

Opinion

Retiring teacher is Blue Jay proud

This is the first of six columns written by retiring staff members of the Norton School District. We thought what they had to say at their retirement reception would also be enjoyed by the readership of The Telegram. We thank Superintendent Mann for his assistance in helping us expand their comments to include all residents in the Norton district.

In Their Own Words

been a bed or roses. Like any family we have had our share of ups and downs. When problems arose we just stood tall and met them head on, and we always stuck together. Isn't that right, kids? But I digress. My first year of teaching came and went without a hitch. Why wouldn't it? I had two great mentors, Larry Hillman and Steve Schrum. They always called me "boss," but if the truth were known, we really did have a very close working relationship. The trick was to meet each child at the door and take each one from where they were to as far as you possibly could. Be compassionate, firm and above all, consistent. After 28 years together the trio was split up when Larry took the principal position at Eisenhower. Don't worry. We added a great teacher to our ranks, Teresa Schulze. Shortly after that Steve retired and another excellent teacher, Bonita Slipke, took his place.

The last few years I have had the privilege of working with five excellent teachers: Linda Burge, Teresa Schulze, Bonita Slipke, Phil Morel and Virginia Will. I must not leave out resource teacher Connie Miller and her crew of paras, for without them our job would be much more difficult. I remember when we didn't know what a learning disability was. We just knew we had to teach certain students differently.

Technology has been one of the biggest changes in education. Most of it has been for the better. Yes, even I am using SIPS and loving it. As for the "No Child Left Behind" — teachers have always been accountable. I do not know one teacher who does not do some sort of assessment of their students to see if they have learned the curriculum. I'm not sure the kind of

assessments we are required to give will, in the end, accomplish what we want them to. I know in our building during the assessment season the teachers and students were like a bubbling pot about to boil over. Even now that the tests are all over the children are completely exhausted from the stress.

Accountability, what about student and parent accountability? Parents, just send us your children everyday well fed, well rested, with homework finished and ready to learn and we can do wonders. Proficient, what is proficient? According to "NCLB," we're all supposed to be proficient by 2014. My question to you is — are we all proficient? I think not, so why ask teachers to do the impossible. We are, after all, dealing with human beings.

Education has come a long way in the past 34 years. We are more accountable and our students are learning more and more at an earlier age. They will be better prepared for the 21st century. We should not forget, however, they are children and they should be allowed to be a kid. Education has been a part of my life for so long I don't expect that will change much. Once a teacher always a teacher. Even as a little girl I always wanted to be a teacher, so my mother says. Not many people get to live their dream as I have.

When I am asked what I plan to do after retirement my initial response is, "Absolutely nothing!" Being the teacher I am, the answer may be multiple choice:

- a) Travel, camp, fish with family and friends
- b) Be grandma and babysit
- c) Mess up Don's schedule
- d) Substitute on occasion
- e) All of the above

It's been a pleasure to serve the Norton School District for the last 34 years.

We have a great school district! I am proud to be a Blue Jay!!

There's no rest for a working dog

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

He thinks he's playing, but drug-sniffing dog, Maverick, is really working.

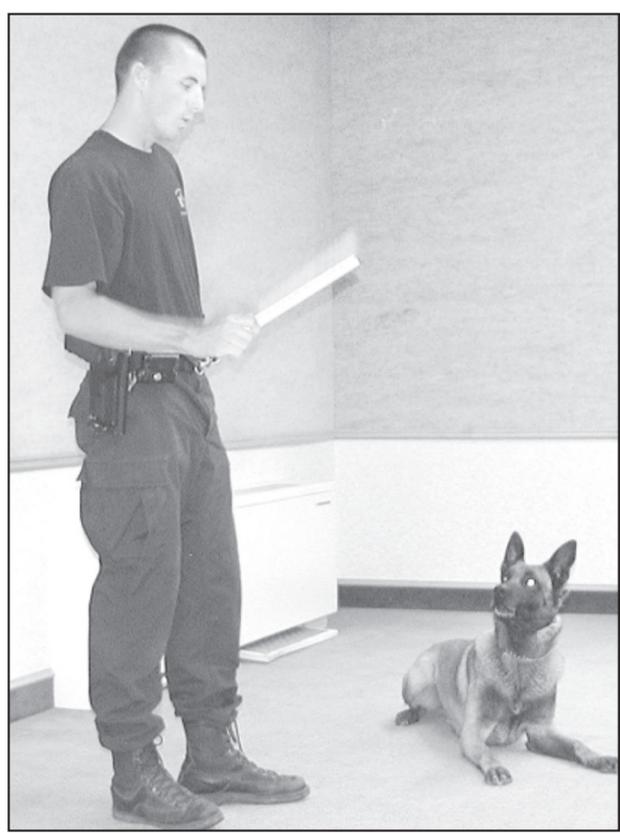
Maverick is a three-year old Belgian Malinois trained by the Kansas State Highway Patrol to sniff out hidden drugs. His handler, Trooper Jerrad Goheen, Hays, said Maverick can find marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines and the products used to manufacture meth.

