



Chris Henson (below) brings his children Tyus, 7, and Alexis, 11, to play video games on Norton Library computers. Lola Swisher, foreground (above) and Chaim McMillin, left, back to camera, Brady Riggins, right, back

to camera, Mindy Blair, facing camera, Alex Riggins, hidden from view and Grant McClymont, standing, were all making use of the library's public computers Friday afternoon.

—Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Library computers used a lot

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The first computer at the Norton Public Library was given as a memorial by the family of Gordon Brantley, a long-time Norton businessman.

That was the summer of 1992. A lot has changed since then. There was no Internet access or e-mail.

Kay LeBeau has been Library Director since 1992. She praised the Norton community for its support of the library. She said a \$500 gift from a donor helped buy the library's first color printer.

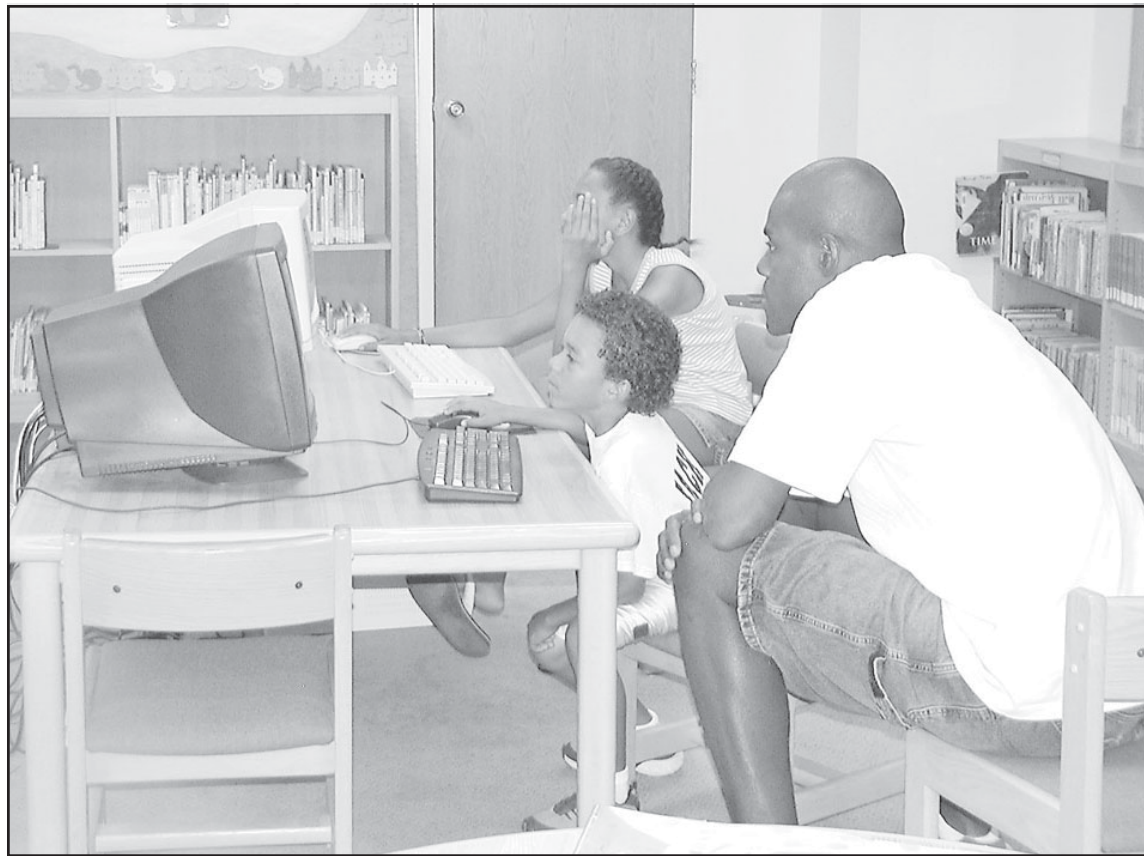
Mrs. LeBeau was there when the new addition was built and the library moved into its new facility in June of 1992. It was shortly after that when the library acquired its first computer.

"The timing was right," she said. "The old library was not (technically) able to use a computer and the new library came at the right time."

The first three computers at the library were purchased by the Norton Public Library Foundation.

Three years ago Norton Library was the recipient of a free computer from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Gates had established a foundation to place a computer in every library in the United States.

Two years ago a universal fee, collected from Kansas telephone charges, helped an organization



called Kansas Education provide \$4,400 to purchase four new Dell computers for the library. These new computers have filters.

Rural Telephone provides monthly Internet service and the Northwest Kansas Library System provides computer services for all libraries in the system.

Mrs. LeBeau and Assistant Librarian Mary Luehrs both have computers in their offices, while the public use computers total five. There are also two other computers, not connected to the Internet, that are only used for playing computer games.

There is one other computer in the library and it belongs to the Norton County Genealogy Society. It is a computer specifically used for doing family genealogy research. Rural Telephone also provides the society's Internet ac-

cess.

Anyone may use the library's public computers. Children under 18 have to have parental permission and a parent must come in to the library to fill out the permission slip. Usage time is limited to half an hour if there are others waiting.

Travelers passing through Norton often stop in the library to use the computers to check their e-mail.

