

Friday  
December 19, 2003

# \$2,000 giveaway set for Saturday

Someone is going to go home \$1,500 richer and another person will win \$500 in *The Norton Telegram* and Norton merchants Christmas on Us contest.

The contest, which is designed to give people an extra incentive to shop at home, has been a huge success, *Telegram* Publisher Cynthia Haynes said.

"We started out with this cute Christmas-paper covered box about a foot to 18-inches square. It was filled and overflowing halfway through the first week," she said.

"So, we went down to one of the hardware store, which is a sponsor, and bought a trash barrel — a big trash barrel. After four weeks that barrel is nearly full. We keep digging down into it and stirring it up. It's quite a sight to see one of us up to our chin in red tickets trying to act like an egg beater in very thick batter.

"We're going to count those tickets next week and, I bet, we have more than 50,000. If that's true, since most of the tickets represent \$10 spent in Norton, it would mean one-half million dollars to

our merchants. That's a real shot in the arm for the economy."

The *Telegram* has borrowed a flat-bed trailer and a sound system from McEwen Auction. At 2 p.m. Saturday the staff will be up on the trailer with the big barrel of tickets ready to give away \$2,000.

First a \$500 winner will be chosen, then the grand prize of \$1,500 will be given away to someone in the crowd. The street between Moffet Drug and Russ' Jewelry will be blocked off to make a place for the people to stand.

You, or at least your ticket, has to be present to win. Tickets will be drawn until someone has the ticket with a matching number.

"It really doesn't take all that long, usually," said Mrs. Haynes, who has participated in Christmas On Us drawings in other towns. "We always give folks a few minutes to check their tickets and then if no one has the right number we draw again.

"This year we are hoping to get Santa (Continued on Page 5)

## Norton, Kansas Home of Jay Shelton

### Briefly

## Chamber to hold Christmas dinner

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Christmas Dinner at noon on Thursday, Dec. 25, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The dinner is for anyone who cannot be with other loved ones on Christmas Day. A full holiday menu of turkey with dressing, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and rolls and butter will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to complete the feast. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations will be accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with the meal preparation, serving and clean-up.

Anyone interested in helping should contact Karla Reed at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Office at 877-2501.

## Clubs can get presentations

Clubs and organizations in northwest Kansas who are in need of a presentation for their upcoming meetings can contact Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

The agency has a speakers bureau that would be available to make a presentation to your club.

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas is a private, not-for-profit organization that has been serving people with disabilities for over 35 years, providing a wide range of services to both children and adults in the 18 northwest Kansas counties.

If you are interested in a presentation, contact Steve Keil at (785) 625-5678.

### Weather

#### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy and cooler with highs in the lower 50s. **Sunday Night and Monday** — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Breezy and cooler with highs in the upper 30s. Lows in the upper 20s.

#### Howell report:

Tuesday .....	High 46, Low 29
Wednesday .....	High 57, Low 29
Thursday .....	High 49, Low 22
Week ago .....	High 27, Low 24
Month ago .....	High 57, Low 38
Year ago .....	High 54, Low 23
December precipitation .....	.50 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ...	19.33 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

### Prayer

O Father God, keep us ever mindful of Your will. Thank you for giving us the greatest gift of all, Your Son, Jesus. Help us to follow Him in the New Year. In His holy name, we pray. Amen

## Sheriff works to patch up dispatch spat

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Sheriff Troy Thomson told Norton County commissioners that he hoped to have a contract with the City of Norton by the end of January for dispatch services.

Sheriff Thomson said that he had met with the city finance committee and gone over his figures on how much it costs to run the service.

It is not in either the county's or the city's best interest, he said, for the city to try to find other means of communication. However, a new contract needs to be agreed upon.

The sheriff sent the city a letter earlier in the month notifying it that he would no longer provide dispatch services to it after next year. This he said was a bargaining move to get things moving so a new contract could be signed.

City council members understood the problem of raising expenses and wages, he said, however, the committee members had a problem with the county insurance, which is much better than what the city offers its employees.

The city finance committee asked the sheriff to draw up a new contract and present it to them, he said.

Sheriff Thomson said that he took the contract, which the city and county agreed to in 1998, and rewrote it to say that the city would pay 40 percent and the county 60 percent of the cost of the dispatch service.

In the 1998 contract there was a \$44,000 cap on what the city had to pay.

Last year the city paid over \$60,000 for dispatch services but this year it stopped paying after it had met the \$44,000. That is when the sheriff sent the council the contract dissolution letter.

In the new contract, the sheriff said, there is no cap. Each party needs to pay its share of the costs.

The sheriff said he understood the council's problem with dispatch.

"They're in the same position we're in," he said. "They're trying to save money."

He pointed out that the city's cost for dispatch services is about what it would cost for two full-time employees with benefits.

In other business, the commission:

- Received a visit from Burnidean Horning. She told the commissioners that a visiting doctor congratulated the county on its airport. The doctor was especially impressed by the long runway and said that he has noticed that hospitals that fail did not have a good airport.
- Heard from Road and Bridge Super-

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## Youngsters make houses with food, fun

Wyatt Harding and his mother Mindy (above) were all concentration as they constructed a gingerbread house during the annual activity for first graders at Eisenhower Elementary School. The "gingerbread" squares were really graham crackers "glued" with frosting to an empty milk carton. Mindy Unterseher, Norton, (right) gave a hand as her son Kobie very carefully "glued" additional trim on his house.

—Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



## There is still time to mail that package or card

For all of you last minute mailers out there, there is still time to get your packages and letters out but it might cost a little more.

Norton Postmaster JaNan O'Brien said that there was still plenty of time. She said for parcels, customers wanting to send priority packages should get their boxes to the post office by Monday for east or west coast mailings and by Tuesday for Kansas or Nebraska mailings.

Priority costs \$3.85 for the first pound and then the cost varies by weight and destination.

Express mail should be able to reach a

destination in 24 hours, but in some cases will take an extra day.

Express mail costs \$13.65 for up to eight ounces and then varies.

The post office, however, has flat rate envelopes for both that can be sent for the minimum amounts.

Letters being sent to the east or west coast using the regular mail should be sent out on Monday also, while area mail should be sent by Tuesday.

Mrs. O'Brien said the number of packages and letters being sent out is higher than normal, but it's typical for the Christmas season.

She said the heaviest mailing day was Monday with around 1 billion packages and letters being sent to approximately 140 million families and businesses across the country. She said Wednesday was the heaviest delivery day.

She said people in this area have been really good about mailing with plenty of time to spare. She thinks that the people here really want their families and friends to get their packages on time and the post office appreciates it. They also appreciate all of the business.

Mrs. O'Brien said they were going to try hard to make sure people get their

packages on Dec. 23 and 24. She said if no one is home to pick it up, the mail carriers will make a second attempt at delivery.

The Norton Post Office offered three different types of Christmas stamps this year — Snowmen, the Madonna, and Merry Music Makers — and all but one have sold out, she said. The Merry Music Makers are all that remain.

The post office will be open regular hours on Christmas Eve and Friday, but will be closed on Christmas Day and on New Years Day.

# \$2,000 giveway Saturday

(Continued from Page 1)

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) Supervisor 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 Baghdad, 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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- Your parents 50th Anniversary is celebrated...

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1 Year .....	\$70.00
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Less than 6 Mo. would be \$15 per month	

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The Norton Telegram...  
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