



Library has several new displays

By BEVERLY KINDLER

Cooler days and chilly nights may bring thoughts of home baked cookies. If baking cookies is a favorite homemaking skill, you will be interested in seeing the collection of cookie jars now on display at the Norton Public Library. Jim and Marla Ruth's collection includes cookie jars made by Jull, Poseville, Abingdon, Shawnee, and American Bisque potteries. You will find an assortment of pigs — Formal Pig, Sheriff Pig and Cloverleaf Smiley Pig. Also, there are Red Riding Hood, Dutch Boy and Girl, Umbrella Kids and the Cookie Truck and Milk Wagon. Marla said, "We have been collecting for a long time and got most of these at auctions."

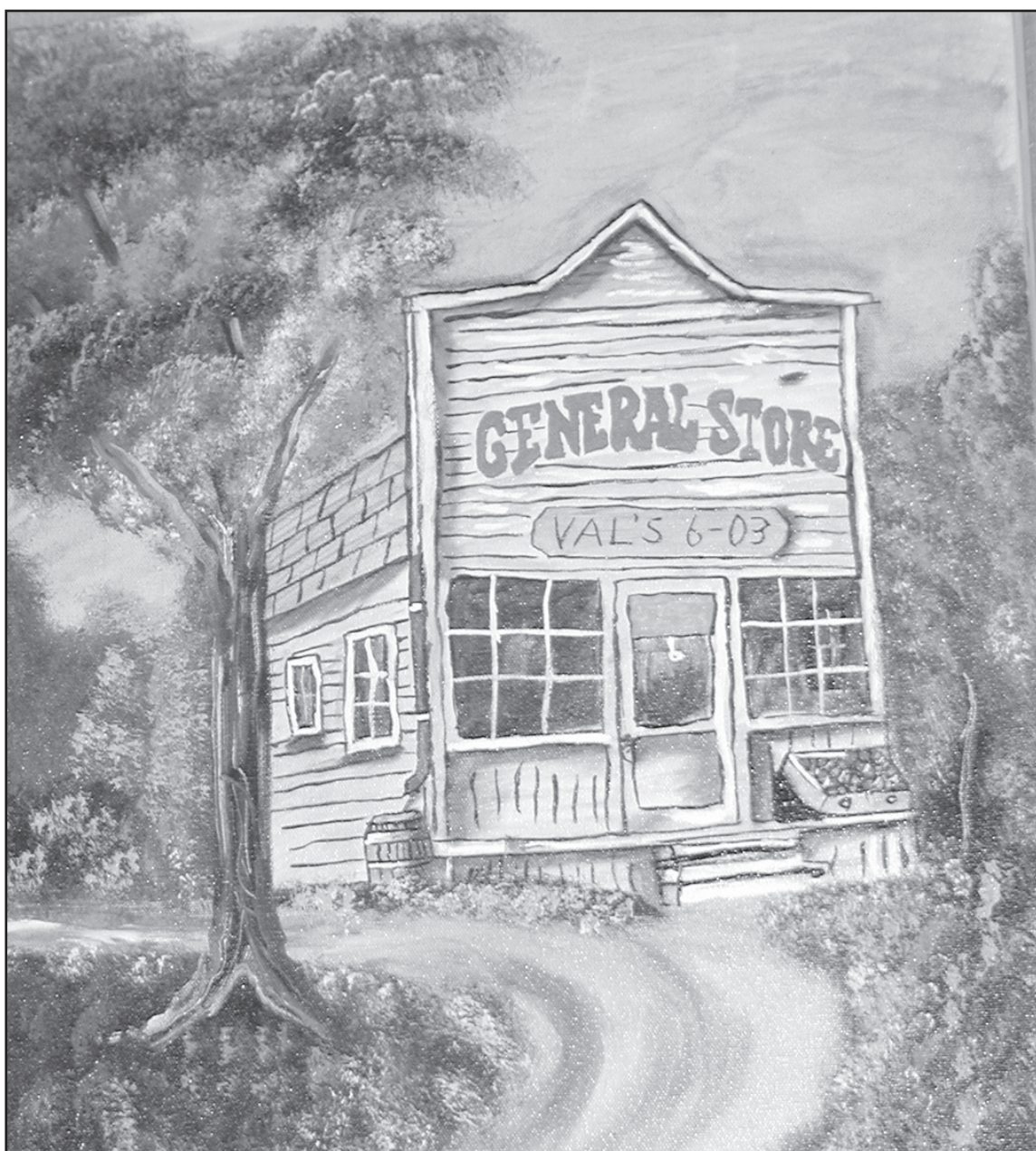
Cookie lovers, young and old, will enjoy seeing this display.

Jay Ryan's collection of Irish Santas began in March, 1999, when he received the Hiking Santa as a gift on his return from a stay at St. Luke's Hospital. The other Irish Santas, 11 to date, have been gifts from family and friends for St. Patrick's Day and Christmas. Jay noted that Irish Santas are hard to find.

