

Commissioners updated on county staff and equipment

By Cynthia Haynes
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The Norton County Road and Bridge department is short two employees but there is some concerns with hiring before the first of the year.

Sandy Smith, the road and bridge department administrator, told the commissioners that since one employee has taken medical leave, she is now down two people and a lot of her employees have leave time coming before the end of the year.

Commissioner John Miller noted that it would be good if the department could wait until the beginning of the year because the road and bridge budget is mostly gone for this year.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate disagreed.

"I think we should hire somebody who's willing to work," she said adding that by the time a person was interviewed and hired, they would probably only be on the payroll for a couple of weeks at the end of December.

While the weather is good, there might not be a problem, she said but if there is a big snowstorm or a problem with downed trees, the department will need everyone they can get.

The commissioners finally decided to leave the decision up to the department.

Mrs. Smith also said that the road and bridge department is putting up new 911 (street type)

signs on the major roads in the county – U.S. 36, 283 and 383 and Kansas Highway 9 and 60 and the road to Prairie Dog State Park.

The signs will have the new required breakaway posts, she said. So far, the posts alone have cost \$2,500. She said that she thought they might have enough sign blanks to make up the signs.

She also told the commissioners that the seven-mile project on E12 Road to put down shale to build up the roadbed by six inches is almost done. After putting down the shale, she said, the department is putting down sand to keep the dust down.

While most people along the roads are happy with the project, she said, she has had a couple of complaints by people who thought that they should work on shorter segments and another party, who didn't think the materials were of high enough quality.

The project should be done by the first of the year, she said, sooner if the weather holds.

She said that other than that, the department doesn't have many other projects pending but she is hoping to start looking at a new or newer truck for the department. One of the trucks, she said, gets 100 to 150 miles per day and has 118,000 miles now.

The commissioners said to look but don't even think about getting anything before the first

of the year.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Had the two commissioners-elect, Dr. R.A Peterson and Charles Posson, in attendance at the meeting. They will take the place of commissioners Carolyn Applegate and John Miller in January.

- Heard a report on Kansas Health Information Network and the Norton County Hospital board meeting by Commissioner Miller.

- Discussed some replacement parts for doors at the landfill.

- Discussed attending the hospital Christmas party.

- Learned that Penco Engineering has mailed a letter for the county to the federal Bureau of Reclamation for repairs on top of the dam at Norton Reservoir.

- Met briefly with Economic Development Director Scott Sproul about the projects his office is working on.

- Decided to give the county employees New Year's Eve off. The county already gives its employees Christmas, Christmas Eve and New Year's Day off.

- Passed a resolution to make New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day (observed), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day official county holidays plus one-half day for Good Friday in 2013.

Ring in Christmas cheer



Last Friday night, the visitors to Santa's Open House were treated to live Christmas music performed by Jeremie Krehbiel, Seth Lofgreen and Paul Vanderveer. – Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

JENNINGS NEWS

The community extends sympathy to the family of John Keenan, Oberlin, who died at his home. John, son of Imogene Keenan and the late Neil Keenan, graduated from Jennings School with the class of 1966.

United Methodist Church Hunter's Supper was enjoyed by over 155 people. We appreciate all the people who helped in anyway to make this a huge success. Hunter's breakfast at the former Masonic Hall was enjoyed by over 70 people. The weather did not cooperate for the hunters Saturday. Strong winds blew dust and debris throughout the afternoon.

Elliott Gillespie and Emma,

Belton, Mo. visited at the home of his grandparents, Stan and Ramona Shaw on Nov. 12. Saturday Nov. 10 visitors included Aaron Gillespie and Jackson, Hays; Elliott Gillespie,

Belton, Mo.; Chris Gillespie and Tom Neff, Marion; Kevin and Colleen Wagoner, Sharon Springs; Mary and Jeff Wahlmeier, rural Clayton.

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LYLE NEWS

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen drove into the storm damaged area of Hurricane Sandy as the second storm was hitting. They went to Rhode Island to visit Lloyd's daughter and son-in-law, Jack and Susan Goreck. While there, they saw the play/musical-comedy, "Elf," then visited Old Jamestown and Ocean Drive. They also saw her sister Jim and Grace Hartman in Kansas City then planned to see her sister, Al and Charlotte Snyder in Jewell.

Rea and Dee Magers and Jane Engelhardt went to Toots Magers' home on Nov. 6 and put up a dish so she could watch TV. She played Pinochle on Thursday at Norcat. Charlie Kelley of Lamar, Colo. parked his camper by the slide at the Community Building and used the built-in phone booth, [talking from the top of the slippery slide- who woulda' thought it]. Now if anyone wants to call from Lyle, all they have to do is climb the slide. Toots and Charlie came to the pheasant supper at the Norcat. Judy and Charlie Easton and Jane Engelhardt visited Toots on Sunday, Nov. 11.

