

# BB Gun:

The Norton BB Gun team took 16th at the International meet and Dick Boyd was there to photograph the fun.

Pages 5-8

Vol. 97, No. 60  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

The Norton American Legion baseball team was in Colby for a tournament

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Tuesday  
July 27, 2004

## Landfill OKed; now we must pay for it

By BRANDON GAY

After years of work and months of preparation the state has approved the new Norton County landfill but the waste disposal site still has to be paid for.

The first cell, with a 45-year life span will cost \$109,000 to build. This does not include a compactor and a scraper said Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald at

the county commission meeting on Monday.

The commissioners said they would look into purchasing a used compactor for \$100,000 to \$150,000. Because the scraper can be used for the both the landfill and the road and bridge department, the commissioners discussed a sharing arrangement with Mr. Archibald and

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannon.

It was decided that the road and bridge department would purchase the scraper and would be reimbursed for its use by the solid waste department. Mr. Brannon estimated the initial dirt work the landfill would need would cost about \$54,000.

The commissioners said they would

look into a way to fit the purchase of the scraper into the budget.

Mr. Brannon said the road and bridge department might have to put a few things on the back burner, but would be available to begin digging the pit for the landfill.

In other business, the commissioners:  
• Received a report on emergency medi- (Continued on Page 9)

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Phyllis Annon

### Briefly

## Paper will hold for the election

The Norton Telegram will postpone next Tuesday's paper until Wednesday in order to publish the primary election results.

The paper will be mailed and delivered by carrier on Wednesday as it would normally be delivered on Tuesday.

## Time to get your new license

July is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycles and/or motorized bike tags for persons or businesses whose last name begins with the letter "J", "K" and "L". Proof of insurance is required including vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date. The deadline is July 30 at 4 p.m.

The Norton treasurer's office is a limited service drivers license station. They do renewals on regular drivers licenses and CDL licenses. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. For more information, contact the treasurer's office at (785) 877-5795.

## Thresher show

## set in Bird City

The 51st annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show will be held from Thursday through Sunday at Bird City.

The threshing era will be revived at the grounds in the northeast section of Bird City, along U.S. 36.

Those attending will be able to tour the cook shack, see the parade of farming equipment, steam engines, gas tractors and classic cars and plowing with the steam tractors out in the field.

For a preview of the show, go to [www.networksplus.net/threshershow](http://www.networksplus.net/threshershow) or call Stan Dorsch at (785) 734-2785.

### Weather

## Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with scattered thunderstorms. Wednesday — Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

## Howell report:

Friday ..... High 62, Low 58, Prec. .35  
Saturday ..... High 69, Low 57  
Sunday ..... High 76, Low 54  
Monday ..... High 81, Low 58  
Week ago ..... High 103, Low 74  
Month ago ..... High 76, Low 56  
Year ago ..... High 87, Low 66  
July precipitation ..... 3.90 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 13.78 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

### Prayer

Healing God, when we face difficult times, give us peace in knowing you'll be there helping us along the way.  
Amen



Steady, steady. Balancing on one foot, Melissa Hillebrand, (left) was backstage trying to get ready for the 4-H Public Fashion Revue Saturday evening. Melissa's younger sister, Dana Hillebrand (above) was on the runway, posing in a shimmering gown, ready for the prom.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Club gathers gun trophies

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

After 36 years of competition in the National BB Gun Championships, the Norton County team has won lots of trophies.

Teams from Norton have won the International Championship trophy eight times, more than any other community in the world. It's a traveling trophy now, but Norton expects to get it back again.

An effort is underway to assemble all those trophies, awards and memorabilia into one place for a permanent display at the Norton County Museum.

The Norton Rotary Club has decided to make the gathering of the trophies and memorabilia its centennial project. (Rotary will be 100 years old in 2005.)

(Continued on Page 9)

## County working to finalize budget

By VERONICA MONIER

The county's 2005 budget is almost finished and Norton County's finances look healthy.

John Mapes of Mapes and Miller Accounting told the Norton County commissioners Monday that the budget is looking good.

Commissioner John Miller said the overall budget would be going down by eight mills, but asked if they should put one back into the solid waste budget for equipment costs, since the county expects to have to buy several pieces of equipment for the new landfill, once it is built.

One mill equals \$39,000.

"We need to put one mill back into solid waste," said Mr. Miller. "But if we can make this thing come out even and make the landfill pay for itself, then I think the taxpayers will be okay with it."

