

# Telegram recaps second half of 2007

## July

July 3 — The Kansas State Fire Marshall's office completed a survey of the Norton County Hospital. Hospital Maintenance Supervisor Ty Bruton described the deficiencies to the board and told them what issues had been addressed and what still needed to be done.

July 6 — The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team continued the winning tradition by placing No. 2 in shooting and No. 5 overall in the 42nd annual U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships held on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky.

July 13 — Deborah Combs was installed as the new Postmaster of Norcatour.

July 17 — Over 200 modern, classic and antique cars and hundreds of spectators attended the fourth annual Norton Car Show.

Mark Griffin, president of the Norton Classic Cruisers Club, said they had 180 show cars and 20 club member cars on display.

July 20 — Traffic on State Street had to detour while a problem with the sewer main was taken care of. City Administrator Rob Lawson said a 30-foot section of the sewer main under north State Street was plugged.

July 24 — Several area businesses were recognized by the Kansas Department of Commerce for their contributions to the community and state economy. Area businesses receiving merit awards in service were Andbe Home; Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas; Husky Hogs; Midwest Contractors, Inc.; and Norton County Hospital.

July 31 — Megan Brumbaugh of Logan won the first Norton Idol contest sponsored by Norton County Farm Bureau.

— After six years of trying, the Norton County Rural Fire Department received a grant for \$229,154 to get a new pumper truck.

## August

Aug. 3 — Robert Annon named new City Police Chief.

Aug. 7 — Prairie Dog State Park had its biggest Prairie Dog Christmas yet.

Aug. 14 — With its new reverse 911 system, the Norton County Sheriff's Department can contact a large number of people with little effort. Sheriff Troy Thomson said their new system, the CodeRED Emergency Notification System, uses the 911 database to contact a large number of people in emergency situations.

Aug. 17 — The Norton School District, with help from the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Norton Lions Club, welcomed its teachers back for the new school year with the annual teacher's picnic.

— The Valley Hope Association celebrated its 40th birthday last week, holding its annual meeting Friday afternoon.

Aug. 24 — Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners that one of his vehicles and a deer, had a chance meeting and the vehicle sustained some damage. Sheriff Thomson presented three bids from local body shops to repair the vehicle as necessary. The commission approved the low bid.

Aug. 31 — Alyssa George, this year's reigning Miss Kansas, launched a public speaking campaign addressing the issue of bullying in school. Miss Kansas spoke at the schools in Norton County.

## September

Sept. 4 — The Downtown Restoration Committee was formed to help clean up the county's downtown areas. Gloria Nelson, said the committee is working on turning the vacant lot, left after two buildings burned down last summer, into a park.

Sept. 7 — The Norton School Board set its goals for the upcoming school year at a recent special meeting. The board identified five areas for the upcoming year: improving the handicapped accessibility mind set and systems; identifying potential certified staffing problems and being prepared to attract and pay for those positions; identifying and maximizing the scholarships awarded to graduating students; evaluating the use and effectiveness of the breakfast program and researching opportunities for other meal programs; and planning for the

most effective and maximized use of the technology program.

Sept. 11 — Economic Development Director Diane Becker and Norton County Appraiser Alan Hale joined the Norton County Commission to discuss the Neighborhood Revitalization act and whether or not it would be beneficial to county residents.

Sept. 14 — Dozens of Norton Community High School Alumni attended the school reunion. Members of the Class of 1947 were recognized as they celebrated 60 years since graduating.

Sept. 18 — City Council representative, Ron Briery, told the Norton City/County Airport Board that the council has revised its budget to accommodate its support of the airport.

Sept. 21 — The U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt was deemed a huge success by event coordinator, Carolyn Applegate. She estimated almost \$60,000 was generated in the Norton County community during the two-day garage sale.

Sept. 25 — Thanks to the joint efforts of the Norton Church of God and the Bicycles for Youngsters program of Norton Correctional Facility, 67 bicycles and tricycles were recently delivered to youth of the Greensburg community.

Sept. 28 — The Norton County Health Department, with help from other area agencies and businesses, set up a mass dispensing drill to see if its plan would work. The drill, said Health Department Supervisor Gina Frack, is a requirement to get grant money from the state.

— Steve Haynes, co-owner of Nor'West Newspapers, which includes *The Norton Telegram*, is the new president of the National Newspaper Association, the honor bestowed at the organization's annual meeting in Norfolk, Va.

## October

Oct. 2 — Ramona Pabian, director of the Norton Senior Center, represented Norton County in the 25th Annual Kansas Silver Haired Legislature.

— In an effort to promote farm safety, Norton and Phillips County Farm Bureaus and FFA chapters from Norton Community High School and Northern Valley High School, worked together to present a safety event for Eisenhower Elementary fifth and sixth graders and fifth through eighth graders from Northern Valley.

Oct. 5 — Bridges Group has been selected for the fourth year to be part of an elite group of independent insurance agencies, around the United States, participating in the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America "Best Practices" study group.

— The National Weather Service in Goodland honored Nex-Tech with a Mark Trail Award. Ryan McClung, Nex-Tech Mobile Radio Supervisor, accepted the award at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Oct. 9 — Neta Jean Campbell, 71, was killed when her truck rolled on a gravel road.

— Fr. Dennis Gilhousen of the Norton Trinity Episcopal Church conducted a "Blessing of the Pets" at Elmwood Park. The blessing is done in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for all creatures.

Oct. 12 — The Norton County Economic Development Board has decided to go forward with the Neighborhood Revitalization Act. — During the annual fire safety program at Eisenhower Elementary School, fireman Steve Otter spoke to the students about the importance of creating a family evacuation plan. He encouraged each child to go home and discuss a plan with their parents and to even have family fire drills.

