

# Store toy collecting for Lions

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**  
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 Tractors, dolls, ping-pong paddles, stuffed animals — toys of all kinds are piling up at the Norton Dollar General Store as the generous people of Norton reach out to help needy families during the holidays.

The store is holding its Holiday Toy Drive to help the Norton Lions Club fill Christmas baskets to be delivered Dec. 15. The store also has a counter canister for monetary donations to help the club purchase food for the baskets.

Assistant Manager Beth Cooper said dozens of toys have been donated so far. She said any kind of unwrapped, new toy is welcome. She added that the store is open every day, including Sundays, from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.



Ann Becker placed a stuffed pony on the pile of new toys being gathered by Dollar General to help the Norton Lions Club Christmas Basket project.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Finalists listed for 'Wonders' contest

By **RON WILSON**,  
 director, **Huck Boyd**  
**National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.**

Get out the vote! No, I'm not talking about the presidential campaign. I'm talking about an opportunity for Kansans to vote on the top wonders of our state. Through a democratic process, citizen votes will decide the eight wonders of Kansas.

Marci Penner is an author and founder of the Kansas Sampler Foundation and Kansas Explorers Club. Marci has long been an advocate of rural Kansas, and now she's helping select the eight wonders of Kansas.

With the help of Von Rothenberger, an active member of the Kansas Explorers Club, she launched a process for a public vote on the eight wonders of Kansas. First she asked the public for nominations, and hundreds were received. Then a statewide selection committee met and, with a great deal of effort, winnowed that list down to 24 finalists.

Photos of all finalists are posted online at [www.8wonders.org](http://www.8wonders.org).

Votes will be received by paper ballots and by email, but the deadline is Dec. 31. Then the votes will be tabulated and the Eight Wonders of Kansas will be announced by Governor Kathleen Sebelius on Kansas Day 2008.

The finalists are, in alphabetical order by the name of the attraction, the Arikaree Breaks in Cheyenne County; Ball of Twine in Cawker City; Big Brutus in West Mineral; Big Well in Greensburg; Brookville Hotel in Abilene; Chase County Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls; Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Barton and Stafford counties;

Cimarron National Grassland in Morton County; Constitution Hall State Historic Site in Lecompton; John Steuart Curry murals in the State Capitol at Topeka; Davis Memorial in Hiawatha; Eisenhower Center in Abilene; Fort Larned National Historic Site in Pawnee County; Garden of Eden in Lucas; Gyp Hills Scenic Drive in Barber County; Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson; Kansas Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson; Keeper of the Plains in Wichita; Lake Scott State Park in Scott County; Monument Rocks and Castle Rock in Gove County; Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site in Republic County; St. Fidelis Church; also known as the "Cathedral of the Plains" in Victoria; St. Mary's Church in St. Benedict; and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and the Flint Hills in Chase County.

Each of these is pictured on the website, but it would be even better to visit each one in person.

Ms. Penner said, "The whole purpose of this is to educate Kansans, stimulate their interest and get them involved in thinking about the attractions in our state."

These include attractions in both our largest cities and our most rural areas. The nearest town to Castle Rock, for example, is Gove, population 103 people. Now, that's rural.

So get out the vote. Visit these attractions and go to [www.8wonders.org](http://www.8wonders.org), where you can cast your ballot by Dec. 31.

We salute Marci Penner, Von Rothenberger, and all those involved with each of these attractions for making a difference by highlighting these elements of our state. As a way of encouraging Kansas tourism, I think it is absolutely wonderful.

# City administrator is not acting as police chief

By **VERONICA MONIER**  
*vmonier@nwkansas.com*  
 The City of Norton is still looking for a police chief.

Despite rumors to the contrary, City Administrator Rob Lawson

said he has not been made police chief.

"I'm just helping out with the administrative side of things," he said. "Hopefully, that'll change soon and we'll have a

new chief."

Mr. Lawson said he is probably playing a bigger role for the department than he would if there was a full time chief, but, for the most part, Assistant Police Chief

Jeremy Hartwell is handling things.

