

Norton man wins weekly Pigskin Pick-Em

By DICK BOYD

When grading was completed in last week's Pigskin Pick-Em Contest in *The Telegram*, Gavin Sproul, Norton, was all alone on top of the pile of entries with a perfect entry to earn the \$15 scrip money first prize.

In addition to getting all 10 regular game winners correct, Gavin also chose the correct winner of the Auburn-Georgia tiebreaker game but it was not needed since Gavin outguessed every other fan entering.

Seven fans missed just one contest and were in the running for the second and third prize. Second prize scrip money of \$10 goes to Glen Wiltfong, Norton. Auburn defeated Georgia 24-6 in the tiebreaker game and Glen picked Auburn to win by a score of 24-17 or 11 points off the actual score. His only miss was Kansas State's last second loss to Colorado.

Winning third prize scrip money of \$5 is Kenney Leiker, Norton, a longtime participant in the contest. Kenney missed just the Victoria playoff win over Jetmore and selected Auburn to defeat Georgia by a score of 20-14, or 12 points off.

Other fans also missing just one game, picking Auburn to win the tiebreaker and points off on the tiebreaker were: Shelly Shearer, Almena, 15; Samuel Field, Almena, 16; Sydney Brands, Almena, 18.

Two fans also missed one game but incorrectly chose Georgia to win the tiebreaker game. They were: Gail Bailey, Norcatour, and Lonnie Kellerman, Norton.

Correct on all but two games were: Jerry Laurin, Frank Kaiser, Dwight Vallin, Emily Vallin, all of Long Island; Cathryn Horn, Foster Brands, Shirley Sides, Glenn Brands, all of Almena; Randy Springer, Hoisington; Aaron McDowell, Hill City; Travis Vallin, Watkins, Colo.; LeRoy Schuckman, Hays; Judson Wiltfong, Edmond; Shayla Bailey, Lucas Bailey, both of Norcatour; Jared Foley, Wichita; Amber Sheley, Kindra Green, Douglas Daniels, Regina Beikman, Linda

Matson, Virginia Carlton, Mary Ann Hager, Robin Sproul, Norton County Co-op, Kevin Jilka, Rick Green, Anastasia Foley, Roland Washburn, all of Norton.

Missing three games were: Marilyn Lowry, Mike Shearer, Brandon Towns, Lisa Miller, Jordan Herman, C.J. Woodmansee, Staci Montgomery, Donelle Stewart, Janette Callaway, all of Almena; Jim Springer, Hutch Gerke, Jim Cole, Kirsten Baird, all of Long Island; Tim Moore, Evelyn Springer, both of Hoisington; Jacob Gallentine, Prairie View; Lexie McDowell, Hill City; Bradley Killian, Lincoln; Nicole Covington, Erin Foley, both of Lawrence; Mark Bailey, Norcatour; Hayden Wiltfong, Edmond; Chris Foley, Fairfield, Calif.; Dalton Smith, Lynette Archer, Wilma Wiseman, Kirk Foley, Lynn Nelson, Lawrence Wiseman, Laura Washburn, Deb Thiele, Charlotte Stephenson, Elinor Wiltfong, Cathy Kellerman, Kelly Hill, all of Norton.

Incorrect on four games were: Alison Cole, Mike Hammond, Karen Shearer, Roger Shearer, all of Long Island; Dale Shearer, Edmond; Laurel Smith Manhattan; Barbara Springer, Andy Moore, Nancy Moore, all of Hoisington; Brody McDowell, Hill City; Jillian Stoelting, Orleans, Neb.; James Covington, Lawrence; Denise Bailey, Norcatour; Barbara Brooks, Clayton; Brett Post, Pam Araujo, Christina Anderson, Paula Stutterheim, all of Prairie View; Michael Callaway, Karen Wenzel, Linda Covington, Bob Covington, Sherri Unrein, all of Almena; Caitlyn Patterson, Keegan Smith, Raymond Ankenman, Bruce Holland, Amie Menagh, Sandy Husted, Trudy Stockham, Craig Foley, Norm Stockham, Marj Allen, Tami Antrim, Jennifer Terrell, Georgie Rorabaugh, all of Norton.