Thursday Trooper Goheen brought Maverick to the Norton Public Library for an appearance as part of the library's summer reading program. The theme for the program is "Paws, Claws and Scales".

Trooper Goheen said he has had Maverick for a year. In that time Maverick has sniffed out over 1,500 pounds of marijuana. The trooper said that is over \$5,000 in street value.

During the exhibition, where Maverick searched the room and located a bag of marijuana hidden in a suitcase, Trooper Goheen gave commands in German. It's the language Maverick was trained in and what he understands.

Trooper Goheen said there are



With his eyes fixed on his master, K-9 dog, Maverick, waited for a command from Trooper Jerrad Goheen. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

only 14 K-9, patrol dogs in the state. He said that Maverick should be able to work until he's about eight years old. At that time, Trooper Goheen can choose to keep him as a family pet. He said he trusts the dog completely, even with his small son.

Trooper Goheen said he has

learned a lot about dog psychology since being in the K-9 unit. He said the test he had to take to qualify was the hardest test he had ever taken.

Accompanying Trooper Goheen to the presentation was Kansas State Highway Patrol Trooper J.L. Berland, Plainville.

This is a good time to thank hubby

Here are some quotes about fathers I like: "By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he is wrong." Charles Wadsworth

"The best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it." Harry S. Truman

"A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty." Anonymous

"My heart belongs to Daddy." Pop Song

We tease the father in this house a lot. But the truth is: he's a good father.

When the kids were little, he was busy and I often thought I carried more than 50 percent of the parenting burden.

Still, he was a more helpful father than some men. One time I remember some neighbor children were at our house. We were getting ready to go somewhere. Junior helped me get the kids ready.

One of the little visitors later reported to her mother, with something akin to awe, "Katie's daddy knows how to dress kids!"

Sometimes, I think it is a little unfair that men can do something rarely and just because it is so unusual, it resonates forever in the kids' memories. From then on we feel guilty about ever complaining. After all, there was that one time when Dad made pancakes for everyone or whatever. (Never mind how many times Mom did

Back Home Nancy Hagman



the very same thing.) Since some of the time when our children were growing up I was a stay-at-home mom, my husband gets extra points right there. Being a mom is a very important job and I am glad he gave me the opportunity to do it.

Also, my husband realized that because he was gone a lot, he missed a lot. He used to say, I was the custodial parent, acknowledging that much of the every day hard stuff fell into my lap, while he got the fun stuff on the weekends.

The biggest reason he gets the father-of-the-year award, though, is because he taught our daughters how to work and how to expect to be treated by men.

When they got old enough to work on the farm, he took custody. It worried me. But, he always put their safety first, yet challenged them enough that they could feel like they achieved something.

In some ways he made them "Superwomen". He would tell them they could do anything!

As time went on, I grew to appreciate what he was doing for them. I have read a lot about what

makes girls healthy, happy and successful.

Girls who have positive relationships with their fathers avoid drugs, are less promiscuous, and do better in school and at work. When they marry they are less likely to divorce.

Here's another quote I like: "What worries you is that there might be one more boy in the world out there like you were!" Craig Guthrie, on being the father of girls. That is something every little girl's father probably identifies with.

The thing about boys is they grow up (some more than others.) Some become men like my husband. They treat women with respect. They teach their daughters to respect themselves.

A speaker I was privileged to hear a few years ago said this, "You'll never get more if you settle for less. Sounds so simple doesn't it? Some day our girls may give their hearts to other men. Love and marriage are such complicated matters these days. In spite of the almost coronation-style of weddings in vogue these days, fewer and fewer marriages make it."

The girls seem to think I long to be the mother of the bride, but I really don't. I do not care what kind of weddings they have or if they ever have them. I just don't want them to settle for less. And I thank their father for embodying MORE!

Power show is a 'blast from the past'

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never seen things like this before. We need to remember the past and pass it on."

He said people who want to get involved can do everything from working on the antique machinery to giving tours of the grounds, running demonstrations, and selling food in the kitchen.

"Some of it can be hard work, but a lot isn't difficult," he said. "We're always here to answer questions. There is no question that is not worth answering."

Best of show awards were given out for tractors, cars and small engines on both Saturday and Sunday.

