Post office ready for holidays

(Continued from Page 1) No matter where it's sent, she said the post office will do all it can to get people their packages.

She said the post office has two new priority mail flat rate boxes people can use. The boxes have a red star burst on them and can be mailed for \$7.70, regardless of the weight. She said one is 10.5inches-by-8.5-inches-by-6inches and the other is 14-inchesby-12-inches-by-3.5-inches.

She said they also have the regular priority mailers, where the cost is based on weight.

The postmaster said the Norton Post Office will have extra mail pickup on the first three Mondays in December. That means all mail deposited before 1 p.m. will be processed early in the day.

She said the post office will be closed on both Christmas, Dec. 25, and New Year's, Jan. 1. The post office will be open for normal business hours all other days in December. That is Monday through Friday 9-11:30 a.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9-11 a.m.

The postmaster asks that everybody try to send their mail early to help keep the flow of mail from getting congested.

County to apply for grant

(Continued from Page 1) the mitigation plan.

The hazard analysis would help determine the county's top 15 natural hazards. Part of that would be to look at things like the weather over the past 50 years, she said.

Other hazard data would come from people like fire chiefs, local industry and large scale farms and ranches.

"Say you have a spill on the highway," she said, "You can go in and get information on the chemical and the area — how far is it from people, who is in charge, evacuation procedures and so on.

"We, as a consulting firm, cannot go out and ask industries for in-



(Continued from Page 1) three babies, it was decided they would be delivered, at 32 weeks, in Wichita where she could be bies. monitored more closely.

That was the plan. Delivery date was set for Nov. 30, but on the Friday before, in the middle of the worst snowstorm of the year, Mrs. Blair went into labor. She had to be air lifted from Hays to Wichita. Her husband had to drive.

She said the triplets were born healthy and did not even need respirators. At birth it was discovered a little overwhelmed at times by two of the girls, Sasha and Kiowa, are identical twins, while Bryn is the singleton.

Because of their low birth weight they were kept in the hospital until they gained a few pounds. Being premature also was a problem. Their suckling instinct was not fully developed and they had to be encouraged to eat.

They were released from the hospital when they were 3 months old.

The girls obviously figured out how to eat, because now, at 10 months, they eat cereal, fruits and vegetables and take a bottle every

four hours. All weigh over 15 pounds and are the picture of bright, inquisitive, energetic ba-

Mr. Blair's grandmother, Katie Blair, lives in Norton. Other area relatives include Rod and Marilyn Dial and Margie Portenier.

Mr. Blair moved to Norton last December. Mrs. Blair, Cody and the girls joined him on March 21. He works as a substitute teacher and a para professional at Eisenhower Elementary School.

The girl's big brother, Cody, is the sheer numbers. His parents make a special effort to see to it that he has his own private time with them every day. They also take him to the pre-school story hour at the library on Thursdays.

Mrs. Blair said she had always wanted to operate a day care, but that idea is out. She has more than the state will allow with just her own children. She doesn't mind though. Even with four youngsters in diapers (that's 30 changes a day, at least), she remains cheerful

"Our kids are healthy, and we're having fun," she said with a smile.

It's good to have a pal as Chris Richards and Megan Arehart know. Both Eisenhower Elementary students got to spend 45 minutes with their PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) Austin Brooks and Stacy Reeves doing playing the board game "Clue" earlier this week. - Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Students team up to help 'pals'

(Continued from Page 1)

Support or PALS, a mentoring program sponsored by the National FFA, which matches high school FFA students with elementary youngsters to, hopefully, help them develop their social skills and get them excited about school. Mentoring should build trust and develop self-esteem.

The 54 Norton students involved began the program on Nov. 9 when the FFA hosted a barbecue so the pairs of students could get to know one another.

For the rest of the school year, the high school mentors will be going to Eisenhower every two weeks to visit their pals for about 45 minutes to work on school assignments or projects or to play.

This week, the program coincided with National Farm-City Week.

On Feb. 14, the students are planning a Valentines party starting at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The partners will get to make ice cream sundaes and valentines.

