

Norton

Town keeps busy



THOSE WHO SERVED are the focus of the annual Norton Veterans Day Parade. Here they are pictured marching down State Street being greeted by hundreds of parade goers.
—Photo by Vicki Henderson

Whoever said, "There's nothing to do in a small town," obviously never lived in a small town.

Norton is a vibrant, busy town with a wide variety of activities for residents and visitors.

First and foremost, it's a sports town. The Norton High School Blue Jays have excited their fans for many years with state-ranked football, basketball and wrestling teams. Any Friday night during the school year will find the stands packed with Blue Jay Boosters.

There's plenty of fine dining too. Norton is home to five nationally known fast-food franchises, a Chinese restaurant, two bars and grills, and several home-owned restaurants.

If you enjoy holiday lights at Christmas, county fairs, fireworks on the Fourth of July, Veterans' Day parades and flowers in the spring, Norton is the town for you.

Cultural events are brought to the city by the Norton County Arts Council. Plays, a craft fair, a home tour and children's theater are some of the events sponsored by the council.

The highlight of the summer is Norton's county fair. It is always scheduled for the last full week of July so out-of-towners can plan their vacation. Set in beautiful, tree-lined Elmwood Park, the county fair has the perfect setting.

Elmwood Park hosts car races and a farmers'

market.

One of the new additions is the horse arena. The livestock barns are where 4-Hers display their animal projects.

Operated entirely with volunteers, the carnival and fair is an attraction that brings visitors from neighboring counties and Nebraska. Rides include a Ferris wheel, octopus, roller coaster, and kiddie rides. Game booths guarantee lots of winners. The fair provides inexpensive fun for the whole family. Grandstand shows run the gamut from gospel music to car races.

The Norton Recreation Commission offers everything from T-ball to adult softball during the summer. At the recreation building, aerobic classes are offered. There is also an indoor walking area and a basketball court.

In the summer the Norton Swimming Pool gives young people and adults a cool way to get a little exercise. Swimming lessons and water aerobics are available along with a kiddie pool where younger children can play under the watchful eyes of their parents.

Every year, Nov. 11 finds State Street in downtown Norton lined with hundreds of people who have flocked to town for the annual Veterans Day Parade. Initiated by Jake Durham, the parade has dozens of volunteers and hundreds of participants all assembled to recognize the

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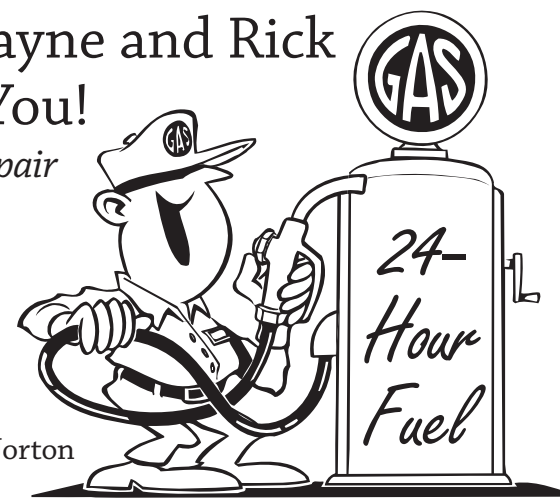
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