

January

Jan. 2 — A severe winter storm swept through northwest Kansas downing tree limbs and power lines. Over a thousand power poles were damaged during the ice and snow storm leaving thousands of residents without power. Work crews from as far away as Oklahoma, Missouri and Louisiana were called in to help with repairs.

Jan. 5 — The first baby of 2007 was born Jan. 3 at Norton County Hospital. The son of Ketan and Mani Kher, he weighed 5 pounds 1.5 ounces. He was named Krishna.

Jan. 9 — Dean Kruse, long-time Norton County Commissioner, retired Monday, Jan. 8. A reception was held for him on the second floor of the courthouse.

— Blackhawk helicopters from the Kansas Army National Guard helped feed cattle stranded during the blizzard.

Jan. 12 — The Bus and Coach International (BCI), Jennings, introduced its facility to the public with an open house. The company, which builds touring buses, bought the former Jennings High School building, to house its operation.

— The first blood drive of the year brought in 138 usable pints for the American Red Cross.

Jan. 23 — Norton County Hospital took another step toward making the hospital's records totally electronic. The system would give doctors and nurses instant access to patient charts, improve time management and create less billing and charge errors.

Jan. 26 — Two of the county's cities and all of the school districts had vacant board positions after the filing deadline had passed. Position three on the Norton school's board of education was open; Position three on the Northern Valley school board remained open; Position seven on the West Solomon Valley school board was open; the City of Edmond had one council seat open; and three council seats in the City of Clayton remained open.

Jan. 30 — Marie Violet Englehardt planned to celebrate her 100th birthday. Mrs. Englehardt was born Feb. 8, 1907 in Peckham, Okla. Her secret to a long life: hard work never killed anyone.

February

Feb. 2 — Rachelle's Challenge, a non-violence school program, was introduced to students from Norton Community High School and Northern Valley High School. The program was begun by Darrell Scott, father of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999.

— Clean-up began on the property left vacant when fire destroyed two downtown buildings on July 24, 2006. The city received title to the property from owners Lee and Siobhan Hanes.

Feb. 9 — Norton County Conservation District held its 60th annual meeting.

— Nex-Tech, a subsidiary of Rural Telephone, reached an agreement with Prairie Land Electric to assume ownership of its 96 WildBlue subscribers effective Feb. 1.

— Farmers in Norton, Decatur, Rawlins and Phillips counties who suffered crop or livestock losses from the Dec. 28-31 winter storm were allowed to apply for Farm Service Agency emergency loans.

Feb. 16 — The Bureau of Reclamation Great Plains awarded a \$1,099,998 contract to construct a weighted seepage stability berm and filter drain system in the left abutment of the Norton dam.

— A new board policy will protect the Norton School District if it ever gets sued. Superintendent Greg Mann told the school board that Rule 34 of the Federal Rules for Civic Procedures basically says that all electronic information must be stored for designated periods of time and reproduced if requested in a lawsuit.

Feb. 20 — Jade Braun was named Norton County Spelling Bee Champion when she correctly spelled "obnoxious", which her opponent had missed. She went on to correctly spell "synchronize" for the championship.

Feb. 23 — Polly Bales, Logan, was recognized by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas organization at their 89th annual banquet. Mrs. Bales was presented with a "Distinguished Service" citation for her years of service to the community.

— Economic Development Director Wade Carter said they have updated the *discoverNorton.com*

website to include the available jobs in the county.

Feb. 27 — A body was found Feb. 26 at Keith Sebelius Reservoir. The body was later identified as that of Dale Nelson, Rawlins County.

— The Norton County Hospital was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. The project the hospital was recognized for is its 2003 multi-million dollar remodeling project, which took a cooperative effort of several organizations, including Rural Development and Prairie Land Electric.

March

March 2 — Mel Rice of Norton was named "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

March 6 — Four new officers filled out the ranks of the Norton Police Department. They are Jeremy Hartwell, assistant police chief; Larry Land; Curtis Black; and Adam Wahlmeier.

— The Young Americans, an international performance group, conducted workshops March 6 for Norton students. The group, featuring several local students, performed that evening in Stull Gymnasium.

March 9 — Miles Harrington, a kindergarten student at Norton's Eisenhower Elementary, is \$500 richer for watching cartoons. Miles, with the help of his father, Marty Harrington, dialed a toll-free number during the broadcast of the movie, "Re-Animated" and correctly answered questions about the movie.

— Prairie Land Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting March 6. General Manager Allan Miller said the ice storms of late December and early January cost the company lots of money. He said 2006 started with carryover damages from a late November 2005 ice storm considered one of the worst storms to hit the area since 1957. Damages from that storm were estimated at more than \$23,500,000.

March 16 — Norton Correctional Facility escapee, Samuel (Sam) Lee Dartez II, was caught in Riley County about three hours after escaping from the Norton Correctional Facility-East Unit in Stockton Saturday.

