

Tuesday  
December 23, 2003

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Jay Gallentine

Briefly

**Slow down for construction**

Motorists traveling between Hill City and Norton will find reduced speed limits due to road construction on U.S. Highway 283 and K-9. On the 18-mile section of US 283 north of Hill City to the K-9 junction, the speed limit is 60 miles per hour. The two-mile shoo-fly detour shared by the highways has a work zone speed limit of 40 miles per hour.

Work will continue through the winter months in an effort to complete as much construction as possible without disrupting traffic. When spring arrives, U.S. 283 will be closed from Hill City to the junction with K-9. The two mile U.S. 283/K-9 section will remain open throughout the project.

The Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas Highway Patrol remind drivers to be alert for construction activity adjacent to these roads and remember that fines for speeding are doubled in work zones.

**Financial aid workshop set**

A financial aid meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 5, at Norton Community High School in the music room.

A representative from the Educational Planning Center in Kearney will talk about how to apply for federal financial aid.

High school juniors and seniors and their parents are asked to attend. Parents of college students are also invited. The free application for federal student aid for the 2004-'05 school year will be available.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Hauser at the high school at 877-3338.

Weather

**Forecast:**

Tonight — Mostly clear with lows around 19. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 20s. **Christmas Day** — Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s. **Thursday Night** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s.

**Howell report:**

Friday ..... High 54, Low 27  
Saturday ..... High 62, Low 38  
Sunday ..... High 57, Low 34  
Monday ..... High 50, Low 23  
Week ago ..... High 38, Low 20  
Month ago ..... High 33, Low 11  
Year ago ..... High 45, Low 16  
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

Heavenly Father, how proud we are to be Your children! Thank you for this great gift You have given each of us through Jesus. Let us always share with others our joy in the Lord. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen

**Man wins \$1,500 Saturday**

It was a beautiful day and nearly 400 people showed up to see who would win the Christmas on Us cash given away by *The Norton Telegram* and Norton merchants on Saturday.

It only took 20 minutes and four tries to give away \$2,000.

Four youngsters came forward to reach into a trash can to pick out winning tickets out of a big trash barrel filled with 67,272 little red tickets.

The first ticket, No. 0730824, was drawn by Morgan Rebecca Olliff. The ticket had been given out by Computer Pro but no one claimed the \$500 prize money.

The second ticket, No. 8989893, was drawn by Kaitlyn Marie Bohl. It didn't

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**Merchants happy with holiday sales**

December has been a busy month for most Norton businesses as people rush to get their holiday shopping finished, while for some, it's been about an average holiday sales season.

Abi Delimont, co-owner of Hot Shots Photography, said they've have a lot of people wanting pictures this month, but that it's starting to taper off. She said they still have about three or four sittings a day, which is still pretty good.

"December is always a good time for family pictures," she said.

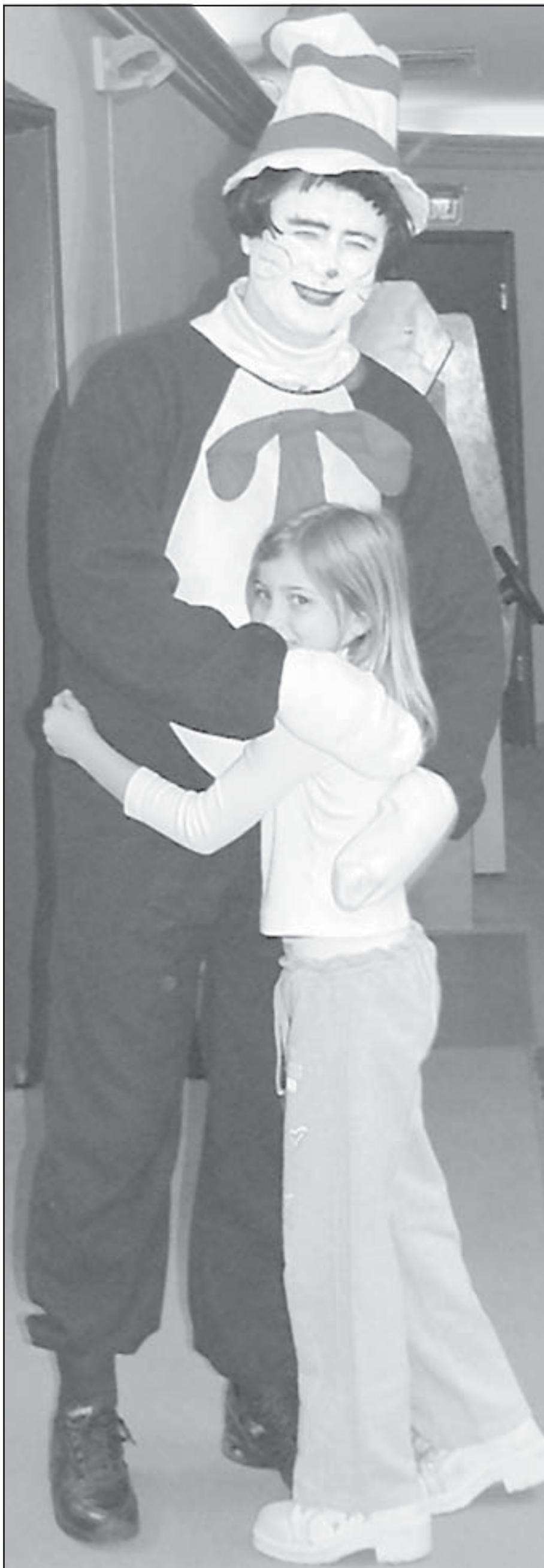
Artline Graphics has some new items this year, said owner Sue Ann Skrdlant. She said sales on their photo banners, pillow cases and scrapbook covers have been doing all right, but that things seem a bit slower this year than last year.