Oct. 16 — Dr. Jeffery McKinley received certification from the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. McKinley has been on the staff of Norton County Hospital and Doctors Clinic since 2000.

Oct. 19 — The Norton Downtown Restoration Committee presented a rendition of what the Washington Street park would look like to the Norton County commissioners. The committee plans to use old bricks from Main Street for a walkway, plant trees, bushes and flowers, and to install lights.

— Dozens of KAYs, FFA mem-



On Nov. 2, a caravan of beflagged motorcycles, belonging to members of the Patriot Guard, headed down State Street to the Norton Christian Church. The Guard surrounded the

church and held flags as a tribute to the memory of Sgt. Scott Turner, whose funeral was held that day.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

bers and Family Career and Community Leaders of America from Norton Community High School didn't let a little cold weather stop them from having their annual hayrack ride.

Oct. 23 — Sgt. Michael FitzPatrick, Sr., Almena, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for actions taken in Iraq. The Commendation medal is a military award presented for acts of heroism or meritorious service.

— Russ Erbert caught a Black Snake Eel, weighing 30 pounds, 8 ounces, off the coast of Mississippi. The catch qualified him for a listing in the Mississippi Sport-fishing Record Book.

Oct. 26 — The Norton County Hospital board gave the "go-ahead" to renovate the physical therapy/cardiac rehabilitation area.

Oct. 30 — Sgt. Scott Turner was killed in a training accident at Fort Riley. His wife is the former Amy Roeder. Her parents are Jerry and Pam Roeder, Norton.

— The Almena Fire Department, with help from the Norton Rural Fire Department, stopped a fire in a shop/garage at the Don and Marilyn Lowry residence, from spreading.

## November

Nov. 2 — A giant transformer weighing more than 800,000 pounds passed through Norton. The transformer had traveled from Houston, Texas on its way to a location in Nebraska.

— Motels in Norton were booked solid for opening weekend of pheasant season.

— Diane Becker, Norton County Economic Development director, said the Norton County Commission would look at the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, which is a property tax rebate program.

Nov. 6 — Almost 100 motorcycles and 150 riders from all parts of Kansas and other states rumbled through Norton to pay tribute to Sgt. Scott Turner, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Patriot Guard is a group of individuals who have only one mission — to honor fallen soldiers and support their families.

— Fort Hays State University considered changing its name to the University of Western Kansas.

Nov. 13 — Dirt and large boulders were delivered to the site of the new city park in downtown Norton. Restoration plans include both imperial locust and a whoopie blue spruce trees.

Nov. 16 — Thursday, Nov. 29 was set as "Buy Local Day" by Norton County Economic Development.

— Norton County Republicans will participate in the statewide presidential caucus to be held Feb. 9. The Norton County caucus will be held at the Norton American Legion, 1120 North Norton Avenue.

Nov. 20 — Over 100 people attended the fourth annual Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Dinner Dance and Silent Auction held at the American Legion Nov. 17.

— Eisenhower Elementary is among the top schools in the state. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes earned four Awards of Excellence for their performances on state assessments and the Governor's Achievement Award.



Two hundred modern, classic and antique cars were on display at the Norton Car Show last July. Following the show, between 30 and 40 cars "burned rubber", literally, during the drag races at the Norton City/County Airport.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Nov. 23 — Christmas lights in downtown Norton were turned on to signal the official opening of the Christmas holiday season.

Nov. 27 — Northern Valley High School KAYs brought canned goods to help local food banks.

Nov. 30 — Norton schools, Norton County Hospital and Norton Correctional Facility have been aware of the Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus skin infection (MRSA) for years. All three institutions have plans in place to control the contagious skin infection.

## December

Dec. 4 — The Geo Fitness Exercise Program was introduced to Eisenhower Elementary School by physical education teacher, Joan Bolt. Mrs. Bolt applied for and received a grant which provided nearly \$2,800 worth of individual and sectioned grid mats, a Geo Motion workout program, several DVDs with routines, games, activities and

several music CDs.

Dec. 7 — Ramona Pabian and Evelyn Paden have decorated the graves of early Norton County settlers — most of whom are buried in the south end of Norton Cemetery. They have placed silk poinsettias on the graves.

— The first ever Christmas Cookie Contest, sponsored by *The Norton Telegram* with help from The Norton Theatre and The Sewing Box, was a success, raising over \$550 for God's Pantry.

Tamara Haussermann won first place with her strawberry linzers; Libbi Puga and her grandmother, Debbie Jones, won second place with their chocolate chip cookies; and in third place was Kathy Zimmerman with her Philly cream cheese cookies.

Dec. 14 — Ritchie R. Ray, Equipment Operator Specialist, for the Kansas Department of Transportation, retired from his post after 43 years of state service.

Dec. 18 — Norton Lions Club

delivered about 90 baskets of food to families in Norton County. Dollar General held a toy drive at its store and lots of new toys were donated to households with children. Other corporate sponsors were Jamboree Food Store, Norton Shop 'N Save and the Norton Thrift Store.

Dec. 21 — Bonnie Laughlin, Norton, walked away with \$1,250 from *The Norton Telegram's* Christmas on Us drawing.

Dec. 28 — The Norton Downtown Restoration Committee will be focusing on getting new light poles as its next project.

— After a trip into space aboard the Space Shuttle Mission STS-117, a poster signed in 2003 by every student at Eisenhower Elementary School was returned to the school Dec. 20. The school was invited to be part of the "Student Signatures in Space" program sponsored by NASA. The poster is on display in Terese Schulze's science classroom.

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