

Let's remember season's reason

The recent trend toward merchants and advertisers removing Christ from Christmas and turning a sacred religious holiday into a "winter festival of greed" really offends many of us.

Especially in these times it is important to give your family the gift of the true meaning of Christmas. Be certain that the collections, traditions and celebrations in our homes all emphasize the sacrificial gift of Our Father of His Son, rather than the "big Daddy Santa" mentality that pervades the world today.

Don't mistake my meaning — there is not a thing wrong with a joyous celebration of the holidays, enhanced by traditional decorations, foods, gatherings and gifts.

It is the motivation driving those traditions that is important. A holiday season devoted only to over indulgence in eating, drinking, and spending leaves you with extra pounds, a bulging credit card balance and that awful hollow feeling that something essential is missing.

Spending Christmas Eve at church with family and dear church friends, on the other hand, leaves you full of hope with a loving spirit, music and joy. Christmas morning in church should be on every agenda as one of the "can't miss it" worship days of the year. What do your holiday priorities say to visitors in your home?

Your choice of decorations makes a strong statement to friends and family. A Christmas tree trimmed entirely with angels, many years in the collecting decorates a dear friend's home. An acquaintance places the family Bible open to Luke's Christmas scripture on the coffee table illuminated by a tall gold candle. Another friend fills every nook and cranny with nativity scenes of all sizes and styles.

Advent wreaths glowing on dining room tables in the month before Christmas Eve make family supertime a meaningful event.

Take your children with you to give gifts to the food pantry, hospice angel tree and your chosen charities and to deliver meals or gift baskets. The joy of giving early in their lives is the best way to combat the "gimme" mindset that too often tarnishes the tinsel of Christmas.

Ornament collections accumulate...

4-H NEWS

By PHILLIP BECKER
The monthly meeting of the Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club was held Dec. 11.

Roll call was answered by members giving their middle names.

Food and money was donated to the Lions Club. The club made ornaments and played "robber Bingo".

The next meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 15, in the 4-H Building.

Upcoming events are the Favorite Food Show, Saturday, Jan. 14; the Denver trip on Saturday-Monday, Jan. 21-23; and County Club Day, Monday, March 20.

Collector Chat Liza Deines



lated through happy years bring back such good memories of Christmases past. Fifty years ago my mama gave me a little angel figurine; in 1970 a simple white nativity scene was given to me by my husband and my children. It is stored in a treasured recycled gift box with the instructions "Do not smell 'til Christmas" written on it in childish printing left from a long-ago gift (perfume? soap?) from a son. Our "Noel" sign cross-stitched by a family member is a standing joke — David thought it said "Leon" when he was first learning to read.

LeRoy especially treasured a pair of tiny red felt socks with the twins' names on them — their birthday was the day of the Kayettes' "Hanging of the Greens" at Norton High. A student, who was a nurse aide at the hospital, made and attached the socks to the decoration on his classroom door.

Even though I can no longer put up a tree, those dear little socks are taped to the bookcase every year.

Dan spent his entire week's allowance at the craft fair the year he was 6 to buy initialed wooden crosses for his brother and sister. Angels from Sunday School teachers are also among the children's favorite ornaments.

Your collection of Christmas memories and traditions is one treasure you can pass on to your children through the years. We'll all be right with the world if we keep our focus on "Jesus IS the Reason for the Season".

MY MAMA SAID: A gift chosen or made and given with love has more value by far than a million dollars and a wagonload of spendin' money.

OBTUARY

Ivalee H. Wilson Feb. 17, 1926 - Dec. 10, 2005

Ivalee H. Wilson, 79, Ellis, formerly of Norton, died Saturday at her home.

Mrs. Wilson was born Feb. 17, 1926, in Norton, the daughter of Charlie and Nannie (Shackelton) Craig.

On Nov. 6, 1967, she married Fredy A. Wilson in Superior, Neb.

She was an operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and four brothers; George, Charles, Harry and Dewey Craig.

Survivors include her husband,

of the home; a son, Alan and Candy Baird, Jefferson City, Mo.; two daughters, Billie and Lance Riner, Protection; and Terri Fischer, Ellis; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday at Wasinger Funeral Chapel.

A private inurnment will be held at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to hospice in care of the funeral chapel, 400 E. 17th, Ellis, Kan. 67637.

READERS

— **Confused about Medicare? Call Patty at Moffet's to set up an appointment for Dec. 17.** 12/13

Sonya Montgomery, Almena, had arthroscopic knee surgery Monday. She is staying with her son, Mike and Claudia Peil, 12515 W. Downing Pl., Brimfield, Ill. 61517.

— **Russ' Jewelry, in downtown Norton, invites you to enjoy big city selections at small town prices. Thursday, Dec. 15, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., we will present De'Nicole Designers, one of the nation's leading jewelry manufacturers. They will bring their entire selection of over 700 truly unique, heirloom-quality pieces. Back by POPULAR DEMAND, this will be the**

last De'Nicole showing this year at Russ' Jewelry. 2/13

Alison Cole, a student at Northern Valley, has been selected to be in the Kansas John Philip Sousa Honor Band for 2006.

— **PINOCHLE Tournament, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18. Norton American Legion.** 12/13

— **Steak and seafood night, Thursday and Saturday, 6-9 p.m. American Legion. Members and guests.** 12/13

MARKETS

At close of business Dec. 12

Wheat	\$3.29
Milo	\$1.57
Corn	\$1.78
Soybeans	\$5.22

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Open House
ALL DAY
Wednesday, December 21,
Thursday, Decembr 21
& Friday, Dec. 23 Until Noon
AT BOTH LOCATIONS:
500 Main — Almena
202 E. Washington — Norton

Serving Cookies and Cider

THE BANK WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON THE 23RD

Merry Christmas
FROM ALL OF US AT ...
Almena State Bank
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THE NORTON TELEGRAM



YOU'RE INVITED to Our 3rd Annual *Christmas Coffee* at ...

Whispering Pines
Wednesday, December 14
7:00 P.M.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM and the Norton Chamber of Commerce welcome

"elleven Skin Essentials" to the business community

"elleven Skin Essentials" is located on E. Highway 36, Rd E1, Norton, Kansas. Joslyn Henson the Esthetician provides Skin Care, Waxing and Make-Up. She may be reached at 785-874-4367 or e-mail elleven@ruraltel.net.

