



Maritta Van Pelt dried off Josie, one of her customers, Monday morning after giving her a bath. Mrs. Van Pelt's pet grooming business, Grooming By Maritta, has moved to the building behind the Carter Building.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Pet grooming business at new location

By **BRANDY LEROUX**  
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Maritta Van Pelt has been an animal lover for years.

She recently moved her pet grooming business from Drs. White and White's veterinarian clinic into the Carter Building at 213 S. Kansas Ave. Her new location is in the backside of the complex.

"My friend Judy, who owned a pet grooming business in McCook, taught me how to groom pets. I've been doing it for about 11 years," said Mrs. Van Pelt.

"The first day I groomed a pet on my own, it took me all morning to do one dog," she said.

In the last 11 years, she's gotten better — and quicker. And she's never been bitten, not even once.

"I tell the pets everything I'm going to do to groom them, whether it's to bathe them, trim the hair on their face or trim their nails," said Mrs. Van Pelt.

She prefers that customers bring their pets in to get groomed at an early age — the sooner the better.

"The first visit, I might give them a bath, and put them on the table, raise and lower the table so they can start getting used to it, and turn on the blower, so they get used to the noise. They'll get their nails clipped, and sometimes I'll trim the hair around the eyes," she said.

Puppies should be brought in at four weeks, then eight weeks,

then maybe 16 weeks so they get familiar with the sounds and smells.

Kittens should be brought in at about six weeks, and only be groomed twice a year — once in the early spring, and again in late autumn — to help remove the old, dead hair and prevent mats.

Usually people who bring in cats to be groomed want a "lion" cut — where the fur on the body is shaved down, with a "lion's mane," booties on their feet, and a pouf on their tail.

"One customer says her cat will parade and prance around the house after getting a lion 'do,'" she said.

"Some people don't want the booties, or maybe they don't want the pouf," said Mrs. Van Pelt. "No two people want their pet groomed the exact same way. There are different lengths the fur can be cut, different places to leave fur unshaved on the body."

"I ask even returning customers how they want their pets groomed. Sometimes they want to try something really different, sometimes it's just a little change. I may not get it exactly right the first time, but if the owners keep working with me, I will work at it until I get it right," she said.

For dogs, the usual routine is a bath, a thorough brushing, ears cleaned and a trim around the face if it's needed.

Mrs. Van Pelt has a brand new

bathing tub, which has an elevated area so the pets aren't standing in dirty water. She bought a new power-washer to go with it, which helps get dandruff or dry skin out of the fur, and can break up some mats in the fur. It also helps increase the blood flow to the upper layer of the skin, promoting good oil production and decreasing dandruff and dry skin. The new tub also has a ramp so dogs can walk right up into the tub.

She uses all-natural, botanical shampoos and grooming products on the pets she grooms.

Mrs. Van Pelt also purchased a "hanging tree" and made "saddles" for the animals. The saddles hang from the tree and hold the pet suspended above the grooming table, making it easier for her to trim the fur around the paws. The hanging tree can hold up to 30 pounds.

Every pet, before leaving Mrs. Van Pelt's shop, gets a treat.

"I want this to be something they remember as a positive experience," she said. "Even puppies and kittens will remember everything I do to them here. If it's enjoyable for them, they'll be less stressed, and my job will also be easier."

"Grooming by Maritta" is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment. Mrs. Van Pelt said she can open earlier or stay later if a client needs it.

## Public Record

### Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. The traffic and criminal cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

Traffic  
Oct. 2 — Zebulon Lynd, Norton, no seat belt under 18, fine \$60.

Oct. 2 — Kerby Brandyberry, Lenora, speeding 39 in a 30 mph zone and no seat belt, fine \$60, court cost \$75.

Oct. 2 — Tyler Cook, Norton, driving in violation of farm permit, dismissed by City Prosecutor for payment of costs of \$75.

Criminal  
Oct. 2 — Krista Smith, Norton, curfew violation. Community service pulling weeds to be assigned March 2009 in lieu of fine and court cost.

Oct. 2 — Kody Harper, Norton, minor in possession, first offense. Driver's license suspended for 30 days, to serve 5 days in jail, fine \$200 and court cost \$75.

Oct. 2 — Kody Harper, Norton, minor in possession, second offense. Driver's license suspended for 90 days, to serve another 5 days in jail, fine \$200, court cost \$75.

### District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse. Traffic, criminal and wildlife parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid. Limited action and small claim cases are reported only after the defendant is served.

Traffic  
Oct. 23 — Eliseo Avila, Liberal, speeding 76 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$44, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Joni K. Berry, Lenora, speeding 78 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$57, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Daniel W. Grinnan, Burlington, Colo., 14 to 18, no seat belt, fine \$60.

Oct. 23 — Katie L. James, Agra, speeding 75 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$39, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Dolores M. Koerperich, Oberlin, speeding 84 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$93, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Melody Kuncrls, Norton, failure to wear seat belt, fine \$39, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Joseph B. Massiatte, Alvin, Texas, speeding 93 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$171, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Jeremy F. Meyers, McCook, Neb., expired registration and failure to wear seat belt, fine \$99, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Nicole Lynn Moser, Denver, Colo., speeding 86 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$108, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Luke T. Ninemire, Lenora, speeding 97 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$219, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Tatyana Pavlovna Pznoz, Wichita, speeding 87 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$117, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Rebecca Shepherd, McCook, Neb., failure to use child restraining system and seat belt, fine \$69, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Brian P. Sponner, Long Island, failure to maintain single lane, fine \$69, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Kelli J. Tuxhorn, Norton, speeding 80 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$69, court cost \$66.