As for tool sales, Felton's Ace Building Center owner Joe Felton said he's had an improvement in sales from last year and that things were pretty good.

Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse is doing well on ornament and poinsettia sales, said owner Annette Overlease. She said sales have been a lot like last year, but might be down a little bit.

Kowpoke Supply can't really compare this year's holiday sales with last years, said employee Linda Esslinger, but that they were doing very well selling appliances as Christmas gifts this season.

Norton Sports Center owner Debra Eveleigh said sales are about the same as last year, which is okay. The business is also the UPS center and she said that there doesn't seem to be as many packages being delivered this year as last year, which is possibly being caused by people sending money rather than packages, she said.



The Cat in the Hat stopped by the Norton Theatre Saturday night to say Hi to the kids, get a few hugs and check out his new movie with all of his fans.

— Photo by Veronica Monier

**Churches celebrate Christ's birth**

Several local churches have special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services planned.

**Norton First United Methodist Church**

The Rev. Lew Van Der Wege will be conducting Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. at the Edmond United Methodist Church; 7 p.m. services at Norton; and later services again at 11 p.m.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Community Christmas Dinner will be hosted by Norton First United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations will be accepted.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 10 p.m. (See correction on Page 2)

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**

On Christmas Eve there will be two services. The first Christmas Vigil Mass will be held at 9 p.m. The second will be at 11 p.m. On Christmas Day Mass will be at 9 a.m.

**Prairie View Reformed Church**

Christmas Eve services will be 7 p.m. and on Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. at Prairie View. Prairie View Reformed Church and Luctor Christian Reformed Church will have joint services at Luctor.

**Luctor Christian Reformed Church**

Christmas Eve services are planned for 7 p.m. at Prairie View Reformed Church. On Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. Luctor Christian Reformed and Prairie View Reformed Churches will have joint services at Luctor.

**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**

The Christmas Eve Children's Service will be at 6:30 p.m. and at 10 a.m. Christmas Day there will be a Song Service.

**Norton Christian Church**

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 6:30 p.m.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Christmas Day Worship Services are planned for 10 a.m.

**Clayton United Methodist Church**

Christmas Eve services are set for 7 p.m.

**United Parish of Lenora**

At 6:30 p.m., Christmas Eve, there will be a candlelight service.

**Almena United Methodist Church**

Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 9:30 p.m.

**Norcraft United Methodist Church**

Christmas Eve services are set for 8:15 p.m.

**Offices, shops will be closed for Christmas**

When a holiday falls in the middle of a work week the public is often confused about which businesses are open and which are closed.

**Norton Shop and Save**

Norton Shop and Save will close at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, remain closed Christmas and reopen at 7 a.m. Friday.

**Jamboree Foods**

Jamboree Foods will be open from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday, be closed Christmas and open again on Friday. Jamboree's hours on New Year's Day will be from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

**Doctor's Clinic**

The Norton clinic will see patients on Christmas Eve, be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

**High Plains Mental Health**

The High Plains Mental Health Clinic will only be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

**Norton Public Library**

The Norton Public Library will be closed from Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Sunday, Dec. 28. It will reopen Monday, Dec. 29.

**City and County Offices**

Norton City and Norton County offices will be closed Thursday and Friday. The

**City sales tax revenue not keeping up**

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Even with a tax increase the sales tax receipts for the City of Norton are down from last year but the council isn't worried yet.

The council members received an accounting of sales tax receipts sent from the state for the last seven years at its meeting on Tuesday.

In late November the state sent the city \$12,625 for sales taxes paid in October. This is down from the \$13,3938 received last year and is the lowest amount received in October in the seven-year period. The highest amount was \$23,223 in 2000 and the next lowest was what was received last year.

The total sales taxes received by the city for the year as of Oct. 31 is \$167,129, also the least that it has had in the seven year accounting period. The highest received from the state was in 2001 when the city

had \$189,505 in its coffers at this time. The next lowest was last year when there was \$179,032 in sales tax revenues.

The sales tax increase only went into effect the first of October so it could only have affected that month. One of the reasons the city and county asked for the tax increase was because of slipping revenues.

Earlier this year when it became evident that the increase in the sales tax would not bring in as much money as hoped the city started belt tightening, putting off raises and finding cheaper health insurance for employees.

So with the cuts in expenses the mayor said he thought the city would be fine.

"We're a little behind last year but I think we're still doing pretty good," Mayor David Corns said.

The council also received a report that the finance committee had met with the

sheriff to work out a problem with the city's contract with the county for dispatch services.

The council was a little surprised when the sheriff delivered a letter last month canceling the city's dispatch service contract as of Dec. 2004.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said that the sheriff has been asked to draw up a contract for the two sides to discuss.

The city had earlier refused to pay more than \$44,000 for services because of a cap clause in the old contract which said the city would pay 40 percent up to \$44,000 and the county 60 percent of the cost of the dispatch services.

"I was a little disappointed at the commissioners, that they presented that letter," Mayor Corns said.

The mayor said that he thought the city and county should have gotten together to

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