



Katelyn Skrdlant, left, helps her mother, Sue Ann Skrdlant, stuff their homemade Christmas cards, complete with Christmas letter, a scripture verse, a Christmas music CD and a family photo. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Young family begins new traditions

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is a tradition the children enjoy. Little Katelyn's favorites are trees and hearts. Her mother spreads on the icing and Katelyn puts on the sprinkles and candies. Little Colby just likes to eat them.
Advent calendars are a family favorite. There are two in the house. One is a felt and Velcro nativity scene. Each pocket on the calendar is filled with a character or animal from the nativity. Every day of December, until Christmas Day, the children remove a character and place it in the scene until the last day, when they place Baby Jesus in the "manger".

The other advent calendar is a fabric Christmas "tree" that had been Mrs. Skrdlant's when she was a child. Now, Katelyn has claimed it for her own. Every day an "ornament" is pinned to the branches of the tree. On the last day the children decide if a star or an angel will be placed on the top of the decorated tree. It's tradition.
Every night during the Christmas season, the children enjoy having their mother read "Silent Night" to them.
The entire family enjoys listening to Christmas music play all day long and they especially enjoy spending extra time with family

and friends.
Mrs. Skrdlant has six sisters and they take turns hosting a Christmas celebration on a weekend close to the holiday. She and her husband usually spend Christmas Day with his parents, Walt and Elaine Skrdlant.
A special tradition the Skrdlant family takes part in is the Christmas Eve candlelight service at Norton Christian Church.
Mrs. Skrdlant said, "Our family's biggest goal throughout the year — and especially at Christmas, is to realize God's greatest gift to us through the birth and death of Jesus."

SCHOOL CALENDAR

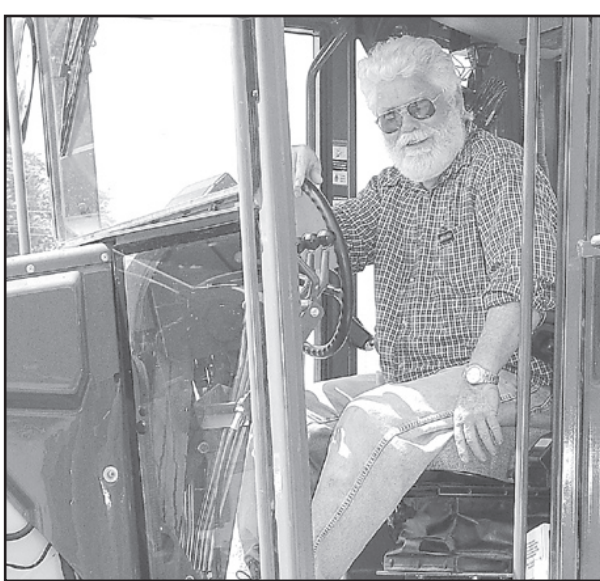
NORTON Senior High
Saturday, Dec. 15 — Wrestling at Goodland, Dual Tournament, 9 a.m.; JV Basketball Tournament, here, 9 a.m.; Varsity Basketball vs. Stockton, here, 6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 17 — FFA Christmas Party, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Blood Drive sponsored by SAC, NJHS Gym, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Alternate Date For Blood Drive; SAC Meeting, A.P.; Site Council, 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; S.I.T. Meeting, 7:45 a.m.; KAYS, A.P.; FCCLA Candy Cane Sales End, 3:30 p.m.; FCCLA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Jazz Band Practice, A.P.
Friday, Saturday and Monday, Dec. 28, 29, 31 — Boys "C" Basketball Tournament at Hill City, TBA
Friday, Jan. 4 — Basketball vs. Osborne, here, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 5 — Scholar's Bowl at Logan, 9 a.m.; J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament, here, 9:30 a.m.; Girls "C" Basketball Tournament at Phillipsburg, 10 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 7 — MCL Scholar's Bowl at Hill City, 4 p.m.; Basketball v. Oberlin, there, 6:30 p.m.; KAY Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 8 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FCCLA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 9 — S.A.C. Meeting A.P.
Junior High
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Site Council, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — Christmas Vocal Concert, East Campus Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 3 — Basketball v. Phillipsburg, there, 5 p.m.; MCEL Basketball Tournament, Play-in Games at Plainville, TBA
Saturday, Jan. 5 — MCEL Basketball Tournament at Plainville, TBA
Monday, Jan. 7 — Stuco Meeting, A.P.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 — KAY Board Meeting, A.P.
Eisenhower
Monday, Dec. 17 — Christmas Vocal Concert, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — SIT Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. Jan. 9 — Faculty Meeting, 3:45 p.m.
All Schools
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS: DEC. 24 TO JAN. 4
KSHSAA NON-PRACTICE DATES: DEC. 23-29
Friday, Dec. 14 — NCKSEC Superintendent Meeting at Glade, 10 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 21 — End of Second Nine Weeks, End of First Semester
Friday, Jan. 4 — Faculty Work Day: No Students, 8:30 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 7 — School Resumes at Normal Time
Tuesday, Jan. 8 — Grade Cards go home
Wednesday, Jan. 9 — Administration Team Meeting, Unified Office, 9:30 a.m.
NORTHERN VALLEY
Saturday, Dec. 15 — Junior High Basketball Western Plains Trny. at Bazine, 9 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16 — Community Choir Rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 17 — American Red Cross Blood Drive in the conference room at Almena, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; High School Dance Team Christmas Party, 6 p.m.; K-12 Christmas Concert in Almena, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 18 — High School Cheerleading practice, 7 a.m.; High School Basketball vs Golden Plains at Rexford, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19 — NVEA Christmas Party at the Community Building in Long Island, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20 — High School Dance team practice; Junior High Basketball vs Heartland Christian at Almena, 4 p.m.; High School Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament in the High School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21 — End of 2nd 9 weeks and 1st Semester, 1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 24 — Christmas

