

More than 100 chickens were found at a property near Goodland last Tuesday with 70 roosters tied to barrels in the front yard. The operation was searched last Tuesday.

–Telegram photo by Tom Betz

Ohman and his son from Douglas

County where a similar case was

Sheriff Butts said it took all day

to process the scene, and his offi-

cers found some of the birds to be

very feisty and said one bird tore

through a pair of welding gloves.

broken in recent weeks.

### **Fighting**

(Continued from Page 1) arena and the third team was to collect photos and identify each of the birds around the outside of the house.

Showalter showed the officers aerials of the property taken on Saturday showing the barrels in the front, pens to the south of the house and more pens and barrels behind the house.

Eric L. Sakach, senior law enforcement specialist from the Humane Society of the United States from Sacramento, Calif., was one of those accompanying the searchers and during the briefing he said it appeared from the aerial the fighting cocks were those in the barrels in the front yard and said he expected to find hens and breeding roosters in the pens and barrels around the other sides of the house.

He told the officers who would be going through the quonset to be looking for training paraphernalia and bottles of steroids and hormones used to encourage the birds to fight. He said the special knives used in cock fighting are illegal and said the officers may find them hidden somewhere in the quonset.

He told the officers who were to identify and photograph each bird how to approach the bird and how to hold it so a good evidence photo could be taken. He said the officers who would handle the birds should be wearing gloves and be careful as the birds are raised to attack.

North of the trailer and bird area was another enclosed pen where pheasants were kept and raised for a nearby state approved controlled hunting area.

Wildlife conservation officer Mike Hopper who covers Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace Counties spoke to the officers about possible bird traps that might be found around the outside of the pens to capture hawks and other birds of prey. He said this type of trap violates federal law and any evidence would be gathered and reported to the federal wildlife people.

The property is owned by Henderson Partnership Limited of Galveston, Texas. Manager for the ranch is listed as Earl Petropolis, and he told Sheriff Kevin Butts to order the media off the private property.

Areporter and cameraman from S&T Telephone was ordered off, and once Sheriff Butts notified this reporter we left the property.

About 10 officers from the Sherman County Sheriff's office including Sheriff Butts, Undersheriff Roger Studer and Deputy Showalter were part of the arrest and search party.

There were about five members of the Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife including Hopper, two men from the Kansas Animal Health office and one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sakach of the Humane Society of the United States, two state troopers and Detective Dean

#### Meth

(Continued from Page 1) it explodes. He said cooking it in a garage or open field gave people the opportunity to run when it exploded.

The sheriff said meth busts have dropped since 2001 and attributed the decrease to more people using prescription pills.

According to the U.S. Drug En-

forcement Agency, there were 852 meth incidents in 2001, 97 in 2007 and 143 in 2008 in Kansas.

"There is no large increase in meth use in Norton County,' Sheriff Thomson said.

Sheriff Thomson said the sheriff's department has not caught anyone using the shake-and-bake method yet.

## County

(Continued from Page 1)

• Tom Brannan, Road and Bridge supervisor, said a complaint was made regarding a closed road. Brannan said he looked into the road, which was closed in 1912. He said there was nothing Road and Bridge could do to re-open it, and he informed

the property owner.

The commission discussed bridge repair work to be done in

• The Norton County Courthouse will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holi-

Call The Telegram with news tips 877-3361

# Nominations sought

Wichita, KS...The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is now accepting nominations for its 2010 Small Business Week Awards. These awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding entrepreneurs and those individuals who support and champion small business.

For over 45 years, the SBA and National Small Business Week have recognized outstanding individuals from America's small business community for their achievements and contributions to our nation's economy. In 2010, this celebration will honor the estimated 27.2 million small businesses in America. Small businesses create 60-80 percent of the new jobs in our country. More than half of Americans

either own or work for a small business. Some of the best and brightest of these will be singled out as recipients of SBA's annual Small Business Week Awards.

are now accepting nominations for district level awards in a number of categories. Nominations must be received no later than November 13, 2010 and should be submitted to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 271 W. 3rd Street North, Suite 2500, Wichita, KS 67202-1212. District winners will go on to compete for state, regional and national honors.

Award Categories include:

- Small Business Person of the
- Jeffrey Butland Family-

SBA offices across the country

Small Business Week 2010

Owned Business of the Year

- Small Business exporter of the Year
- SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year Plains Spirit Award (district
- award only) • Financial Services Champion
- of the Year • Minority Small Business
- Champion of the Year • Veteran Small Business
- Champion of the Year • Women in Business Cham-
- pion of the Year

• Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

To obtain more information on each award's criteria and how to submit a nomination, please contact the SBA Wichita District Office at (316)269-6571.

# Story contest announced

My Stone Company announces a competition in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Acompetition is being launched to encourage friendship and community spirit this year as The Friendship Stone makes its impressive impact on the holiday gift scene with its unique messages that teach the value and power of friendship.

Its concept is to connect Bigs and Littles everywhere by the exchanging and sharing of simple but beautiful Tiger's Eye Power of Two Friendship Stones.

The competition offers a special prize to the winning Power of Two Stone Story submitted about a personal friendship experience and what happened when the Friendship Stone was given to a special friend or how a smile was brought to someone's face, as a result of receiving The Friendship Stone.

The prize for the winning stone

story: 2 Friendship Stone Necklaces and 1 Spontaneous Friendship Gift Pack which includes three Friendship Stones. The winners' local Big Brothers Big Sisters Agency will also

assist in their local programming and agency needs. "We are proud to be associated with Big Brothers Big Sisters." said Cathy Raff, founder of My

Stone Company.

receive a cash gift of \$1,100 to

"The bond of friendship is one of the most valuable gifts of life. We believe every person, both young and old needs and deserves to know they have someone to

look up to, someone who supports and appreciates them. We hope that the Power of Two Friendship Stones will enhance the relationships of Bigs and Littles and inspire people to learn how they can support Big Brothers Big Sisters.'

The Stone Story contest provides everyone with an exciting activity to do over the holiday season by giving their friends Friendship Stones, and writing and submitting their "Stone Stories" to www.BigBrothersBigsisters-TheFriendshipStone.com.

Voting is from Nov. 16 through Feb. 15, 2010. Friends and family can vote once every day for the duration of the competition and the winner will be announced Feb. 18, 2010.



#### The Norton Telegram is Sponsoring a Christmas Coloring Contest

Stop by the Norton Telegram or the Almena Market in Almena and pick up one of the nine designs. Return the colored picture to The Norton Telegram or the Almena Market no later than Wednesday, December 16. The pictures will be displayed in the lobby of The Norton Telegram for judging.

Prizes are being donated by: Norton Dairy Queen; Endzone; Garden Gate Florals Etc.; Norton Flowers Gifts and Greenhouse; Norton Animal Health Center; The Bank; Almena State Bank; Pizza Hut, and The Norton Telegram

1-5 12-1-09 Front.indd 2 12/1/09 9:34:28 AM