Mrs. LeBeau said the computers are used over 600 times each month.

Lola Swisher, Norton, said she uses a library computer almost every day. Self-taught, Ms. Swisher said she uses the computer to do research, send and receive e-mail and do word processing.

"I'm glad they have it available," she said.

With that much use, one would expect a lot of technical problems, but Mrs. LeBeau said, the system is almost fool-proof. Except for viruses.

"But we have virus protection software," she added.

The system has a program installed called "Deep Freeze". Every night when the computers are shut off, everything goes back to its original setting. The computers practically fix themselves.

Besides the citizens of the Norton community, Mrs. LeBeau praised the office of the Kansas State Librarian.

"We have had a progressive state librarian," she said. "And we received a lot of training."

She encouraged anyone to come visit the public library, use the computers and see what else it has to offer.

# People needed for committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for eligible candidates to serve on the local Farm Service Agency county committee. Nominations will be accepted until Aug. 1.

"I encourage local producers to run for a position on the local agency farm committee and make a difference," said Norton County Executive Director Vesta Hobbs. "County committees have an important role in the decision-making process for commodity price support loans and payments, conservation and disaster programs and other important agricultural issues in the farming community."

Ms. Hobbs said almost anyone participating or cooperating in a local agency program who is of legal voting age may be a candidate. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Minority or women organizations may nominate persons that meet eligibility requirements.

All nominations must be received in the county agency office or be postmarked by Aug. 1. Voting takes place between Nov. 4 and Dec. 5.

To hold office as a Farm Service Agency county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements, which are:

- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election;

- Reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate, which in some cases can be waived; and

- A person must not have been removed or disqualified from the office of an agency county committee member, alternate or employee; removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony; or dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Ms. Hobbs said people uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the committee election should contact the agency office staff. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined in order for a vote to count in an election.

Information on the county committee nomination and election process will be available during the county fair at the 4-H building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 26.

Farmers and ranchers, along with minority and women organizations, are encouraged to attend, especially those interested in serving on the committee or making a nomination.

More information on the elections, including the nomination form, is available at the Norton County Farm Service Agency office or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Youth race toads, turtles at Lenora Jubilee

The Lenora Jubilee creature races could be called a packed tennis court.

The hopping of toads and frogs coming in all sizes was the first event with three heats. Heat 1 winners were James Berry, Maggie James, and Bethany Perkins. Heat 2 found Kelsey Marx, Michaela Long, and Garret Otter all with winners. Heat 3 had Marshall Otter, C.J. Perkins, and Clayton Beckman as the winners.

The super heat, which had the heat winners, found the top three best hoppers to belong to Marx, G. Otter, and James.

The turtles were on overload with six heats being run before the super race. Heat 1 winners were Derick McKeever, C.J. Perkins

and Adson Day. Heat 2 winners were Brady Keith, Clayton Beckman, and Garen Beckman. Heat 3 had Rachel Koepferich, Nicole Rumback, Aaron Moss as the winners, while in Heat 4, Landon Slipke, James Berry and Colton Peterson led. Heat 5 found William Gassmann, Michaela Long, and Alberto Hernandez on top. Heat 6 winners were Ethan Ross, Raelyn Slipke, Garret Otter, and Courtney Lewellin.

The super turtle race for the best overall turtle was won by L. Slipke with Gassmann and Ross finishing out in the winners circle.

The creature races are sponsored by the Lenora Chamber of Commerce and the Jubilee Committee.

## A cow and lots of deer cause accidents in county

On May 1, Casey Dole, 17, Alma, and passenger, Joni Hilburn, were going north on County road E4 when a cow stepped out in front of the vehicle. Damage to the 1999 Dodge pickup was estimated to be over \$1,000. The driver and passenger were wearing their seatbelts and no injuries were reported.

On May 8, another accident occurred when Jediah Lindsay, 20, Norton, and passenger, David King, 20, Norton, lost control of a 1988 Ford pickup. A deer ran in front of them, causing the vehicle to roll. Damages were estimated at over \$1,000.

Jessica A. Holmes, 16, Norton, and Alysia M. Shearer, 16, also from Norton, were going north on County Road E9 on May 9, when

they encountered a deer at the top of the hill. The driver swerved to miss the deer and lost control of the 2000 Honda Accura. The vehicle went into the east ditch, struck the embankment, and rolled, coming to rest on its top. Seatbelts were worn and injuries were minor. Estimated damages were over \$1,000.

Gerald E. Speer, 50, Alma, was driving north on County road E11 in a 1998 Ford Ranger on May 20, when a deer ran out of the east ditch. Mr. Speer was unable to avoid the animal and the collision caused more than \$1,000 in damage. He was wearing a seatbelt and no injuries were reported.

Another accident occurred on May 21, when a 2001 Oldsmobile Van, driven by Dan Hoskie, 47,

Blue Gap, Ariz., was driving east on US-Hwy 36 when a bird flew up out of the south ditch striking the vehicle and breaking out the windshield. Passengers were Dan Wallace, 47, Chilne, Ariz., Bob

Jefferson Sr., 42, Pinon, Ariz., and Donald Hoskie, 42, Keams, Ariz. Damages were estimated to be over \$1,000. There were no injuries reported.

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