



The Legion Riders set off on a poker run. The event was held to raise money for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall fund. The Memorial will be in Norton in late September. -Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Legion Riders support the Moving Wall project

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Last Saturday the Legion Riders had a poker run to raise money for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall that will come to Norton in late September. Fifty-two bikes and 75 riders took part in the cause. The group left Norton at 1 p.m. with Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson escorting them to the

Norton, Phillips County line. They rode to Logan then Phillipsburg, on to Stockton and then to Hill City before heading back to Norton. They arrived back at 6:30 p.m. The high hand in the poker run was held by Michelle Railsback with Ken Breinig having the low hand. A total of \$655.00 was raised

for the wall. Organizer, Jon Wyatt said, "We were happy with the turn out." The Legion Riders have already had a bake sale to raise money for the wall. After this poker run, they have plans to have another bake sale. The group will be providing security for the Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall while it is here in Norton.

Norton Public Library July events

Come to the Norton Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday for infants-second grade and 2 p.m. for third-sixth graders to enjoy Tranda Watts from the K-State Extension Office as she brings her imagination and creativity to share. Come Make A Splash! **BOOK SIGNING** Maia Carlson will be coming to the Norton Public Library July 15 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss, share and sign several of her books. Maia is a student at Norton

Community High School. Come and listen to her discuss the inspiration behind her books. Books will be available to purchase. Immediately following the book signing will be the highly anticipated chocolate night for teens grades seventh-12th. July 15 at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Chocolate Night - It's Back! Chocolate fun for all. Bring some chocolate to build with and something yummy to dip into our chocolate fountain. There

is a new twist this year. After you and your team build your creation you will have to tell a story that includes your chocolate marvel. July 24 at 9:30 a.m. - Chess Tournament - There will be a Chess Tournament in the Norton Public Library Community Room for all school aged children. Check-in is at 9:30 a.m. with tournament play beginning at 10 a.m. No charge to participate and lunch is provided by the Norton Friends of the Library.

Police Log

June 24
2:22 a.m. Motorist assist
5:04 a.m. Report of individual throwing fireworks
12:30 p.m. Request to speak to officer concerning possible scam.
2:30 p.m. Report of window peeper pervious night
3:00 p.m. Report of dog bite
8:23 p.m. Report of two vehicle accident
June 25
12:15 a.m. Report of peeping tom
12:42 a.m. Report of someone knocking on window
12:42 a.m. 911 hang-up
12:56 a.m. Report of fight
2:21 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
6:03 a.m. Report of individual involved in fight now at Norton County Hospital
7:44 a.m. Activated alarm, Dollar General
1:14 p.m. Report of individual not to be driving
3:01 p.m. Report of vehicle swerving all over the road, West St.
5:32 p.m. 911 report of crazy driver
5:40 p.m. Report of dog following individual home
5:47 p.m. Report of dog tied up with old water
6:22 p.m. Report of vehicle that failed to yield
7:46 p.m. Individual thinks someone is letting her dog out
10:23 p.m. Report of individual throwing trash out of vehicle
June 26
1:22 a.m. Report of fight, 300 block Graves
3:18 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle, Valley Hope
8:25 a.m. Report of dog running loose, 300 block Penn
10:50 a.m. Report of break-in which happened earlier
2:11 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle
2:46 p.m. Request to speak to officer concerning belongings that had been gone through
7:10 p.m. Request to assist Sheriff's Department
8:39 p.m. Report of one vehicle accident
9:25 p.m. Report of individual taking camper, 400 block Pearl
10:34 p.m. Report of child out with someone they shouldn't be with
11:24 p.m. Noise complaint, Taft
June 27
1:12 a.m. Report of someone knocking on back door
9:42 a.m. Request for officer for child exchange
12:27 p.m. Report of drug paraphernalia found in driveway
2:43 p.m. Report of vehicle with three children not wearing seatbelts
4:06 p.m. Request to remove individual from pool
6:24 p.m. Report of family dispute
7:52 p.m. Request for officer for child exchange
10:17 p.m. Report of vehicle driving around with individuals yelling out the window
11:59 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
June 28
12:02 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington

5:58 a.m. Report of kids driving to East Campus that are not legal to drive
8:55 a.m. Two vehicle accident
12:50 p.m. Vehicle fire, 100 block W. Lincoln
1:28 p.m. Received information on on-going case
2:15 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle
3:00 p.m. Report of abandon vehicle
June 29
1:44 a.m. Motorist assist
1:51 a.m. Helped individual with child find a place to stay for the night
8:23 a.m. Motorist assist
8:46 a.m. Report of underage driver driving to east campus
9:34 a.m. Report of animal cruelty
11:24 a.m. Keys locked in vehicle
1:49 p.m. Report of threatening e-mails
2:03 p.m. Report of individual driving by and yelled out the window
2:42 p.m. Gas skip, Co-op
5:48 p.m. Motorist assist
8:54 p.m. Report of individual driving too fast
10:57 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle
June 30
7:35 a.m. Report of two dogs running loose, 500 block N. Main
9:10 a.m. Request for extra patrol, swimming pool
11:34 a.m. Request to speak to officer concerning parenting rights
2:18 p.m. Report of individual

checking for items at thrift store
5:34 p.m. Two vehicle accident, Adventures
7:21 p.m. Unattended death
7:41 p.m. One vehicle accident
8:57 p.m. Request to remove individual from house
10:54 p.m. Report of individual being threatened
July 1
1:18 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
2:02 a.m. Report of water leak, Jones & Wilton
3:24 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle, NCH
July 2
1:18 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington

Norton County Comment

The Norton County Appraisal Office is responsible for the identification, inventory and valuation of all taxable property within the taxing jurisdiction of Norton County. Guidelines and directives issued by the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Property Valuation and State of Kansas property tax laws are enforced by the Appraisal Office.