"We don't want to lower the fee at the landfill, because that would defeat the purpose."

Mr. Mapes said it looked like the county still has some cushion in the general fund, which is good.

"The county is doing very well with the general fund," he said. "You went from one of the most financially stressed counties that I've worked with where the general fund is concerned to one of the healthiest, most flexible."

Mr. Miller said they also had some money in investments that the county isn't authorized to spend.

He said the county will be at 68.7 mills in 2005, which included the one mill put back into solid waste.

The county will be holding a budget hearing at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 16, in the commissioner's room on the second floor of the Norton County Courthouse. The public is welcome.

In other business, the commissioners:  
• Spoke with Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent about microfilm purchasing. She said there are two companies who have put in bids. She said she knew one of the companies' work, but didn't know the other.

Mr. Miller told her to get a sample. She said she would do that and come back to talk to the commissioners when she knew

more.

• Met with John Engelbert on behalf of the Norton Development Corp. Mr. Engelbert said the group is run by a five-person volunteer board.

He said last year, they had so much demand for revolving loans they had to turn someone down and they didn't like to do that. He asked if the county would be willing to give \$5,000 to the loan fund.

Mr. Miller said he wasn't going to tell him no but he did have a couple of questions for the county attorney before agreeing to anything.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said they are dealing with taxpayer's money and would have to know where that money was going.

• Spoke with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannon about equipment prices. He said a scraper would cost about \$200,000 and a compactor between \$45,000 and \$200,000.

He said he wanted to start laying asphalt millings about two weeks ago, but it will have to wait until the some of the roads are re-bladed because of the rain.



## Pipe heads through Norton to Goodland

Norton residents may have noticed trainloads of pipe moving through town. The pipe is part of 800 carloads being shipped by Kyle Railroad to Goodland, where it will be part of the Cheyenne Plains Pipeline, which will extend 379 miles from Wyoming to Greensburg.

— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes



(Continued from Page 1)  
cal services activities from Andy Nielsen, acting ambulance service director.

Mr. Nielsen reported that ambulance runs are ahead of last year. The service has made 262 runs this year, which is 37 more than last year at this time.

Mr. Nielsen said the service would need 15 new pagers to supply new employees and new first responders from the first responder class. The pagers will cost \$380 each, and Mr. Nielsen said the service was hoping to use money from the 2004 Homeland Security Grant to pay for them. In 2003, the service received about \$5,700 to upgrade equipment from the grant.

Mr. Nielsen said the first responder class was going well.

Commissioner John Miller recommended the service coordinate with the sheriff's department and the Norton police department to set up new protocols for 911 calls. The protocols would ensure that dispatchers collect needed information from the scene and pass the information on to service personnel.

• Held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with Mr. Nielsen and Doug Sebelius, Norton County attorney.

## Rotary to gather BB gun prizes

(Continued from Page 1)  
Rotarian Alberta Slaby and BB gun team classroom coach Teresa Lauer are co-chairing the effort to locate any medals, trophies, newspaper clippings or T-shirts from the years of competition.

They have set Wednesday, Sept. 15, as a target date to assemble all the items, which will be displayed as a unit in the window of the old Browne's Store in downtown Norton before it moves to its permanent home at the museum.

"We're asking everyone to go through their closets and basements to see if they have any trophies, clippings or medals they would let us have, permanently or on loan," Mrs. Lauer said. "Our goal is to make a nice display."

Almost 40 years ago the Norton Jaycees were looking for a community project that would help youngsters. The late Duane Weind suggested that members teach gun safety.

Since then the program has grown and the Norton team has been a top competitor at both state and international matches.

Last year the Norton County Team placed second. This year the team tied for first in the written exam and placed 16th overall in the International BB Gun Match Championship held July 2-4 in Bowling Green, Ky.

The Norton team has qualified 36 times for the national competition and has won the championship eight times.

To learn more about helping with this project call Mrs. Slaby at 877-3911 or Mr. Lauer at 877-5181.



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius chatted with Scott Sproul from Norton (center) and Ken Morris from Oberlin during a visit last week to Northwest Kansas. Part of her visit was a campaign effort for her brother-in-law Doug Sebelius of Norton, who is running for state representative.  
— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Nurses to get \$2/hour raise

By VERONICA MONIER  
Registered nurses at the Norton Hospital are getting a raise—a big raise.