He said he oversees all of the city's departments and isn't doing any more with the police department than he is the others.

# Women's club to meet Dec. 13

The Norton After-5 Club invites all area women to attend the December dinner and meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Town and Country Kitchen, E. US-36. The cost for the dinner meeting is \$7 per person. Free babysitting is available. For reservations and cancellations, please contact Joan Knoll, 877-3042, by Dec. 11.

"Holiday Ideas" is the theme for the evening. "Sweet Lick-ins", presented by Jan Volgamore, Norton cake decorator, is the special feature for the evening. Jan's cake decorating ideas will make your home for

the holidays special. Special music, "Holly Daze", will be presented by Sue Ann Stutheit, gifted local soloist with yuletide carols and sing-alongs.

The Norton After-5 Club welcomes as their special speaker for the evening, Sharon Rhoades, Wichita. Ms. Rhoades shares how to win over discouragement and bring joy to our lives in "Garlands of Joy".

The Norton After-5 Club is non-denominational and open to all area women. Part of Stonecroft Ministries, After-5 Clubs are located throughout the United States and Canada.

# Norton Chamber hosts Christmas dinner

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 25 at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at noon.

This dinner is for anyone who cannot be with loved ones on Christmas Day. A full holiday menu of turkey with dressing, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, rolls and butter will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to complete the feast.

There is no charge for the din-

ner, however donations will be accepted. Volunteers are needed to help with the meal preparation, serving and clean up. Anyone interested in helping should contact Karla Reed at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Office, at 785-877-2501.

Don't forget to look for your winning numbers

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Sat., Dec. 8 . . . . . Open Mike Night, Bring your instruments, voices and dancing shoes

Sat., Dec. 15 . . . . . Ramblin Andy Band

Sat., Dec. 22 . . . . Russell Hull and the Fantasy Notes

Sat., Dec. 29 . . . . . The Flatlanders

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 . . . . . Ramblin Andy Band

# Norton Community High School Students of the Month for September 2007

## Rachael Hickman



*Nominating Staff Members — Erin Hill & Robin Sides*

Comment from nominating persons: "Rachael has been a terrific student and example in my English class so far this year. Her work has been done in a timely manner and done very well. She has volunteered in class numerous times for certain responsibilities and helped out her peers. She has excelled in English 12 thus far, and I feel that she deserves the honor of student of the month because of her promptness, effort, positive attitude, leadership, and achievement!" — Mrs. Erin Hill

"I would like to nominate Rachael Hickman for student of the month. She is a pleasant person to be around and always goes beyond her own assignments on the newspaper staff to help others out." — Mrs. Robin Sides

**Factoids about Rachel**

Favorite Class: Journalism/Art  
 Favorite Drink: Shirley Temple  
 Favorite Color: Black  
 Favorite Food: Mashed Potatoes  
 Favorite Movie: Love & Basketball  
 Favorite Saying: Yes, Dude  
 Favorite Song: Comma White  
 Favorite Hang out: None  
 Personal Hero: Mother  
 Future Plans: Nursing - RN

## Galen Hildebrand



*Nominating Staff Member — Mrs. Regina Stark*

Comment from nominating person: "I would like to nominate Galen Hildebrand as Student of the Month. Galen is a very pleasant young man. He works very hard in class and contributes to class discussions. He is courteous not only to adults but also to his fellow classmates."

**Factoids about Galen**

Favorite Class: Engineering  
 Favorite Drink: Dr. Pepper  
 Favorite Color: Red  
 Favorite Food: Chili  
 Favorite Movie: Broken Train  
 Favorite Saying: Git R Done  
 Favorite Song: Sink the Bismark — Johnny Horton  
 Favorite Hang out: Time Zone  
 Personal Hero: Chris Ledoux  
 Future Plans: To become a farmer.

## "NICE" GIFTS from....

# Kellie's Christmas Specials Throughout the Store!!

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9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

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