

## Dear Santa...

It's that time of year again when children everywhere are making their wish lists for what they would like Santa to bring for Christmas. To help get the lists to Santa, a Santa mailbox has been set up on the west steps of the Norton County Courthouse for children to mail their letters to the North Pole. The box is provided by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and letters from the box will be published in the Friday, Dec. 16 edition of the Norton Telegram.

(Left) Sunshine Daycare student Morgan Mapes mails her letter to Santa Wednesday afternoon so that it will reach the North Pole in time for Christmas.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

# Take care of your lawn

The Professional Landcare Network reminds consumers that fall is an important time of year to care for your lawn and provides the following lawn care tips. For more information specific to your local area, you should consult with your local lawn care professional or county cooperative extension agent.

### Mowing your lawn

It's important to keep your grass two inches to two and one half inches tall throughout the fall. If your grass gets much taller (more than three inches) it will mat, and this could lead to winter lawn disease problems such as snow mold. If you cut it shorter than two inches, you'll severely limit its ability to make and store food for growth in the spring.

### Raking leaves

Lawn raking in the fall removes excess organic debris and can help maintain water quality. In winter, freezing and thawing can cause leaves, dead grass plants, and other organic debris to release soluble forms of phosphate (and nitrates). If these chemicals run off frozen ground during spring snow melt and early spring rains, they can end up in surface water. Keep grass clippings, leaf litter, and other organic debris off driveways, sidewalks, and streets.

### Recycling leaves

There are several options when it comes to disposing of fallen leaves. The preferred way is to compost them, because composting keeps leaves out of streets and storm sewers. You can also use fallen leaves, whole or chipped by a power mower, as winter mulch around rose bushes and landscape plants. Make several passes over fallen leaves on your lawn with a power mower, chopping them into a thin layer fine enough to stay on the lawn without causing damage while providing nutrients for the grass. Another option would be to bag leaves for disposal by municipal authorities.

### Watering your lawn

Even though temperatures might be cooler than in summer, your lawn still needs water. Cool fall temperatures reduce the need to water, but if it doesn't rain, your lawn will need supplemental watering since lawn grasses continue to grow throughout the fall. Go ahead and water if needed until the ground is cold and beginning to freeze. If you have an automatic irrigation system, avoid damage by having it blown out with compressed air before the water freezes in the pipes and sprinkler heads.

### Fertilizing your Northern lawn

Apply a final application of fertilizer between now and early December. You'll provide your grass with nutrients that will be absorbed and stored until needed for spring growth. This final feeding should be done before the soil is frozen while your lawn is still green. Lawns that have received late-season fertilizing are often the first to begin growing in the spring.

### Broadleaf weed control

Fall is a good time to control perennial broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, plantain, clover, and creeping charlie. Limited numbers of weeds can be removed by hand.

If your weeds are few and scattered - or confined to a few small areas - spot-treating them with a weed control product is usually sufficient. Weed-control products sold in ready-to-use spray containers make spot treatment easy. Be sure to complete treatments when temperatures are above 50 degrees - your control efforts need time to work before winter cold sets in.

### Seeding and sodding your lawn

Fall is the best time of year to establish or repair lawns by seeding or sodding. Seeding should've been completed by mid-September. Cool temperatures usually make fall seeding or sodding successful. Be sure to complete your sodding before very cold weather sets in.

## Postal

(Continued From Page 1)

transportation costs, however, would be \$14,337, making for a net savings of \$14,412. The facility would lose one job. Employee reassignments have to be made according to the collective bargaining agreements the service has with its employee unions.

If implemented, the consolidation would mean two to three day service for First Class mail. In contrast, the Postal Service promoted the move to Salina as overnight service, as long as the mail made it onto that day's truck.

Like the last consolidation, the service has said that retail

services at the Colby Post Office will not change. However, it may alter truck departure times for Colby and the outlying post offices that send mail here before it goes on to Salina.