Best of show winners on Satur-

day were Brian and Angie Shick of Densmore for their 1942 A.R. John Deere tractor, Richard and Neva Epard of Colby for their 1957 Ford Ranchero automobile, and Bob Robinson of Garden City for his 1916 one and a half horsepower Sandwich Engine.

Sunday's winners were Dennis and Cathy DeWitt of Prairie View for their 1954 I.H.C. Super M.T.A tractor, Lynette Donaldson of Almena for her 1957 Chevrolet automobile, and D.L. Ingwerson of Gehring, Neb., for his John Deere one and a half horsepower engine with a pumpjack.

A kids pedal power pull was held Saturday after the parade. There were three categories, with

first and second place receiving trophies. In the 5- and 6-year-old category, Kade Kinderknecht took first and Aden Baird placed second. In the 7- and 8-year-old age group, Dalton Smith won first and Carson Wallace took second. Carson Montgomery placed first in the 9- and 10-year-old age group with Ame Baird coming in second.

Myron Veh, Norton, was the winner of the grand prize tractor, a Farmall International 1952 Farmall H.

Other prize winners were: Alton Manske, Edison, Neb., cedar chest; Rybin Scharvin, Oxford, Neb., intarsia wooden pheasant; and Scott Sansom, Densmore, \$50 savings bond.

City council doesn't object to bonds

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he said the county would pass a resolution with notice of intent to proceed with issuing the bonds. A hearing would be held and the issue would be voted on by the county commissioners after the hearing.

There are about 60 people on the waiting list for the eight apartments the Andbe Home has now.

• Re-appointed Deena Wente for the Norton County Economic Development Board's at-large position. It is a two-year term.

• Adopted Resolution 4-2006, revising the city's employee handbook and personnel rules.

The resolution prohibits the use

of tobacco products in all interior space owned or leased by the city and in all of the city's owned or leased vehicles, machinery or equipment.

It also requires the use of safety belts at all times when operating city owned vehicles or equipment.

• Approved the revised consent order for the water plant.

• Heard from City Administrator Rob Lawson that the city's electric rates were below the state average.

• Learned that the Planning Commission will meet July 10. A public hearing will be held at 5:45 p.m. to discuss building code

changes that will allow placement of a garage on a residential lot by itself.

• Directed staff to advertise for a Parks Maintenance I employee, because of the increased work load that department has to handle.

• Accepted a low bid of \$18,350 for a 40 horse-power Ford tractor from Malson Implement Co. Inc., of Collyer for the Parks Department. There were five bids total.

• Hired Caleb Cox, Long Island, to fill the open police officer position. Mr. Cox will have to move closer to Norton so he can be within five minutes of a call. There were six applicants that tested for the position.

Candidates file for upcoming elections

(Continued from Page 1) challenging incumbent Ron Thornburgh, Topeka, on the Republican ticket. The winners of the primary will be facing Rob Hodgkinson, Stillwell, of the Libertarian Party and Joseph L. Martin, St. Marys, of the Reform Party in the general election.

For attorney general, incumbent Phill Kline, Republican, Topeka, will be facing Democrat Paul Morison of Lenexa in the general election.

Filing for commissioner of insurance are Bonnie Sharp, Kansas

City, Democrat; Eric Carter, Overland Park, Republican; and incumbent Sandy Praeger, Lawrence, Republican. The Republican winner of the primary will be facing Ms. Sharp and Patrick Wilbur, Lawrence, of the Libertarian Party in the general election.

Incumbent Lynn Jenkins, Topeka, is re-running for state treasurer as a Republican. She will face Democrat Larry Wilson, Topeka, in the general election.

Democrat Bob Strevey of Norcatour will once again challenge incumbent Republican John

Faber, Brewster, for the state house of representatives seat for the 120th District in the general election.

Incumbent Debra S. Anderson, Norton, has filed for the district magistrate judge position in Norton County.

For the State Board of Education, 5th District, Democrat Tim Cruz, Garden City, will face either Sally Cauble, Liberal, Republican, or Connie Morris, St. Francis, Republican, in the general election.

Independents need to file by noon on Monday, July 31.



THE NORTON TELEGRAM

and the Norton Chamber of Commerce welcome "COUNTRYSIDE SALES & SERVICE" to the business community

Countryside Sales and Service is located at 407 W. Holme, Norton, Kansas, phone 785-877-2667. Tim Leffler, Larry James or Al Ebke will help you with any of their services which include New and Used Boats; 24 Hour Phillips 66 Fuel; Firestone/Bridgestone Tires; Coca Cola Products; AC Delco Car and Boat Batteries and Pennzoil Quick Oil Changes.