

Everybody loves a well dressed man!



Wearing white from left to right Cayleb Campbell, Zach Hartwell, Trey Millian form a backdrop for Seth Antrim, center in black, at the Norton Community High School promenade on Saturday.

Business in the spotlight

Each month this column features one Norton County business selected at random in honor of all our local businesses large and small, well-established and newly-established for their valuable contribution to our economy. Economic development board member Aaron Herman submitted this month's article.

Business in the Spotlight – April 2011

The Valley Hope Association
103 South Wabash
Norton, Kansas 67654
785.877.5111

HYPERLINK "http://www.valleyhope.com" www.valleyhope.com

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center

The Valley Hope Association was founded in 1967 by a core group of local leaders: Bob Adams, a local pastor, Dr. Lynn Colip and Dr. E.F. Steichen, both local physicians, Judge Jean Kissell,

and Guy Allen, a local businessman. During that year, these men recruited Dr. William Leipold to run a treatment center for alcoholics and leased part of what is currently the Norton Correctional Facility. Valley Hope was born. This facility differed from others of the time in that instead of humiliating the sick into a different, healthier lifestyle, Valley Hope would love them back into health. As Doc Leipold says, "You can love a person into recovery faster than you can hammer them into recovery." Though this idea to help alcoholics seems common place today, in the late sixties it was very unconventional.

The Valley Hope Association was conceived and transformed into an organization that reaches throughout the United States. Its Corporate Office, Information Technology and Software, and Insurance Departments are all headquartered in Norton. Norton is also home to a treatment center.

Valley Hope employs hundreds of people and as current President Ken Gregoire put it, "Norton chose Valley Hope, Valley Hope didn't choose Norton." The idea was born here from conversations between Dr. Colip and Bob Adams. Through their dedication and the many that have followed, it remains a Norton business, and that business is helping people.

During our Business in the Spotlight chat, our conversation invariably turns to the future of Norton. Ken gave an atypical response to a typically tough question for anyone, at least for a non-cynic, "I believe in the value of a safe, stable community in the world we live in today, and that means there will always be a place in the world for Norton, especially when raising a family. It's a real selling point in attracting families to work for our organization. Once they get here, enroll their kids in our school system and meet the people, they stay."

The Spring season brings wildfires drive with care

Spring is wildfire season in Kansas. For years, Kansas farmers and ranchers have performed controlled burns of their fields and pastures to control brush and prepare for the summer growing season. Sometimes fires occur when careless motorists discard lit cigarettes from their vehicles, causing many of the uncontrolled wildfires across our state. Regardless of the cause of the fire, drivers must be prepared to encounter hazardous driving conditions caused by brush fires.

If you observe a field or pasture fire while traveling, check the area before calling 911. If the fire is not causing a hazard, is attended by landowners, and is contained, then an unneces-

sary emergency response will place firefighters at risk and may delay them from responding to real emergencies. Confirm that the fire is uncontrolled and is an emergency before dialing 911. If you do call 911, be ready to give the dispatcher detailed information on the location of the fire, the direction it is spreading, and any hazards (e.g. farmsteads and pastures with livestock) that are in danger.

If you encounter smoke blowing across the roadway, slow down and check the conditions ahead! Realize that smoke from brush fires can create thick smoke and zero visibility conditions. If you encounter heavy smoke across the roadway, do not enter

it! Pull your vehicle off of the roadway as far to the right as possible and turn on your emergency flashers to warn other drivers. If possible, contact the Highway Patrol so that we can take steps to warn other motorists or to close the highway.

If the fire approaches, stay in your vehicle! Brush fires can move very quickly, turn your vehicle off, roll up all windows and get as close to the floor as possible. Your vehicle will protect you from a quickly moving fire; if you try to outrun a fire you may be severely injured.

To reach the nearest Kansas Highway Patrol dispatch to your location, you can dial *47 (*HP).

Tractor safety course scheduled

The K-State Research and Extension offices in Graham, Decatur, Gove, Ellis, Norton, Trego and Sheridan counties will be offering the Hazardous Occupation Training (HOT) or Tractor and Farm safety Course. This is for youth 14-15 years of age, especially for those who will be doing farm work, for pay, by someone other than their parents.

There are other instances where youth may be required to take the training even though they are working on the "family farm". One example is when the youth is legally working for a farm partnership, corporation or employed by grandparents. Even though a

youth is working for a parent, if that parent is a partner or member of the farm corporation and is paid by the farm partnership, they should also take the class.

