

Nursing career certain

Norton teen gains acceptance

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**
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Rachel Hickman is a young woman with a jump-start on her career.

A mid-term graduate of Norton Community High School, Miss Hickman, 18, has already been working at the Andbe Home for more than two years. She completed a college course to be a licensed Certified Nurse's Aide when she was only 15. But, because of her age, the credits are not accepted by colleges. So, she has the license, but not the credits.

Miss Hickman said before she settled on nursing as a career, she had considered becoming a veterinarian or a psychologist. After working with residents at the Andbe Home, she made her decision. "The reward I get is the appreciation of the residents," she said.

The wait to hear if she has been accepted into the nursing program is over. Her letter of acceptance arrived the last week of March and she will soon begin the nursing program offered by Colby Community College at Norton County Hospital. After one year of training she will be a licensed practical nurse; an additional nine months will enable her to be a registered nurse.

Miss Hickman said she is anxious to experience all aspects of nursing — including the emergency room, pediatrics and geriatrics. A

career as an OB-GYN nurse also interests her, if she should ever move from the Norton area.

An honor roll student, Miss Hickman took several college courses during high school and summer school classes. She completed classes in sociology, developmental and general psychology, medical terminology and basic nutrition. "I want to get my schooling out of the way. I hope to get married and have a family — but, I want to work some before I have children," she said.

She knows her chosen career in the medical field will take extra effort to balance work and family. "It is a selfless job — not a job you're doing for the money," she said.

Inspired by her parents, hard work has always been in Miss Hickman's nature. At the age of 12 she began a job with a family as their child-care provider. She went to their home five days a week, for three years to care for the children of working parents. She worked weekends and part-time for the Almena Vet Clinic for 1 1/2 years. "I also did the odd-ball jobs like helping my dad lay brick," she said.

Miss Hickman's parents are Brian and Sherry Hickman, Norton. She lives with them and her youngest brother, Mitchell, 9. She also has an older brother, Jake, 23, who lives in Colorado. She is the granddaughter of Harriet Gill and Eileen Hickman and the great-granddaughter of Clifford Gill.



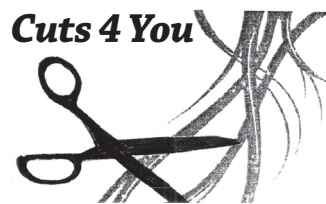
Rachel Hickman is a young woman who knows where she's going and what it takes to get there. A full-time employee at the Norton Andbe Home, Rachel has been a Certified Nurse's Aide for more than two years. She is also enrolled in the nursing program offered by Colby Community College at Norton County Hospital.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



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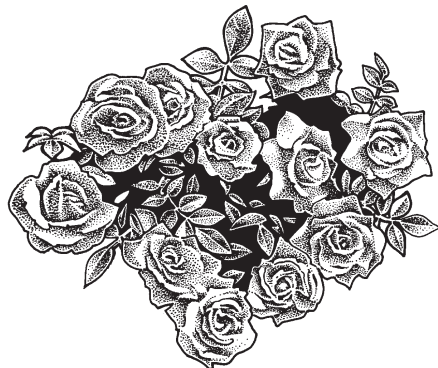
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