Break - No School; Non-practice date
Tuesday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Break - No School
Wednesday, Dec. 26 — Christmas Break - No School
Thursday, Dec. 27 — Christmas Break - No School
Friday, Dec. 28 — Christmas Break - No School; High School Basketball "C" team tournament at Hill City, 1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29 — High School Basketball "C" team tournament at Hill City, 1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 31 — Christmas Break - No School; High School Dance team practice, TBD; High School Cheerleading Practice, TBD; High School Basketball "C" team tournament at Hill City, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 1 — Christmas

Operator retires after 43 years on the job

Richie R. Ray, Equipment Operator Specialist for the Kansas Department of Transportation, will officially retire from his post on Jan. 1, with 43 years of state service.
Mr. Ray started work as a Highway Maintenance Man I in 1964 on the Norton Division Crew. His work ethic helped create his reputation of being one of KDOT's best blade operators during both snow and ice removal and maintenance activities.
He and his wife, Rita, live in Almena. They have three children: Robin and husband Bryan Vincent of Derby; Rick and wife Heather Ray of Lenexa; Randa and husband John Willson of Augusta. Their grandchildren are: Miles, Hannah, and Lily Vincent of Derby; Maddy and Lexi Ray of Lenexa; and Luke, Megan, and Nolan Willson of Augusta.
Mr. Ray looks forward to his retirement. He plans to spend time with his family and take more trips to see his grandkids.



Rich Ray

Living Nativity will depend on weather

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Mr. Look said people should listen to KQNK Radio Sunday to see if the nativity is happening or not.
If the weather is nice enough, they will clear the area Sunday

morning and be ready by 6 p.m., which is when it is scheduled to start. The nativity will go on until 8 p.m. After looking at the nativity, people are invited to go inside the church and enjoy the coffee, cocoa and cookies and good fellowship, he said.

The Living Nativity is produced by volunteers.
Admission is free but donations will be accepted at the end of the scenic drive. Drivers are asked to turn off their headlights as they view the New Testament scene.

Grand prize drawing less than a week away

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Four tickets went unclaimed this week. Ticket No. 143368 came from shopping at Kowpoke Supply, No. 269936 came from Ag Valley Co-op, No. 843019 came from Kellie's Alltel, and No. 065293 came from Hall's Clothing. These tickets are no longer valid and new tickets, hidden in Christmas On Us ads in today's Norton Telegram, have been drawn for the final week.
Another 4,492 tickets have been collected, making the total 15,853. Each ticket equals \$10 spent locally, which adds up to approximately \$158,500 spent with participating merchants.

is available for each \$10 spent at the sponsoring businesses. Also, one free ticket per week can be picked up at The Telegram, 215 S. Kansas Ave.
The grand prize drawing of \$1,200 will be on Thursday at the Norton County Courthouse. The drawing will start promptly at 7 p.m. and the ticket must be present to win
There are still three instant prizes left to be claimed. However, there are more winning ticket numbers hidden in today's Christmas On Us ads. The first

three people to bring in their winning tickets will get the \$50 prizes. If any instant prizes are left, new tickets will be drawn before the grand prize drawing Thursday.
Even if your number isn't an instant winner this week, hold on to it as it may be picked as the \$1,200 grand prize winner Thursday.
There are still three instant winning tickets left, as well as a grand prize ticket to be drawn, so make sure to shop locally and pick up your winning Christmas On Us ticket before time runs out.

Club brings cheer to area families

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enough food in the baskets to make a nice Christmas dinner. The bigger the family, the more food in the basket. They also try to match up toys with the age and sex of the children in the family.

"It's pretty successful and popular," he said. "And it's a good thing for the community."
People who wish to add someone's name for next year can contact the Norton Lions Club.

You're Invited to Our
Open House
Wednesday, December 19,
Thursday, December 20,
& Friday, December 21
AT BOTH LOCATIONS:
500 Main — Almena
202 E. Washington — Norton
Serving Cookies and Cider
Merry Christmas
FROM ALL OF US AT...
Almena State Bank
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

Love Me, Hug Me, Take Me Home!
We are a litter of 12 AKC Chocolate Lab Puppies for Sale... (7 males, 5 females).
We were born on November 12 and you can bring us home by January 7th after your busy holidays. Our dew claws have been removed and first shots given. Both our parents are very friendly and good hunters.
Loving and serious owners only please!
CALL:
Brandy Anderson — 308-655-0115
Christie Anderson — 308-655-0105

COWBOY JUNCTION
HILL CITY, KS • 421-3005
The legendary classic country music group
"The Ramblin Andy Band"
WILL PERFORM AT THE
COWBOY JUNCTION
IN HILL CITY ON
Saturday, December 15
The Restaurant and Lounge opens at 5:00 p.m. and "The Ramblin Andy Band" takes the stage at 8:00 p.m.
Put on your best duds, dust off your dancing shoes, pickup your best gal and enjoy a great meal at the COWBOY JUNCTION and stay for the dance. Everyone is welcome and there is no cover charge for the dance this Saturday night at the COWBOY JUNCTION on the east side of Hill City at 2649 280th Avenue, next to Prairie Trails Golf Course