The three main types of property the Appraisal Office determines value for are real estate, personal property and oil production. Personal property items such as boats, golf carts, small campers, trailers and farm trucks require individuals to report the property to the Appraisal Office by a filing deadline. The property is then valued and the owner notified by mail with a value notification.

Oil production is reported by the company that produces the oil. Investors and landowners who possess an interest in the oil leases are responsible for payment of tax on the production.

Real estate property such as residential and commercial property, agricultural land, and farms are reviewed on an annual basis. The Appraisal Office is required to physically inspect all properties every six years. The total number of properties is divided by approximately one-sixth to determine how many need to be physically inspected each year. Norton County has approximately 6,000 real estate parcels. Therefore, each year approximately 1,000 are reviewed. This phase is called data collection. This review may consist of a door to door inspection. The purpose is to accurately list and verify all

property characteristics that may affect value. The Appraisal Office is currently inspecting all Norton City commercial properties. Parts of the rural area were reviewed last month as part of the one-sixth inspection.

Every year office staff will also conduct a final review of real estate property. The final review does not consist of an on-site inspection. This phase is strictly a drive by review to verify that no new construction or demolition has occurred and to determine the final value to be placed on the property for the current tax year.

The valuation methodology used by the Appraisal Office is the same as used by real estate property appraisers. All counties in Kansas utilize a computer assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) program to assist in this task.

The methods and computer programs are similar but all property must be valued according to local market conditions. Computer software called LEGACY created and implemented in the 1980's in Kansas is currently being replaced by a new software program. Many counties have migrated to the new system. Norton County will also be converting to the new program called ORION during the 2010/11 appraisal cycle. Appraisal Office staff will be busy learning the new system and working toward the conversion of all existing records into ORION.

The Appraisal Office has also recently undertaken the conversion of the mapping system into a digitized format utilizing computers. This process or technology is called GIS (Geographic Information System). By definition GIS

is "the integration of hardware, software and data for capturing, storing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information." To most accurately identify, inventory and value real estate requires a very basic component—a map. GIS allows substantial amounts of information to be built in data layers which can be added to or taken away in the final composite map. The Appraisal Office currently has all ownership information contained in a property or parcel layer. The parcel layer allows the Appraisal Office to view aerial imagery, property boundaries, streets and alleys, property dimensions, agricultural land use and much more. This information helps in the verification and valuation of real estate property.

The Appraisal Office has begun to work with other Norton County departments and their specific information to develop ways to assist in better decision making, increased productivity, accuracy, time savings and cost management of existing resources. At some point in the future all Norton County departments will benefit from GIS.

In summary, the Norton County Appraisers Office is working hard to maximize efficiency and productivity at a time when cost effectiveness is critically important. Continual effort to achieve these goals will not cease. The Appraisal Office will strive to develop the vision and goals for the future that will best care for the people we serve.

For more information on the State of Kansas property tax laws go to www.KSrevenue.org.

HANSEN MUSEUM

Dane G. Hansen Museum, Logan, is proud to present "The Science of SuperCroc" created by Project Exploration scheduled to open Aug. 13 through Nov. 7. Immersing visitors in prehistoric Africa, the exhibit showcases the planet's largest crocodile Sarcosuchus imperator, known better as its nickname, SuperCroc. SuperCroc was 40-50 feet long, had 132 teeth, weighed 17,500 pounds and lived 110 million years ago. Justifying its name, the animal would have been as long as a city bus and as heavy as a small whale. Plus, scientists surmise that SuperCroc likely ate dinosaurs, along with other creatures of the Middle Cretaceous period. Paleontologist Paul Sereno and colleagues made the SuperCroc discovery in 1997 in Niger, Africa, at a remote site in the Sahara

Desert. The fossils are from an extinct species that first came to light more than 30 years ago. French paleontologists reported several skulls and other parts of the creature and named it Sarcosuchus imperator, meaning "flesh crocodile emperor."

Much about the giant croc remained a mystery, however, until Sereno's team began excavating. The 1997 dig had barely begun when the team discovered the fossilized jaws, each as long as some members of the team. The group had traveled to the site—one of the richest fossil beds in Africa—to search for dinosaurs. But it was immediately clear that the giant jawbones had not come from a dinosaur. Sereno concluded at the time: "We had never seen anything like it. The snout and teeth were designed for grabbing

prey - fish, turtles, and dinosaurs that strayed too close."

Visitors to "The Science of SuperCroc" exhibit will be greeted by a 40-foot-long SuperCroc replica skeleton, a SuperCroc flesh head model, a hatching SuperCroc display, several fossil displays including a tree trunk and wood cross sections, a SuperCroc mural, expedition field images along with a National Geographic SuperCroc documentary film. This informative and educational exhibit is available for school groups and tours..

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