Teresa Wood wanted to surprise Dwight on his birthday, so she and Dwight's twin daughters, Taryn and Chelsey and friend, Fritz Sassine from Chicago, Ill. made plans to meet in Lincoln, Neb. Teresa needed to drive an employer's car to Lincoln so she took Dwight and me along. We

met at the Perkins restaurant for breakfast. It was wonderful to see how happy they and Dwight were to see each other. And he was surprised. Teresa had to work but the girls took us to Omaha, where we watched football, ate, etc. and all got together in the evening. Dwight, Teresa and I came back to McCook on the train.

Carol Moye and great-granddaughters, Kylie and Skylar visited me on Saturday, Nov. 10, did some jobs for me and worked on sending some pictures to David that he needed for Veteran's day.

My printer and computer were not 'compatible' so Carol took them home to finish the job. On Saturday evening Teresa stayed with me. We went to church Sunday and then she did more work for me. I really appreciate everyone's help.

Again, it's the anniversary of the deepest snow in my memory. On the evening of Nov. 17, 1948 my young brother-in-law, Elvin Wood started to go a few blocks to visit a friend, Dallas Harmon, who was a fellow freshman at Norcat High School. By the time he got to the vicinity, the snow was flying so thick he couldn't tell where he was. At just the right time, Dallas opened his door, and Elvin saw the light. Dallas' mother must not have made it home that evening, as I remember him calling me and asking me how to make gravy. [I was not the best person to ask,

as my little sister, Ona, once called mine 'lump gravy.' Just a little visit into the past]. Carolyn Plotts said that was the storm in which her father lost his eye, and our first son, David, was born the next month.

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the Liberty Star Club had its usual Thanksgiving supper at the Lyle Community building with 21 people enjoying good weather, good friends, good food and good times. We have so much to be thankful for.

Keith Anthony had surgery in Kearney, Neb., and is doing well. We pray he will be back with us soon.

Donna Huff fell on Saturday, breaking her hip. She is in the McCook Hospital and is doing well after surgery.

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen got home from their trip to the East coast in time to eat Thanksgiving supper with us on Wednesday.

June Jolly finished her 'turkey' quilt and delivered it. She attended the KT club on Thursday and played cards at Indianola on Wednesday. Toots' daughters, Judy and Charlie Easton and Jane Engelhardt, visited her on Sunday and did some chores for her.

I thank Tom Baker, Cheryl Parrish, Teresa Wood, Carol Moye, Telia High and so many others for helping me. God bless you all.

Shopko

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RPh. "We are also committed to looking for new ways to better serve our customers and make their pharmacy experience as convenient as possible, as evidenced by the recent introduction of our free mobile pharmacy app which customers can use to manage and refill prescriptions anytime from their smartphones."

The conversion from Pamida to Shopko Hometown came after the two companies announced a merger earlier this year. As part of the merger, Shopko is investing approximately \$80 million into more than 170 Pamida store conversions which

are occurring in phases through the end of the year.

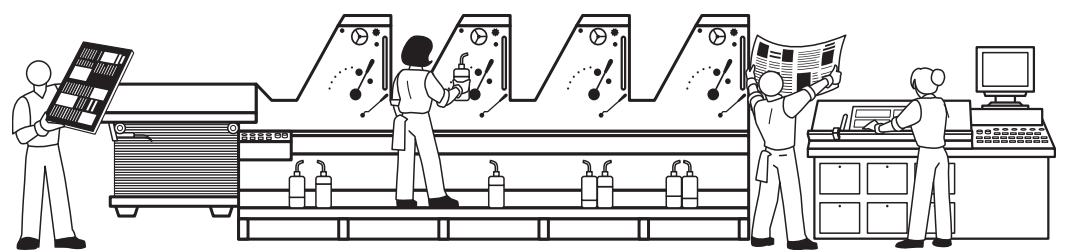
Shopko is owned by affiliates of Sun Capital Partners, Inc., a leading private investment firm focused on leverage buyouts, equity, debt, and other investments in market-leading companies.

About Shopko

Founded in 1962 and headquartered in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Shopko Stores Operating Co., LLC is a \$3 billion retailer that operates almost 350 stores in 22 states throughout the Midwest, Mountain, North Central and Pacific Northwest regions. Retail formats include 134 Shopko

stores, providing quality name-brand merchandise, great values, pharmacy and optical services in small to mid-sized cities; 5 Shopko Express Rx stores, a convenient neighborhood drugstore concept; and 10 Shopko Hometown locations, a smaller concept store developed to meet the needs of smaller communities. In addition, Shopko is in the process of converting over 170 recently-acquired stores and pharmacies to the Shopko brand. For more information, visit <http://www.shopko.com>www.shopko.com.

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