



Lion Kris Posson (above left) and volunteer Dale Mulford helped fill boxes with groceries. The food baskets were delivered to area homes Saturday. Lions Club president Tom Brannan and volunteer Jeff "Goof" Urban (far right), checked over boxes ready for delivery.



— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

# Program to help land, air

The cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program applications to be considered for 2006 is Friday, Jan. 20

In addition to the regular incentives program, farmers and ranchers can also apply for the program's ground and surface water conservation if they use conservation practices that result in a net water savings.

Farmers and ranchers who are applying for the program will need to fill out the program's self-assessment tool.

"If they plan to apply, they should start the process very soon if they haven't done so already," said Harold L. Klaege, a state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"The self-assessment tool is an educational tool providing landowners with a clear indication of what natural resource concerns they have, what they can accomplish, and what they need to do to qualify for the program."

Using assessment cuts down on the time it takes to process applications, said Mr. Klaege.

The program's concerns are:

- Air quality — objectionable odors;
- Forestland health — productivity, health, vigor;
- Grazing lands health — productivity, health, vigor and noxious weed control;
- Sedimentation of federal reservoirs — soil erosion - stream banks, water quality - excessive suspended sediment and turbidity;
- Soil quality — organic matter depletion;
- Water quality — concentrated, non-confined animal waste; confined animal waste; and nutrients/pesticides/suspended sediment;
- Water quantity — inefficient water use on irrigated land, aquifer overdraft.

Applicants should know in March if they have been accepted and money allocated for their contract.

Applications that use cost-effective conservation; treat multiple resources; address national, state or local priorities; and provide the most environmental benefits will receive higher priority.

Stop by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local conservation district staff to get more information.

The Norton office is at 11640 Pineview Dr. or call 877-2623. On the Internet the program can be viewed at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2006](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2006)

# Lions roar around county with annual food baskets

More than 85 families will have a bountiful Christmas dinner thanks to the efforts of Norton Lions Club.

Saturday morning, dozens of Lions members and their families met at the Valley Hope Information Services Building to fill

boxes with food and toys. Event organizer Tom Baumann had the boxes labeled so volunteers could fill and deliver them.

All deliveries were completed by noon. Since 1956, the service club has been providing food baskets to

families in need in Norton County. This year, the club donated toys to The Haven, a home for families visiting inmates at the prison

# Most to close for Christmas

Christmas weekend will mean business as usual for some, and several days off for others.

## Banks

First Security Bank and Trust will close at noon Friday and remain closed through Monday.

First State Bank will maintain regular office hours Friday, but will be closed Monday.

The Bank will also be open during regular office hours Friday and closed Monday.

Almena State Bank will close at noon Friday and be closed all day Monday.

United Northwest Federal Credit Union will be open regular hours Friday, but be closed Monday.

Bank of the West (formerly Commercial Federal) will close Friday at noon and reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

## Service Stations

Love's Convenience Store and Norton Total stations are always open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Christmas is no exception.

TimeSaver will open two hours late Christmas and be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Grocery Stores

Christmas Eve Jamboree Foods and Almena Market will close at 5 p.m., Norton Shop 'N Save at 6 p.m. Country Corner in Lenora will close at 3 p.m. All stores will be closed Christmas Day.

## Restaurants

O'Brien's Bar and Grill will be open regular hours Saturday from 1 to 10 p.m. On Christmas Day

they will be open from 5 to 10 p.m.

Adventures in Eating will be closed both Saturday and Sunday. Attitudes will be closed Saturday through Monday.

McDonald's will close at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed all day Sunday.

Town and Country Kitchen will close Christmas Eve at 2 p.m. and remain closed Sunday.

Dairy Queen plans to close at 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed Christmas Day.

Pizza Hut/Taco Bell will close at 6 p.m. Saturday and remain closed through Sunday.

The Hidden Dragon Chinese Restaurant will close a 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and remain closed through Monday.

Pure Prairie Natural Foods will be closed Sunday for Christmas.

K & S Center will be closed all day Christmas Eve, Sunday and Monday.

Mama Millie's in Norcatgur will be closed Christmas Day.

The Cardinal Bar and Grill in Norcatgur will close at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed Christmas Day.

The Station in Almena will close at noon Saturday and be closed through Sunday. They will not serve lunch on Monday.

## Theatre

Norton Theatre will be closed Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day there will be a special showing at 6 p.m. of "Cheaper By the Dozen" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe".

## Discount Stores

Pamida will be open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and be closed all day Christmas.

Dollar General will close at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, be closed Sunday and open Monday.

## Pharmacies

Pamida Pharmacy will be closed Sunday and Monday.

Moffet Pharmacy will close at 2 p.m. Christmas Eve. The store will be closed Sunday and Monday.

## Public Offices

Norton County Courthouse will be open regular hours on Friday, but will be closed Monday.

Norton City offices will be closed both Friday and Monday.

Norton Public Library will close at noon Friday and remain closed through Monday.

## Healthcare

Doctor's Clinic will be closed Saturday and Monday

The Norton Health Department will be open Friday but closed Monday.

# Essay contest lets students tout Kansas

By DICK BOYD

Kansas high school students can compete for \$200 in the annual essay contest "Kansas! Say It Above a Whisper".

Essays must be limited to 250 words (about one double-spaced typewritten page) and postmarked by Monday, Jan. 9.

Send entries to: June Windscheffel, 1100 Belle Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66604-2043.

The essay contest title, which deals with pride in the state of Kansas, was coined by early-day Kansas newspaperwoman, Mamie Boyd of Phillipsburg and Mankato. The cash award is provided by the Boyd Family.

Past essays have described the interesting and strong-hearted people of Kansas, the state's wheat fields, diversity in population, the state's beauty and the emotions and pride evoked by that beauty.

Sponsored by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas, the contest is judged by a panel of Kansas Professional Communicators (formerly Kansas

Press Women). The judges look for originality, creativity and sincerity.

The winner will be announced and recognized by the Native Sons and Daughters at its annual banquet on Friday, Jan. 27 in Topeka.

The Kansas of the Year, Martina McBride, and Distinguished Kansas of the Year, Marci Penner will be featured at the banquet.

Winner of the 2005 prize was Julie Eisenbarth, Nemaha Valley High School. Runners-up were Emily Cox, Ellis High School; Kelsey Kykendall, Pleasant Ridge High School, Easton; Monica Befort, Ellis High School and Kelsey Yadon, Logan Junior High School, Topeka.

The contest is open to Kansas students grades 9 to 12. Entries will be given to the Kansas State Historical Society to be preserved.

For information, call June Windscheffel at (785) 272-2831.

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