To order to stay competitive, the hospital is raising registered nursing salaries.

The hospital has recently had another nurse resign and is in dire need of additional registered nurses, Hospital Administrator Rich Miller told the hospital board at its meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Miller said the hospital should increase the nursing staff salaries by \$2 per hour and when the nurses work obstetrics they should get paid time and a half.

He said a general nurse starting salary should be raised to \$16.50 per hour and then raised to \$18 per hour after he or she has passed state boards.

He said the cost of raising the nursing salaries is estimated to be over \$47,000 annually.

Board member Von Fahrenbruch said it boiled down to you have to do what you have to do.

"I'm just trying to see that we are staying competitive," said Mr. Miller. "We want our staff to feel good, to feel appreciated, because they do a lot."

In other business, the board:

- Accepted a bid from Rural Telephone for a new communications system. The new system will be paid for with a bio-terrorism grant. Maintenance Supervisor Ty Bruton said this system is the best that the hospital can do without going digital. If the hospital bought a digital system it wouldn't be able to talk to anyone else. This is a topnotch information system, he said.
- Went over and approved bills.
- Accepted a bid from Windmill Farms of Alma for an underground sprinkler system and landscaping the hospital grounds.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Re-Elect  
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REPUBLICAN  
2ND DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER

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Judy Lang, Treasurer

Mr. Miller said the bid was between Windmill Farms and Total Turf of McCook. He said both companies were within \$1,000 of each other on the sprinkler system, but Windmill Farms had a much lower cost on landscaping. He said this is because Windmill Farms does its own landscaping, while Total Turf uses another company to do it. Also, Windmill Farms included several landscaping projects in their quote that weren't included in Total Turf's.

Windmill Farms' total cost is \$38,717, while the Total Turf bid was \$46,800.

- Heard that patient days are up 25 percent from 2003, admissions up 10 percent, births were down and surgeries are about the same.
- Were given an update on the Dairyland information system.

Mr. Miller said the hospital converted to the system at the beginning of the month and things were going fairly well. He said the hospital will be ordering the rest of the computers, so everyone will have one.

Mr. Miller said starting in August, the hospital will be using a print company out of Florida for monthly statements. The statements will cost 54 cents apiece, which includes cost of postage.

He said the statements will be professional looking and people will be able to pay their bill with a credit card. The statements will have a Norton postmark and will be staggered throughout the month.

- Postponed a recruitment incentive plan until the next board meeting. Mr. Miller said the incentive was if a staff member helps with the recruitment of a posted, skilled position, that staff member will get \$1,000 over a one-year period. There are some restrictions, he said. Senior administration and department supervisors recruiting for their own departments wouldn't be eligible for the incentive.

Board Member Dennis Gilhousen said the plan needed to have a better definition of assisting. He said he thinks it's a good concept, but needs to be defined a little better so a good thing doesn't get taken advantage of.

Mr. Miller asked the board to think about the plan and let him know of any changes or improvements.

- Approved the nursing policy and procedure manuals.
- Held a one hour closed session to discuss non-elected personnel and attorney-client privileges.

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#NH 01 HW 340 w/New 2355 Rotary  
#(2) NH 2550 16'  
#NH 1475 14'  
#NH 1441 Discbine  
#NH (Set 2) 258/260 with Hitch  
#NH 1037 Bale Wagon  
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## Hospital board works on quality

By VERONICA MONIER  
Quality is key for a hospital and that includes its board.

The Norton Hospital Board was given a presentation on quality by Darlene Bainbridge, who flew in from New York for the session.

Ms. Bainbridge runs Darlene D. Bainbridge and Associates, a company which deals with health care risk management and quality for rural hospitals.

She said she thinks that the next few years will be very good for small, rural hospitals because small communities are becoming more comfortable with what their hospitals are doing.

Ms. Bainbridge talked to the board about its role in quality and care.

"One of the roles of a board today is to sustain future business," she said. "Future business is a constantly moving target and so needs to be constantly re-evaluated to determine what is best for the hospital. Boards need to be involved in business planning and development so standards and quality can be maintained.

"It's very dangerous for quality when the board isn't on top of future business. It's the first thing that suffers."

She said if an organization waits too long to begin decision making, quality will suffer.

Ms. Bainbridge said its being projected that the rate of change in technology that's happened in the past 100 years will be repeated in

the next 10 years.