This year's participants are Samantha Brasted and Jordyn Gosselyn, Wes Georgeson and

Kolton Harting, Brian Juenemann Korey Horacek, Kristen Leibhart and Austin Hager, Jessica Arehart and Connie Gassman, and Hannah and Marisa Maddy, Sara Goss and Kayla Cook. Campbell and Hannah Pollock, Blake Wolf and Cody Temmel, Stacy Reeves and Megan Arehart, Cydnie Milnes and Desiray Skrdlant, Travis Ray and Keith Sander, Lance Roe and Trey Deal, Jessica Cook and Shaelynn Gibson;

Paul Juenemann and Darcy Bainter, Josh VanSkike and Cole Renner, Blake Hillebrand and Zachary Esslinger, Aaron Husted and Christopher Chamber, Andrew Black and Alec Hager, Chelle Donovan and Johnnye Ruder, Thea Wiseman and Jessica White, Tim Becker and Isaac Schaefers, Rachael Hickman and Abbie Smith, Austin Brooks and Chris Richards, Dana Hillebrand and Cristine Nelson, Devin Marx



Andrew Smith, Pat Burton and and Jon Meyer, Carson Braun and

Norton County walkers win prizes

for the Fall Walk Kansas program (celebrating the Lewis Clark Expedition) have been announced for Norton County.

Six teams with 36 people participated this fall in an abbreviated Walk Kansas program. The goal of this program is to encourage adults to establish an exercise habit of walking or exercising for 30 minutes a day five days a week.

Teams which participated were: Walking Wonder — 762 miles with team captain Cheryl Mann, Mary Mann, Alice Hawks, Jeanne Pharis, Eva Harrington, and Jan Volgamore; Walkabouts — 713 Goscha, Joan Bolt, Linda Burge, Keiswetter, Wanda Graham, Judy

Team results and team winners Cathy Kellerman, Lonnie Kellerman and Joyce Lofgreen; Validated Gang Members — 643 miles with team captain Kelly Gill, Hazel Peterson, Deb Kaus, Barbara Thompson, Jenny Braun and Vickie Brungardt; Wild Walking Cats — 556 miles with team captain Carol Woodmansee, C.J. Woodmansee, Alice Jones, Dorothy Luechen, Gloria Cole and Barb Ballinger; Cheetahs — 265 miles with team captain Sandy Kaiser, Kendra Merchent, Norma Mullen, Sherry Robinson, Delores Keiswetter and Elaine Schuckman; and Sunflower Sues -207 miles with team captain miles with team captain Bill Carol Mayo, Twila Carter, June

Moppin and Coni Park.

Individuals who reported walking the most miles were Bill Goscha, 273 miles, and Mary Mann, 184 miles.

All team members who turned in six weeks of walking reports were eligible for prizes. This year the prizes are half-hour massages performed by Masters Touch Massage.

Winners are: Wild Walking Cats, Alice Jones; Walking Wonders, Jeannie Pharis; Sunflower Sues, Judy Moppin; Walkabouts, Bill Goscha; and Validated Gang Members, Hazel Peterson



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formation. However, Alvin or the fire chief can require this information.

"The biggest thing I've been able to do for other counties is to tell them who isn't reporting information."

"There's no guarantee he will get the money from the state. He's got a pretty good shot at it since he missed out on the last round."

She said that if she is hired she will drive all the county roads and meet with folks all over the county.

She said that she will talk to industry and get a list of the top three chemical sites for risk and visit those. Sites are chosen by what chemicals they have and their proximity to people, she said.

Also, the sites can change from year to year.

Commissioner Leroy Lang pointed out that there are a lot of chemicals kept on farms.

Some bigger farmers will report, she said, but many don't have enough to be required to report.

"I probably have 30 pages on chemicals," Mr. Mapes said, "If you have over a certain number of pounds you need to report."

Since a contract of this size would run into the thousands of dollars, Commissioner John Miller said that the county must get at least two bids before awarding a contract.

"We aren't the only company that does hazardous analysis," Ms. Homburg said. "Alvin can go out and find others."

"If it works out, wonderful, if it doesn't, I understand," Ms. Homburg said of the possibility someone else would be hired if the county gets the grant.

"You'd be surprised how much money we've saved over the years by taking two bids," Mr. Lang said. "That's how you manage your money."

"Well, when there's a grant like this you need to go after it, no one can afford to do this on your own," Ms. Homburg replied.



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