

# Rep. Moran visits Norton on tour

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Rep. Moran.

Other topics Rep. Moran spoke about at the request of the audience were:

- Kansas Highways — He said a bill was introduced that would raise the gas tax by 45 cents over the next five years to help pay for highways. However, he said he doesn't know a politician in Washington that would vote for that kind of increase. Right now, he said 18 cents a gallon goes to the highway fund, but it is no longer enough to pay for highways. Most highway dollars go to state programs, meaning that although the federal government gives states a lot of money, the state itself determines where it will be spent.

- Drivers' License Age — He said determining the age limit on drivers' licenses is a state issue. He does know that a bill to raise the age someone can get a license has been brought before the state legislature. Raising the age, he said, mostly has to do with safety. However, the people who protest the most are parents who don't have time to take their teenagers everywhere they need to go.

- Rail Industry — He said they need to focus on the rail industry to take some of the stress off highways. He's heard that there need to be more cars to ship grain. Also, he said they don't want to lose the passenger lines. He said more needs to be put in the railways so that in remote places, where the population isn't as high, the lines aren't lost.

- 2008 Election — Rep. Moran said he doesn't like to say it, but nothing seems to really get done in an election year.

"The goal in Washington ought not to be creating an issue, it should be about solving a problem," he said. "I wish I could come back here and tell you what I've accomplished. Instead, I have to tell you what my goals are, what I want to work on."

He said Congress is not in line with most people and the politicians in Congress think they have to create a problem to get people angry so that they will vote.

"We need voters who are informed and politicians who know what is going on where they're



U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran spoke to Norton residents Monday afternoon about his goals for 2008.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

from," he said. "Too often, that is not the case. Politicians often don't know what the people who elected them want or need anymore."

As for the presidential election, he said he was a kid who grew up liking politics, but even he is already tired of the presidential election.

"The watch word in 2008 is change," he said. "Americans are fed up with the way things are. So politicians are saying the word change, but aren't saying what it is they plan to change."

- Iraq War — He said the nation can't afford to be there 100 years from now. The military, he said, has done everything that has been expected of them. The civilian leaders are where the problem is. To win this war, the entire nation has to be mobilized. Instead, the soldiers and their families are bearing the brunt, while everyone else goes on with their normal life.

"Our country's leaders have tried to downplay the costs," he said. "We don't have the courage to tell the American people the real cost and we didn't go in big enough. We need to see if the Iraqi leaders are interested in fixing this, and if not, there is not a lot we can do from the outside."

He said we don't see a lot of what is happening there; we don't see much of the positive, just the negative, just the deaths.

"We need leaders who will tell us the whole story," he said. "I don't think we could have fought World War II with the nightly news."

- National Borders — Rep.

Moran said he has voted to put military on the borders. It's not the perfect solution, he said, but something needs to be done.

"Our borders matter," he said. "If you can just come across the border, then you don't have to follow our rules."

But, he said, the country has an immigration system that doesn't work. He said he is not surprised that people are coming across illegally. It takes years to get a legal visa. He said they need to have a system that checks health and then checks the security of people wanting to come into the country. He said it should take months, not years.

"Our borders are more about national security and crime than anything else," he said. "They're about the potential tremendous loss of life if a terrorist comes through. That's why the military is needed. The borders shouldn't have become the political football that they have."

- Interstate Regulation for Farm Trucks — He said the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) has been wanting to treat farmers who take their grain by truck from their farm to the local elevator as if they were transporting across state borders. The KCC is under the impression that it will lose federal funding if it doesn't. Rep. Moran said he has been working with state officials to convince the KCC to back off this issue. He said there are only two other states having this problem right now and if it were a federal edict, all 50 states would be crying about it.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**NORTON Senior High**  
Monday, Feb. 25 — Spring sports practices may begin; Wrestling Photos, 3:30 p.m.; Track Meeting for Wrestlers, A.P.; Sub-State Basketball, Boys Quarter-Final game at Norton, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Junior Class Menu Committee Meeting, High School Art Room, A.P.; Golf Meeting, A.P.; Sub-State Basketball, Girls Quarter-Final Game at Norton, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — FFA Ag Mechanics and Spring Meeting, Goodland, Northwest Kansas Technical College, 9 a.m.; Gifted Seminar, Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.; S.A.C Meeting, A.P.  
Thursday, Feb. 28 — FCCLA Meeting, A.P.; Sub-State Basketball, Boys Semi-Final Games at Norton, 6 and 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 29 — Sub-State Basketball, Girls Semi-Final Games at Norton, 6 and 7:30 p.m.; American Legion Boys State/Cadet Law Info Meeting, Cafeteria, A.P.  
Saturday, March 1 — Forensics at Ellis, 7:30 a.m.; FFA State Degree Selection at Quinter, 9 a.m.; Sub-State Basketball Championship Games at Norton, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