"A big piece of the board's role is to support the hospital's administration in their effort to stay ahead of technological changes," she said. "Boards need to work closely with senior management."

She said the Norton County Hospital has done a wonderful job.

She said the board needed to think about patient satisfaction, patient retention, patient profitability, new patient acquisition and market share.

What drives these five things, she said, are high quality health care services — patients want to know hospitals can meet their needs and want a health care provider who makes them feel confident and good about their experience.

Hospitals need strong leadership and good structure. They need to be efficient and effective while protecting customer service, which in turn protects the two most important assets of the work force — time and energy.

Strategic financial management — planning and investing for the future, and budgeting for the long term; and skilled and motivated staff is important. Without them there is no health care.

Ms. Bainbridge said the board needs to focus on the big picture to assure that the hospital's activities are headed in the right direction, and are on target and producing the desired results.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Almena Irrigation District #5 Notice of Budget Hearing

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, July 27, 2004. (1T)  
The governing body of Almena Irrigation District #5, Norton County, will meet on the 10th day of August, 2004, at 8 p.m. at the Almena Irrigation District Headquarters for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds.

Detailed budget information is available at the Irrigation Office and will be available at this hearing.

Norman L. Nelson, President; Craig Ingram, Treasurer; Duane Sell, Secretary

Almena Irrigation District #5, Almena, KS 67622

Adopted Budget GENERAL FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	2,646	42,364	33,994
Receipts:			
O & M Assessments	107,292	80,689	80,689
Wildlife & Parks	0	120,000	120,000
Grant	15,000	0	0
Misc. Income	580	600	600
Transfer from Repayment Fund	0	800	0
Interest on Idle Funds	496	500	500
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>123,368</b>	<b>202,589</b>	<b>201,789</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>126,014</b>	<b>244,953</b>	<b>235,783</b>
Expenditures:			
General Fund Expenditures	76,137	77,000	86,824
Landowner Refund	0	96,466	96,466
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	0	30,000	45,000
Transfer to Dist. Works Reserve Fund	376	376	376
Transfer to Water Supply Reserve Fund	1,153	1,153	1,153
Transfer to Water Conservation Fund	5,764	5,764	5,764
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>83,650</b>	<b>210,959</b>	<b>235,783</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	42,364	33,994	0

EQUIPMENT FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	34,193	38,576	54,976
Receipts:			
Machine Hire	4,010	3,000	3,000
Transfer from General Fund	0	15,000	45,000
Interest on Idle Funds	373	400	400
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>4,383</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>48,400</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>38,576</b>	<b>56,976</b>	<b>103,376</b>
Expenditures:			
Equipment expenditures	0	2,000	103,376
Transfer to General	0	2,800	103,376
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>103,376</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	38,576	54,976	0

REPAYMENT FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	641	858	143
Receipts:			
Repayment Assessments	15,909	15,776	15,776
Interest on Idle Funds	74	75	75
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>15,983</b>	<b>15,851</b>	<b>15,851</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>16,624</b>	<b>16,709</b>	<b>15,994</b>
Expenditures:			
Repayment to USBR	15,766	15,766	15,766
Transfer to General Fund	0	800	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>15,766</b>	<b>16,566</b>	<b>15,766</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	858	143	228

DISTRIBUTION WORKS RESERVE FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	22,937	24,247	25,603
Receipts:			
Transfer from General	576	576	576
Interest on Idle Funds	734	780	800
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,376</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>25,603</b>	<b>26,979</b>
Expenditures:			
Transfer to Equipment Fund	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	24,247	25,603	26,979

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	2,340	3,562	4,790
Receipts:			
Transfer from General	1,153	1,153	1,153
Interest on Idle Funds	69	75	80
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>1,233</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>3,562</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>6,023</b>
Expenditures:			
Transfer to General	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	3,562	4,790	6,023

WATER CONSERVATION FUND	Prior Year Actual 2003	Current Year Estimate 2004	Proposed Budget Year 2005
Unencumbered Cash Balance Jan 1	5,764	528	0
Receipts:			
Transfer from General	5,764	5,764	5,764
Interest on Idle Funds	0	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,764</b>	<b>5,764</b>	<b>5,764</b>
<b>Resources Available:</b>	<b>11,528</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>5,764</b>
Expenditures:			
Conservation Expenditure	11,000	6,292	5,764
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>5,764</b>
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	528	0	0