

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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## Friday

### April 20, 2012

## Briefly

### Golf tournament is set for Saturday

The Norton Practical Nursing Program will hold a golf tournament fundraiser Saturday at the Norton Golf Course. Registration is at 9 a.m., at \$50 per team member. Tee off at 9:30 a.m. There will be a three man scramble and cash prizes.

### Parent meeting will be Monday night

A meeting for parents of this year's 6th grade students will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the junior high/high school music room.

Jeff Wallingford, Jen Hauser, Peggy Cox and Joan Streck will be presenting information about the transition to junior high. For more information, contact Jen Hauser at 877-5851.

### Blood drive to be held Wednesday

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 25 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Norton County 4-H Building.

### Races to be held at Elmwood Speedway

IMCA races will be held Saturday evening at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton. Gates will open at 5 p.m. Hot laps are slated for 6 p.m. with races beginning at 7 p.m.

### Norton students to help community

The Norton Junior High students will participate in Service Learning Day on Monday beginning at 11:30 a.m. The students will be working around the community for various community service projects.

## Markets

Friday, April 20, 2012

Wheat .....	\$5.83
Milo .....	\$5.65
Soybeans .....	\$13.29
Corn .....	\$6.12

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Saturday - Mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the mid 70s and southwest winds around 10 mph. Sunday - Mostly sunny with highs around 70. Monday - Mostly clear with highs in the upper 70s. Tuesday - Sunny with highs in the mid 80s. Wednesday - Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 50s. Thursday - Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 80s.

## Kingham Report

Tuesday, April 17.....Low 38, High 76  
Wednesday, April 18.....Low 43, High 74  
Thursday, April 19.....Low 43, High 65  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear Lord, give us the courage to live as you would have us live, every day. Amen

# Northern Valley crowns prom royalty



The 2012 Prom was held Saturday evening at Northern Valley High School. The theme of the evening was "Remind Me" and the evening featured a dinner for juniors and seniors and a dance for all high school students in the district. Prom royalty was also crowned at the dance, including a King, Queen, Prince and Princess. This year's royalty was (left to right) Tyler Montgomery as King, Ashley Constable as Queen, Sarah Whitney as Princess and Dillon Hogan as Prince.

—Photo courtesy of Laquita Smith

## BB Gun team places second at 4-H match

By Dick Boyd

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)  
The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team placed runner-up out of 16 teams in the State 4-H Shooting Match held Saturday, April 14 in Alma, Kansas.

The Norton team's outstanding marksmanship performance earned them once again a berth in the Daisy National BB Gun Championships to be held the first of July in Rogers, Ark.

They qualified for the State 4-H Shoot after a runner-up finish in the Regional 4-H Shoot in Oakley on February 25.

The Norton marksmen also competed in the Kansas State Rifle Association BB Gun Championships in Alma on Saturday, March 17 but just missed a national berth with a fourth place finish.

The Phillips/Rooks Counties Team won the 4-H championship with a score of 1,833, which was just six points better than Norton's 1,827.

Third place went to Wyandotte County with a total of 1,821.

The rest of the top 10 teams and their scores were: Jefferson County, 1,804; Wabaunsee County, 1,776; Jackson/Nemaha Counties, 1,764; Johnson County, 1,744; Riley/Potawatomie Counties, 1,720; Sedgwick County, 1,671; Leavenworth, 1,655.

Scores of each shooter are the combined total of their marksmanship in prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. A written test is not included in 4-H shoots.

On Saturday in Alma, the Norton team was led by two experienced senior division shooters, Erin Archer and James Berry.

Archer was the aggregate champion with a total score of 385. She was top shooter in standing with a 98, fourth in prone with a 96, fourth in kneeling with a 96 and 11th in sitting with a 95.

Berry had a 380 aggregate score which was third best individual. He was top shooter in sitting with a 98 and sixth best in the other three positions where he scored a 96 in prone, 91 in standing and 95 in kneeling.