**Junior High**  
Monday, March 25 — Wrestling Pictures, 3:30 p.m.; Scholar's Bowl at Stockton, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, March 1 — Mid-Continent Elementary League Wrestling Tournament at Ellis, 9:30 a.m.  
Monday, March 2 — Stuco, A.P.

**Eisenhower**  
Feb. 25-29 — Writing Assessments, Grade 5  
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — S.I.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.; Staff Wellness Meeting, Band Room, 4 p.m.  
Monday, March 3 — Kindergarten Round-Up, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 4 — A.R. Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

**All Schools**  
Monday, March 25 — P.D.C. at Unified Office, 4 p.m.

**NORTHERN VALLEY**  
Saturday, Feb. 23 — High School Regional Basketball, TBD  
Monday, Feb. 25 — First possible day of track practice; High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD

Tuesday, Feb. 26 — High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD  
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Technology Director's Cadre at Fort Hays State University; FFA Spring Area meeting and District Ag Mechanics at Goodland, 9 a.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 28 — Jump Rope for Heart during Physical Education Classes; KMEA State Music Convention at Wichita; High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD  
Friday, Feb. 29 — KMEA State Music Convention at Wichita; High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD  
Saturday, March 1 — High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD; High School Forensics meet at Ellis, TBD; FFA District Selection Day at Quinter, 9 a.m.  
Monday, March 3 — Breakfast and Lunch Payments Due

**Vocational Teacher's Aide for Homebuilding**  
The Education Service Center at Greenbush is seeking a full time aide to assist the instructor in a vocational homebuilding program for the Kansas Department of Corrections at the Norton Facility. Someone who has at least two years of business/industry-related experience, GED or High School Education is needed. College education, supervisory experience within the trade preferred. Excellent benefits, salary is commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Duane Krueger, Education Department, PO Box 1568, Hutchinson, Kansas, 67504 or email to DuaneK@doc.ks.gov For more info call, 620-662-6997.

**FARMWORKER: DRIVES TRUCKS ON HARVEST RUN AND DOES INFIELD REPAIRS ON EQUIPMENT**  
Must have appropriate driver's license with air brake endorsement if available in state drive forage trucks. Must furnish and produce to employer a current "driver's abstract" showing an acceptable driving record. The employer, Mr. Rogers from Long Island will pay the adverse effect wage rate of \$9.55/hr. The employer guarantees 3/4 of the workdays in the work contract. The work tools, supplies and equipment are provided without cost to the worker, if applicable. Free housing is provided to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of the workday. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be provided or paid by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract or earlier. Workers interested in the job should contact their nearest local office of the Kansas Department of Commerce, mention job order number: 2836888.

**LODGE NOTICES**

**American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63**  
Second and Fourth Monday  
Joe Ballinger, Commander

**Eagles Lodge FOE 3288**  
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Dennis Gilhouse, President  
Lee Smith, Secretary

**Sons of the American Legion**  
Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.  
James Railsback, Commander

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
Reg. 7:00 p.m.  
First Mon.—Last Thursday of each month  
Curt Archibald, Commander  
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

**I.O.O.F. No. 157**  
108 South Kansas, Norton  
Thursday—7:30 p.m.  
Fun Night—Last Thursday of each month  
Randy Knoll, Noble Grand  
Bill Cochran, Secretary

## Wellness Fair set for this Wednesday

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get more information about the services Social and Rehabilitative Services provides, be the recipient of a chair massage, have your infant car seat checked for free, and get information on how to stay in your own home longer, to name just a few.

