



The Norton Chamber helped to get ready for Santa. The gingerbread house (above) was put in place on at the west lawn of the Norton County Courthouse Wednesday morn-

ing. Later volunteers, including Jarrett Wente (left) helped to put up the decorations that will welcome Santa when he arrives tonight. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Nurses excited about prenatal classes

By VERONICA MONIER

Instructors at the Norton County Hospital's prenatal class feel it is going well.

Joan Streck, a registered nurse and coordinator for obstetrics, said the hospital's childbirth education and family health classes have been going on for about a month now.

"We're excited about having a prenatal class," she told the hospital board at its Nov. 16 meeting.

It's a four-week course that people can come to with a spouse or partner, she said.

Buffy Severns, a registered nurse and a course instructor, said there are four classes, one each week, each focused on something different.

She teaches the first class, she

said, which is about keeping healthy during pregnancy, how the body changes, exercises expectant mothers can do, role changes in the family, and how the baby is growing.

The second class is taught by Dr. Glenda Maurer. It focuses on when to go to the hospital, what to expect during labor, pain management, hospital registration, the stages of labor, a birth plan, and immediate postpartum.

The third class, taught by Kay Garman, a certified nurse midwife, discusses breathing and relaxation, exercises after delivery, water labor, and water birth.

Mrs. Streck teaches the fourth class, which is about the baby's safety at home, both breast and bottle feeding, auto safety, immu-

nizations, infant CPR, and community services.

"We're trying to focus on people who haven't had any education on being pregnant," said Mrs. Severns. "But people who have already had children are welcome to come as well."

She said these are not Lamaze classes, but they do cover breathing and relaxation. They want to offer the courses to everyone in the area.

"People don't have to go to the classes in order," she said. "They can start with the second, third or fourth class and then circle back around to the beginning. Or they can go to the second and fourth, then the third and first. The classes are set up so that people can come in any order they like."

The classes, she said, are held the first four Tuesdays in a month.

Mrs. Streck said she and Mrs. Severns attended a course and are now certified birth educators.

The class they attended, she said, looked at things like breast feeding, which is really being stressed now, biodegradable diapers and affirmations, among other things.

"It's really just about getting people to see labor and having a child as something wonderful, instead of something to be dreaded," she said. "There is a lot of information out there to help families realize what a wonderful experience it is."

For more information, call the hospital at 877-3351.



Private Scott Collins

Norton man takes training for Army

Army Private Scott L. Collins has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, he studied the Army mission, history, basic combat skills, drill and ceremony, basic first aid and other military exercises.

He is attached to a reserve unit in Topeka where he works with the unit's chaplain.

He is the son of Horace and Marilyn Collins and a 2002 graduate of Norton Community High.

City fills expiring board seats

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council filled several expired board, committee and commission terms at last week's meeting.

Mayor David Corns said several positions on three boards would expire at the end of the month and needed to be either re-appointed or filled.

Four positions were open on the Tourism Committee — those of Bob Millan, Margurite Godbout, Karla Reed and Councilman Jerry Jones.

Mr. Millan, Ms. Godbout and Ms. Reed had all asked to be re-appointed, which the council did.

Mr. Jones is on the committee as both a service representative and as a council representative and would like to have his service position filled by someone else.

That two-year term position is still open.

On the Housing Authority Board, R.A. Peterson's position is up for re-appointment and he did not wish to continue.

Sue Urban was appointed to fill the position for a four-year term.

The Planning Commission positions of Karen Reedy and Doug Ray will expire.

Mrs. Reedy was re-appointed at her request and Mr. Ray, who has recently moved outside the city

limits, was replaced by Pat Morel.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Judge Jerry Hawks that he went to Topeka where he completed his municipal judge's certification. He said he will need 10 hours of continuing education a year to stay certified.

- Judge Hawks told the council that he is always looking for community service projects and, if anyone had any ideas, to let him know.

