

(Continued from Page 1)

property and real estate tax collections are down just a tad, she said. The county has collected 59.7 percent of these taxes, she said. The county usually collects 60 to 60.2 percent of these taxes by the end of the year. This is fine, she noted, since the second half of the taxes aren't due until May 1.

"It's right in line with what we usually collect at this time," she said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a hearing to amend the budgets for the general fund, road and bridge fund and county health fund. The amendment was to enable the departments to spend money, which they had available.
- Received a visit from Ted Sanko of Garrett Plumbing Heating and Electric, the contractor on the new ambulance facility. He said that he was taking

care of the lawn problems at the facility. He told the commissioners that he was planning to remove the rocks, drill buffalo grass and fertilize the area.

• Received a box of thank you notes. The county will be able to use these for several years, Commissioner Carolyn Applegate said.

• Went into a 15-minute closed session with Economic Development Director Scott Sproul and County Attorney Doug Sebelius to discuss confidential financial matters concerning Ag Valley Co-op and its proposed expansion project.

• Went into a 15-minute closed session with Sproul and Sebelius for preliminary discussions on acquisition of real estate.

• Heard that a Bobcat, that had been ordered for the Road and Bridge Department, has been received but a bucket to go with it has not arrived yet.

JENNINGS NEWS

Christmas Eve services of the United Methodist Church were held at 4 p.m. Friday evening. Many Christmas carols were sung, the choir sang and Vickie Bailey sang a solo. An inspiring candlelight service followed communion. Approximately 50 people filled the church.

Russell Cressler, Bison, visited his parents, Wayne and Louise Cressler Sunday and Monday. He did some electrical work for his mother.

Neoma Tacha is in the hospital at Salina. She had surgery and is feeling better. She may get to come home the middle of the week.

Stan and Ramona Shaw and Logan Black, Colby, spent Christmas week at the home of Danny and Cindy Black and Bowen, Carlsbad, N.M.

Guests of Bob and Neoma Tacha on New Year's Day were Roger and Peggy Tacha, Oakley; Dusty Tacha, Winfield; and Royal and Gayle Tacha, Hoxie.

Lori Schiefelen and Katlyn, Overland Park, were Christmas guests at the home of Sue Long.

Family at the Tom Votapka home to celebrate Christmas Eve were: Mary Votapka, Cedar Living Center, Oberlin; Sue Long, Jason Rowh, Brecken and Drake, Jennings; Ann and Rex Rowh, and Jodi and Raymond Inguanza, Meagan, Samantha and Christopher, Cimarron; Mark and Ashley, Wichita; Lori Schiefelen and Katlyn, Overland Park; Michele, Josh, Brooklynn and Aliarra Ivans, Kansas City; Rolie and Jean Halligan, Goodland; Angie, Jay Dee, Brennan and Brady Brumbaugh, Owasso, Okla.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, Ethel Taylor and granddaughter, Rachel Taylor, Hays, brought Swedish exchange student, Sophia Rasmusson to the Tom Votapka home. Sue

Long and Tom took the visitors on a tour of the Kanona area. Sophia is 17 years old and is a distant relative of the Johnson family.

Christmas morning guests at the Daryl and Marge Hartzog home were Scott and Tracey Hartzog, Norcatur; Steve Hartzog, Dallas, Texas; Stann Hartzog and Becky Carter, Jennings; and Stacy and Jocelyn Hartzog and Allison, Olathe.

On Sunday, Jan. 2, Martin and Darlene LaRue celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary at the Decatur County Hospital. Martin and Darlene were married Jan. 1, 1955, at the Jennings United Methodist Church by the Rev. Wilbur Hooper. Martin is currently a patient at the hospital while he receives physical therapy following right hip replacement surgery after suffering a fall on Nov 30. Stann Hartzog celebrated his birthday also. Stann was born Dec. 31, 1964, at the Decatur County Hospital. His parents are Daryl and Marge Hartzog, Jennings.

The following were in attendance: Martin and Darlene LaRue; Earl and Patty Hartzog, Hoxie; Bob and Joyce Hartzog, Oberlin; Daryl and Marge Hartzog, Jennings; Scott and Tracey Hartzog, Norcatur; Steve Hartzog, Dallas, Texas; Stann Hartzog, Becky Carter, Jennings; and the Rev. Glenn and the Rev. Barbara Patterson, Hoxie.

