

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
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County road supervisor resigns post

By Judy Sherard
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Saying he enjoyed working with the Norton County employees, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan handed in his resignation to County Commissioners at the commission's end of the month meeting Wednesday. Brannan's resignation is effective October 8.

Chairman Richard Thompson, Commissioner Carolyn Applegate, County Attorney R. Douglas Sebelius and County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt were present at the start of the meeting. Commissioner John Miller joined the meeting before Brannan met with the commission.

Citing cutbacks to the workforce and alleging micromanagement by the commissioners, Brannan read from a prepared statement. According to his statement his department is down by 43 percent or seven fewer employees, and the number will be greater by the end

of October. However, Brannan stated a lack of time management has been blamed for his department not maintaining a certain level of service.

"I can't do work with half a staff," he said.

According to Wyatt there are three employees in the bridge department and ten in the road department. Three employees are retiring, and two of those positions will be filled.

Brannan's prepared materials also included copies of three letters. One from the commission dated Sept. 8, 2010, asked for information showing daily work plans for employees, plans correcting current problem areas and immediate inspection of all county roads. The other commission letter dated July 31, 2009, directed that no mowing or maintenance had been completed on certain roads because of a chemical testing application. The third letter concerned an investigation into a vehicle

accident, and appeared to absolve the county of any wrongdoing.

"You had to know it was coming sooner or later," Brannan said, and left the meeting shortly after.

Commissioners conducted a brief discussion of Brannan's resignation, and asked that Sandy Smith, road and bridge department secretary, join them.

"We didn't move to fire him at the last meeting because we thought he could manage time to get the job done," Applegate said, referring to a motion that died for lack of a second at a commission meeting earlier this month.

Miller said the FEMA project in the southern portion of the county that concerns storm damage is a concern.

Referring to the road department being asked not to mow or maintain roads, Miller said road graders were
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Briefly

McDonald's to hold teacher appreciation

Norton McDonald's at 211 W. Holme, will have a "McTeacher's Night" to boost local education budgets next Tuesday, Oct. 5th. from 4 to 8 p.m. The proceeds from sales will go to benefit Eisenhower Elementary School.

Edmond meeting changed to Tuesday

The city of Edmond meeting will be changed from the first Tuesday to the first Thursday, of the month for October. The regular meeting will be back to normal for November.

Wall committee looking for video

The Moving Wall Committee is looking for a video copy of Thursday night's program at the Wall. If you have a copy or know of anyone who video taped that evening's events and are willing to share it, please contact Carol Erlenbusch at The First State Bank of Norton.

Walk to school day with your child

International Walk to school day is this coming Wednesday, October 6. Everyone is to meet at the Unified office at 7:45 and walk with your child to school while being escorted by the Norton High School football team.

The 26th annual Applefest Oct. 2

The Orleans Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to come and take part in this year's Applefest on Saturday, Oct. 2 at the Harlan County Ag Center in Orleans Nebraska.

Markets

Friday, October 1, 2010

Wheat	\$5.52
Milo	\$4.05
Soybeans	\$10.13
Corn	\$4.27

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 45. **Saturday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 64. **Saturday Night** - Mostly clear with a low around 38. **Sunday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 69. **Sunday Night** - Mostly clear with a low around 47. **Monday** - Sunny and breezy with a high near 73.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Sept. 28.....Low 48, High 79
Wednesday, Sept. 29.....Low 49, High 87
Thursday, Sept. 30.....Low 42, High 73
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for welcoming us and using us even when we are weak. Help us not to judge others but to extend your love to those who are weak in faith. Amen

Norton Horseman inducted into council

The following story was written by Gene Wiltfong of Norton, a lifelong horseman and retired school teacher and administrator who is also a member of the prestigious Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame.

Since Wednesday evening, July 28, 2010, I have decided horses will be a part of my life forever. That's when the Norton County Horse Council honored me by naming me an Honorary Member.

At the Ranch Rodeo on this night at the Norton County Fair, they announced that I had been chosen to receive the honor and presented to me a blue western jacket with an embroidered horse head and cowboy on the back. The council's initials NCHC were on the front.

What an unexpected honor this was. Needless to say, it brought a few tears to my eyes and a loss of words.

Now, on with my story of having horses a part of my life forever-almost.

My first horse was a small pony on which I learned to ride at age five. He probably taught me the fundamentals of riding because, when I would gallop him, he would stop really fast and I would go off over his head!

I learned really fast to always be alert when working with and being around horses.

Then, I graduated to larger riding horses. My sister and I rode horseback daily to school one and one-half miles. Most of the way, she was complaining for me to slow down.

Then, as a teenager, I worked horses on my father's farm. I did everything with horses from plowing, mowing hay, stacking hay, disking fields, planting wheat and corn, shucking corn with a team of horses and wagon, driving a team of horses on a header barge and loading and hauling bundles of oats to the threshing machine.