— Katherine Severns, in her 90s, released a compact disc called, "He Leadeth Me". Mrs. Severns was recognized by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as being an inspiration.

March 20 — A Norton girl, reported missing by her parents on March 18, was returned home.

— Now in its 40th year, Valley Hope Association of Norton was honored in Topeka for its dedication to treating the chemically dependent.

March 30 — Norton Mayor David Corns sought re-election. Mayor Corns proclaims Norton to be a progressive community.

April

April 3 — Plans were underway for lower level renovations at Norton County Hospital.

— Fourteen area students received scholarships from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. They were: Aaron Helm, Amie Richard, Annette Becker, Ashley Kingham, Bethany Clements, Tanner Pabst, Nathan Pollock, Mathew Shepard, Maggie Nielsen, Kelli Cole, Kayleigh Brooks, Jake Tien, Henry Griffiths and Brandi Sammons.

April 6 — A Kansas Department of Transportation survey crew started working on U.S. 36 from the east side of Norton to the junction of K-383, six miles east. A section of the highway is being considered for surface rehabilitation.

April 10 — Norton Economic Director, Wade Carter, pledged to stay in Norton, "at least for another year."

April 17 — The Norton County Rotary BB Gun team lived up to their long winning tradition by earning the championship of the annual Kansas Jaycees State BB Gun Championships for the 37th time.

— Norton Community High School Prom was held April 14. Prom royalty was Princess Sandy Alvarez, Prince Kent Mann, Prom King Nathan Broeckelman and Prom Queen Lacey Roe.

April 20 — Norton police chief, Lynn Menagh, retires after 34 years in law enforcement.

— A benefit to help the Don Peterson family with mounting medical bills was held April 18.

April 27 — Royalty at Northern Valley's Prom was King Henry Griffiths and Queen Kelli Cole.



Eisenhower Elementary School principal, Corey Roy, took a "pie in the eye" for the sake of learning last May. Second grader, Levi Kendell, accumulated the most points for his grade in this year's accelerated reading program. That earned him the privilege of putting a cream pie in Mr. Roy's face.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

May

May 1 — Members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team entered the Kansas State 4-H Shoot in Great Bend on Saturday, April 21 and won the state championship for the second week in a row.

May 4 — Aaron Helm, Norcat, received acceptance to West Point.

— Mark Keilig, president of United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Norton, was re-elected vice-chairman of the Kansas Credit Union Association's Board of Directors.

— University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Athletics Director Lew Perkins were the guest speakers at the annual Norton Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

May 8 — The Norton City Council hired BRB Contractors for the water plant project, but wanted the company to include local businesses when getting bids.

May 11 — Marvin Matchett, manager at KQNK Radio, spearheaded efforts to raise money for victims of the Greensburg tornado. More than \$6,700 was raised.

May 15 — Norton City/County Airport Board accepted the bid of \$144,956 from Sporer Land Development Co., Hoxie, to make improvements on three taxiways, the facility's parking lot and a taxiway ramp.

May 18 — Two former Norton

County men were caught looting in Greensburg and now face charges.

May 22 — The Norton County Hospital Board is put the lower level renovation project on hold for a while. Hospital Administrator Rich Miller told the board at its last meeting that four companies had expressed interest in bidding for the job, but only one did. Rhoads Construction, Goodland, bid the project at \$527,000.

— Fifty-eight seniors graduated from Norton Community High School on Sunday, May 20.

— Sixteen seniors graduated from Northern Valley High School on Saturday, May 19.

May 22 — John Metcalf, 71, was charged with two counts of second degree attempted murder for allegedly using a handgun to shoot a male relative on March 17 in Hill City. He was later arrested in Norton County on a Graham County warrant.

— The tenth annual Run Across Kansas was underway. The run is in support of the nation's veterans and will benefit hospitalized veterans and/or veterans in dire need.

June

June 1 — The idea for a Farmer's Market is being re-vitalized.

June 5 — Rosalie McMullen's home on Eagles Road was not seriously damaged when struck by lightning.

June 8 — A load of 44 head of cattle headed to a packing plant in Dodge City failed to negotiate the turn from Kansas Highway 383 onto U.S. 36.

June 12 — Ag Valley Cooperative held their annual meeting June 5. Over half a million dollars in refunds was paid out to cooperative members during the year.

June 15 — Norton School Board raised the per meal price 10 cents.

June 19 — The first load of wheat, cut by Calvin Gill and his son, Tim Gill, was weighed in at Norton Ag Valley Co-op June 18.