The other three shooters on the Norton team were junior division marksmen Stacie Elliott, who placed sixth individually with a 357; Dylan Goss,

(BB Gun - Continued on Page 5)

## Citizens discuss potential pool project

By Carleen Bell  
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About 150 Norton citizens were present Tuesday evening to ask questions and express their opinions about a potential project that could mean Norton builds a new city swimming pool in 2014.

The public forum, hosted at the East Campus auditorium, featured presentations from Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc. and from Rick Ensz of Cooper, Malone, McClain, Inc., the city's financial underwriter for the potential project.

After providing information about the design and potential funding for the project, each took questions and comments from the audience, many of which addressed the urgency of the project and the benefits that could come from building a new pool.

McElyea, who has been working with the city's pool committee to create possible designs for an estimated \$3.8 million project, explained that after an evaluation, he feels that the current swimming pool is in critical condition

and repairing the pool to last long into the future would be almost as costly as just building a new one.

Not everyone in the audience took the engineer at his word, however, and questioned the evaluation report.

"You are a pool designer and you've evaluated our pool. That's like me going to a barber and asking if I need a hair cut," one member of the public asserted. "What do you think he is going to say?"

The engineer asserted, however, that trust is a very important aspect of his relationship with the community and that his company does not always recommend pool replacement.

"If the community doesn't want to replace the pool, some tough decisions will have to be made," McElyea said. "My recommendation is that if you aren't going to replace the pool, it needs to be shut down because you'll spend a lot of money just to get it up to standard."

Citizens also questioned McElyea's estimate that the pool is losing 2.7 million gallons of water each summer because the pool shell and underground piping is leaking, asserting that such

large quantities of water should be showing up above ground.

McElyea said, though, that is frequently not the case and there are no tests that can be done to determine exact amounts of leakage. The chemicals from the water would also dissipate quickly because of the type of soil in western Kansas, but soil samples might show trace chemicals, he said.

Though some citizens at Tuesday's meeting were skeptical of McElyea's report and recommendations, some spoke up in support of the project.

"I'm not saying it's easy or that the money will just fall into our laps, but if we want our community to be a growing place where people want to live, we have to have some of these things done and we have to find a way to do it," expressed one concerned citizen. "Maybe a sales tax isn't the answer, but we need to explore the options. I'm guessing that no one here paid for the swimming pool we have now because someone else paid for it, but now it's our turn."

(Forum - Continued on Page 5)

## Input needed for a possible pool design

By Carleen Bell  
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To help gather input about the potential project, city leaders are asking area residents to complete a survey and provide feedback on a design and features of what may become a new swimming pool in Norton.

The survey can be found at [www.nortonpool.com](http://www.nortonpool.com). The link to the questionnaire is near the middle of the page and

highlighted in yellow.

The opinion survey asks citizens to rank the order of importance of features and amenities of a swimming pool and provide individual comments about the project.

The survey will be available through May 18. After the ending date, the survey responses will be compiled to help project leaders create a design that the community will like and enjoy.

## Municipal water violates agency standard

• City leaders say no immediate risk and expect to be compliant within weeks

By Carleen Bell  
[cbell@nwkansas.com](mailto:cbell@nwkansas.com)

With a recent notice to utility customers about the matter, Norton city leaders reported late last week that the city's water system recently violated drinking water standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to a letter from Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson, dated April 13 and distributed to water customers, the violation arose as a result of disinfectants, such as chlorine, combining with organic matter in the water going through the plant. The chemical reaction causes the formation of com-

pounds called disinfection byproducts and the Environmental Protection Agency requires that drinking water contain 80 or fewer parts per billion of the byproduct.

Norton's water is tested four times per year and in the last quarter of 2011, Norton's municipal water exceeded the standard and the rolling average for the year was 89 parts per million.

Lawson explained the violation is not an immediate danger to water customers, especially because the problem will be solved with the completion of the new water treatment plant within the next several weeks.

"With the completion of the new plant, we will introduce ammonia into the water treatment process," Lawson said. "The ammonia will eliminate the byproducts, but we can't do that until the water plant is finished. Customers can expect to get probably two more of these letters before the problem is totally solved."

According to the notice to customers, using an alternative water source is not necessary, but anyone with specific health concerns is encouraged to visit with their health care providers to assess potential risk.