- He also said the council should talk to the state Supreme Court Ethics Committee regarding any conflict the city has with the city attorney representing clients in municipal court.

- Heard from City Administrator Rob Lawson that Don Hays is having a problem getting someone to haul off debris from his properties.

- The city has an agreement with Mr. Hays, where he will provide a trailer or truck to take debris from demolition the city does at 513 and 515 W. Main. The city will do the demolition once Mr. Hays provides a way to remove the debris.

- Approved a motion saying that the city attorney will have all legal work and its respective charges itemized in writing and approved by the city council before any work is done for all legal services

- for the new sewer and water system. The council then officially hired City Attorney Chuck Worden for legal services on the water and sewer projects.

- Earmarked the \$15,000 the Norton School District paid to the city to lay a water line from a non-potable water well to somewhere in Elmwood Park.

- Held a public meeting and decided to continue with demolition of a structure at 409 South St. Demolition had already been ordered but the property had been sold to Scott McNamara of the United Kingdom and the procedure had to be redone.

- Amended the motorcycle race dates from Aug. 13 and 14 to Aug. 12 and 13. It's the same weekend, but a 2005 calendar was used to determine the dates originally.

- Approved Mary Oswald's request for sidewalk replacement on the east side of Twice Sold Treasures at 106 S. Kansas St., with the city providing the labor and Mrs. Oswald paying for the concrete.

- Heard from Councilman Jim Williams that the Church of God requested 60 feet of new sidewalk at 1010 Churchill.

- A letter will be sent to the church telling them that the sidewalk replacement policy covers replacement but not new sidewalks.

Extension council holds annual meeting

By KEITH VANSKIKE, County Extension director

The Norton County Extension Council held its annual meeting Monday at the 4-H Building.

The council recognized the education programs of Kansas State Research and Extension, announced new members of the elected extension council and elected the 2006 executive board.

The meeting was opened by President Steve Herra with Secretary Alice Barnett calling the roll.

Guests were Julie Neff, municipal judge clerk; Beverly Kindler, retired Family and Consumer Services agent; Brian Olson, area agronomist; and Tranda Watts and

Janelle VanKooten, multi-county specialists.

Keith VanSkiike, Norton County Extension director, gave a report for the local programs involving agriculture, 4-H and youth, community development and family and consumer sciences.

Ms. Watts and Ms. VanKooten reported on their work in the area of foods, health and safety.

Mr. Herra awarded the 2005 Extension Appreciation Award to Arnold and Carol Riemann, who gave many years of service to the Council Executive Board, Family Consumer Education and 4-H clubs as well as the county fair.

Mr. Olson, representing the di-

rector of extension, described the voting process for the executive board elections.

Newly elected members of the 2006 executive board were sworn in by Ms. Neff. They are David Donovan, chairman; Patsy Maddy, vice-chairman; Kim Wicker, secretary; Sue Hillebrand, treasurer; and Becky Smith, Chad Brooks, Spencer Braun, Alice Barnett and Shannon Esslinger, directors of the board.

The 2006 members of the extension council are:

- Agriculture — Chris Tanner, Dan Skrdlant, Chad Brooks, Eric Thompson, Chris Cuthbertson, Spencer Braun;

- Family And Consumer Sciences — Joy Johnson, Patsy Maddy, Gloria Zwickle, Sue Ann Skrdlant, Lisa Donovan, Michelle Bohl;

- 4-H Youth and Development — Kara Miller, Darrell Barnett, Shannon Esslinger, Alice Barnett, Sue Hillebrand, Dave Donovan;
- Economic Development — Scott Sproul, Kim Wicker, Patty Newell, Levonne Otter, Brenda Mann, Becky Smith.

Retiring members of the 2005 Norton County Extension Council are Brock Ellis, Dwight Sprigg, Amy Carlton, Nancy Kent, Joan Hale, Staci Breiner, Steve Herra, Linda Esslinger and Jeff Callaway.

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