

Norton honors six who moved on

By **VERONICA MONIER**
vmonier@nwks.com

The Norton School District honored six retiring staff members Wednesday afternoon.

Each of the six wrote a retirement speech, which was read by someone else. Then they were asked to come to the front, where they could say a few words if they chose, and receive their Blue Jay statue.

The first up was Susan Anthony, resource room teacher, whose speech was read by At-Risk Teacher Lucas Melvin.

Mr. Melvin read, "I retire with mixed emotions — very sad that I won't have the same connection I have had with Norton Community Schools for 29 years, but it is also a time to look ahead..."

"In special education, the rewards come very slowly and far in between. When I look into the community and see young adults that have been students of mine but are now professionals, community leaders, others working towards a post-secondary degree, or just good citizens in every day life, I want to shout, 'See, the program does help these kids a lot!'. Hopefully, I have had something to do with their success..."

"I want the NJHS faculty to realize that you have been a family to me... You are all appreciated. 'Now to my special education staff... Thank you, thank you...'

"In closing, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful 29 years. Not only the students, but the people I work along side, have helped make me a better individual as well as teacher. Always proud to be a Blue Jay!"

After accepting her statue, Mrs. Anthony said, "I just want to say thanks to everybody. The staff has been wonderful. I'm going to Turkey to teach and they'll probably hear me say, 'Well, in Norton we did it this way!' Thanks so much."

North Central Kansas Special Education Co-op Assistant Director Chris Hipp read Carol Clough's speech. Mrs. Clough is an inter-related teacher employed through the co-op.

Mr. Hipp read, "...I was offered a position with what is now the Special Ed Co-op in Glade and they placed me in the Norton School District. I maintained an apartment here in Norton and drove home on weekends. For the first few years, I taught part of my time in Norton and part in Lenora. For the last several years, I have been exclusively in Norton."

"I have enjoyed my time in the Norton School District, but at this time in my life I am glad to be going home. No more weekly driving and no more being away from my home the majority of my time. I have seven grandsons and am ready to enjoy them and their activities."

Mrs. Clough said she really enjoyed her time in Norton.

"There are wonderful people in both the high school and junior high. Thank you."

Reading for High School/Junior High Cook Marilyn Colip was her daughter, Jalynn Urban.

Mrs. Urban read, "When I started cooking at the Junior/Senior High, I started as a substitute. Little did I know that those few days of subbing would turn into a ten-year endeavor."

"In the ten years that I was employed there, it was always quite comical to see the scared little faces of the seventh graders come through the breakfast and lunch lines. It was equally rewarding watching the awkward, nervous seventh graders grow and mature over the next six years... I was known to many of the students as Grandma. That was fine with me because then I could pick on them and not feel guilty about it... Although I loved teasing the students, you all know that I didn't limit the teasing to them. I got just as much enjoyment out of picking on the adults; sometimes even more!"

"After I retired from U.S.D. 211 (Norton district) in February, I worked part time at Sunshine Learning Center... Although I enjoyed sitting and rocking, reading, and singing to them, I decided I wasn't built to sit in a rocking chair for eight hours a day. So after six weeks of retirement, I traded my eight-hour days for twelve to fourteen hour days cooking at Adventures. I've found the true meaning of retirement. When working my eight hour shifts, I was tired. Now that I'm working 14 hours, I'm tired again — re-tired!..."

"I have been cooking all my life and I guess I will be cooking for as long as the good Lord will allow me to."

When she accepted her statue, Mrs. Colip said, "I guess if anyone really wants to be picked on, come to Adventures!"

Bus Driver Dale Goss' speech was read by Superintendent Greg Mann.

Mr. Mann read, "Thirty-one years ago, the transportation director of U.S.D. 211 showed up at my home and wanted to know if I would consider driving a school bus. I told him I would drive for one year and see how it went. Here I am 31 years later, everything went just fine..."

"My first route was 130 miles round trip and only 22 miles were on pavement. I began at my house, north of Norcat, headed up to the Nebraska line and east, over by Gerald Hornings', and then headed back to the Reager Road, picking up kids all the way back to the Decatur County line to Reager. We'd never heard of a storm route and those roads, compared with today, were a mess."

"I remember one year the county decided to elevate two miles of road on my route right before school was out and it started raining. Guess who got to plow the first set of ruts?"

"It took us two hours to go two miles and you guessed it, they canceled school for the country kids."

So, I turned her around and plowed home.

"It's interesting how times have changed. I used to pick up a student in the morning and I knew I would drop him off at home in the afternoon. Now I pick up a student at one place in the morning and drop him off somewhere else in the afternoon, or he only may ride one way. There is certainly a lot more to keep track of today."

"I've really enjoyed driving activity trips. Our kids have represented Norton very well and I'm glad I have had a part in it... I have now had the pleasure of driving bus for the children of children I once picked up. Finally, I'm privileged to have worked with some of the best bus drivers around and I want to thank everyone for giving me the privilege of driving for the district, and our community, the last 31 years."

Mr. Goss said he wasn't much of a talker, but appreciated everything.

Fifth/sixth grade teacher Virginia Will read for Phil Morel, also a fifth/sixth grade teacher.

