

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday  
July 31, 2012

## Norton singer wins at 'Norton Idol'

By Carleen Bell  
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The annual Norton County Idol was held Friday evening at the Norton County Fair with a Norton vocalist bringing home top honors from the competition. The winner was Shantel Leitner of Norton.

The singing contest featured 12 youth singers and 13 adults competing for cash and prizes, including a recording session.

The youth division winners were Khrianna Van Patten of Almena and Stephanie Hager, also of Almena. The People's Choice winner in the youth category was Emily Miller of Norton.

In the adult division, Leitner took top honors and second place went to Kassie Gooder of Smith Center. Third place winner was Halle Stephens of Arapahoe. The People's Choice award went to Jared Mai of Lenora.

Judges for this year's Norton Idol were Roger Cooper, Nicki Rezac and Lucas Maddy. Sound was provided by Rolling Thunder of WaKeeney, and announcer for the evening was Marvin Matchett.

The annual Norton County Idol contest is coordinated by Norton County Farm Bureau.



(Left) Norton's Shantel Leitner sings her rendition of "Natural Woman" at the 2012 Norton County Idol Friday evening at the Norton County Fair. Leitner earned top honors at the contest, which includes cash prizes and a recording session.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



Briefly

### Disc golf club to hold a golf clinic

The Norton Disc Golf Club will be holding a clinic this Saturday starting at 10 a.m. at Elmwood Park in Norton. All equipment will be provided and prizes given out. Everyone is encouraged to join the fun.

### Enrollment packets available at school

Enrollment packets for the Norton Schools may be picked up in the USD 211 Office, the First State Bank of Lenora and The Bank in Norcatour during normal business hours. Enrollment packets will be available in these locations through Monday, Aug. 6. After that, they will be available at the schools during enrollment.

### VA claims officer will visit Norton

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Senior Center to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Anyone unable to contact her at that time, you may contact her in Colby on Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

### Theatre benefit concert is Sunday

Stanton Nelson will hold a benefit concert to help raise money to update the Norton Theatre. It will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium. Admission is a donation to the cause.

### Markets

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Wheat	.....\$8.39
Milo	.....\$7.70
Soybeans	.....\$16.31
Corn	.....\$8.05

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Tonight - A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 100.

### Kingham Report

Friday, July 27	.....Low 53, High 99
Saturday, July 28	.....Low 68, High 109
	.30 Rain
Sunday, July 29	.....Low 73, High 103
	.15 Rain
Monday, July 30	.....Low 62, High 99

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Loving Father, forgive us for the times our hearts have overflowed in harmful ways. Help us to bring healing and blessing to those around us, even when we're knocked off balance. Amen.

## Election 2012: Norton County Commissioners

By Carleen Bell

### R.A. Peterson: District 2



R.A. Peterson

Originally from Iowa but living in Norton for more than 40 years, Dr. R.A. Peterson has served in several leadership positions over the years. His involvement includes the Norton Housing Authority Board, Norton City Council, Norton County Hospital Board and the Norton Lions Club.

According to Peterson, however, that experience is much less important than his ambitions as a candidate for a commissioner position.

"I want to try to get our county under control," he said. "I want to consolidate spending for the county and get some costs down to reasonable."

(Peterson - Continued on Page 5)

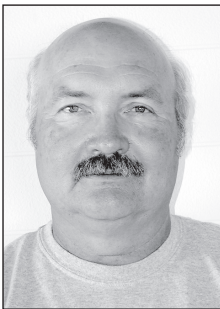
One of his ideas for consolidating spending, Peterson said, is to combine the Norton County Sheriff's Department with the Norton Police Department.

According to Peterson, the Norton County Sheriff's Department budget is significantly higher than in Graham and Decatur counties with six deputies in Norton County, compared to two in Decatur County and two in Graham County.

The candidate also expressed concern over Norton County's ambulance, which he said is significantly higher with several more full-time staff than

(Peterson - Continued on Page 5)

### Curtis Eveleigh: District 3



Curtis Eveleigh

Originally from WaKeeney but moving to Norton in 1974, Curtis Eveleigh hopes to use his leadership experience to become the next district 3 commissioner for Norton County.

Eveleigh's leadership experience includes the Norton Lions Club, managing the Norton Rotary BB Gun team, the Planning Commission, Economic Development board, the Norton County Fair Board and the Norton County Community Services Association.

