

# Summer help is not in the books

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Weed Department will not be hiring summer help this year.

At Monday's Norton County Commission meeting, Weed Department Supervisor Reggie Beckman said that all his crew have been out spraying. When this happens, they've been locking the office door.

Commissioner John Miller said they had discussed this when Mr. Beckman asked for full-time help. He said they had agreed not to hire any summer help.

He said maybe Mr. Beckman should get a cell phone, or put a note on the door saying when someone would be back. He said if whoever really needed to get ahold of someone, they could go across the street to the road and bridge building and have them contact Mr. Beckman on the radio.

"We're all in this together," he said.

Before talking about summer help, Mr. Beckman told the commissioners that 182 miles of road had been sprayed and his crew was in the process of getting the county's cemeteries done.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard a report from County Treasurer Cindy Linner on the delinquent taxes owed by Brady Grain. She also told the commissioners the county received \$18,662.36 from monthly sales taxes in April, making the year-to-date total \$114,984.92.

- Were asked by Sheriff Troy Thomson how much health insurance rates were expected to go up, so he could give the city his estimated budget for the year. The commissioners said they were told to expect a 25 percent increase.

Sheriff Thomson said at a recent meeting he attended, he learned of several different ways to increase the county's revenues. He said the county could recover all medical expenses incurred by an inmate while in the county jail, could recover jail fees after a criminal is

convicted and could charge \$5 for almost every process served, such as civil processes and certified mail.

"Every one of these things will be another booking thing in the sheriff's office," he said. "I have to do some more checking to see if doing them is worth it. I'll get back to you."

- Discussed a new Missouri's law that revises the state's rules on large animal feeding operations, creating a process for adopting stricter local rules.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said at first the bill would have barred local governments from imposing design and operating standards on large animal operations that were more restrictive than federal or state law, but then it was amended to preserve local governments' right to impose those stricter standards.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

- Met with Chief Court Service Officer Cindy Boller about new furniture. Mrs. Boller said they planned on paying for the new office furniture out of the regular budget.

The commissioners told her to check the basement to see if there was anything she wanted to use.

- Finalized a U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development loan for the Norton County Hospital. In addition to the commissioners at the meeting were Hospital Administrator Rich Miller, Hospital Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton, Hospital Board President Kathy Holste, Board member Dennis Gilhausen, Dave Barber with the department of agriculture, Hospital attorney John McClymont, and County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

- Spoke with Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes about what each county department was ordering with money from a Kansas Highway Patrol grant. Mr. Mapes said he was in the process of ordering radios.



All the young soccer players tried extra hard to do their best Sunday morning, because it was the last day of the American Youth Soccer Organization's season. Although scores are not officially kept, each child played to their abilities. Also, because it was the last game day, a hot dog roast was held to feed the hungry masses.

—Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Ambulance technicians need time off

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton's full-time emergency medical technicians need to take some time off, but with a first responder class coming up, days off don't seem possible.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen told the Norton County Commissioners Monday that they were planning on holding a first responder course June 21 through Aug. 23.

He said Pat Pomeroy, Decatur County's ambulance director, will be instructing the class.

If Norton's emergency medical technicians provide lab assistants and teach all of the students cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) then the price would be \$2,800, he said. If they don't, then it will cost \$3,400.

Commissioner John Miller asked what the class was doing to their schedules and if they were going to get any time off.

"Our schedule is all messed up," said Mr. Nielsen. "I don't mind helping out with the CPR classes, but I don't want to spend all of my free time doing this."

Mr. Miller said they didn't want him to.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said

it might be worth it to just hire the help, rather than taking all of the full-time technician's free time.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said another technician needed to be hired and this class seemed to be the only way that was going to happen.

"The first responder course seems to be the way to go," said Technician Ruth Schillig. "It's only a two-month class rather than the technician class, which is six months. It will help to keep people from getting burnt out."

"We don't mind you teaching the CPR class, but think Mr. Pomeroy should look for someone to help out with the labs," said Mr. Miller. "You guys really need to get some days off."

Mr. Kruse said if they needed to hire help, they should.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Lang asked if the ambulance in storage could be taken to Almena and used as a first responder unit.

Mr. Nielsen said he didn't see a problem with it if the cot was replaced so it would be compatible with Norton's ambulance cots.

Mr. Lang said that is what they do in Prairie View. The first responder get the patient ready for

transport. That way the patient is ready to go when the Phillipsburg ambulance gets there, he said.

Mr. Miller said he thought it was a great idea if they got enough people from Almena in the first responder class. He told Mr. Nielsen to put a note in the Almena paper saying if enough people signed up for the class, then they would put a first responder ambulance in Almena.



Aunt Jemima says "Happy Birthday Bud! Keep on rockin'!"

## 'Summer reading' set to begin soon

The Norton Public Library will launch its Summer Reading Program in June.

The theme this year will be "Discover New Trails at Your Library" and is open to young people, preschool age through young adult, with programs, prize drawings, story times and more.

Registration begins Tuesday. In the Read-to-Me group, par-

ents or others will be required to read 20 books to preschool children. Elementary children first-fifth grades will also be required to read 20 books at their reading level. Youth sixth-12th grades will be required to read 10 books that are at least 130 pages long. Participants who read the required number of books will receive a prize and will be eligible for the draw-

ing of new bicycles.

The young adults, seventh-12th grades, will have the opportunity to participate in Fun Night held each Thursday evening during the months of June and July from 7-9 p.m..

Program and event schedules will be available at the library. For more information, call the 877-2481.

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**Attention:**

**NORTON RESIDENTS**  
**NOTICE OF SANITARY**  
**SEWER SMOKE TESTING**

A Test of the Norton City sewer system will be performed on **Wednesday, June 2** (weather permitting) to locate leaks in the system. The testing will be conducted with the assistance of the Kansas Rural Water Association.

Smoke will be introduced into the system to identify defect. The appearance of smoke will indicate problems such as cracked pipes, downspouts improperly connected to the sanitary sewer, etc.

Residents are advised to pour several gallons of water down all floor drains, sinks, or other fixtures which are not regularly used. This will fill the traps to prevent smoke entry at these locations.

If you see or smell smoke in your home or building, contact someone on the survey team working in the neighborhood or call the city immediately. The smoke is non-toxic and non-staining and will dissipate quickly.

**The smoke DOES NOT pose any health hazard.**