

## You might be among the unsung heroes

What makes a community click? You can probably name many who fit that category. Perhaps you would say the mayor. Or maybe the city council. Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce. Why not say our police department, public works, emergency services, the hospital, the schools, the churches. The list is endless.

While all of the above are dots to be connected, there is another unorganized segment of our community that plays one of the most important roles in making Norton what it is. Making Norton click.

You. Yes, you the volunteer. That's right, volunteers, generally the unsung heroes, who find the time to perform duties necessary to keep the proper beat.

Volunteers are a mixed bag. They come from the retired sector. From the business and professional ranks. They are moms. They are dads. They are grandmas and grandpas. They are single people. Age seems not to be a barrier. There are a number of them who are teenagers. Look at practically any organization in town and what holds them together?

Volunteers! There are folks out there who live to volunteer. You never have to call them. But when they hear a call for volunteers, they respond.

You probably have never given thought that you are one of those unsung heroes. You just do what you feel needs to be done and that's it. Matter of fact, there are volunteers who would rather remain in the background. They are not comfortable being singled out.

If you are able and have not experienced the satisfaction of volunteering time to your favorite cause, please do. There is always room for one more.

—Tom Dreiling

## From the Mailbox:

### Letter asks questions following shake up at local development office

To the Editor,  
We, the undersigned, wish to express our support and gratitude to Marlene Henderson for a job well done as director of Norton County Economic Development.

Anytime a new position is being developed there will be setbacks and pitfalls to negotiate. This is an accepted fact of life in the fast pace of the business world today.

The overwhelming majority of citizens in Norton County feel like she was doing a more than adequate, if not outstanding, job.

We are left with these questions:

1) Was the rush to judgment warranted in light of all the positive things she has been doing for our community?

2) Why the sham of a public meeting in which the public was given very little notice or opportunity to speak on her behalf?

3) Were the grievances against her enough to justify losing out on many of the grants she has already started writing and projects in progress?

Respectfully yours,

Undersigned Citizens of Norton County

Charlene Renee Griffith  
Kirk Griffith  
Rebecca Crow  
Leroy Hanes  
Siobhan Hanes  
Betty Baker  
Ruth Brown  
Ralph Clapper  
Sharolyn Bredemeier  
Judy Moppin  
Marvin Moppin  
Brenda Wilson  
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## You have time for a little farm story?

The hubby usually cringes when he senses he has done something that may end up in the paper, but he told me I could tell this story.

We sometimes end up with a bucket calf. But the hubby is a very determined person and will try to force an orphan baby on a cow that has lost its calf. He usually has to go through this once a year or so.

He will risk getting kicked to milk a herd cow. He will run a cow in a chute and manhandle a calf until it gets the idea for a week or more. (It is hard to get a cow to take a baby it did not give birth to and sometimes the babies are also pretty clueless about what to do.)

I sometimes think he could put his time to better use. But a calf that is raised with a cow grows better and is healthier. It is better for the cow also, because a cow that doesn't raise a calf around here gets culled.

The late March blizzard caused us to lose some baby calves. One belonged to a heifer. He had them where he could check them but when the snow quit he had two heifers trying to mother one baby. After the snow melted he found the other baby. He really had no idea which one was the mother.

A couple of days later a cow failed to get up after having a healthy baby. So he took the orphan to the heifer pens. He

Back Home  
Nancy Hagman



locked it up with one of the heifers that was sharing the baby. She took it, just like that.

Heifers, like most first time moms, do not really know what they are doing.

It seems like our calving luck is just not so great this year. One Wednesday he came to the yard with a baby calf. I will censor the words he had for the mother. She had abandoned him.

He had no idea which cow the calf belonged to but decided to give the baby colostrum and then see if one of the old (censored) that lost a calf in the storm would take him.