Troy and Anne LaRue and Jared of Fulton, Mo., were Christmas guests of his parents Martin and Darlene LaRue. They were guests of Bob and Joyce Hartzog of Oberlin on Christmas Day. Others attending were: Kyle Hartzog, Oberlin; Cheryl Hartzog, Atwood; Daryl and Marge, Scott, Tracey, Steve, Stann, Stacy, Jocelyn and Allison Hartzog and Becky Carter.

Sharon Gaston, Ames, Iowa; Todd Gaston, Sumter, S.C., and Cody Clark, Boone, Iowa, came Wednesday to visit with Wayne and Louise Cressler. Grandson Todd is a Major in the Air Force. He is a meteorologist. He and his wife Kim and children Bobby, Jon, Laurel and Grant will be going to Germany on Jan. 10 where he will be stationed for the next three years.

United Methodist Women will meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday Jan. 5, at the church.

Lawrence and Lila Jennings celebrated Christmas on Dec 26 with a family dinner. Attending were Brett Jennings, Brian and Westley Jennings of Solomon, Dale and Tammy Musgrave, Eric Musgrave, and Seaman Ryan Musgrave, who is home on leave, of Ong, Neb.; Luke, Erin, and Ada Norman of Crawford, Neb. New Year's guests were also Brent, Rhonda, and Brendan Jennings of Topeka.

The Christmas wreaths placed on Veterans graves in the Jennings and Big Timber Cemeteries will be taken up on Saturday, Jan. 8. Those interested in helping with this project please meet at the Jennings Cemetery at 2 p.m. that day. Anyone with questions or comments, please contact Bob Tacha at 678-2470.

Sunflower Senior dinner will be at noon on Tuesday Jan. 11, at the center.

Don't forget the blood drive at the Jennings United Methodist Church on Tuesday, Jan. 18, honoring Lawrence Jennings. Lawrence is a long time resident of the Jennings community and is currently battling acute leukemia. Watch this paper for more information or contact Marge Hartzog, at 678-2664.

LYLE NEWS

We wish to extend sympathy to the Jackson family for the loss of their husband and father, Forrest. He will be missed by family, friends and neighbors.

A memorial was held for Randy Allen on Friday, a young man who made such a favorable impression on the town of Norcatur by his kindness, helpfulness and happy disposition for the past several years. His passing was sad but he left many happy memories, and a beautiful little park.

Judy and Charlie Easton visited Toots Magers on Sunday, worked on the foundation of her house and put a wheel on her wagon. June Jolly took her to the Christmas drawing and soup supper at Norcatur Satur-

day. The supper was a fund raiser for Austin Forbes, who has been hospitalized for the last month. Twila says Austin has made a lot of improvement.

June Jolly, Megan, Linda and Dennis McFarland went to Cuthbertson, Neb., to see a fantastic Christmas light program where the lights are set to music. She feels it is worth anyone's time to go see it. She also attended a wine tasting event and assured me she didn't get carried away.

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen visited his sister at the Beaver City Nursing Home and enjoyed the singing and Santa.

NORCATUR NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Cale Claussen and Elaine of Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Claussen and Annika of Olathe; Delphyn Biggs of Oberlin; Fred Molzahn and Beth Johnson of Norcatur were Christmas dinner guests of Cathy Claussen on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Thanks to the United Methodist Church youth for their lovely Christmas Caroling Sunday afternoon, Dec. 19. It looked like they were having fun, even if it was cold.

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Bee Nelson and Dorothy Ward took a jaunt to Kearney, Neb. to see Norma Ward, who is hospitalized at Good Samaritan, doing therapy, after having back surgery. We thought she seemed in good spirits, considering her husband Max, is a patient in the Decatur County Hospital. We wish them both a good recovery.

Then on Thursday, Dec. 16, they made a trip to Oberlin, for several appointments. The most important was a nice luncheon at the Land Mark! Their special quiche is superb and they have it every day.

Rea and Dee Magers had an early Christmas with their son, Jeff, and his girl friend, Joy, on Sunday.

City Clerk Deb Marshall extends appreciation to everyone for donations and help with the drawing. This is not done by the City; it's entirely volunteer. Also a great big thank you to all the people who made soup: Jerry Wescott, Dorothy Woods, Tom Baker and those who helped out: Keith Anthony, Bee Nelson, Twila Forbes, Brandi Cohort and Bob Strevey. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. The benefit brought in around \$600 for Chuck Forbes and his son Austin!

