

Business in the Spotlight

Each month a Norton County business is featured for their valuable contribution to our economy.

This month's article was submitted by economic development board member Donna Foley.

Daffer Construction
307 S. Norton
Norton, Kansas
J.D. Daffer, Owner
785-877-3826

J.D. (Jay Dee) Daffer, owner of Daffer Construction, is originally from Beaver City, Neb. After high school he attended Nebraska Vocational Technical School (Southeast Community College) in Milford, Neb., majoring in Building Construction and graduated in December 1967. J.D. credits his professional success to the training he received at NVTS, saying "If I had not gotten this education I most likely would not be where I am today."

J.D. moved to Denver and had been working for Wood Brothers Homes for three and a half years when he decided that he did not want to raise his one and a half year old daughter in the city. His wife (at the time) was from Norton and they felt it would be a good place to raise a family. He looked for a job with local contractors but nobody was hiring. He talked with

Don Launchbaugh, the Manager of Norton Lumber Company at the time, about a possible job. They weren't hiring either but Don said he would see if he could find people who needed construction work done. Daffer Construction was born and the rest is history. Daffer Construction has built 45 new homes and completed many additions, remodels, and small commercial projects along with building cabinets and furniture, his real passion. He did whatever he could to make a living in small town America.

J.D. says, "My greatest success over the years is building new houses that become new homes. Seeing how proud people are of their new homes, knowing that I had the opportunity to do the design work and drafting on 42 of the 45 houses is a great feeling."

Regarding challenges, J.D. shared that he has had many challenges through the years, mainly to do with the economy. He encourages people to hang in there and know that things will get better. Sometimes people need to do whatever it takes, even if it is something they really do not like to do.

"As I look back on the past 40 years I do not know that I would change much. As I tell my kids, things happen for a reason, so

hang in there and it will be just fine; and it has been. I'm at a point in my life where I'm starting to slow down. I don't plan to completely retire; I will continue to do jobs that I can handle by myself. In other words I'm looking at a semi-retirement," J.D. said.

About Norton County's future, J.D. said, "I feel things in Norton County are looking up. We are very lucky to have great schools, great health care, Norton Correctional Facility, Kansas Department of Transportation, New Age, Natoma, Valley Hope, Prairie Land Electric, and many more businesses that make this a great place to live in Northwest Kansas. Norton will continue to grow with the help of a great Norton County Economic Development group and others who care about and promote small town USA."

J.D. and his wife, Julia, have been married for 29 years, and have four children between them, with five grandchildren. His daughter Deonne (Christy) Hinz, and husband Merlin, have three girls and live near McCook. His other daughter, Chandra Daffer, lives in Kearney, Nebraska. Julia's children, daughter Jennie Patterson, and husband Eric, and son Neal Willmeth, live in Norton.

Time for some R & R

After 10 years as the maintenance professional and groundskeeper at the Norton County Courthouse, Gary Matson has decided to retire. (From left to right) County Commissioner Dr. R.A. Peterson thanked Matson for his hard work over the years. Matson plans to travel and go to auctions. "I'm going to miss the people and I enjoyed the work, but I'm not gonna miss shoveling the snow," said Matson.



-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

SHERIFF'S LOG

July 1
Registration/offender/update
(2) VIN inspections
Stolen property-Clayton
(2) Traffic stops
Missing person
Found/lost property
Motor vehicle accident-Leno-

ra
Motor vehicle accident-personal injury, about one mile east of Norton on Highway 36
Contact with public
Animal call-U.S. 283
Theft
Warrant service (FTA only)

July 2
Suspicious person
Suspicious vehicle
Warrant service (FTA only)
Theft
VIN inspection
911 hang-up call
Animal call
Motor vehicle accident with animal on U.S. Highway 9 and west of E10

July 3
Contact with public
Incident-Almena
Cattle out-Norton
Document service
Vehicle assist-U.S. Highway 383 and Bryant
(2) Registration/offender/update
VIN inspection
Motor vehicle accident-hit and run, Almema

July 4
Theft-Densmore
Gas skip-Love's Travel Stop
Fire-Norton
Disturbance-Noise
Theft-Densmore
DWS-Driving while suspended
Hitchhiker, U.S. 261
Motor vehicle accident with animal, U. S. Highway 9 and Road W-4

July 5
(2) 911 hang-up calls
Contact with public
Cattle out
July 6
Incident
Traffic/driving complaint,

Highway 383 near Almema
Traffic stop, mile-marker 100 and Highway 383, Almema
Citizen's complaint
Cattle out, Almema

July 7
Contact with public
July 8
(3) VIN inspections
Traffic/driving complaint on Highway 36 by mile-marker 130

(2) Document services
Registration/offender/update
Animal call
Welfare check
Suicidal subject
Fire-Norcatour

July 9
Motor vehicle accident with animal on U.S. Highway 36 and Road W3-W4
Motor vehicle accident-Clay-

ton
Motor vehicle accident-Norton
Traffic stop
Motor vehicle accident-U.S. Highway 36, in front of the prison
Animal call
Creating a hazard

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Greg and Melissa Rowh along with big sister Kendra of Beloit, are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Erika Nicole Rowh, born on Aug. 8, 2013.