In the early 30s, my family moved from south of Dellvale to north of Edmond. We moved with teams and wagons. My dad drove one team and I drove the other. On the final day of moving, I drove our cattle to our new home by driving them on horseback. Then in the later 30s (Dust Bowl Days), I herded these cattle on horseback along the roadside so they might eat some weeds and a little grass.



Gene Wiltfong is pictured in the Norton County Horse Council Arena on the night he was named an Honorary Member of the Council. He is holding the handsome jacket he received from the Council along with the honorary membership. Pictured with Gene are, from left, David Donovan, Council president; Glenn Campbell, Council member and Garrett Beydler, Council member. - Courtesy photo by Gene's granddaughter Jordann Wiltfong



Norton's Gene Wiltfong received the attractive jacket he is holding when he was named an Honorary Member of the Norton County Horse Council. He is also holding a photo of himself on one final ride with Duke, the last horse he owned, on the day he sold him. The jacket was machine embroidered by Lydia Knapp. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

This was not very enjoyable as it was windy and hot with blowing dirt.

In the fall of 1936, my father and a friend contracted to take horses to a ranch

in western Sheridan County for winter pastures. I helped drive them by horseback on a two-day weekend. We made two different trips with 50-60 horses on each trip. It was just like a cattle drive!

My first one and one-half years of high school, five of us neighbor kids drove a horse and homemade carriage five miles to Edmond High School, then back home each night. A senior boy took care of stabling the horse after we arrived.

When I graduated from high school, I became a school teacher. My first two years of teaching, I lived at home and rode horseback to my schools. The first year, I rode six and one-half miles each morning to school and then home at night. This was a bad winter. It was very cold and we had tons of snow. Much of the roads would be drifted so bad I'd have to ride out in the fields to get around the drifts.

The second year, I got a job three and one-half miles from home but I still continued to ride my horse most of the time. I did own a 1932 Ford Coupe but it was cheaper to ride by horse as my car used too much gas!

I entered the U.S. Army in 1944 so, for two and one-half years, horses were not a part of my life. But, on returning home, I thought I might take up farming so I

bought a pair of matched Belgian sorrel mares of which I was most proud. I kept them for a few years and decided teaching was better than farming so I sold them. I did continue to own saddle horses and raised some colts to ride. I always broke them to ride myself. I tried to never let them buck when I started riding them.

In 1958, we moved to Norton and I was soon asked to join the Norton County Saddle Club. I gladly did because I had watched them for many years in parades. I remained a member of the Saddle Club until the last few years. We did many things while I was a member of the club. We attended many trail rides.

The Norton County Saddle Club sponsored the annual Norton County Trail Ride around the Sebelius Lake for many years. During these years, we had over 100 riders. I always led the ride because I was familiar with the area at the west end of the lake. We attended many neighboring clubs' summertime activities, rode in parades such as Phillipsburg, Hill City and the Norton Veterans Day Parade. In fact, for several years, my friend David Donovan and I led the Veterans Parade on horseback. David carried the American Flag and I led one of my horses with an empty saddle while I rode another. Being a veteran, this symbolism always gave me a thrill of patriotism!

While I was in the saddle club, we built an arena to host some horse shows and held a rodeo for two years at the county fair. We sponsored horse racing for two years at the county fair. I was the announcer for the races and for those shows that were held there.

Then, along came car racing. The car racing association took over our arena inside the race track, which upset us horse people very much! A group of us got our heads together and decided we would build our own arena and facilities.

With much planning, work, fund raising and individual contributions, we came up with what is now the Norton County Horse Council Arena. This association
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Northern Valley celebrates week of homecoming

By Judy Sherard
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Northern Valley High School is celebrating Homecoming this week. The parade downtown is this afternoon at 2:45 p.m., and the football game with Palco is at 7 p.m. Coronation of the Homecoming king and queen will be during halftime of the game.

This year's candidates are seniors: Amber Kinderknecht, daughter of Terry and Stephanie Kinderknecht and Michelle Lewis; Kayla Lowry, daughter of Curtis and Cindy Lowry; Sean Braun, son of Brenda and Terry Holterman and Brad Braun, and Matt Dole, son of Dick and Sandra Dole.

Junior candidates are Sarah Whitney, daughter of Steven and Stacy Whitney and Dillon Hogan, son of David and Nancy Hogan.

Sophomores are Erika Chandler, daughter of Shad and Amy Chandler and Phillip Compton, son of Robert Compton and Debra Siard.

Freshmen candidates include DaKota Hilburn, daughter of LaDonna and Kevin Hilburn and Ian Vincent, son of Paul and Tammy Vincent.

Activities kicked off Sunday night with a "drive-in" movie and barbecue at the football field. Each day this week featured a different theme. Monday was support your favorite team. Tuesday was dress like a nerd. Wednesday each class was assigned a color to wear. Thursday was dress like a hippie day and Friday is Green and White day.

Be sure to attend the game and support your local football team and see who is chosen as the 2010 Homecoming King and Queen.