Happy Birthday to Carissa Wentz, Jim Bob Beachel, Frank Ward, and Sandy Gade, Dec. 22; Fred Molzahn, Lynn Ward, and Norma Ward, Dec. 26; Mary Irwin, Dec. 30; Beth Sebaugh, Dec. 31; Darrel Barnett, Megan Wentz, Jan. 2; and Chris Dempewolf, Jan. 3.

Happy Anniversary to Galene and Jamie Wentz, Dec. 31; and Jeff and Lori Roe, Jan. 3.

Results of the pool tournament at the Cardinal Bar and Grill on Dec 15, were: Larry Lively, first; Stan Miller, second; Fred Molzahn, third, and Kendall Fisher, fourth.

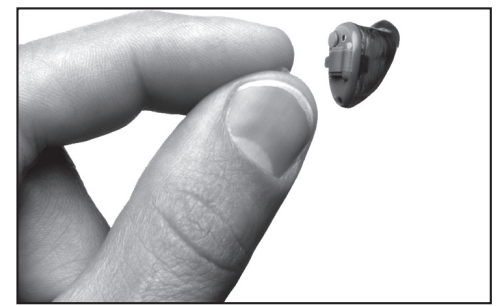
Bob and Anita Montgomery and Renee Harman, Oberlin, attended the Southwest Elementary Christmas program in Bartley, Neb. on Dec. 6, to see their great-grandson and great-nephew, Keegan Shuler. On Sunday, Dec. 12, they went to

the McCook Christian Church to attend his Christmas program.

Shawnda and James spent the holidays with Wava Reames. On Friday, she went to Hays, where her father, Frank Ward, had minor surgery to remove some scar tissue that was causing discomfort. She stayed overnight in Hays with a college roommate, Evelyn Hewitt Zellmer, an Almerna native. They and another roommate, Geneva Deatrich, visited and played card games and had a great visit.

Virgil and Joyce Price had an early Christmas weekend at their house on Friday Dec. 17. Richard Jurey, Edmond, Okla.; and Jason, Kathy, Conner and MacKinze Jurey, Kennard, Neb., arrived Saturday. Keith and Linda Jurey were unable to attend as they both had surgery but will come later.

Since 1948



Did You KNOW?

- We are the LARGEST Hearing Aid Company in Kansas with 38 offices statewide.
- We carry only the finest American-made hearing instruments.
- We offer FREE hearing tests & consultations.
- FREE BATTERIES FOR LIFE™

MIDWEST
HEARING
AIDS INC.
"Since 1948"
Kansas' Largest With 38 Offices Statewide

785-543-5079
279 F Street
Phillipsburg

1-800-462-4924 • www.midwesthearingaids.com

Old forts make history real

By Ron Wilson

Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

Step around the corner and up onto the boardwalk. Your eyes behold a set of sandstone buildings placed with military precision around a cannon and a tall flagpole. It is an 1860s-era frontier Army fort. This is not some Hollywood movie set or artist's reconstruction; these are the actual buildings in their original locations. They're found in rural Kansas. It's today's Kansas Profile.

Kevin McMurtry is superintendent of the National Park Service's Fort Larned National Historic Site near Larned, Kansas. He's an enthusiastic advocate of this element of history.

The fort's origin goes back to the nearly 800-mile Santa Fe Trail, which carried millions of dollars of commerce between Independence, Mo. and Santa Fe, N.M. during the 1800s. Unfortunately, the trail went right through the middle of Plains Indian territory, and the native tribes attacked the trespassers.

As a result, the U.S. Army came west to establish forts to protect the white travelers. In October 1859, the Army set up an outpost on the banks of the Pawnee River. In June 1860, the camp was moved a few miles west to its final location, where a fort of sod-and-adobe was built. In 1866, the Army used sandstone and timber to begin construction of nine buildings - which still stand today.

The post was named after Colonel Benjamin F. Larned, paymas-

ter of the Army. Fort Larned is called the Guardian of the Santa Fe Trail. It was a principal protector of traffic along the route and played a critical role in the era of the Indian wars. George Armstrong Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody visited here.

In 1868, the tribes were moved to new reservations in Indian territory. With the coming of the railroad in the 1870s, the days of the Santa Fe Trail were done. The fort was closed in 1878.