It had been a couple of weeks since the storm and getting a cow to milk again if she has been without a calf can be tricky. But as I mentioned before the hubby is determined! So he looked over the herd and decided on a red cow. "I don't know what happened to her calf but she doesn't have one and I don't think she has a calf in her."

He ran her into the chute. The calf was real smart and knew just what to do. By Saturday he didn't have to run them into the chute anymore. The cow seemed content. The baby was growing.

Monday morning he goes to check the cows and comes home looking a little sheepish. There were two calves in the pen. So much for the hubby's theories. The poor thing just hadn't had her baby and here he was cussing her for losing her calf. Our luck may be improving: the mother seems to be accepting both babies. They are staying in lock-up for awhile. We are helping out the first calf with a bottle now and then, but if things continue like they are he is sending the cow to the pasture with both babies.

We usually have our niece's husband, Josh, come and pregnancy check our cows if we have a question. It is sort of a joke because usually the one he says is weeks or even months off has a calf the next day. Still, it appears he is much better at his estimations than the hubby.

Besides the excitement in the cow lot that Monday, Josh and Becky got a delivery of their own, Gracie Marie. This is our first Great Niece! (I've seen her and she really is GREAT!)

No matter how they get here or who ends up mothering them, there really is nothing like a baby!

## Don't you believe bigger is better

Why is it we always think bigger is better? Children learn this concept early, as they "super-size" life. The more activities the better; the busier the better. People flock to the cities, larger schools and bigger universities. We marvel at the young adult moving, living and working in New York and wonder why another wishes to return to Norton to make their life.

When we moved here we considered Norton small and for the most part still do, but I've had the opportunity to view two smaller communities within our county and once again I have to state, "Smaller does not mean less".

Last summer I took part in the Almena library program. A small room in the community center with books for all ages and a board determined to encourage reading for their youth. A summer reading program is important to this end. Northern Valley Schools opened their doors to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Bigs in Schools, (a high school student meets with an elementary student each week for 30-45 minutes) and this very successful program has enriched the lives of Bigs and Littles. Northern Valley takes advantage of the small number of students in close proximity to one another to strengthen not just an academic bond, but an emotional one as well. They have learned smaller is not diminished and bigger is not always better. Many successful people have come from this school system and had their roots in country schools.

The after school program in Lenora was my first physical encounter with the Lenora school system. I had heard the usual sounds of "how sad" to be a part of such a small class, but I came away with a truly different outlook. To be sure mine is not the opinion of an educator, but probably as good as most legislators. We have over 60 percent of the kids involved in the after-school drug prevention program and the interaction of these children is rewarding in and of itself. They look to each other for help and there is little in the way of

Phase II  
Mary Kay Woodyard



"class" distinctions, be they social or grade level. Once again there is much to be gained in smaller amounts, if we just look to them.

I think our media has played a role in our concluding small is synonymous with inadequate. Advertisers make fun of small town folk, consider them less sophisticated, less educated and unhappy.

## Thumbs Up to . . .

- ✓The Kevin Sides family, on winning that super trip to the Wichita Zoo.
- ✓All the participants in the recent Regional Pinewood Derby. (e-mail)
- ✓Dr. Roy Hartley, for your many years of devoted service to the people of the Norton area. (phone call)
- ✓The Heritage Quilt Club, for sharing your talents with the community, and allowing your work to eventually end up in homes in the community.
- ✓Pastor Ron and Sylvia Scheimo, on your 50 years in the ministry.
- ✓All recipients of the S.T. and Mable Nuttycomb college scholarships.
- ✓The Telegram, for the awards received. (Mrs. Margaret Wetter).
- ✓Norton Arts Council, Carol Erlenbusch, president, on your continuing efforts to provide this area with quality entertainment.
- ✓Ryan Stover, the new chief financial officer at the Norton County Hospital.

(If you know of someone or some group that you feel deserves a pat on the back, please e-mail the information to tom@nwkansas.com, fax 877-3732, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, or mail to or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Avenue. Thanks in advance for your help. - tom)