

Wearing many hats

By **HARRIETT GILL**
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Camille Cox wears many hats. She recently closed her massage therapy business in Norton, she has been on the Almena City Council since the spring of 2009 and she has started another business.

"I have been self employed since I graduated from college," Cox said.

"I was part owner of a painting business in Ohio."

She grew up in the Norton and Almena area, graduating from Norton Community High School in 1987.

She attended Kansas State University graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Ecology. She attended the American Institute of Alternate Medicine and graduated from the school in 2003.

Cox returned to Almena in 2004 and started her business of massage therapy.

"I enjoyed my work, I enjoyed the clientele, I will miss it. I knew when I started the salon that there would be a day when I could no longer do this, the average time for a massage therapist is seven years before the arms and hands feel the pressure," she said.

Cox did not let the physical inability of continuing her business as a massage therapist get her down.

Even though it was her most enjoyable and satisfying occupation. She just decided to begin another and totally different line of self employment. She became a shirt designer and started a business known as Dirtmouth Shirts.

"Dirtmouth Shirts is a home business and will be mainly online," said Cox, "the Web site will be up around the middle of April."

"Right now, I am on facebook," she said.

"A interesting thing happened at this year's Big 12 conference, one of my friends had on a shirt I had designed for her, she was in an elevator and a lady asked where she had purchased her shirt.

"My friend told her and Mrs. Frank Martin ordered a shirt," Cox said.

"I have designed shirts for school fans and will work with someone who has a design that they want put on a shirt."

The shirts have been displayed at craft fairs and school functions. She takes orders and has some already made up for purchase.

Until her Web site is completed, most of the sales are the result of word of mouth. Not all of the designs are school logos, there are a variety of different designs and sayings.

Camille is the daughter of Elizabeth Howard of Almena and Steven Cox of Long Island.

She has a daughter, Regan Simpson, who is a freshman at Norton Community High School.



Camille Cox started Dirtmouth Shirts in 2008 and makes shirts for various organizations in northwest Kansas. She will stop working as a massage therapist.

—Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

Thanking all the Hard Working Women on Our Staff



From left, front row: Virginia Harvey, Darcie Brooks; back row: Pat VanDiest, Brenda Kaus, and Kate Pfannenstiel

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Pictured left to right, Diane Stiles and Verla Grysch

Thank you to the Working Women of Norton County for your contribution to the local economy and community

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Some highlights of the accomplishments of Norton City/County Economic Development and their community partners in 2009:

- Assisted over 40 businesses, 25 entrepreneurs and 20 community organizations
- Received \$90,000 for the Dr. E.A. Lyon's House, \$50,000 for the station project, \$83,000 in ARRA bonds for the Washington Street improvements in Norton, \$7,000 for the Downtown Norton Historic Survey
- Hosted Senate President Steve Morris, House Speaker Mike O'Neal, House Speaker Pro Tem Arlen Siegfried, local Senator Ralph Ostmeier and local Representative John Faber in conjunction with our efforts to retain state facilities
- Awarded 17 Storefront Renewal Project Grants
- Granted funds to demolish four structures within the city of Lenora
- Completed a historic survey of downtown Norton in preparation for nominating a historic district
- Compiled and printed a current business directory complete with websites and email addresses
- Laid the groundwork for recruitment of businesses in five specific industries

Norton City/County Economic Development

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