

Norcatu man loves the rodeo

Chance Harman would rather be on a horse.

The 18-year-old cowboy from the Norcatu area has been riding since he was a baby, when his father Ron would take him riding. Two years ago he started to participate in high school rodeo. He is now going on his third year on the rodeo circuit.

In May, he graduated from Decatur Community High and in July he took fourth in saddle bronc riding at the 56th Annual National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyo.

This was the second year he had been to the national finals, which drew more than 1,500 contestants from 39 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia to vie for \$225,000 in college scholarships.

Besides the national contest, Chance was named the Wrangler Saddle Bronc Champion and awarded the WW Livestock Systems dealer's \$250 scholarship at the Kansas High School Finals Rodeo, held in June in Topeka.

Besides being a two-time Kansas state saddle bronc champion, Chance has participated in calf roping and team roping with Cole Kinderknecht of Norton and Rena Unger of Oberlin.

Chance is now getting ready to leave for college in Curtis, Neb. He will be attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, where he wants to get a degree in horse production management. After that, he said, he isn't sure where he wants to go, but he does know that he wants to get a job working with horses.

He said he plans to rodeo in college, continuing with saddle bronc riding and hopes to also compete in team roping and calf roping.

Since he will be rodeoing, Chance said he plans to take his horses with him.

Chance said he started to rodeo this junior year of high school because he just wanted to give it a try. He has liked it and decided to stay with it. Off and on through the summer, he has been to rodeos in Kansas and Nebraska. He is sitting second in the Kansas Pro Rodeo Association for saddle bronc though he hasn't turned pro yet. He had to wait until he is 18, but he hopes to get his pro card this year.



L-R: Troy Leiker, Kelly Leiker and Troy's father, Al Leiker, in front of a wide selection of electric and acoustic guitars available at ThunderChord Guitars. Below, Troy and Al lean on a juke box on display at their music store. ThunderChord Guitars is located on State Street in downtown Norton.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Guitar business strikes a nice chord

There's a new place in town and it's called ThunderChord Guitars. It's a little psychedelic; it's a little country. You decide.

Owners Troy and Kelly Leiker along with Troy's father, Al Leiker, opened their music store in downtown Norton to provide quality instruments and anything related to making music to the people of the area.

Troy said, "If you're looking for something specific, we'll find it for you."

ThunderChord carries a full line of acoustic, electric and bass guitars; mandolins and violins. They have amplifiers and will try to provide music, instruments and supplies to school band members.

They will even help with guitar repairs, refinishing and restringing.

Al Leiker was born in Gove County and graduated from high school in Hoxie. He lived in Denver for 38 years before retiring in 1999 and moving to Norton.

Troy moved to Norton in 2000 to help his dad build a log home.

"I fell in love with the town and the people," Troy said.

That's not all he fell in love with. He met and married Norton girl, Kelly Strayer. Now, the two work together at ThunderChord.

Beginning Sept. 6, Troy will begin giving guitar lessons on Monday evenings and Kelly, who

has studied voice for years, will give voice lessons.

Troy credits his father, a musician who at one time played in a band with Dale Gilley of the famous Gilley family, for sparking his interest in music. The first song Troy learned to play on a guitar was, "House of The Rising Sun". He now includes keyboards and has plans for a recording studio.

Troy and Kelly hope to add a music ministry to their list of accomplishments. They are working on their own original music and have recorded some.

For a time they were part of "The Bridge", a musical group associated with the Norton United Methodist Church and both have an affinity for contemporary gospel music.

Next time you're in downtown Norton, look for the full-size guitar hanging above the sidewalk and the patriotic window of ThunderChord Guitar store.

Al Leiker invites anyone with a military hero to put their picture on the window.

ThunderChord Guitars is at 109 S. State Street. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday.

You can learn more about ThunderChord Guitars by calling 874-4354 or checking out their website: www.thunderchord-guitars.com.

Advocacy group disbands

By PHIL LESH

The Northwest Kansas Association for Retarded Citizens has disbanded, effective Dec. 15, 2003.

The association was organized March 22, 1960, with the aim of securing a state hospital for the developmentally disabled at the old State Hospital for Tuberculosis, and better education opportunities for the educable child.

The first officers were Elmon Heaton, Phil Lesh and P.J. Boxler. Alma Anderson has served as secretary/treasurer since 1978.

With the conversion of the state hospital, interest in the area increased and by 1976, membership was at nearly 100.

However, with the conversion of the hospital to a prison and other

actions of the State, the services provided by developmental Services Northwest Kansas and area schools, interest declined and only a few members remained.

The state Association for Retarded Citizens disbanded and the local board decided to do the same.

Mrs. Luckert was awarded the Paraprofessional of the Year Award by the State group in 1997.

Members of the group who were active in the early development of the organization included Gene and Betty Johnson, Ed and Vesta Hoar, Hill City; Karl and Louise Berndt, Hoxie; and Nellie Lawson, Norton. During the period that the State Hospital was in operation, Sam Freeland, Superintendent, and many hospital em-

ployees were members.

The board at dissolution were Frank Luckert, Norton, president; Redonda Patton, Hill City, vice-president; and Alma Anderson, Almena, secretary/treasurer.

The Association of Retarded Citizens has kept a scrapbook. Those interested in the history of the organization may find it at the Norton Library.

**Weddings, funerals,
engagements, and births.
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**THE NORTON
TELEGRAM**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Estate of Neil W. Reeves

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, August 24, 31 and September 7, 2004. (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
In the Matter of the Estate of NEIL W. REEVES, Deceased.

Case No. 2003-PR-44

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Grace L. Reeves, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Neil W. Reeves, Deceased, praying that her acts be approved; that her account be settled and allowed; that the will be construed and the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; that fees

and expenses be allowed; that the costs be determined and ordered paid; that the administration of the estate be closed; that the executor be discharged and that she be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 15th day of September, 2004, at 10:30 o'clock A.M. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Grace L. Reeves
Executor

R. Douglas Sebelius #09157
SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP
105 South Norton Street
P.O. Box 10
Norton, Kansas 67654-0010
(785) 877-5143
Attorney for Petitioner

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