

# New center gives kids a place to go

About 60 teens attended the kick-off party for The Rock Saturday night. The non-denominational youth center was the scene for a New Year's Eve party that had all the ingredients for a fun night for teenagers: food and games.

Adult sponsorship for the evening was provided by Brenda Dole, Kurt and Gi Mann, Pat and Julie Douglas, Bill Johnson, Shannon Jones, Jim Rowh and Kyle Douglas.

Saturday, volunteers were finishing last-minute preparations for the evening's party. Countertops in the kitchen area were installed while games and the big-screen television were put in place.

Board member Julie Douglas said, "The kids ate a lot of food. We served them chips, dips, pizza, cookies, cake and soft drinks."

Tim Sprigg, a Norton Community High School graduate two years ago, came to the center and sang for the crowd.

Mrs. Douglas said an auction to raise funds for the center is planned for Jan. 22. The time will be announced soon.



Teens signed in (below) New Year's Eve for the first event to be held at The Rock in downtown Norton. Some played pool (above) while others enjoyed ping-pong, foosball and X-Box games.

—Telegram photos by Charlotte Stephenson



# Deer are major cause of end-of year accidents

Deer were the cause of four accidents over the past two weeks.

On Dec. 16 at 10:23 p.m., Michael Vincent, 47, Norton, was westbound on U.S. 36, approximately four miles east of Norton, when a deer came out of the south ditch and hit his 2000 Ford Windstar on the driver's side.

In the van with him were Wanda Vincent, 44; Arleta Vincent, 75; Eldon Vincent, 77; and Tabitha Vincent, 15, all of Norton. No one was injured and all were wearing seat belts.

Phillipsburg's Nicole Wagner, 22, was driving west on U.S. 383, just over six miles east of Norton, when a deer ran out of the north ditch at 5:45 a.m.; she was unable to avoid hitting it.

Ms. Wagner was uninjured and was wearing her seat belt at the time of the accident on Dec. 21.

On Dec. 22 at 7:15 p.m.,

Donovan Harrington, 16, Norton, swerved and hit a tree in a 1997 Pontiac Sunfire, registered to Kim Harrington, after a deer ran in front of him on PDRA Road, less than a mile east of U.S. 283.

Matt Engel, 17, was in the car with him. Neither he nor his passenger were wearing seat belts, but both were uninjured.

David Armijo, 25, Grand Island, Neb., hit a deer, which came out of the south ditch on U.S. 36, about one mile west of Norton, at 9 p.m. on Dec. 23. He was driving a 1995 Pontiac four-door registered to Jacqueline Martinez.

In the car with him were Ms. Martinez, 26; Marcus Martinez, 4; and Derek Martinez, 1, all of Grand Island. All were wearing safety restraints and none were injured.

Damage is estimated to be over \$1,000 in all four accidents.

# Road work on U.S. 36 wraps up

The major road work on U.S. 36, which started on the west edge of Norton and stretched six miles west, wrapped up last week as NES Traffic Safety of Wichita, finished the highway markings.

Crews began working to widen the six miles of highway last spring after the Kansas Department of Transportation determined that the amount of truck traffic continued to rise over the past several years. The old three-foot-paved shoulders have been widened to ten-foot.

Venture Corp. of Great Bend was the prime contractor in charge of the project, which included cold recycling and paving.

Two bridges were widened during construction.

The first bridge, just west of the city limits, received a new

box drainage structure, as did the Prairie Dog Drainage Bridge, about one mile west of town.

"The \$6 million project now only needs the permanent signage and seeding along the right-of-way," said District Three Construction Engineer Jeff Stewart. "The new signs should be put into place as soon as it dries up out there and the seeding will be done when the weather permits."

"Our thanks to the traveling public and the local citizens who had so much patience with our contractors during this construction project. We know that this type of process is an inconvenience to the daily routine of many, and we appreciate the positive feedback we have had from the community."

# County amends department budgets

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commissioners amended budgets for the road and bridge, solid waste, county health, noxious weed, ambulance and special bridge departments and the appraiser's office on Tuesday.

Most of the changes are because the departments brought in additional money and incurred additional expenses. However, county departments can't spend more than they have budgeted even if they have extra expenses and/or revenues.

John Mapes of Mapes and Miller, certified public accountants, presented the amended budgets. Mapes and Miller handles budgeting for Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Graham, Lane, Trego, Rooks and Osborne counties.

He said that Norton County is doing well and all his counties have had to republish department budgets.

He discussed how the noxious weed department buys several years worth of chemicals at a time, when the price is right, and then spray for farmers and ranchers, who pay for the chemical and service.

This makes the weed department budget go up and down a lot in most counties, he said.

"All the noxious weed people are always on the conservative side of what they're going to sell and we're always having to republish their budgets," Mr. Mapes said.