The candidate said he wants to get involved in county leadership because of his past involvement in the community.

"Commissioners have a very large say in what happens," he said. "These are tough economic times and fiscal

responsibility is what it's going to take to help our county succeed."

Eveleigh said he doesn't have any specific complaints about the current condition of Norton County leadership, but common sense is necessary to solve problems.

"My agenda is that I don't have one," Eveleigh said. "I have an investment in the county with time and business and I want to do my part to keep the

(Eveleigh - Continued on Page 5)

### Carolyn Applegate: District 2



Carolyn Applegate

Carolyn Applegate has served as a Norton County Commissioner for the past four years. During that time, Applegate said, she has been instrumental in improvements for county operations,

including regular county department-head meetings, drafting a senate bill to expand the county's ability to issue bonds, planning for the Colby Community College nursing school expansion, presenting requests for the highway improvements and initiating regular meetings with county department personnel.

In addition, Applegate reports, she has served on the Board of the Norton County Community Foundation, the Board of the Frontier Community Foundation, the Board of Directors of the US Highway 36 Association, the founding committee and facilitator of Norton County Leadership, Managing Editor of the Norton County Life magazine and she is a member of the Kansas Republican Women's Salina District.

The incumbent commissioner said she originally wanted to become a county leader with inspiration from Dean Kruse, a former county commissioner.

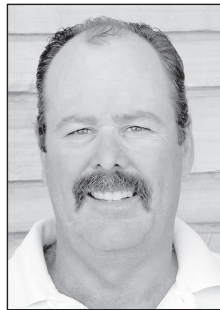
"When I ran the first time, I felt I had enough time, knowledge and interest to serve the county," she said. "It's important for everyone to serve the community and this is the 'rent' I'm

paying to the community."

Since joining the county leadership four years ago, Applegate said, she has seen several changes in the way the

(Applegate - Continued on Page 5)

### Brock Ellis: District 3



Brock Ellis

Boasting a long line of public service in his family, Brock Ellis was born and raised in Norton County and now farms southwest of Norton. His grandfather was a Norton County Commissioner and his father served as a member of the local school board. His mother served on the Norton City Council and Ellis hopes to continue the family tradition by serving as a Norton County Commissioner.

His previous leadership experience includes serving on the Norton Community School District's site council, serving on the Norton Rural Fire Department, the Co-op Association board, Ag Valley board and the Lenora Rural Fire District board.

The candidate said his main motivation for running for election is to try to make a difference in Norton County by trimming expenses and attracting businesses to the area. "I don't want to spend money where we don't need to spend it," he said. "I want to make the county presentable and draw people here."

One of his ideas for reducing spending, Ellis said, is to look into the pos-

### Charles Posson: District 3



Charles Posson

With a long family legacy of elected office in Norton County, Charles Posson's great-grandfather was the first elected sheriff of Norton County and now Posson is seeking a seat as a Nor-

ton County Commissioner. Posson was born and raised in Norton County. His previous leadership experience includes being the chair of the HVAC Advisory Committee of Northwest Kansas Technical College, the board of Zoning and Appeals for the city of Norton, representative to a curriculum alignment committee for colleges in Kansas, the Norton Lions Club, Norton Jaycees and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Regardless of the logistics, however, Ellis said he feels like Norton County is leading the way on services, especially in health care.

The candidate also reported that he understands some of the struggles that the county faces in the road and bridge department. Ellis said he wants to make sure that county departments have the resources they need to do what they need to do while keeping costs as low as possible.

As for state politics, Ellis said, he isn't as well-versed as some others may be, but he understands that state government may not be as efficient as it could be.

"I think we can do better at the state level," he said. "They spend money they don't need to spend and part of my job at the county level is to try to keep that from happening here."

Ellis and his wife have four children who all attend Norton Community Schools.

ton County Commissioner.

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The candidate said he would like to become a county commissioner because he cares about the people of Norton County and, as he approaches retirement, he feels he has the time necessary to devote to the position.

"It's going to be a hard job, but I think I can do it," he said. "I've been to most of the commissioners meetings since I filed for election because I feel like I should attend the meetings and learn what is going on. I'm a person who can't sit back and watch the world go by."

Posson said one of his major concerns for Norton County is economic development. While the county has been fortunate with the state prison and manufacturing businesses, it is important to attract businesses and be able to keep them in the county.

(Posson - Continued on Page 5)