Mrs. Will read, "I came to Norton, Kansas in the middle of a dusty day in the spring of 1978 to do my student teaching under Steve Schrum. At the end of my student teaching I was offered a job to teach fifth grade math for the next school year, 1978-1979, and I accepted..."

"I taught for 29 years in the Norton school system and coached fifth and sixth girls' basketball for 27 years. I coached fifth and sixth boys' basketball for several years and fifth and sixth girls' track for several years."

"I feel my time spent in the Norton School District has been very rewarding. I have worked with many talented and dedicated teachers. I have had the privilege of teaching many outstanding students who were supported by many outstanding parents and grandparents. I feel my years in Norton have been positive. I now look forward to doing something different."

Junior High Principal Larry Mills read for Junior High Social Studies Teacher Chuck Zimmerman.

Mr. Mills read, "I wish to thank Superintendent Mike Philpot and the Board of Education of nine years ago for taking a chance on this 'old codger' and bringing Kathy and myself to Norton, Kansas."

"We have truly been blessed with being surrounded by such a great community and for myself such a great teaching staff. A staff that does a remarkable job of teaching kids while at the same time having some fun to keep sane, on those days when sanity seems to run thin..."

"From the first school system Montezuma, to Cunningham, to Baileyville, and then to Norton, I had taught in 1A schools until we arrived in Norton. During the first week of teacher orientation, I

about had an anxiety attack. It dawned on me that I was going to teach 135 kids every day! I was used to only 20 in a grade. But, with encouragement from the administration, it all worked out. Now, I tell a class of 20 Norton students that they would have been the whole seventh grade at one of my 1A schools."

"They seem to have trouble visualizing that concept..."

"I truly believe I have never worked a day in my life. I have always enjoyed being with the boys and girls that I have coached and the students I have taught."

"...I want to thank the community of Norton. Please understand the decision I have made to leave this great school system and staff was the hardest decision I have had to make professionally. But, when the opportunity came up to be able to stay in this great city and go back to coaching high school girls basketball and teaching in a 1A school system, it was an opportunity I could not pass up..."

When accepting his statue, Mr. Zimmerman said, "Notice I am the baby of this group (of retirees). It's been a great nine years. Thank you."

All of the retirees were wished well after the recognition program.



Junior High English teacher Todd Fulton gave retiring cook Marilyn Colip a big hug last Wednesday. Mrs. Colip was one of six Norton School District staff members who retired this year.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



Ed Witt, right, hefted Chuck Zimmerman's Blue Jay statue. Mr. Zimmerman, who resigned his position as the Norton Junior High Social Studies teacher, wanted Mr. Witt to "feel how heavy it is."

County 4-H'ers invited to workshops

Norton County Extension will be hosting a project workshop for 4-H'ers on Tuesday, June 5 at the Norton County 4-H Building.

The 4-H members who wish to participate are asked to call the Extension Office at 877-5755 by June 1 to pre-register. Youth may take more than 1 session as long as the time frames do not overlap.

The sessions offered will be basic bread making, 9 a.m. to noon; paper sack scrapbook (more advanced), 9 a.m. to noon; pop bottle rocketry, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; advanced bread making, 1 to 4 p.m.; photo box scrapbook, 1 to 3 p.m.; and pop bottle rockets, 3 to 5 p.m.

The 4-H lifeskills judging can be done by any 4-H member from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the 4-H building also that day.

There is a \$3 fee for the bread classes; participants in the bottle rocket launchers should bring an empty 2 liter plastic bottle and or a 35 mm film canister with lid.

Thanks
for
Reading!

JOIN US FOR THE 2007
AG VALLEY CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 4 - 6:30 P.M.,
Maywood Community Hall
TUESDAY, JUNE 5 - 12:00 NOON,
American Legion, Norton
TUESDAY, JUNE 5 - 6:30 P.M.,
Ella Missing Center, Arapahoe

Our entertainment this year are two of the funniest and zaniest ladies that you will ever meet, "Tina and Lena". Their engaging variety show is a rich blend of clever to cornball comedy, musical harmony and spirited antics...a celebration of the audience that goes full blast in high gear from start to finish.

**PLEASE RSVP RONI AT THE EDISON OFFICE
BY JUNE 1 AT 308-927-3681**

Thank you for supporting
your Co-op. We hope to see
you at the Annual Meeting!

Ag Valley
CO-OP
Conveniently located
to serve our producers

Substantial Success
is waiting for you at Friends University

The **College of Adult and Professional Studies (CAPS)** offers a variety of degrees and majors with schedules formatted to fit **YOUR** busy life.

CALL TODAY
1-800-715-9438

- Classes are held at the community college
- Classes taught by professionals

Visit us at
www.go2friends.com

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY
2100 W. University Ave.
Wichita, KS 67213

Friends University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association, telephone: 1-312-283-0456, www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org.

Blaine Younger Chasin' a Tornado CD Release Party Friday, June 1

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00 At The Door

— DRINK SPECIALS —
10 Pairs Country Stampede Tickets
Budweiser Fridge and More

**NORTON
EAGLES LODGE**

Special Guest: Brass and Grass Band

MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME