

# Opinion

## Norton is an easy place to call home

I know we've been here only 10 years, and it still amazes me when I hear someone mention a name and the rest of the folks standing around begin this long conversation about how that person is related to so and so, who is related to so and so, who is related to them! I really enjoy this amusing "family" conversation, but once in a while, well, I feel a bit jealous. It especially stings when I'm somewhere in town and someone asks me who I am and am I related to so and so? Well...no I'm not. Our family is originally from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, the state of 10,000 lakes. "Oh, oh yes," they then reply, but will still insist I remind them of so and so.

I guess you need to be a third generation Norton resident in order to be a Nortonite. Or do you? Regardless, I still feel like a native Nortonite. My relatives back home insist I've developed a bit of a drawl. I even say "for sure" now instead of just "sure."

After spending a little over a year in Hutchinson pastoring, my husband accepted an opening here at Norton Corrections as an officer. We had heard it was a nice place to raise your children. And they were right.

It was a 105-degree day. Steve and I drove up in our sweltering UN air-conditioned car with then six-week-old baby David to scout out a place to live as we were scheduled to move up in a few weeks. We came up not knowing anybody and not have a home. We had driven up State Street from the south looking for a place to start our search. We just happened upon the library as I knew it would be air-conditioned. The first Nortonite we met was Mary Luehrs there. Upon seeing the weary travelers, Mary asked if I needed a "private" place in which to nurse David. She led me to a back room so I could do just that. Her demeanor was meek, helpful and very kind. It was a good sign. She and Kay proceeded to tell us about the town and where we might get some leads for a place to rent. We then went to see Charlotte Neff and Duane McEwen downtown. They gave us some landlords' names.

Our final stop led us to Loretta and Richard, who were then in charge of The Commons. After looking everywhere for a place to rent and finding none, they supplied us with the longed for place to call home. Two weeks later with our U-Haul in tow, we arrived at our apartment in The Commons. It was late and I was totally disheveled, exhausted and wondering how we were go-

### Guest Comment Robin Somers

ing to haul all of this stuff in. We were pleasantly surprised to be met with about 15 people from the Community Full Gospel Church, then pastored by David Pessoa. I hardly remember the blur of people and activity, yet nevertheless was very surprised and thankful.

I remember the very next morning Susan Ward, who was from the church, along with her then nine-year-old daughter Sarah, stopped by with a plate of cookies. She's been doing that ever since. Consequently we went to the church for nearly 10 years.

As I settled in to living in Norton, I was immediately struck by the friendliness of the people. At first I thought it rather funny that everybody waved at you from their cars. Now, it's a Norton tradition that I appreciate and makes me feel good to live here.

After growing up in the cities where nobody knows your name, I found it pleasant and old fashioned that people knew one another's names as they shopped, banked, went to church and generally did business in Norton.

Those first few years here I decided to sell Discovery Toys to supplement our income and to get to know some of the ladies here in town. It worked. I met many a family through that business venture. Some of those ladies still know my name, even though I struggle to recall theirs.

There have been many wonderful, people loving, God fearing folks that we've gotten to know through our various church experiences here in Norton and even in other towns all of which have contributed to our family's faith in God and love for one another.

Of course I must mention folks at the paper as our children have been paper carriers for years. There is Carolyn, Sonya, Veronica, and Sherry (who has to deal with my children's mistakes). Alas, there is not space enough to mention all the people I know here in Norton.

Nevertheless, I'm still not related to anybody here. And I've only lived here 10 years. But you know what? Nearly everybody I've mentioned and the ones that I didn't, they know my name too.

It's great living in a town where 'everybody knows your name.'

—Robin Somers, Norton, [rjsomers@ruraltel.net](mailto:rjsomers@ruraltel.net)



Dane Hansen Museum visitor, Gene Wentz, Perry, volunteered to repair a broken display case.

— Photo provided by Dane G. Hansen Museum

## HANSEN MUSEUM

Recent visitors at the Dane G. Hansen Museum turned into great volunteers.

Gene and Jane Wentz, Perry, had stopped in the museum when they noticed one of the Otto Schick coin collection display cases was not operating properly.

Polly Bales, long-time museum volunteer, apologized for the inconvenience. She commented that it was difficult to find someone who could repair the cases.

Mr. Wentz looked at the cases for a while and said, "I can fix that". He retrieved his tool kit from their car and spent the next four hours, with

his wife's help, making those cases work like a charm.

When Mrs. Bales tried to pay them for their work, they refused. They did, however, accept one of her homemade pecan pies as payment-in-full.

When asked them how they knew about the museum, they said

they had seen the sign on the highway and wanted to see what kind of museum was in this part of Kansas.

In appreciation for the Wentz's help, the museum has also sent them an honorary membership and a Dane Hansen book.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NORTON

#### Senior High:

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; "C" girls/Junior Varsity/Varsity Basketball vs. Smith Center, Here, 4 p.m.; FCLA Cake Raffle, 4 p.m.; Rotary Scholarship Soup Supper, Cafeteria, 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FCCLA Star Events at Oakley, 9 a.m.; SAC, a.p.

