014.

## Government is paying less for ambulance

The Norton ambulance service will not get paid anything but a base rate and mileage from Medicaid now and from Medicare starting in 2006.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen said that although he knew that the federal government was going to the base plus he found out that the state has already started it.

The problem, he said, is the base rate doesn't pay for anything like cervical collars, oxygen, bandages to stop bleeding, splints or any other supplies used to treat the patient.

Right now the base rate for an ambulance run is \$260 in town, he said.

Mr. Nielsen said that he is combining expenses plus base and charging Medicare \$313.50 in town and \$995.50 for runs to Hays or Kearney.

The commissioners suggested checking with other area ambulance services to see what they charge and also seeing what the real costs of running the service is.

"You have to cover your costs," Commission chairman Leroy Lang said.

Commissioner John Miller suggested that Mr. Nielsen check with David Lake, the head of the state Emergency Medical (Continued on Page 5)

## Almena Council decides to get water loan

By Kristen Brands

The Almena City decided to compete a loan application to update the town's water supply.

The council met April 12 and voted to adopt a resolution, which authorizes the completion of an application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a \$615,500 loan to update the city's water supply system.

The council also approved sending in test samples from water that had been discharged from the new lagoon system.

The council wanted to remind citizens that recycling is mandatory. Members pointed out that recycled items need to be distinguished from trash by being placed in clear or blue bags. If they are placed in black plastic bags, recyclables will not be picked up by the city.

Complaints were addressed as the council heard about abandoned vehicles in the city streets. Members will also be contacting individuals about small children riding dirt bikes in the streets.

Members will find out the cost and amount of rock it will take to chip and seal the city streets. The council de-

cidied this should be done on a yearly basis.

Council member Lonnie Shearer made a motion to plant flowering trees in the parks. The council agreed that he be in charge of the purchase and planting of the trees.

In other business, the council:

- Approved to give city employee Bill Alexander a 50 cent raise plus a 6 percent cost of living increase. It also agreed to give him six hours a month of vacation time. The board agreed to increase City Clerk Twila Ingram's salary by 6 percent, and grant her five hours of vacation time a month.

- Moved to issue a permit to the Northern Valley cheerleaders to sell fireworks downtown this summer.

- Discussed city equipment needs. After a closed session, it was voted to purchase a pickup for the city from Bill Alexander for \$3,000. Members also decided to put the old fire truck up for a sealed bid, to be sold "as is".

- Heard from Mike Hawks, who said that he has not heard anything from his insurance claim for sewer damage within his home. City Attorney Doug Sebelius advised Mr. Hawks to proceed however he wishes.

## Nurse wants to hold big vaccine clinic

The Norton Health Department is looking at a big flu vaccination clinic next year to test its plans to mass vaccinate the county in case of an epidemic.

There are, however, lots of problems, County Health Nurse Gina Frack said.

The shots would have to be voluntary and the county couldn't charge for the shots which might cost her department \$9,000, which it cannot afford.

Another problem is the private providers, she said.

It wouldn't do to have the county give out all the flu shots and leave private providers with several thousand doses of vaccine they have paid for but cannot use, she told county commissioners at their meeting on Monday.

If it works well, she said, lots of medical volunteers would be needed to pull it off, also.

Mrs. Frack said that she thinks the flu clinic is a great idea and would show if the county's emergency plan, which is on paper, would work in case of an emergency.

However, she said, she hasn't signed up for anything and won't until a lot of the questions are answered. Other counties in the area are also looking at the idea.

# Ambulance loses state money

(Continued from Page 1) Service.

Mr. Nielsen said that the ambulance service will need to get most of its radios and pagers replaced due to the upcoming change in federal communications channels for cities and counties. The cost of the changeover will be about \$14,000 to \$15,000, he said.

The commissioners said that Mr. Nielsen should see if he can get help from a Homeland Security grant, which Emergency Preparedness Director Alvin Mapes is handling.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that the Almena first responders would like to have an emergency kit. Mr. Nielsen said that without an oxygen tank the kit would cost about \$70.

- Heard that Norton Junior High school students will be coming to the ambulance barn for a learning

day from 12:25-1:30 p.m.

- Were told that Mr. Nielsen and emergency medical Technician Ruth Schillig will attend a regional trauma meeting in Hays on Thursday and then a meeting at the Norton library on a state highway patrol grant.

- Learned that the crew is going to try to take an ambulance to grade schools in Norton, Almena and Lenora for Emergency Medical Service Week, May 17-21.



Hundreds of people from around the area showed up at the National Guard Armory in Norton for the fourth annual Abate of Kansas District No. 2 Motorcycle Show. Around 45 motorcycles were on display at the event. Proceeds, which will be totaled in a couple of weeks, will be going to two cancer funds this year.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

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## HANSEN MUSEUM

By **LEE FAVRE**, Director  
Still showing in the Museum gallery are two exciting exhibits dating from the early to mid 1900s. Liz Knitter, Downs, has been collecting tin containers for over 50 years and a portion of her collection is now on display along side the art of Mary Lane McMillan. McMillan's works contain child-

hood sketches, illustrations, and paintings of Florida landscapes, where she resided for many years. Also, see the display of rock spheres for sale by the April "Artist of the Month", Dennis Stites, WaKeeney. This weekend, Jackie Swatzell, representing Phillips County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and

Chamber, and I will be traveling to Newton to attend the Kansas Sampler Fest. If anyone gets up that way, please stop in the northwest Kansas travel tent and say, "Hello." The Museum will be promoting Logan county and all of northwest Kansas during the two-day celebration.

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