



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



Members of the Heritage Quilt Club completed 68 Christmas stockings. The stockings, filled with gifts, will be given to children in foster homes in Norton, Phillips, Smith, Rooks and Osborne counties. — Photo by Jamie Dreher

Quilt club prepares Christmas stockings

By BEVERLY KINDLER
Members of the Heritage Quilt Club were Santa's helpers at their Dec. 6 meeting as they stuffed 68 Christmas stockings to be provided for youth in foster homes in Norton, Phillips, Smith, Rooks and Osborne counties. Each stocking included a small gift and some personal hygiene items. The Norton Family Career and Community Leaders Association

provided a Christmas ornament for each. The stockings were made by the quilters as a summer challenge. Connie Miller and Jamie Dreher chaired the project. The meeting was held at the Congregational Church in Almena with 33 members present. It featured a tasting table with holiday goodies. Jerris McMullen, president, announced plans for the annual

school quilt project. These sessions will start early next year in Northern Valley and Norton elementary schools. Show and Tell is a popular activity at each monthly meeting. Several members displayed the "Weathervane Row" they had pieced for the "Row Upon Row" sampler quilt. Members also displayed wall hangings, quilts and table toppers. Twenty-nine pillow-

cases were shown that had been made for the "Benjamin Smiles Project". Hostesses were Janette Callaway, Dorothy Chandler, Dixie Covington and Margaret Breathower. The next meeting will be Jan. 3 at Prairieland Electric. Janet Kugler, Holdrege, will demonstrate the use of special tools for quilting.

Computers help shop with machine upkeep

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
The Norton County Road and Bridge Department is hoping to 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 service. 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 manuals. This usually involves some digging to find the right manual and the right page. Mr. Brannan said that his crew has been able to do some blading on gravel and asphalt roads with millings but not on dirt roads, which are still too muddy.

The crew is just finishing graveling a bus route near Lenora, he said. The graveling had to be stopped earlier due to seismicographic 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 the millings to improve their access but also want to save enough to put on the county roads. Mr. Brannan agreed he would watch how much was sold and the commissioners said they would find out what the limit was since no one could remember the exact amount.

County gets clean slate on audit

By VERONICA MONIER
Norton County got a good report, if somewhat late, on its 2003 audit. 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 violations. The county had a balanced budget and all departments stayed within their allotments. The county has 32 funds, including those for the different departments. 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 2003.

The county had a beginning cash balance of \$23,504, cash receipts of \$88,146, expenditures of \$87,009 and an ending balance of \$24,641. The commissioners approved the audit report and asked Mr. Zodrow to send it to the state and federal agencies that need a copy. In other business, the commissioners: • Heard from Sheriff Troy Thomson that his department had

to move an individual from a residence last Thursday because of a court order. He said the 17th Judicial Court ordered the sheriff's department to make the move, which took four days and required the use of county equipment and inmate labor. • Signed and approved in mid-month checks for computer services. • Approved the 2005 Norton County vacation schedule.

Annual hospice fundraiser put off

There will be no "Caring 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

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 individual's name on it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Estate of Ruth E. Wheaton

Published in The Norton Telegram on 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 OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: 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 E. Wheaton dated January 4, 1996, 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

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