Erika weighed seven pounds, seven and a half ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Jay and Rita Rowh of Beloit, and Larry and LaVonda Bando of Nebraska City, Neb.

Great-grandparents are Georgia Rowh of Norton, and Leona Bando of Nebraska City, Neb.

Tomatoes, the topic of garden conversation

Kay Melia
vkmelia@yahoo.com

My ears are burning as I listen to gardeners talk about this year's crop of tomatoes. Please understand that tomato talk comprises roughly half of all the garden talk I hear all year. It is so obvious that tomatoes are the garden crop of choice, just like last year, and the year before, and the.....

This year, the talk is a bit troubling to my aged ears. Most gardeners I talk to aren't very happy with this year's production. But then, tomatoes are so cherished that if the least little bit of trouble prevails, voices are raised! Many of you are raising your voices and there seems to be an unusual redness of the face right now. Some gardeners are not happy with their tomatoes.

I'm happy with my tomato crop this year. I don't apologize for it, nor am I being boastful about it. Very simply, my tomatoes are doing well, and I'll bet you a couple of onions that there are many of you out there enjoying a satisfactory crop.

I've never been asked so often about how I plant and care for my tomatoes. So here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to describe as best I can in this limited space, the methods I use for a successful tomato crop. Applaud or disagree...your choice. At your request, I'm just pass-

ing along what works for me. Here we go.

I have learned over the past few decades that I must set out my plants as early as I possibly can, which for me, is May 1. My plants get good growth in the cool days and nights of May, and I always have a way to protect them in case of a cold snap. I get good early growth on my plants before most gardeners have set theirs out.

I remain adamant about the proper variety of tomato. I plant Northern Exposure, Super Tasty, Shady Lady, and a couple of 4th of July's. All of those have extremely good resistance to the many problems that hound tomatoes. I absolutely avoid Early Girl, Big Boy, Better Boy, and Beefmaster.

I always cage my plants when I plant them, with two feet of black plastic on the bottom to prevent wind damage. I constructed the cages from concrete reinforcing wire, and they last for years. As for watering, I plant my plants in long rows, and irrigate down the row. A drip system is good, but I don't even think about a lawn sprinkler. I irrigate when I think they need it, not on Tuesdays and Fridays, or Saturdays and Wednesdays.

I usually fertilize twice, with a liquid pour-on I mix myself. I do it when the first bloom appears, and again three weeks later.

I grow my own plants from seed. However, you can buy

the started plants of all four varieties listed above, some locally, some from the mail-order people. I always pick tomatoes just as soon as they begin to turn color. Tests show I lose no flavor and no nutrients as they ripen on the kitchen counter, and I don't have to worry about them out there on the vine.

That's about it. Many of you have asked. If you would like detailed information, write me a note. I promise to respond before planting time next spring. I genuinely love to discuss tomatoes!

Cunningham's Feed in Arapahoe

will be closed

Friday evening, September 13th

for a private function. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to serving you in the future.



POTATOES FOR SALE

We have new Pontiac, Kennebec, Russet, and Yukon Gold Potatoes for Sale
Weather Permitting, We Will Be Digging Saturdays
September 7 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The field location is Northwest of Orleans 5.2 miles on Highway 136 to 715 Rd. then west 2.5 miles to C Rd., then 1/2 mile south. From Stamford, go 4 miles north on Main Street to 715 Rd., then 1 mile east to C Rd., then 1/2 mile south. Signs will be posted. They are \$12.00 per bag (about 50 lbs.) and you pick them up.



Bob and Joe Culver, Orleans, NE
Field Phone (308) 991-4776 or (308) 868-3235

Bypass in Hays to be resurfaced

Within the next two weeks, a road construction project to resurface the U.S. 183 Bypass in Hays is set to begin.

The five mile job begins at the U.S. 183 junction within the south city limits of Hays, and continues north to the I-70 junction.

The scope includes a partial mill and 1 1/2-inch overlay of

new asphalt material.

Delays of 15 minutes or less should be expected through the construction time frame. The public should plan their travels accordingly. KDOT urges drivers to pay attention to the signs and workers within a construction zone. Please slow down and "Give 'Em A Brake!"

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