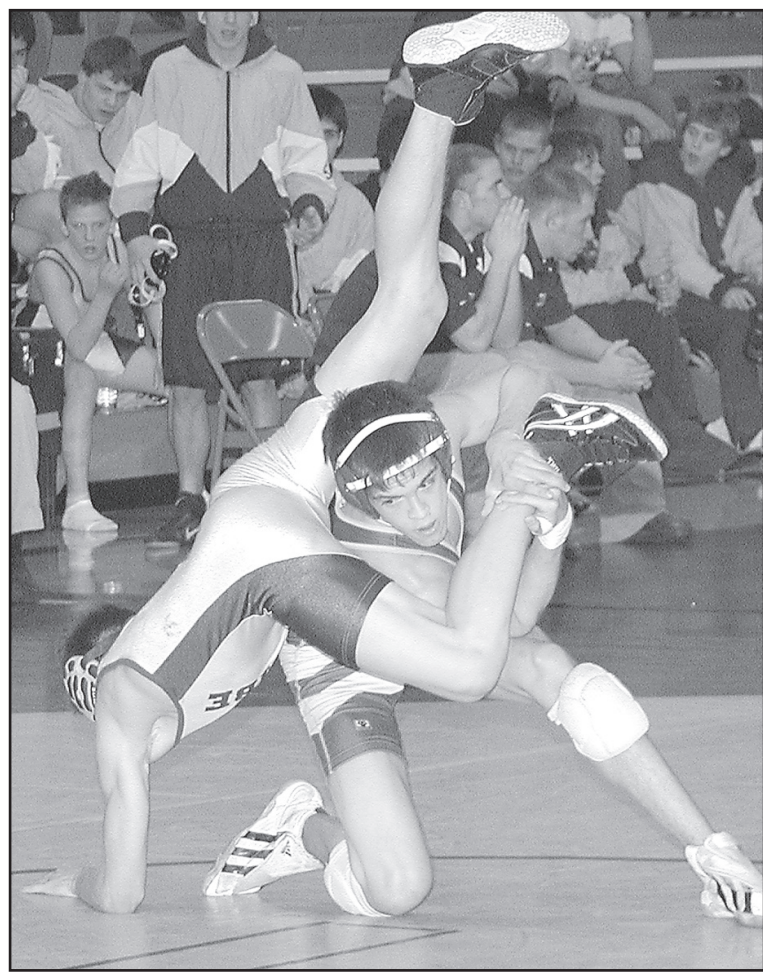
June 22 — A farming accident caused the death of a Logan man. Lewis Schneider, 77, Logan, died after being run over by his truck while trying to open a gate.

— The Norton Rural Fire Dept. District No. 2 has been awarded a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant (\$2,248) through the Kansas State Forest Service.

— Starla LeClair, rural Norton County, was bitten, in her own garage, by a rattlesnake.

— The Norton City Council gave the "go ahead" for the Downtown Restoration Committee to put something together to turn the fire destroyed property downtown into a small park.

(The recap for the final six months of 2007 will appear in Friday's edition of The Telegram.)



Norton freshman Zane Perez turned Nathan Hulvey every which way but loose before pinning him in 4:58 of their 119-pound match during the Blue Jays' dual win over Hays High in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym last February.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

PROPERTY TAX REPORT

At Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, we aim to be good corporate citizens of the region. We understand the need for property taxes to help support our schools and other public resources. For the year 2007, we paid **OVER \$2.8 MILLION** in property taxes in the following counties.

Arapahoe County, CO	\$2,694	Jewell	\$38,440	Rush	\$22,415
Barber	\$48	Kearny	\$8	Russell	\$99,730
Barton	\$77,319	Kit Carson County, CO	\$9,128	Saline	\$608
Brown	\$16	Labette	\$51	Scott	\$2,950
Cheyenne	\$12,328	Lane	\$4,845	Seward	\$1,653
Clark	\$42	Lincoln County, CO	\$2,760	Sheridan	\$49,312
Decatur	\$37,242	Logan	\$32,949	Sherman	\$11,059
Edwards	\$5,134	Mitchell	\$29	Smith	\$211,451
Elbert County, CO	\$5,047	Neosho	\$17	Stafford	\$11,688
Ellis	\$375,117	Ness	\$16,424	Stanton	\$10
Finney	\$2,207	Norton	\$484,133	Stevens	\$7
Ford	\$694	Osborne	\$210,208	Thomas	\$24,955
Franklin	\$46	Pawnee	\$11,886	Trego	\$201,653
Gove	\$121,892	Phillips	\$246,477	Wallace	\$14,047
Graham	\$254,221	Rawlins	\$24,686	Wichita	\$3,138
Grant	\$7	Reno	\$11,450		
Greeley	\$11,277	Republic	\$25,222		
Hamilton	\$226	Rice	\$11,371		
Haskell	\$8	Rooks	\$173,860	Total	\$2,864,185

These property taxes, together with the dollars we spend on services, payroll and upgrading our plant facilities, help support the local economy.

We would like to thank those of you who continue to put your trust and hard-earned dollars into products and services from Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless. We realize you have a choice when making purchases such as directory yellow page advertising and other telecommunication products and services.

When you choose Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, you keep your dollars in the local economy to support **YOUR SCHOOLS** and **YOUR PUBLIC RESOURCES**.



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