



Marilyn Horn, who had the Trader Horn booth at the Norton Senior Center for the annual Norton Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, took time to play with her young customers. Mrs. Horn was one vendor among many who set up at one of five locations for the fair.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Kris Reeves, right, and her assistant of "Friendship Star", sorted through items in their booth at the Norton Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday. The booth was one of dozens located in the National Guard Armory.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts



New program protects young Internet users

By PATTY DECKER
Colby Free Press

Anyone with children who work with computers in the home could benefit from a new CD capable of detecting when offensive images or text are viewed online.

The compact disc known as, "Computer Cop" is available at the Thomas County Attorney's office, 140 W. Fourth St. in Colby, free of charge to parents, guardians, grandparents or anyone who has children in their homes.

This software works with most Windows computers, said Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick.

When inserted into a disc drive the program will show any inappropriate web sites that have been visited.

"This will not block web sites," she said, "but it is good prevention and protection."

The idea of the "Computer Cop," which was first introduced in Saline County, gives parents and others one more tool in helping to control what sites children visit.

"It's (the program) a proactive measure and strictly for parents, grandparents or guardians," she said.

"Parents don't always realize what's on the Internet and this program will give them a way to protect their children from sexual predators, pedophiles, and locations containing graphic sexual displays."

C.D. Hopper, Thomas County Sheriff's Office investigator, said he received an article from

a concerned citizen about the software.

"After reviewing the information and speaking with our county attorney," he said, "we decided to look into it further."

"A lot of people in northwest Kansas don't realize how much these predators can affect us," he said. "In the last three years, there have been cases of online predators and we are trying to help parents."

Those wanting a free copy of the Internet policing software or have questions, are encouraged to call the county attorney at 460-4580 or stop by the office.

The software was purchased with money confiscated from drug dealers by law enforcement officials and no tax dollars were used.

Survivor models with support group

Rita Speer, Norton, is a one-year cancer survivor.

She can add "model" to her resume' after her appearance at a "Day of Caring" fashion show, Oct. 13 at Memorial Union, Hays.

Mrs. Speer is part of a breast cancer survivors support group that modeled fashions for the show sponsored by the Cancer Council of Ellis County and Dr. A. Christine Kelly.

Mrs. Speer modeled a Studio 1940 ensemble from the Fashion Bug, Hays. She wore a magenta colored sweater of rayon and polyester. The sweater was accented with lace detail around the scooped neckline and wrists. The sweater featured a magenta satin ribbon. Her charcoal colored slacks offered a sleek, straight look. Her outfit was completed with a silver double heart necklace and dangled heart earrings. Her hair was done by Rhonda at Mane Attractions, Hays.

Mrs. Speer said, "I thought it was an absolutely awesome experience. For me, it was just one more affirmation of life and recovery."



Rita Speer modeled an outfit at a "Day of Caring" fashion show held Oct. 13 in Hays. She, along with other cancer survivors, modeled fashions for the show.

— Photo courtesy of the Cancer Council of Ellis County

Service 'army' still going strong

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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The Salvation Army has been around since 1865. And, it's still going strong.

Recently, Brian Carroll, Director of Service Extension for Kansas and parts of western Missouri, was in Norton to promote some of the programs offered by the church. He spoke at the Nov. 6 breakfast meeting the United Resources group and then at the noon meeting of the Norton Lions Club.

Mr. Carroll said the Salvation Army is a church. It's the third largest in the world. It is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name, without discrimination.

Mr. Carroll said last year 88,000 people in Kansas were directly served. He said, "People are the ministry — not the all-mighty dollar." He pointed out that 88 percent of funds donated in the area stay here.

He said people of the midwest are always great about supporting their neighbor. That was especially true he said in Greensburg after the tornado. Of the destruction there he said, "It's something I'll never forget. But, the compassion of people here in the midwest is encouraging." He said a long-term recovery case worker with the Salvation Army will remain in Greensburg for another year.

Mr. Carroll said the Salvation Army has programs to help people directly. Through the help of Gina Frack at the Norton County Health Department, individuals may apply for assistance. Mrs. Frack will do an assessment on a case-by-case



Salvation Army director Brian Carroll holds one of the familiar bright red counter kettles used for fund-raising.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

basis then issue a voucher which the individual may use like money. If it is a medical need, the voucher may be used at the pharmacy or doctor's office; if it is a utility need, the voucher can help towards a bill; or groceries at the supermarket.

In turn, the merchant returns a copy of the charges to the Salvation Army treasurer for reimbursement. The amount of assistance is determined by the local financial and in-kind support of the service unit. Assistance is based on need regardless of age, sex,

religious affiliation or race. People who require long-term assistance will be referred to the Social Rehabilitative Services (SRS).

Local volunteers are Sharon Leiker and Joan Hale. Mr. Carroll said more volunteers are needed, especially now, during the holiday season. He said, "We could use some more bell-ringers." For more information on the Salvation Army volunteers or how to become a volunteer go to their web site at: www.salarmy-mokan.org.

Nitrates take Goodland well out of service

By TOM BETZ
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One of Goodland's city water wells has been taken out of service after testing higher for nitrate contamination than recommended levels. City Manager Wayne Hill told city commissioners last Monday.

Hill said Well No. 3, on the east side of Chambers Park, had tested high over the past few months. While it is not enough to put the whole system over state limits, he said, the city agreed to use the well only in an emergency.

He said the city may face more contamination problems in the future, and he would like to find the source of the nitrate problem.

It's possible the city may have to treat the wells, Hill said, and that might be a costly process, depending on how the treatment is done. Now, he said, wells are hooked directly into the water system, but the ideal is to have separate collection and distribution systems with a treatment plant between them. The second way is to treat the water at each well, he said, but that would not be cheap.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked where there were problems other than at the most recent well. Hill said three wells have shown signs of nitrates in the past year, but are not above state limits. He added that

two show nitrates climbing.

Billinger asked what a treatment plant might cost.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who does most of the city's work, said he estimates the treatment would cost about \$90,000 per well plus cost of \$1,000 to \$1,200 per month in electrical costs, plus filters and chemicals. He said the operation could cost as much as \$250,000 per year.

Hill said that depends on what each well is being treated for, because different contaminants would take different treatments.

Billinger asked if that is the only option. Neufeld said he thought the city could do a central treatment plant for about \$5 million.

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the contamination levels in the other wells. Rich Simon, public works director, said the best wells are Nos. 8 and 9, near Armory Road and by the airport beacon.

Hill said the city has transferred some water rights from well No. 11, which is farther north east of the trap club. That well has been reduced because it appears to be pulling underground contamination from the area around the old city dump. He said they transferred the rights to well No. 9 because the city was overpumping that well.

Hill said the city will look at costs for a central treatment plant and an idea of where that might need to be located. The manager said he will continue to look for the source of the nitrate contamination because he wants to determine if it is a surface source that could be dealt with or something else.

Billinger said he was not sure Hill could find the source of nitrates, which can come from fertilizer used on crops and lawns, or from animal operations such as feed lots, among other things. Simon said the city might look at buying water rights outside of town, away from the city. He was saying it might be more like seven miles away. Billinger agreed that is an option.

Neufeld said there are three sources for money available for a water plant or new wells, but a Community Development Block Grant would not work for the whole city because the city does not have a low enough income level except in certain neighborhoods.

He said the city could consider the state Health Department or the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan funds. In that case, he said, a federal grant might cover 10 to 15 percent of the cost and the rest would be a loan for 40 years. Neufeld said some cities have used all three to pay for water projects.

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