



Leading the Veterans Day parade was the Norton American Legion Color Guard. From left to right, they are John Becker, and Ted Hanchett. Another marching veteran seen behind Mr. Hanchett was Elden Vincent.

Norton downtown fire rated top story, accidents come in second

By VERONICA MONIER
A fire that devastated downtown Norton made the top of the list of stories in 2006.

In late July, the Norton City and Rural Fire departments, along with every other department in the area, fought for close to eight hours to put out a blaze that engulfed U.S. 36 Collectables and the Norton Archery Club. Both buildings were completely destroyed.

Firemen managed to save Pure Prairie, the adjacent building, which suffered smoke and water damage. The windows of several businesses across the street from the fire, including those of Whitefields Coffee House, Decor and More, and Ryan, Walter and McClymont, cracked because of the heat. Paint bubbled and awnings were charred, as well as a couple of trees.

When it was over and done with, Norton Chief Mitch Jones said they pumped over 500,000 gallons of water onto the flames. Another 400,000 gallons came out of the city's water lines.

Thankfully, no one was injured during the fire, but the soul of the community was still charred from the loss.

Later in the year, Lee and Sioban Hanes, owners of the property, made a deal with the city, giving the city the titles if it would clean up the mess.

Other stories of note in 2006 were:

- Several accidents caused severe injuries and even one death.

In January, Norton County farmer/rancher Warren Harting was seriously injured while pumping water from a livestock lagoon using a tractor with a power take-off pump at his feed yard. Mr. Harting was rushed to the Norton County Hospital, and then air-

lifted to Kearney, where he received a blood transfusion, before being taken by helicopter to Bryan LGH Medical Center West in Lincoln, Neb. Mr. Harting underwent multiple amputations and surgeries, but managed to survive the ordeal.

Also in January, Ray Rojas of Oberlin but formerly of Norton, was in a car accident, where he almost lost his arm. Mr. Rojas managed to walk with a friend to get help and then was taken to Decatur County Hospital. From there he was transported to McCook Community Hospital, where he underwent surgery to repair the damage to his arm.

In February, Norton County Commissioner John Miller was flown to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney after rolling his truck. Mr. Miller sustained several broken bones.

In March, Norton County Emergency Medical Technician-I Bill Finn was severely injured while transporting a patient from Norton to Kearney. The ambulance he was in lost control because of ice and wind. Mr. Finn sustained a long list of broken bones, including a broken back. He received several surgeries and is still in physical therapy.

In June, Josey Shearer was swimming with a group of friends at Sebelius Reservoir when he went under the water and drowned. Several nearby campers heard shouts and ran to help, but it was too late to save the recent Northern Valley graduate. Mr. Shearer's body was found later that day by the Plainville Rescue Diving Squad.

- The Norton Community High School lost its long-time principal, Lary Stull, when he retired after 34 years in education, 28 of which were as the high school principal.

The Norton School board hired Rudy Perez to follow in Mr. Stull's footsteps.

At the same time, the school also lost football and track coach Bruce Graber, when he resigned to move

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Cory Roy, principal at Eisenhower Elementary School, is a man of his word. He promised the students he would "kiss a pig" if they exceeded 28,000 points in the accelerated reading program this year. In fact, they accumulated almost 29,500 points; enough for Mr. Roy to "kiss a pig" and earn an extra 15 minutes of recess time. When the time came, JaLynn Urban, fourth grade teacher and owner of Bel, a 12-year old, 250 pound pot-bellied pig, brought the porcine to school and introduced her to the principal. Some students gave Mr. Roy breath mints while others presented him with a giant toothbrush saying Bel had requested he use it before their "big kiss". Mrs Urban said Bel (named for a Chevy Bel-Air) had not been off the farm for nine years, so she was very excited about the whole outing. Mr. Roy was unavailable for comment regarding his feelings for Bel.

— Telegram photo by Hypatia Day

Norton Schools Staff Spotlight

Classified Employee



Dorla Jones

Mrs. Dorla Jones is in her tenth year as the building secretary of the Norton Junior High School. She and her husband, Mitch, have two grown children and two grandchildren. Her favorite pastimes are traveling and camping. What she likes most about her job is "that every day is a new adventure!"

Certified Employee



Cheryl Roberts

Ms. Roberts is the K-2 special education teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School. She is a graduate of Fort Hays State University where she earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Twenty eight of her 30 years of teaching have been in USD 211 and EES. Ms. Roberts has three grown children and four grandchildren. Quilting and reading are her hobbies. Teaching the little ones to read is what she likes best about her job.

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Outreach Classes in Norton ENROLLMENT

MON., JAN. 8 & TUES., JAN. 9 — 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Enrollment will be held in the Norton Junior High School Cafeteria

MONDAY, JANUARY 8 — 3:00-4:30 P.M.

Enrollment at the Norton Correctional Facility Administration Conf. Room

Call Education Coordinator: Jennie Patterson, 785-874-4256 (Home)

Classes not listed may be offered if sufficient interest exists

NO.	COURSE	CR.	INSTRUCTOR	PLACE	START	END	START TIME	END TIME
EN177	English Composition II	3	J. Vatopka	NJHS	Mon. 1/22	5/07	6:00p	9:00p
HI177	American History 1865 to Present (\$40 Telecourse Fee)	3	R. Walz	NJHS	Thur. 2/1	5/18	6:00p	9:00p
PH103	Earth Science with Lab	5	G. Rossi	NJHS	Wed. 1/31	5/07	7:00p	10:00p
PH103L	Earth Science Lab (\$40 Lab Fee)	0	G. Rossi	NJHS	Wed. 1/31	5/07	7:00p	10:00p
SO182	Sociology for Families (\$15 ITV Fee)	3	S. Calliham	Hospital	Wed. 1/24	5/18	6:00p	9:00p
SP106	Interpersonal Comm. (\$15 ITV Fee)	3	S. Calliham	Hospital	Sat. 1/20	5/12	9:00a	12:00p
RE104	World Religions	3	M. McVay	Hospital	Mon. 1/22	5/18	4:00p	5:25p
AL104	Nurse Aide	5	J. Rima	Andbe	M/Th 2/5	TBA	M & Th 6p	M/Th 10:00p
AL110	Medication Aide	4	J. Rima	Andbe	Tues., 2/6	TBA	6:00p	10:00p
AL123	Medication Aide Update	1	J. Rima	Andbe	Fri.-Sat. 1/19	1/20	(F) 6:00 p (S) 9:00a	(F) 9:30p (S) 4:30 p
ML237	Spanish Comp and Conversation	3	A. Stiles	NJHS	Wed. 1/24	5/07	6:30p	9:30p