

# County dump inspected

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Folks going out to the Norton County landfill to pick up recycled paint and other products may find the recyclable have already been disposed of.

County Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the Norton County commissioners Monday that the landfill area had been inspected on Nov. 18 by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The inspectors looked at the household hazardous waste area, the transfer stations (where trash is held before being moved to the Phillips County landfill) and the construction and demolition pit.

In the household hazardous waste area the inspectors said that the barrel used for petroleum distillates must have a log with exactly what is in it and the waste can only be held for seven days.

"What we put in is a guess," Mr. Archibald said. "It's a guess but they want just exactly what we're putting in there."

If a one-half can of waste is put in the log has to show how many ounces of varnish, hair spray, spray paint or whatever went into the barrel.

The bigger problem is the requirement that the hazardous waste be taken care of within seven days.

Right now anyone who wants leftover paint or other waste products can come out to the landfill area and go through the items stored there and take whatever they can use.

"Our disposal bill will get higher because you have to bulk it once a week even though there's nothing wrong with it," Commission Chairman John Miller said.

"Sometimes people come out every day (to get items) and some times it's two weeks between times," Mr. Archibald said. "We'll just have to tell people to try next week or the week after if we've already bulked."

The inspectors also felt that the construction and demolition pit needed more cover but when they found out that it was the city's cleanup week, agreed there wasn't a problem.

The transfer station is holding trash for up to 48 hours and that was fine with the inspectors.

In other business, the commission:

- Received a plaque from the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative, the state worker's comprehensive insurance pool, for being a member since 1992.

- Held a five minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Have received a letter of resignation from Leslie Miles, acting emergency medical services director.

- Talked to Hospital Director Richard Miller about the possibility of the hospital helping with the ambulance service in some way.

- Visited with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan about putting a stop or yield sign at the intersection of county roads E4 and F.

- Was told by Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes that there will be a steering and planning committee meeting on the state emergency plan at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the library conference room in Norton.

## Lighting the wreath



Janie Urban, church secretary at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Norton, lit the first candle of the Advent wreath to signify the beginning of the church year and the season of preparation. In many area churches the Advent season is celebrated beginning four Sun-

days before Christmas Day. Each Sunday another candle will be lit as the day of Christ's birth draws nearer.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Commissioners worried about losing largest customer

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

After spending two to three years working to set up a new landfill, Norton County commissioners are worried about losing their largest customer, the City of Norton.

Citing an article in *The Norton Telegram* Commission Chairman John Miller said that it looks like the city might be planning on dealing with its own trash.

In the article, City Attorney Karen Griffiths was quoted as saying an attorney general's office opinion was that cities do not have to use their county's landfill.

"If you take away the major contributor it makes absolutely no sense in us having a landfill," Mr. Miller said.

County Attorney Doug Sebelius told them there are two different attorney general opinions on the subject — each from a different person in that office.

The attorney general's opinion is not law, he said. The statute is unclear and there will need to be a court case to clear up the questions.

"I think it's going to come down to making a contact with the city to ask if they want to keep the contract they have," Mr. Sebelius said.

Commissioner Dean Kruse said that he had heard that some of the smaller towns are also interested in looking at other options for their trash because they feel it is too expensive to have it brought to the county landfill transfer station.

"We need to bring the city fathers together," Mr. Miller said. "Institute a meeting with all the

cities and check contracts, expiration dates and notification dates. We need to go out and just confront the problem."

"Do we need a new landfill if we lose the city?" Commissioner Leroy Lang asked.

"If the city (of Norton) decides to haul their own trash someplace we don't need to work on this dump," Mr. Kruse said.

"We need to know what the severance clauses are," Mr. Miller said. "We need to have the cities' business locked and sealed in our pockets or stop this project right now."

The commissioners, however, decided that, while Phillips County is being nice enough to take Norton's trash right now it cannot continue to do so indefinitely so Norton County will need its own disposal facility.