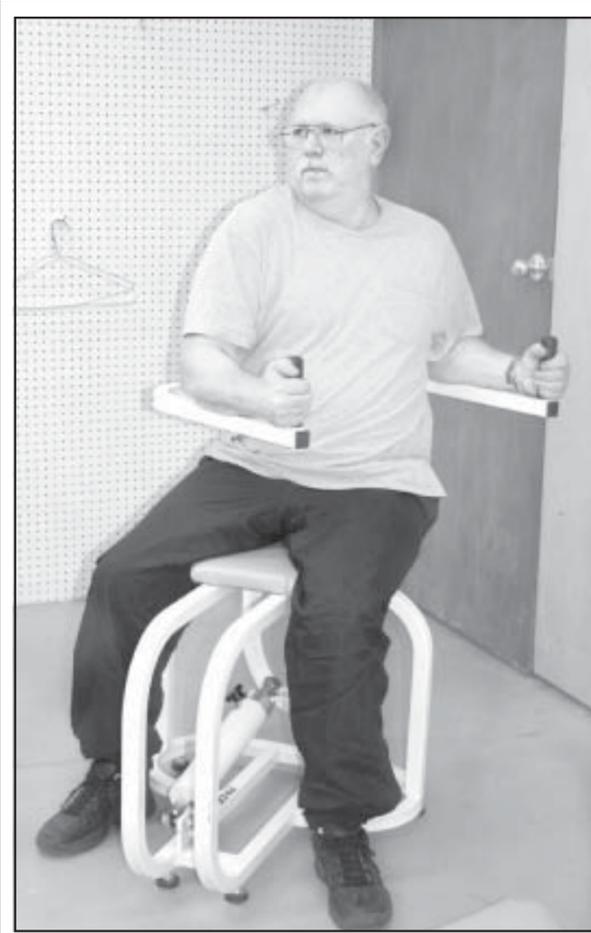
Commissioner John Miller asked about increasing the mill levy for the health department because it provides needed services and is running in the red this year.

The health department ran into problems when its flu vaccine didn't come in as planned although it is still obligated to pay for the medicine.

Also changes in Medicare will probably cause less money for services coming into the department for the federal government.

However, county health does have some money in capital outlay that can be transferred into their operating budgets if needed next year, Mr. Mapes said.

No one attended the public meeting on the budget changes and the commissioners passed the amendments without additional comment.



Some didn't wait until Jan. 1 to make their resolution to lose weight in 2006. Several area residents came to the open house Saturday for Fit To Go, a PACE fitness center, owned by Gloria Zwickle. The center at 411 East Holme will be open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Staff member, Bob Cotton (above) a certified PACE trainer, demonstrated the proper use of a piece of exercise equipment.

— Telegram photos by Charlotte Stephenson

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**COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Outreach Classes in Norton**

**ENROLLMENT**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9 & 10 —6:30-8:00 P.M.**

Enrollment will be held in the Norton Junior High School Cafeteria

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9 —3:00-4:30 P.M.**

Enrollment at the Norton Correctional Facility Administration Conf. Room

Call Education Coordinator: Jennie Patterson, 785-874-4256 (Home)

Classes not listed may be offered if sufficient interest exists

NO.	COURSE	CR.	INSTRUCTOR	PLACE	START	END	START TIME	END TIME
ML237	Spanish Composition & Conversation	3	A. Stiles	NJHS	Wed. 1/18	TBA	6:00p	9:00p
SO176	Intro. to Sociology	3	R. Speer	NJHS	Wed. 1/11	TBA	6:30p	9:30p
EN176	English Composition I	3	J. Votapka	NJHS	Mon. 1/16	TBA	6:00p	9:00p
EN177	English Composition II	3	J. Votapka	NJHS	Wed. 1/18	TBA	6:00p	9:00p
HI177	American History 1865 to Present (\$40 Telecourse Fee)	3	R. Walz	NJHS	Thur. 1/19	TBA	6:00p	9:00p
PH103	Earth Science	5	G. Rossi	NJHS	Wed. 1/25	5/3	6:00p	9:00p
PH103L	Earth Science Lab (\$40 Lab Fee)	0	G. Rossi	NJHS	Wed. 1/25	TBA	6:00p	9:00p
PS230	Adolescent Psychology	3	C. Miller	NJHS	Wed. 1/18	TBA	5:30p	8:30p
AL105	Nurse Aide I	2	J. Rima	Andbe	Mon. 2/6	TBA	M & Th 6p	10:00p
AL106	Nurse Aide II	3	J. Rima	Andbe	Mon. 2/6	TBA	M & Th 6p	10:00p
AL110	Medication Aide	4	J. Rima	Andbe	Tues. 2/7	TBA	6:00p	10:00p
AL123	Medication Aide Update	1	J. Rima	Andbe	Wed. 1/11	Wed. 1/18	9:00a	4:00p