Thursday — Kays, a.p.; Regional Scholars Bowl at Cimarron, a.p.

Friday — Jazz, a.p.; "C" Girls/Junior Varsity/Varsity Basketball at Hill City, 4 p.m.; Junior Varsity/Varsity Wrestling vs. Plainville/Ellis at Ellis, 5 p.m.

Saturday — Regional Piano at Hays; Forensics at Hill City, 7:30 a.m.; Junior Varsity/Varsity Wrestling at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.

Sunday — Kays Prom Dress Show, Junior High Gym, 2 p.m.

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; FFA Northwest District Leadership, 4 p.m.; Ninth Grade Basketball at Colby, 6 p.m.; Kay Board, 7 p.m.

#### Junior High:

Wednesday — Team Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday — Wrestling at Osborne/Stockton at Osborne, 4 p.m.

Saturday — Wrestling, Here, Memorial Gym, 9:30 a.m.

Next Monday — Stuco, a.p.

#### Eisenhower:

Wednesday — Spelling Bee, Band Room, 1:30 p.m.; Team

Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Thursday — Early Childhood-Grade 2 Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

All Schools:

Monday — Professional Development Council, Alice Tweed Center, 4 p.m.

Wednesday — Calendar Meeting, Alice Tweed Center, 4 p.m.

#### High School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Ham slice, hashbrown potatoes, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chicken strips, whipped potatoes with country gravy, carrots, hot roll, fruit cocktail or chef salad, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick with Syrup, Fruit or Juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Beef nachos, broccoli and cauliflower with dip, hot roll, pears, brownie or chef salad, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Coffee cake, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Slivered turkey sandwich, lettuce and tomato, corn, banana split fruit cup, chef salad, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Long John, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: BBQ meatballs, whipped potatoes, carrots, hot roll, peaches, chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast burrito, potato puffs, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Pizza, garden salad, pineapple chunks, cowboy cookies, or chef salad,

milk

#### Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Waffles, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, peas, celery stick, mandarin oranges, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce, milk; Lunch: Mrs. Schulze's Sixth Grade Class Menu—Hamburger pizza, corn, bananas, pumpkin squares, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Breakfast fruit pizza, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Canadian bacon/cheese, biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, green beans, tater tots, pears, milk

#### NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — High School Dance Team Practice in Alma; Junior High Basketball vs. Golden Plains at Rexford, 4 p.m.

Tuesday — High School Cheerleading Practice at Alma; High School Dance Team Perform at Halftime of A-Team Boys Game; National Guard Flag Show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; High

School Basketball vs. Alma in Alma, 4 p.m.

Thursday — National Agricultural Education Inservice in Indianapolis, Indiana, 8 a.m.; Lifetouch Spring Pictures, Start in Long Island, 8 a.m.; Eastern Heights and Phillipsburg School visits, 8 a.m.; Jr. High Basketball at Damar, 4:30 p.m.

Friday — High School Basketball vs. Bertrand in Alma, 4 p.m.; Grade and High School Dance Team perform at Halftime of A-Team Boys Game

#### Northern Valley Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Ham-cheese bagel, hashbrowns, fruit punch, cereal; Lunch: Chili soup with crackers, cheese sticks, celery/carrot sticks, cinnamon twist

Tuesday — Breakfast: French toast stix/syrup, scrambled eggs, grape juice, cereal; Lunch: Turkey and biscuits, mashed potatoes, fruity jello, Snickerdoodle cookie

Wednesday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, ham slice, apple juice, cereal; Lunch: Wiener wagons, French fries, green beans, applesauce

Thursday — Breakfast: Muffin, sausage patty, applesauce, cereal; lunch; Shaved ham/bun, tri-taters, peas, cake

Friday — Breakfast: Breakfast casserole, orange juice, cereal; Lunch: Enchilada, tossed salad, broccoli, pineapple chunks

## Commodities will be distributed

The Norton County Senior Citizen's, Inc. will distribute government surplus food in Norton today, Saturday and Wednesday.

Food available for distribution will include: beef stew, peanut butter, green beans, apple juice, macaroni, cranberry juice and sweet potatoes.

Distribution will be from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the library in Clayton; and from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Senior Center in Norton.

For more information call Ramona Pabian at 877-5352.

Weddings, funerals, engagements, and births. You'll find it all in...

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

## Norton seeking new coach

(Continued from Page 1) Mr. Melvin played football collegiately at Hutchinson Community College and Fort Hays State University. While at Fort Hays State, he was named to the Regional All-Academic Team and graduated summa cum laude. Mr. Melvin is currently completing requirements for a Master's Degree in Multimedia Technology at Fort Hays State University.

He and his wife, Angela, who is the K+ teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, have three children: daughters Alec, 11 and Miah, 7, and son Kade, 3.

Coach Graber has coached the Blue Jays for 11 years and compiled an 88-23 record.

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