### MARKETS

At close of business Dec. 4	
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Milo .....	\$3.91
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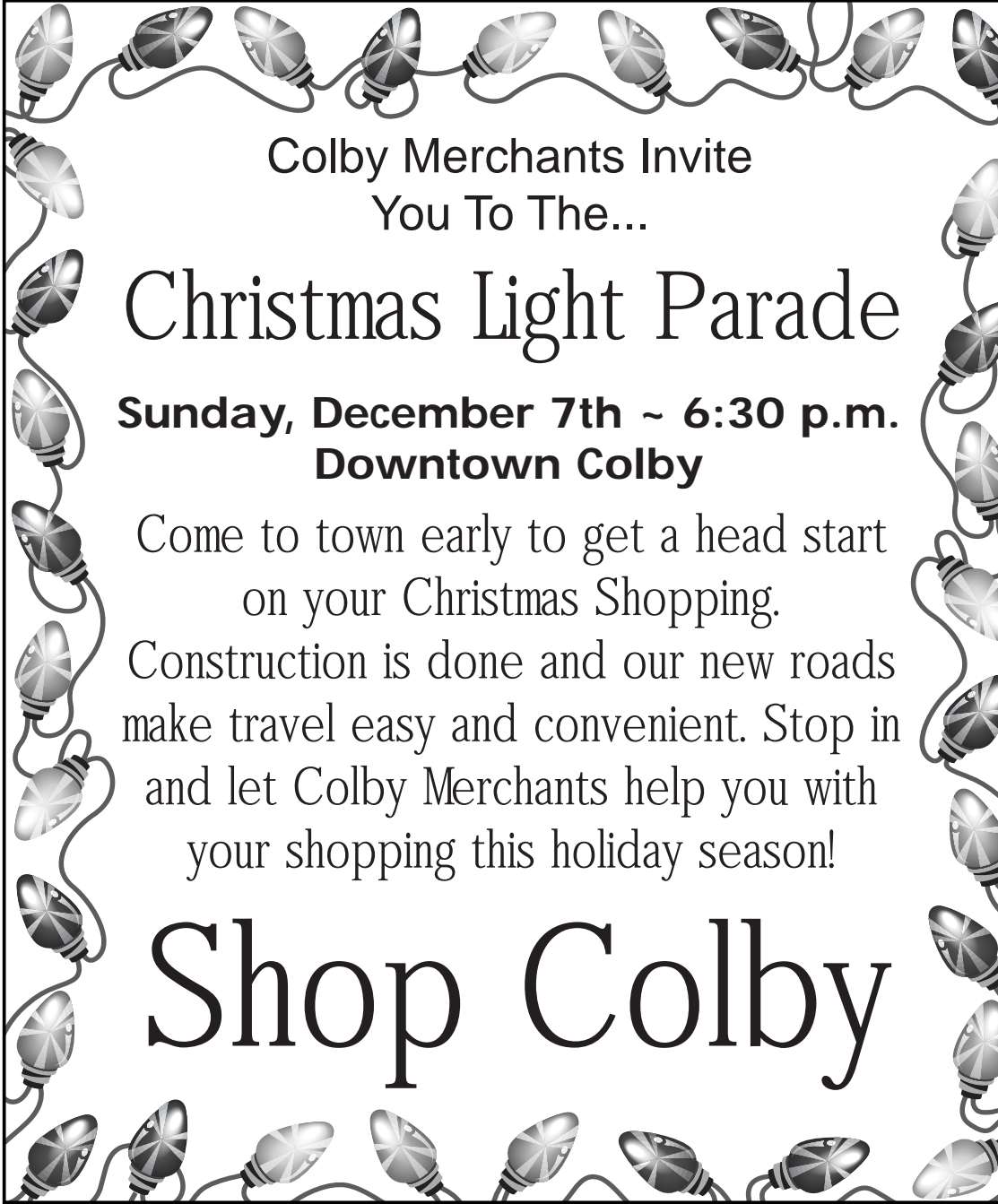
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