

# Tourney set for Jan. 7-14

By Dick Boyd  
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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team is seeded No. 6 and the boys quintet is seeded No. 7 in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament which will be played Saturday through Saturday, January 7-14.

In order to accommodate the nine league teams in the eight-team bracket, a feather bracket game will be held in girls and boys divisions on Saturday.

Norton is the host school this year.

### Girls

The No. 1 seed in the girls division is Smith Center. On Monday, they will play the winner of the No. 8 Plainville vs. No. 9 Stockton feather bracket game which will be Saturday at 6 p.m. in Plainville.

Other first round games on Monday will be No. 4 Osborne vs. No. 5 Trego; No. 2 Hill City vs. No. 7 Ellis and No. 3 Phillipsburg vs. No. 6 Norton.

All Monday games will begin at 7 p.m. and will be played at the higher seed school.

Winners of the Smith Center vs. Plainville/Stockton winner and Osborne vs. Trego games will play in the championship bracket semi-finals at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Winners of the Hill City vs. Ellis and Phillipsburg vs. Norton games will play in the championship bracket semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Losers of the Smith Center vs. Plainville/Stockton winner and losers of the Osborne/Trego contest will play in the consolation bracket at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the school with the higher seed.

Losers of the Hill City/Ellis and Phillipsburg/Norton games will play in the consolation bracket at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the school with the higher seed.

The girls championship finals will be held at 6

p.m. on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. The championship semi-finals losers will play for third place at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

The winners of the consolation semi-finals will play for fifth place at noon on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for seventh at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

### Boys

Plainville is the No. 1 seed in the boys division. On Tuesday, the Cardinals will play the winner of Saturday's feather bracket game between No. 8 Trego Community and No. 9 Osborne, which will be played at 7:30 p.m. in WaKeeney.

Other first round games on Tuesday will feature No. 4 Ellis vs. No. 5 Phillipsburg; No. 2 Smith Center vs. No. 7 Norton and No. 3 Hill City vs. No. 6 Stockton.

All first round games on Tuesday will begin at 7 p.m. and will be played at the higher seed school.

First round winners will play at Gross Coliseum on Friday. The winner of the Plainville vs. Trego/Osborne winner will play the winner of Ellis/Phillipsburg at 4:30 p.m. and the winner of Smith Center/Norton and Hill City/Stockton contests will play at 7:30 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Winners of these games will play for the championship at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for third place at 4:30 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Losers of the first round games will play in the consolation semi-finals on Thursday. Losers of the Plainville vs. Trego/Osborne and Ellis vs. Phillipsburg games will play at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at the school of the higher seed. Losers of the Smith Center vs. Norton and Hill City vs. Stockton contests will play at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at the school of the higher seed.

Winners of the consolation semi-finals games will play for fifth place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for seventh at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

# Parking

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Norton City Attorney Karen Griffiths reported that because of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the city has no right to restrict the establishment of a home for adults or families with special needs, even if more than one such home exists on a street or in a neighborhood.

"It's not up to the city because the home isn't considered a business," Griffiths explained. "Other cities have tried, but we can't do anything about it."

Instead of trying to block the possible establishment of the home, the council discussed possible ways to alleviate parking and traffic concerns

at the school, especially during pick-up and drop-off times at the school. While no decisions were made on the matter, the council agreed to consider possible solutions to traffic problems, including possibly restricting parking during certain times of the day on Eisenhower Drive and around the school.



Gloria Cole of Norton approached the Norton City Council Wednesday evening to discuss parking problems along Eisenhower Drive, especially on school days. Though traffic congestion on the street wasn't as heavy as usual Thursday afternoon, cars still lined both sides of the street after school.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Program deadline set for Jan. 25

Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Kansas, announced this week that the cut-off date for submitting applications for the Grassland Reserve Program is Jan. 25. Although applications may be taken at any time, only those applications submitted and ranked by Jan. 25 will be considered for funding for the fiscal year 2012 program.

The Grassland Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance grasslands on their property through permanent easements and rental contracts (10-year, 15-year, or 20-year).

For the 2012 program, priority will be given to enrolling land in easements.

The program emphasizes the preservation of native and natural grasslands and shrublands, support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and the protection of grassland that is under multiple threats of conversion to other land uses.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program with an expiring contract in the next 12 months is also eligible for enrollment in program Enrollment options for this land are limited to permanent easements and 20-year rental contracts.

For more information,

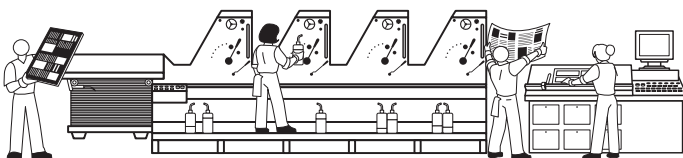
contact your local United States Department of Agriculture Service Center or conservation district. To find a service center, go to the Web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> or listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# Correction

Due to reporter error, the Tuesday, Dec. 27 edition of the Norton Telegram incorrectly stated that water usage rates would remain steady for Norton residents in 2012. The rates will actually be increasing by 3 percent for 2012. The sewer and solid waste collection rates will not be increasing.

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The Norton Telegram will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 877-3361 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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