

Employee keeps things running little smoother

By **BRANDY LEROUX**

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For the last 11 years, Kathie Hildebrand has helped the RuralTel/Nex-Tech offices in the area run a little smoother.

She helps distribute supplies to technicians, unloads trucks and semi trailers, helps customers who want to ship packages through UPS and FedEx, sends defective equipment to vendors to be repaired, keeps track of paperwork, and sends orders for stock.

That is, when she's not delivering supplies to 12 area RuralTel/Nex-Tech offices, working in the retail stores, or driving a forklift.

"I do a lot of little odd jobs to help keep things running easier," she said. "Delivering the products to the area offices is my favorite part, even though the round-trip is more than 300 miles. I like seeing everyone in the offices."

Mrs. Hildebrand grew up on a farm, and said she wouldn't trade this for any "inside" job. She grew up on a farm in Norton County, and gradu-

ated from Norton Community High School.

"I like working with the guys," she said. "They're a good group. We all get along well, and they're easy to work with. We joke around and have fun. The atmosphere is great, there's no tension."

Her boss, Robert Wiltfong, RuralTel Warehouse supervisor, said, "She does a very good job for us, an outstanding job. Her organizational skills are wonderful, and she keeps everything in order."

The part she likes the least about her job is when it takes a long time for products that have been sent to the vendor for repair takes a long time to be fixed and sent back.

She and her husband Ralph have two children, Galen, 19, who graduated from Norton Community High School last year, and Donny, 17, a senior at Norton Community High School.

Her hobbies are being outside in general, working in the yard or garden, dancing and being around family.



Kathie Hildebrand works in the warehouse at RuralTel/Nex-Tech in Lenora. She has a variety of duties, including sending in equipment that needs to be repaired. - Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

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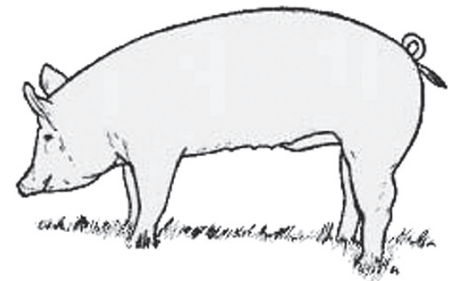
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