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Claus to do our drawing. If he isn't available, however, we'll get children to come up with the lucky numbers."

The Telegram has already given away \$500 in the contest. Ten people each received \$50 during the four weeks of the contest. The winners checked numbers in ads in the special Christmas On Us section printed in The Telegram each week for four weeks.

Scattered throughout the section in the ads were numbers drawn from the big black barrel. This week the last four winners brought in their tickets.

June Kline got her ticket at Walter Motor. The number was hiding in the ad for Don's Floor Covering.

Reva Benien got her ticket from The Telegram. She found it the Dairy Queen ad.

Becky Ables got her winning ticket and several others from Norton Sheet Metal when she bought a new furnace and air conditioning unit. She said she wished she could say she was spending it on something poetic but she was just heading for the grocery store. She found that winning number in an ad for Norton County Cooperative Association.

Cindy Penner got her ticket at Moffet Drug. She found her lucky number in the Norton Homestore ad.

"I have no idea, but there are plenty of ways to spend it," she said. "It might help fix the truck." All the money — \$2,500 — given away in the Christmas On Us contest is in scrip and must be used at a participating business to purchase merchandise or services. See you on Saturday and good luck.

## County crews working on roads, equipment

(Continued from Page 1) visor Tom Brannan that his crew was plowing roads last week and repairing equipment. He said that he had checked on the road that Lenora bus driver Ernest Long had requested gravel for. The county had planned to rebuild that road last year but it was too dry, Mr. Brannan said. His crews will put down gravel for now.

Received a report from county Extension Agent Keith VanSki on what he and multi-county extension agents Brian Olson and Tranda Watts have been doing over the last quarter.

Discussed the purchase of a used Mack truck with Mr. Brannan. The road and bridge department has been looking for a good used semi truck for several months.

Talked to Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes about rescheduling a meeting to deal with the state mandated Mitigation 20/20 preparedness plan. A December meeting was canceled when the consultant for the project became ill. Mr. Mapes said he would like to schedule a meeting for the first week of January probably Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Learned that the 25 questions from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on the proposed new landfill have been answered and the information sent to the state. Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald said that the

## U.S. soldier visits his Norton relatives

A veteran of the war in Iraq was in Norton a few weeks ago to visit his grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Sgt. Jonathan Skrdlant is an army reservist attached to the 32nd Detachment of the 450th MCT of the 89th Regional Support Group. He went on active duty Feb. 12, 2003, and was deployed in support of operation Iraqi Freedom on April 12.

While deployed he has been based in Bagdad, Tahlil and Kuwait, and is now at Navistar on the border between Kuwait and Iraq. Sgt. Skrdlant is responsible for movement control.

Sgt. Skrdlant was granted leave from Nov. 21 thru Dec. 7. He flew from Kuwait to Amsterdam to Detroit to Baltimore to Denver, a trip which took about 39 hours.

On Nov. 26, Sgt. Skrdlant drove to Norton to see his extended family. Participating in this celebration were his grandmother, Vivian Skrdlant; uncles and aunts, Walter and Elaine Skrdlant; Darrell and Kathie Skrdlant; Roy and Jean

Skrdlant; cousin Dan Skrdlant, wife Sue Ann and their daughter Katelyn.

Following a day spent visiting and sharing experiences Sgt. Skrdlant continued on to Manhattan, where his parents, Gary and Wendy Skrdlant, live.

Christmas was shared with his mother's side of the family while he was home. During Sgt. Skrdlant's time at home he announced his engagement to Michelle Whitney of Denver.

On Dec. 1, he visited the schools in Kansas City, Kan., where his sister, Olivia, teaches art education to first, sixth, seventh and eighth graders. He met each of her classes and answered questions about his life in Kuwait and Iraq as part of the U.S. armed forces.

He returned to Denver on Dec. 2, where he stayed until Dec. 6 when he boarded the return flight to Kuwait.

His projected date to return to civilian status is June. He said he appreciated the support of family, friends and church during this time.



Vivan Skrdlant and grandson Sgt. Jonathan Skrdlant

## Nurse named in award

Former Norton registered nurse, Rita Barker has been named as one of 10 winners of the prestigious Heart of Healthcare presented annually by the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

She was selected from more than 350 nominees.

Established as a public service by the University of Kansas in 1989, the award annually recognizes outstanding registered nurses. Nominations are accepted from patients, colleagues, supervisors, families and friends.

In an article printed in the Nov. 10 issue of *Kansas City Nursing News* Ms. Barker was described as a strong nursing leader, constantly raising the bar of quality care at Hays Medical Center.

"Rita is an incredible risk taker that inspires us to raise the quality of care," a colleague said.

Ms. Barker developed the "Professional Nurse Development Program" at Hays Medical Center. The program allows for continued growth and development of the professional nurse.

"She understands that professional nurses require advanced scientific clinical preparation. For patient care technicians and licensed practical nurses at Hays Medical Center, Ms. Barker implemented programs to help pay for tuition and pay increases while working toward a registered nurses degree," a colleague said.

Ms. Barker is a graduate of Leoville High School. She received her masters degree from Fort Hays State University and her first nursing job was at Norton County Hospital.

Her parents are Marion and Lorraine Long, New Almelo.

## Butler County takes championship title

By DICK BOYD

For the fourth time in their history, the Butler County Community College Grizzlies are the champions of the community college football world.

The Grizzlies, who finished the 2003 season with a 12-0 record, overcame several turnovers and came up big on defense in the second half to beat the Dixie State College Rebels 14-10 on Saturday in the Dixie Rotary Bowl in St. George, Utah. The bowl was officially sanctioned by the NJCAA as the national championship game.

All-American Joseph Harris ran for 143 yards and quarterback Chad Wilmott ran for the game-winning score.

David Irons added a safety with 6:02 left for the Grizzlies, who held the Rebels (10-2) to 140 yards of offense.

Wilmott engineered the game-winning drive and finished it with a two yard touchdown run with 6:49 left in the third quarter.

After the Rebels recovered a fumble at the Butler 20 yard line in the first quarter, Cal Boehm kicked a 22-yard field goal to give Dixie State the early lead. In the

second quarter, Brandon Sanchez recovered another fumble and returned it 32 yards for Dixie State's only touchdown and a 10-0 lead.

Reggie Smith's 63 yard kickoff return after Sanchez's touchdown gave the Grizzlies the ball at the Rebel 25 yard line, setting up a one yard touchdown run by Norton freshman Terry Petrie.

Butler kicker Colt Cody missed the extra point, then missed again after Wilmott's touchdown in the third quarter put the Grizzlies up

12-10. But, Irons got the points back when he tackled Dixie State punter Jake Hendy in the end zone.

The MVP of the game for Butler was Wilmott, who threw for 78 yards on 9 of 21 passing.

"We're fortunate to come out of here with a win. It was a tough game," said Butler head coach Troy Morrell. "I give credit to our players. They're the ones who hung in there through all the adversity that they faced all year long. We faced it again today and found

a way to come out of that locker room (in the second half) and look like a different team."

The meeting marked the fourth between the teams in the Dixie Rotary Bowl and the third in the past five years. It was the second meeting with the national championship on the line.

Butler captured its third national championship in 1999 with a 49-35 victory over the Rebels. The two teams also met in the inaugural Dixie Rotary Bowl in 1986.

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