This is a very basic course that is designed by child labor laws to allow youngsters under 16 the opportunity to work on farms. The course will cover basic farm and machinery safety and machine maintenance. The Course will be held May 7, in the Hill City 4-H Building on the Graham County Fairgrounds in Hill City. Class will start at 8 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.

A pre-registration fee of \$15 is due by May 2, to your local

Extension Office. This includes refreshments, lunch and a student manual.

If you are going to work for someone, if you are a parent of a working child or an employer contact your county's extension office by May 2.

Employers who plan to hire youth must realize that they cannot hire youth under 16 years of age without those youth taking this safety course.

If you have any questions or would like to pre-register, please call the Twin Creeks Extension Office, Norton County at 785-877-5755 or visit us in the ground floor of the courthouse.

Norton County Comment

Norton County Emergency Medical Services

Norton County Emergency Medical Services leads the way in providing quality care and compassion to all they serve. Norton County Emergency Medical Services has 20 technicians covering three stations within 990 square miles. There are 3 First Responders, 15 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 2 Paramedics. Six of those are full time with Norton County Emergency Medical Services and 14 are volunteers that work at other full time jobs. Ambulances are stationed in Lenora, Alma and Norton. The Norton station is staffed from 8-5 everyday. After hours the full time staff and volunteers cover all 911 calls, transfers for the Norton County Hospital and Advance Life Support for surrounding counties. They are paid only if a call is received.

In 2010 Norton County Emergency Medical Services handled 548 Emergency Medical Service calls as follows:

270 transported to the hospital
111 transported by ground to facilities providing a higher level of care

22 patients air lifted to a higher level of care

90 patients received field care and refused transport to the hospital

16 alcohol blood draws at the county jail

39 standby calls for fire, fair, car races, drags, motocross races, school activities, July 4th fireworks, and other community events.

Norton County Emergency Medical Services continues to be active to obtain Federal and State grants, private funding, and corporate donations along with a proactive billing and collection system.

Norton County Emergency Medical Services holds a Continuing Education Program Provider status through the State of Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services. Aden Schillig and Pat Pomeroy, Paramedics and Instructor Coordinators, bring a wealth of knowledge and a combination of 39 years of experience to our staff. Both have taught initial EMT courses in Norton and other communities. Pat was the lead paramedic instructor for Coffeyville Community College. Both teach safety courses, advanced Emergency Medical Services continuing education, and various specialized courses in emergency medicine, rescue, and defensive driving. We teach CPR to professionals and lay people within the county and region. This ensures ongoing medical educational opportuni-

ties for all Emergency Medical Services staff and others within our community.

Norton County Emergency Medical Services is dedicated to serving the citizens and visitors of Norton County. Each day the professional attendants strive to provide the highest quality emergency pre-hospital care to all. Norton County Emergency Medical Services values and prides itself on being professional, ready, innovative, dedicated and outstanding in all care given.

Together with Dr. Martin Griffey as the Emergency Medical Services Medical Director, and area health care facilities, Emergency Medical Services shares a collaborative relationship to ensure the best pre-hospital care for all citizens and visitors within Norton County. Progressive protocols for treating and transporting the sick and injured insure quality care for our rural communities.

The community is always welcome to stop by and see the Emergency Medical Services Station, trucks, and equipment used for emergency calls.

Jane Wyatt is the Director for the Norton County Emergency Medical Services.

Managers Club Award winners

Deere and Company recently announced the 2010 John Deere Managers Club Award winners and for the 6th time LandMark Implement, Inc. was the recipient of this prestigious honor awarded to the top 50 John Deere Ag and Turf Dealers in North America.

The Managers Club Award is the highest honor to be awarded to dealers nationwide and recognizes superior operational, market and customer performance.

LandMark Implement, Inc. has


six locations in South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas and employs over 150 people in the communities of Holdrege, Minden, Lexington, Gothenburg, Neb., Smith Center and Phillipsburg and takes great pride in providing excellent product support to the producers of this region.

Shane Christensen of LandMark Implement, Inc. said, "the LandMark organization is very honored to receive this award and we are proud of our employees'

hard work and commitment to our customers."

This year's award was presented to dealers at The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport, Calif.

Andy Grollmes of Minden and Warren Miller of Holdrege represented LandMark Implement, Inc. at the event and were presented the elite award by Larry Christensen, Director of U.S. Sales Branches for Deere, during a three day retreat in early March.




First Security Bank and Trust Company

would like to thank

Gloria Cole

for 32 dedicated years of service



First Security will be hosting a reception in honor of her retirement **Friday, April 15** from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in our lobby
– Everyone is Invited –