



Happy Hunting in Norton County

These hunters were getting ready to walk a field about six miles south of Norton Monday morning. They had several dogs with them and represented the states of Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Correctional facility honors employees



The Norton Correctional Facility honored two outstanding employees for the third quarter of 2005.

Corrections Officer I Barbara Redeker was chosen as uniformed officer and Senior Administrative Assistant JoAnn Patterson was selected as the non-uniformed officer.

Officer Redeker began her employment with the facility in April of 2003.

"Officer Redeker has proven to be a team player who is willing to do what it takes to get any task accomplished," said Deputy Warden Joel Hrabe. "Her demeanor with inmates, as well as staff, is very professional."

He said she has a knack for being very friendly and approachable, while remaining completely professional. Officer Redeker is well liked and respected by her fellow staff, as well as the inmate population, he said.

Ms. Patterson began working at the facility in February of 1992 as a corrections officer in the east unit. She became an office assistant III in December of 1992 and was promoted to office assistant IV, now called senior administrative assistant, at the central unit in March of 2001.

"JoAnn maintains a positive attitude, continues to remain open to changes and does her best to improve in any area needed," said Mr. Hrabe. "She has also been instrumental in the group working on the automated drop sheet process in Offender Management Information System."

Longtime camp hosts retire

Ray and Leta Koel, longtime camp hosts at Prairie Dog State Park, finished their last year this fall.

"Ray and Leta seemed to go hand-in-hand with the park," said Park Manager Steve Mathes. "It wasn't uncommon to see them trimming weeds around the campground, picking up trash, mowing, cleaning the shower building, checking permits and just being friends to everyone."

For the past nine years, the Koels have been host to thousands of campers at the state park. But, because of health issues and the need to slow down a little in their retirement, they will not be back as camp hosts in 2006.

"No one will miss them more than the state park staff," Mr. Mathes said. "During their tenure as camp hosts, Ray and Leta documented over 3,000 volunteer hours. Not only have they been camp hosts, one or the other has always been a paid seasonal staff member at the park. Their work as camp hosts and as seasonal staff members, cleaning the shower building or doing grounds keeping, has let the park staff concentrate on other areas within the park.

"Ray and Leta will be greatly

missed at the park next summer." For their dedicated service to the Prairie Dog State Park and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the past nine years, the Koels were recently awarded a Wildtrust Print called "Strip Pit Covey Rising".



Longtime Camp Hosts Leta and Ray Koel, with their dog Jasmine, could often be seen driving around Prairie Dog State Park in their golf cart, helping campers when they needed it. But, because of a need to slow down, the Koels are retiring as camp hosts after nine years.

Former Norton man donates to college

John L. Allen, a graduate of Norton Community High School, recently provided a gift to Kansas State University to equip and furnish the new baseball strength training area at Tointon Family Stadium in Manhattan.

Mr. Allen, the son of Marcelle M. Allen, Norton, and the late Joe H. Allen, is the chief operating officer of the Cincinnati Reds, a position he has held since 1999.

He got his start in professional baseball in 1990 as an intern with the minor league Columbus Clippers and subsequently became the team's director of business operations. He joined the Reds in 1995, as controller and a year later was promoted to managing executive.

He is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and is a 1974 graduate of Kansas State with a degree in accounting from the College of Business Administration.

Mr. Allen and his wife, Anna, live in Cincinnati. They have two children, Chris and Sarah.



4-H NEWS

Lone Prairie 4-H Club was represented at the 2005 4-H Achievement Banquet on Nov. 12 by: Dennis, Brenda, Lizzie and Mitchell Johnson; Darlene, Renee and Katie Becker; Deb Hopp and girls; and Shyanne Thompson, all of Logan; Kirk, Tami, Jordan and Michaela Girard; Michael, Shannon, Regan and Ryann Kats; Dian and Samantha Tien; Vivian Jansonius; Jerry, Gloria and Ian DeWitt, all of Prairie View.

Awards were presented to the 4-Hers. The Club received a purple seal for their activities this year.

The Club packed servicemen's boxes for Operation Care Package on Nov. 14.

The Club is selling greenery this year as a fund raiser. Orders should arrive about Thanksgiving. Extra wreaths and swags were ordered. If you want something contact Liz Jansonius, Tami Girard or Gloria DeWitt.

The paper you read for the news you need!

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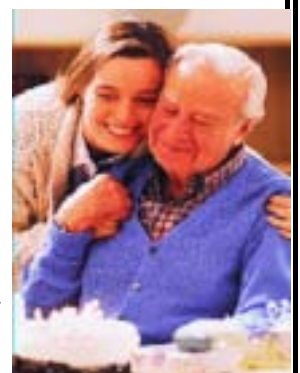
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 Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 FROM NOVEMBER 25 THRU DECEMBER 23

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