

Reindeer, snowmen, Santas and candy canes can be found glowing on or around peoples' homes in Norton. Santa is sure to find the chimneys in Norton... all he has to do is follow the bright lights. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



Lighting up the holidays



Christmas stockings. The stockings, filled with gifts, will—Smith, Rooks and Osborne counties.—Photo by Jamie Dreher

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club completed 68 begiven to children in foster homes in Norton, Phillips,

Quilt club prepares Christmas stockings tion provided a Christmas orna- school quilt project. These ses- cases were shown that had been

By BEVERLY KINDLER

Christmas stockings to be pro- Jamie Dreher chaired the project. vided for youth in foster homes in and Osborne counties.

Each stocking included a small gift and some personal hygiene items. The Norton Family Career and Community Leaders Associa-

Members of the Heritage Quilt ment for each. The stockings were sions will start early next year in made for the "Benjamin Smiles Club were Santa's helpers at their made by the quilters as a summer Northern Valley and Norton el-Dec. 6 meeting as they stuffed 68 challenge. Connie Miller and ementary schools.

The meeting was held at the Norton, Phillips, Smith, Rooks Congregational Church in Almena eral members displayed the Breathouwer. with 33 members present. It featured a tasting table with holiday pieced for the "Row Upon Row"

> Jerris McMullen, president, announced plans for the annual table toppers. Twenty-nine pillow-

ity at each monthly meeting. Sev- Dixie Covington and Margaret "Weathervane Row" they had sampler quilt. Members also displayed wall hangings, quilts and

Hostesses were Janette Show and Tellis a popular activ- Callaway, Dorothy Chandler,

The next meeting will be Jan. 3 at Prairieland Electric. Janet Kugler, Holdrege, will demonstrate the use of special tools for

Computers help shop with machine upkeep

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

reprogram its computers to track, not only when equipment needs service, but what type of things need to be done.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan told the commissioners on Monday that he is hoping to get some new programming that will help his department do maintenance work on the equipment.

Right now the computers tell the operators when a machine or piece of equipment needs ser-

However, it doesn't say what kind of service it needs.

Normal service, such as lube, oil and filter, isn't a problem, Mr. Brannan said, but when more needs to be done, you need to go back into the maintenance the millings to improve their manuals. This usually involves access but also want to save some digging to find the right enough to put on the county manual and the right page.

Mr. Brannan said that his crew has been able to do some would watch how much was blading on gravel and asphalt sold and the commissioners roads with millings but not on said they would find out what dirt roads, which are still too

The crew is just finishing The Norton County Road and graveling a bus route near Bridge Department is hoping to Lenora, he said. The graveling had to be stopped earlier due to seismographic cables across the road. Mr. Brannan said he would

> like to get rid of several old cement culverts, which have been sitting around for many years. The commissioners agreed with him but didn't know the best way to handle the overly heavy culverts. Mr. Brannan said that the

> county still has plenty of asphalt millings and that it would be getting more from the state.

Commissioner John Miller warned him that the county has put a limit on how much it will sell any individual.

The commissioners said they want residents to be able to use roads.

Mr. Brannan agreed he the limit was since no one could remember the exact amount.

County gets clean slate on audit

By VERONICA MONIER

port, if somewhat late, on its 2003

Steve Zodrow with Mapes and Miller Accounting presented the annual audit report to the commissioners Monday afternoon. He said the audit was clean with no reportable conditions or viola-

The county had a balanced budget and all departments stayed within their allotments.

The county has 32 funds, including those for the different depart-

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said the county had \$3,485,175 in beginning unencumbered cash, \$7,908,436 in cash receipts, \$7,802,407 in expenditures, \$60,990 in outstanding accounts payable and \$3,652,194 as an ending cash balance. He said the county had a positive cash flow for

The county's general fund had a beginning unencumbered cash balance of \$777,987 and an ending cash balance of \$566,901.

Norton County has \$1,782,324 in long-term debt, which includes bonds. He said that amount covers road and bridge equipment, bridge bonds, sheriff's vehicles and the 911 system.

Additional audit work was done on the hospital renovation bonds and federal funds. Everything, he

said, checked out okay. The Kansas State University Extension Service audit was also included in the report. The Exten- E. Wheaton dated January 4, 1996,

Norton County got a good re- of \$23,504, cash receipts of dence last Thursday because of a \$88,146, expenditures of \$87,009 and an ending balance of \$24,641.

> the audit report and asked Mr. Zodrow to send it to the state and federal agencies that need a copy. In other business, the commis-

• Heard from Sheriff Troy Thomson that his department had

sion had a beginning cash balance to move an individual from a resicourt order. He said the 17th Judicial Court ordered the sheriff's The commissioners approved department to make the move, which took four days and required the use of county equipment and inmate labor.

- Signed and approved in midmonth checks for computer ser-
- Approved the 2005 Norton County vacation schedule.

Annual hospice fundraiser put off

Hearts" fund-drive this year for the hospice this year.

However, the fund-raiser will return in September.

The Hospice Services Memorial Tree is on display at the Norton

There will be no "Caring Public Library. Individuals may give a tax-deductible donation to Hospice Services in memory or in honor of someone. An ornament will be placed on the tree with that individuals name on it.

<u>PUBLIC NOTICE</u>

The Estate of Ruth E. Wheaton

Friday, December 3, 10 and 17, 2004. IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS In the Matter of the Estate of Ruth E. Wheaton, deceased Case No. 2004-PR-43

NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

NOTICE OF HEARING AND

You are hereby notified that on November 29, 2004, Reva L. Benien was appointed by this Court as executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Ruth

Published in The Norton Telegram on without bond, and she was granted Letters Testamentary.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred. Reva L. Benien, Executrix

Submitted by: Mark C. Whitney, No. 9607 WHITNEY LAW OFFICE 112 S. Kansas, P.O. Box 208 Norton, Kansas 67654 Telephone (785) 877-2661 Attorney for the Executrix

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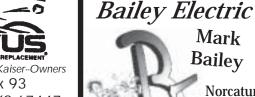
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