The 12th and final week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Friday or you may bring them to *The Telegram* office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em advertisement in today's *Telegram* for the final week's high school and college games. Only one entry per person is allowed but extra official entry blanks for other members of the family may be picked up from any sponsor. Only official entry blanks will be accepted.

Prizes of \$30 in scrip money, spendable at participating merchants, will be paid each week. At the end of the season, the fan picking the most correct games will receive \$50 in scrip money and an engraved trophy.

Scores of last week's games were:

Conway Springs 49, Phillipsburg 6
Garden Plain 56, Southeast of Saline 21

Smith Center 51, St. Francis 14
Claflin 21, Oakley 12
Victoria 32, Jetmore 28;
Colorado 38, Kansas State 31
Texas 27, Kansas 23
Oklahoma 30, Nebraska 3
Texas A & M 32, Texas Tech 25

OT
Iowa 29, Minnesota 27
Auburn 24, Georgia 6



Hanging the greens downtown

Brian Hickman (above right) and Jan Maley rode the "bucket" on the city truck Monday afternoon as they guided it towards the front of the courthouse. Mr. Maley carried another large sparkly ornament to the front steps of the courthouse, to await its turn to be placed on the building. The two men, along with other city workers, were busy hanging Christmas decorations on the courthouse, downtown and on the highway.

— Photos by Carolyn Plotts



Almena station fills up automobiles, tummies

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Patrons who enter Home Oil and Supply in Almena and say "fill 'er up" could have one of two things on their minds when making the request.

Residents of Almena and surrounding communities have been filling their automobiles up with fuel for close to half a century at the gas station. But during the past two years, customers have also been able to fill their bellies with home-cooked meals thanks to owners Nicci and Tracy Stutsman, who serve lunch specials daily and are now known for their special entrees on Friday nights.

The couple actually met in the food industry while working at The Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant in Kansas City in 1992. Nicci graduated from Kansas State University with a major in hotel and

restaurant management then went to work at the restaurant. Tracy served as kitchen manager after being with the company for 15 years.

The two married in May of 1995 in San Diego and despite being promoted within the restaurant chain, the newlyweds decided to move to Northwest Kansas, where Nicci was born and reared, to eventually start a family and raise their children.

"Ironically, we decided to get out of the hectic life that working in a restaurant can lead to," said Nicci reflecting back on their decision to come back home to also be near her parents.

"We started looking for business opportunities in the area when we moved back, and became very excited for the many possibilities that Home Oil presented when we

learned it was for sale," Tracy said.

They purchased Almena Lumber and Supply, which is also known as, Home Oil, from H.C. "Uncle Bud" Stevens in July of 1998.

"We really liked the idea of owning and operating our own business," Nicci said.

They decided to start serving their gas station customers meals at noon in March of 2002.

"The restaurant all sort of began as the idea of offering our regulars another service," said Nicci.

What began as lunch specials only has grown to catering special occasions, and serving dinner on Friday nights as well. Thus, Home Oil, The Restaurant, was born.

Nicci plans the menu and uses her own recipes or recipes given to her from family and friends.

"I would describe our meals as

home style — but sometimes with a twist," she said.

She cooks anything from roast beef sandwiches to meat loaf, pulled pork sandwiches or enchiladas for lunch. Tracy focuses on cooking the Friday night prime ribs on their gas grill and smoker.

"The prime ribs are kind of what we're being know for," said Nicci.

But there is always another choice of entree on Fridays, such as chicken cordon-blue or fettuccini.

The portions at Home Oil are always generous, and Nicci serves her home-made cheesecakes on Friday evenings for dessert.

"I usually prepare at least two different cheesecakes, one New York style (plain) with seasonal toppings and another flavor like Butterfinger or Brownie," she said.

If cheesecake doesn't satisfy the sweet-tooth then a slice of pie, made from scratch by Nicci's mother Liz Howard, will.

Owning their own restaurant is a lot of work, but also provides a lot of joy and satisfaction, they say.

"Our boys see it as their second home," said Nicci of her two sons Matthew, 8, and Nicholas, 3.

Nicholas stops in every morning to have a slice of hot bread and Matt helps out in the garage.

As customers dine amid the hardware supplies of Home Oil, the Stutsmans remain the real nuts and bolts of the operation as they continue to serve food for Almena's residents.



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