The last change moved up truck departure times from Colby to 3:30 p.m. and those of outlying post offices even earlier. Some businesses, including the *Colby Free Press* and other area newspapers, have had to adjust their schedules to meet the new deadline. If the Postal Service makes this change, the trucks will have to go 230 miles instead of 200 to get to the processing facility, which may necessitate moving truck departure times up even more.

Trucks from some northwest and north central counties that previously went to Hays had their truck departure times moved up by a half hour or more when processing was moved to Salina. The Norton Post Office moved its departure time up from 4 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. If Salina processing is moved, the trucks would have to go about 86 more miles to get to Wichita.

These moves have concerned businesses that send out large quantities of mail.

"I fear the Postal Service has embarked on a course that will drive the remaining First Class mail out of its system," said Steve Haynes, owner of Haynes

Publishing. "I know that our customers are not going to be pleased if their papers are delayed by two to three days. We may have to look elsewhere for answers."

Haynes publishing, which owns the *Colby Free Press* and five other area newspapers including the Norton Telegram, sends out 20,363 newspapers a week in addition to other mail.

Mail processing isn't the only area where cuts are being made. In what it calls an "Expanded Access Study," the service is also looking at closing 3,700 post offices nationwide, including many in Kansas. On

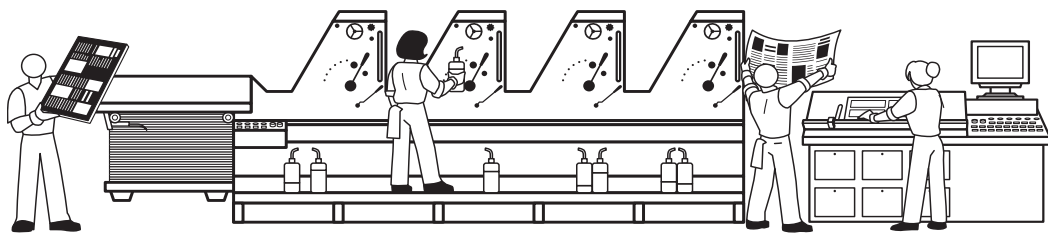
the chopping block in northwest Kansas are Edson, Kanorado, Long Island and Norcatur. Public meetings have been held in each of these towns, but no announcements have been made on whether or not to close those offices.

Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran introduced an amendment to the 21st Century Postal Service Act, which would halt the closure of any post offices until Postal Service develops "standards of service." These standards would require the service to look at the time customers have to travel to get to a post office, population density, age demographics and

distance to other post offices. It would also require the service to serve remote or difficult to reach areas.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee announced Nov. 2 that it was supporting the bill. Among other things, the bill commits the post office to keeping six-day delivery for at least two years, refunds a \$7 billion overpayment from the Federal Employee Retirement Health System and reforms worker compensation benefits. Moran's amendment was adopted on Nov. 9, but the bill has not yet made it onto the Senate floor.

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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 South Kansas Avenue, Norton, Kansas 67654, PH 785-877-3361

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### FIFTH ANNUAL

100% of Proceeds are Donated to God's Pantry



## ~2011 Christmas~ Cookies, Candy, Cakes/Cupcakes or Bread Contest

This year you can enter your favorite candy, cakes/cupcakes or bread also!

### A fund raiser for God's Pantry

Brought to you by The Norton Telegram

with co-sponsorship from

Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, End Zone and the Norton Theatre

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

at The Norton Telegram Office  
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton

Entries must be received by  
Noon on December 9  
Voting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$5.00 for each entry;  
25 cents for each vote

WITH UNLIMITED ENTRIES AND UNLIMITED VOTING ALLOWED

After voting and sampling your favorite cookie, candy or slice of bread for 25¢ per vote, any quantity of goodies can be purchased for 25¢ each (containers will be available)

Anyone can enter, anyone can vote

Cookies, Candy or Bread must be homemade and have at least 2 dozen cookies per entry



### PRIZES

There are two categories — ages 13 and older, and ages 12 and younger. The bakers in each category with the most votes will win a prize. There are also prizes for second and third place as well.

Prizes for both age categories have been donated by End Zone, Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, the Norton Theatre and The Norton Telegram.

We will also be collecting canned and non-perishable food for God's Pantry