In 1884, the buildings and land were sold at public auction and purchased by the Pawnee Valley Stock Breeders Association. In 1902, they were bought by E.E. Frizell, whose family retained ownership until 1966 when Congress named it a national historic site and it was purchased by the National Park Service.

Frizell lived in the Commanding General's house while he lived here. Buildings were adapted and modified, but all nine still stand. Much of the original stone and woodwork was untouched.

"Most abandoned forts were scavenged," said Kevin McMurtry. "If it wasn't for the fact that this was in private hands for nearly 100 years, we might not have these buildings today."

Fortunately, the buildings were retained and restored. Many people carved names and initials into the sandstone. Such carving is forbidden today but makes interesting viewing. Fort Larned got the attention of a young Congressman named Bob Dole. He led the support for the fort, which Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback and Congress-

man Jerry Moran have carried on through the years.

Thanks to Congressional appropriations, the nine buildings and grounds have been restored and improved, including the barracks, post hospital, shops, commissary, quartermaster storehouse, company officers' and commanding officers quarters. The one reconstructed building is the blockhouse, complete with rifle slits in the walls and an underground passageway through a trap door to the well. This blockhouse later became the guardhouse which served as the post's jail. Metal shackles and a ball and chain give testimony to how prisoners were treated in those days.

Today, Fort Larned is the best-preserved Indian-era fort in the nation.

Fort Larned is in a rural setting, six miles west of the city of Larned, population 3,874 people. Now, that's rural. On the day I visited, a deer calmly walked across the fort's back lot. Yet this fort will attract some 40,000 visitors a year from around the world and conduct the largest living history event in western Kansas on Memorial Day weekend.

"We have a wonderful group of people here," Kevin McMurtry said. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/fols.

It's time to step down off the boardwalk and bid Fort Larned farewell. We commend Kevin McMurtry and all those involved with Fort Larned for making a difference by preserving this history. At Fort Larned, history comes to life.

Real Estate Property Auction

NORTON, KANSAS

Saturday, February 12, 2011 - 2:00 P.M.

Property Description: Tax Unit: 029 - School District: 211 - Section: 33 Township: 02, Range: 22; Easement . . . of record; **Tract Description:** TR BEG 831.5 N SE COR SE4 NW4 TH W 125 TH N 435.7 TH E 125 TH S 435.7 TO POB LESS RD R/W

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Home built in 1974.

New sewer in 1998.

New windows in 2007.

Sets on 1.25 acres

and main floor of

home has

988 sq. ft. with an

unfinished basement.

22x24 attached

double car garage.



Home has eat-in kitchen, laundry area, 2 bedrooms, living room, linen closet, and bathroom on ground floor. Basement is poured concrete with 4 room unfinished with propane heat. Electric heat on ground floor, propane cooking stove. Lot contains 2 outbuildings and a large 2 car garage. Two apple, one peach and one pear tree. Fenced on all four sides with windbreak on three sides.

Terms: 10% down the day of the auction with the balance due upon title approval and delivery of a good and sufficient deed. The closing to be on or before February 28, 2011.

Evidence of Title: Seller will provide title insurance to the buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price, with the premium to be paid one-half by the seller and one-half by the buyer(s). Title evidence will be provided on sale day. Buyer(s) may close as soon as closing documents are prepared.

Taxes: Taxes for 2011 shall be prorated to date of closing based on 2010 taxes. Taxes for 2010 were \$875.20

Possession: Upon closing.

Inspection: Where is as is: Buyer at his expense conduct any other inspection concerning pertinent facts about the property. Buyer(s) and seller prior to the auction agree that the broker and broker's agent do not have any expertise in evaluating the environmental condition of the property and that the broker and broker agents have made no representation, either expressed or implied, concerning environmental conditions.

Agency Disclosure: R. J. Metcalf Real Estate and its agents are representing the seller only and will not be considered agent for the buyer.

Notes: For viewing, call listing agent Duane R. McEwen at 785-877-3032 or 785-871-0081. Not responsible for accidents. Announcements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over printed material.

AUCTION TO BE HELD AT THE PROPERTY - 20512 US Hwy. 36, 4 1/2 Miles East of Norton - SELLER: LaVergne L. Bietz

Duane R. McEwen, Auctioneer and Salesperson, E. Hwy. 36, Norton, Kansas
R.J. Metcalf Real Estate, Kris Randel, Broker, 101 South Penn, Oberlin, Kansas