As an added attraction, the Norton Lions Club is sponsoring the

Lions Screening Van again this year as a part of the Fair. This van will do a number of screenings for the public.

Need a ride? Contact the Norton Public Transportation Office at 785-877-5352. They will provide transportation to and from the Fair as usual.

If you have questions about the Fair, you may contact Gina at the

Norton County Health Department or Lacy at Norton Manor,

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail [twatts@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:twatts@oznet.ksu.edu). For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

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As I left the basketball game last night I received a phone call from a friend, she urged me to stop and pick up a newspaper. She explained that I needed to read the opinion page. When I opened the paper and began to read the opinion of one local woman, I was at first shocked that the paper had actually printed the piece and angry that this woman actually was hiding behind the cloak of "Religion" as her basis for her opinion. I have to be honest the first paragraph, she hit the nail on the head! If I may quote:

*"I like to deal with reality in MY life and in life in general as genuinely and honestly as possible. That means enjoying the blessings and good times as well as confronting the difficult times with courage and integrity. No glossing over. No duplicity. No hiding. Take the bull by the horns and move forward."*

I underlined and bolded "MY" for a reason. We are all responsible for our own lives. Period! From there you are sadly misguided. Wanting to pick up your local newspaper and read all the dirty laundry of the community is not healthy for you or society in general. You claim to be religious. Well lets reflect on the teaching from the bible . . . Are we the ones who are to judge?

*"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" — Luke 6:37*

Does that ring a bell? (I think he wants us to forgive, not judge or condemn)

I was a city girl also, I have never in all my life picked up a paper and read the local gossip. Most people see gossip for what it is...GOSSIP! It isn't news. You hear these things in church? What? Gossip in church, does your minister know that? I think we have to ask ourselves why we want to know these things. What is it that makes us want to see the bad things? Why do we love to see others hurt? Why on earth would we want to have the newspaper pry into people's private lives? Why would we want to have all the negative muddlings by those who have nothing better to do printed in our paper? Why would we want the paper to waste time and resources to peek into private lives? I have heard a lot of rumors about people I know and love. They are just that, rumors. I have my children come to me with things they heard, I take that opportunity to teach. Gossip is not healthy to anyone. If it isn't our business we don't talk about it, "do unto others" that whole thing. Close your blinds and stop looking for your neighbors transgressions. Turn off Jerry Springer and the soaps. Life isn't like the soaps or tabloids, it isn't really that exciting, really it isn't! That's why so many have to make the stories more colorful. People make changes to their lives for the simple reason, they need a change! I am not saying that people don't make mistakes, we do, all of us! Isn't that why we pray for ourselves and ask for forgiveness every day? Liking any situation in this community to Clinton/Monica is ridiculous. We do not have the leader of the free world living here in Norton, KS! Wake up you are in Norton, KS, small town USA. Like every small town we have gossip, rumors, drama... blah blah blah. We also have a lot of good and awesome things. Is that why so many are flocking to mid America from the big cities? Small communities make you feel like family. Everyone gathering at the ball game for some heart pumping action. Cheering for all the kids like they are your own. Waving at every car that you pass. Crying for losses, praising the accomplishments! How lucky I am to live here. How fortunate I feel to be able to read my paper without all the tabloid drama in it. I have a lot of things to worry about in this day and age, I think all of us do. How about the paper putting things in its issues that help us with daily stress, not pointing out my neighbors moral choices. I am not the judge. You are not the judge, nor is the paper. I truly would not want that responsibility. But there is one thing I know, I would love to be a fly on the wall when some in society have to answer to their maker for their judgments of others! Maybe the ministers in the community will have something new to speak about this month!

I have paid for this to be printed in the paper today for two reasons:

1. I want to insure it would be printed in a timely manner. (Have a feeling that I won't be the only one writing!)
2. I want to make it very clear; I am a merchant in town that buys advertising in this paper. Under no circumstances do I want to have the local paper, who prints the ball scores from my daughter's games, to also be writing about the local gossip. I want my money to be put to positive use. I don't want the "investigative reporter" to be snooping in anyone's private lives to sell a paper or give nosey gossips something to read. They can pick up an Enquirer at the store or turn on the TV for a soap opera or some riveting Jerry Springer.

— Abi Delimont  
Norton