Ada Arford presents an eclectic display of Christmas items. She said, "I have always had a special love for holiday items. Most of my items come from the 30s, 40s and 50s with the exception of some of the German blown glass ornaments, which are much older."

In the center of the display is a cardboard "snow village" that was made in Japan. Each building has a hole in the back so that the bulb from a string of lights could be inserted.

The paper mache Santas are uncommon pieces. There are a number of celluloid items — celluloid and bakelite were forerunners of plastic. Celluloid is very thin and, if it gets dented, the dent



Antique Santas and Christmas ornaments (bottom left) from the collection of Ada Arford filled the center showcase at the Norton Public Library. Jim and Marla Ruth have lined the upright display (below right) at the library with antique cookie jars from their collection. The piece that started Jay Ryan's collection of Irish Santas (top left) is this "Hiking Santa". In the Art Gallery, look for the artistic work (above) of Valerie Babcock. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

cannot be pushed back out without breaking.

The poinsettia box was a craft project known as pyrography. Spread throughout the display are an assortment of bulbs, a Santa mask, ribbons and other trims, Christmas seals and crepe paper printed to look like bricks.

You will need to spend some time checking out the details and the variety of items in Ada's display.

In the Art Gallery, you will be treated to the artistic talent of Valerie Babcock. She has developed her painting skills through workshops taught by T.R. and Sandy, Bob Ross certified instructors. She enrolled in her first workshop in 2002. Her first painting was a mountain scene with a waterfall. Acrylic and oil paints are the mediums used.

Titles for her paintings include Boat at Dark, Window Wonderland, Covered Bridge, John Deere Tractor and General Store. Paintings on two saw blades feature Summer in the Country and Winter in the Country. There are also water scenes featuring river and lake.

Take time to enjoy Valerie's paintings with the variety of landscapes she has portrayed.

Plan a visit to the Norton Public Library to see the displays shared by residents of Norton County.



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Harvest Home Festival
 Sat., Nov. 10

Northern Valley
 Gymnasium-Almena

4:00 P.M.
 Fish Pond, Sale of Baked Goods and Fancy Work
 5:00-7:00 P.M.
 Soup Supper—
 Chili, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef, Oyster
 Large Selection of Pie
 FREE WILL DONATION
 7:30 P.M.
 Auction—
 Handmade Crafts, Fine goods, Soup and Many, Many Other Items. (Children's Videos in Luncheonroom during Auction)

Sunday, Nov. 11
Almena Congregational Church

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 10:30 A.M.
 Guest Speaker:
 Seth Denny

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Sat., Nov. 10 The Three Jacks, 8 p.m.
 (Another Great Band from Norton)
 Sat., Nov. 17 Explosion Karaoke/Dance
 Sat., Nov. 24 Ramblin' Andy's Band, 8 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 1 The Charles Williams Orchestra
 (Oldies, Big Band, Country, R&R, 8-11:30 p.m.)



County employees offered flu shots

By VERONICA MONIER
 vmonier@nwkansas.com
 Norton County is offering its employees flu shots.

Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department supervisor, spoke with the Norton County Commission about flu shots for the county employees at the commission's Oct. 15 meeting.

The commission agreed that the shots would be offered to the employees and the billing would be submitted to insurance and then the balance would be submitted to the employee HRA account.

The commission also talked with:

• **Reggie Beckman, noxious weed supervisor**, who said that the department continues to spray trees in road ditches and a few private jobs. He said he is also working on the Kansas Department of Transportation contract in which the department has agreed to provide the service.

Mr. Beckman said he will be sending out bid requests to several companies for chemical purchase. The requests will be itemized for each chemical needed by the department for upcoming spraying needs.

• **Diane Becker, economic development director**, who discussed the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

• **Tom Brannan, road and bridges supervisor**, who delivered the weekly report. He said W-9 is almost finished and should be done that week. The road crews, he said, will also be finishing road work in the northwest part of the county in Rock Branch Township in the next couple of weeks.

He said the bridge crew is work-

ing on OS-115 and should have been finished by the end of the week.

Mr. Brannan spoke about the millings the county has left and his plan for application and which roads needed to be done still. They also spoke about the need to keep in reserve for future repairs.

• **Curt Archibald, solid waste supervisor**, who said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be out with their new regulations for solid waste management. Mr. Archibald said he would remain on top of the changes. He said there will be classes that the landfill staff will need to take in November. Also, he said Geo-Core finished testing on the monitor wells and the information was being reviewed.

• **Troy Thomson, county sheriff**, who said that he is not going to buy a new vehicle for the department this year and asked that the money be transferred to capital outlay for 2008.

In other business, the commission:

• Held a 10-minute closed session with Sheriff Thomson to discuss non-elected personnel.

• Held a public hearing to consider an application to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grants money under the community facilities category. Present for the meeting were Randall Hrabec and Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Planning Commission. Upon review and discussion, the county contribution of \$285,000 to the grant as match-money was approved.

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