Oct. 23 — Andrew P. Wells, Norcat, speeding 77 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$51, court cost \$66.

**Animal Shelter For Adoption**  
Male Chihuahua/Dachshund mix, under one year old.

Male Scotty/Pug mix, 7 months old, neutered.

Male Brittany spaniel, 1 to 2 years old. Mild mannered.

Found  
Female Basset Hound, white and fawn, less than 1 year, Elmwood Park area.

## Time to chat



Christy Harvey talked with Julie Schrum, her daughter Autumn's Kindergarten teacher during parent teacher conferences Wednesday afternoon.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Board okays new equipment purchase

*Special to The Telegram*  
Bill Campbell, Norton County Hospital laboratory supervisor, presented a proposal to purchase a new hematology analyzer to the hospital board of trustees.

Mr. Campbell favors purchase of a Sysmex analyzer which he has had experience with. Replacement of this equipment was scheduled in the 2010 capital budget, but the board decided to move ahead with the purchase now. The board approved to purchase the equipment for \$39,600 and the interface cost with the Dairyland information system with funding through the Robb account. Due to a family conflict of interest, Dennis Gilhousen, president of the hospital board, abstained from voting.

A certificate of deposit, as well as a listing of uncompensated care applications and bankruptcy accounts filed during the current fiscal year were reviewed.

The board approved to write off patient accounts totaling \$54,857.72. The board held a discussion related to account collection procedures, including the impact on the balance sheet of the charity care accounts and bad debt accounts. Further discussion of a revised account collection policy was put off until a later date.

The personnel report was reviewed. Michelle Thompson was hired as a full-time Certified Nurse's Aide, Laura Somers was hired for part-time in the dietary department, and Maia Carlson was hired for part-time at the Doctor's Clinic. Resignations from Alasia Kenney, a full-time Licensed Practical Nurse and Alissa McDonald, a Registered

Nurse used as needed, were reviewed. The board also reviewed the termination of Shirley Kelley, a full-time Certified Nurse's Aide.

Geraldine Villapeno, MD and her husband were scheduled to visit Norton Sept. 28 to the 29. Dr. Villapeno is completing a family practice residency program.

Pharmacy, Housekeeping/linens, purchasing, radiology, physical therapy, health information management, surgery, nursing, infection

control, chemotherapy, engineering, obstetrics, dietary and social services/activities quality summaries were reviewed.

An "I Can Cope" program was recently presented by tele-video programming. The program provides a support group for surviving cancer patients and their families. Twelve to 15 participants were involved with the five weekly presentations. Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney hosted the program.

PLEASE DETACH AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE  
**USD 211 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In the event there is a need to start school late or close schools due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the announcement will be made on the radio and television stations listed below: KQNK Radio of Norton (1530 AM or 106.7 FM) is the primary broadcast outlet for the Norton schools.

If inclement weather develops during the school day, parents should attempt to tune to one of the designated radio or television stations below. In the event there is an early dismissal students will be allowed to call their parents if instructions are needed.

If school is not called off, but parents believe the weather to be too hazardous to send their child(ren) to school they are to follow the normal procedures for reporting absences.

RADIO STATIONS		
KQNK	1530 AM	NORTON
	106.7 FM	NORTON
KRVN	880 AM	Lexington, NE
KFNF	101.1 FM	Oberlin
KKAN	1490 AM	Phillipsburg
KKMA	92.5 FM	Phillipsburg

TELEVISION STATIONS		
KSNK-TV	NBC	Channel 8
KBSH-TV	CBS	Channel 7
KAKE-TV	CBS	Channel 11
NTV	ABC	Channel 13

Also, district patrons are encouraged to sign up to receive text and email notifications of school closings via the "Text Caste." Signing up for this service is quick and easy. Go to [www.usd211.org](http://www.usd211.org) and click on "BLUEJAY ALERTS" and follow the instructions.

Insanity? Or, is it ordinary FEAR...

This Halloween... Could it be the nightmare that never ends?

Valley Hope Foundation Presents  
**MONSTER MASH BASH and HAUNTED HOUSE**  
An alcohol and drug-free entertainment event to raise funds for the Norton Valley Hope patient care fund.

October 30, 31, November 1, 2008, 7-11:00pm  
Norton, Ks, National Guard Armory

**Monster Mash Bash**  
Executive Producer - Megan O'Connor  
Directed by Kerri Ray  
Starring monsters, ghouls, ghosts, and goblins  
Contests, games, family fun & snackbar

**Haunted House**  
Executive Producer - John Leipold  
Directed by Amy Daniels  
Starring Curt Krebsbach as THE BUTCHER!  
\$7 admission all ages

Event Sponsors

Bridges Group, INC INSURANCE  
State Bank  
Garrett's  
Walter Motor Company  
Gerald & Helen Heim Home Implement Co. Case IH Dealer  
NCH  
Wes & Casey Bainter Construction Services - Hoxie, KS