



Lynn Ward, at the cash register, and her mother, Ruby Pflieger, (above) check some of the inventory in their new store, Garden Gate Florals, Etc., on US 36. Mrs. Pflieger puts candy in one of the bins in the antique candy counter in the new florist shop.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

# Shop brings new variety to Norton

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

When you step through the door at Garden Gate Florals, Etc., you step into Norton's newest flower shop.

The mother/daughter team of Ruby Pflieger and Lynn Ward have teamed up to open a store that suits them and their many interests. They said they have talked for years about doing something together.

Mrs. Ward said, "Mom and I are both gardeners and we really like to hang out together. This kind of a store seemed to fit."

Both women agreed they would be providing their customers with unique items. They promise to have things no one else in town will have. Mrs. Pflieger said, "The Etc. part of our name covers the antiques and gift lines we'll be carrying."

Etc. might also cover the stained glass, gourmet coffees, Bridgewater Candles, framed fine art prints, glassware, balloons, Jelly Belly jelly beans, and candy by the scoop. Mrs. Ward said they intend to add more items all the time.

The Garden Gate Floral side will include silk flowers, fresh flowers and special arrangements. Mrs. Pflieger said she has always done her own floral arrangements and it's something she enjoys.

She moved back to Norton from Hutchinson after the death of her husband, Delmar Pflieger, in 2003. With her past business experience she and her daughter looked for something they could do together.

Mrs. Ward also works as a part-time mail carrier in Oberlin. She and her husband, Les, live on their farm just east of Norcat. They have two children, Kaley Ward, Lenora, and Keith Ward, Norton.

Garden Gate Florals, Etc., 411 W. Holme, will



open Monday. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. The owners encourage customers to ask if they have special requests. They will do their best to accommodate any wishes. Credit cards will be accepted.

To talk to Mrs. Pflieger or Mrs. Ward call toll-free 866-873-2252 or locally 874-5125.

# Legislation brings needed physicians

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressmen Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) recently introduced legislation to permanently reauthorize a program to recruit physicians to practice in underserved areas. The J-1 visa waiver program, set to expire on June 1, 2006, allows foreign-born, U.S.-educated physicians to serve in areas that have a shortage of physicians.

"For many rural hospitals and clinics across the country, this program is the only way patients are able to have access to an experienced, qualified doctor," Moran said. "This waiver program has been successful not only in Kansas, but across the country. Reauthorization would allow us to continue improving access to health care."

The J-1 visa waiver program allows international medical graduates to stay in the U.S. in exchange for three years of practicing in areas experiencing a shortage of doctors. Since 1994, 115 foreign doctors have served in Kansas communities through this program, and 67 physicians, or 58 percent, have remained in practice in the state following the completion of their three-year service obligation.

"Physician recruitment is always a challenge, even more so in rural communities," said Myron Applequist, Director of Medical Staff Development at Hays Medical Center. "The J-1 visa waiver program has helped us level the playing field and recruit some outstanding physicians to our community."

allowed to sponsor up to 30 doctors per year. Kansas allows visa waivers for 15 primary care physicians and 15 specialists. Primary care physicians include general medicine, internal medicine, family practice, general pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, emergency medicine and psychiatry.

"The state of Kansas has come to rely on the willingness of both U.S. and foreign physicians to practice in underserved areas," said Howard Rodenberg, Director

of the Division of Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "The J-1 visa waiver program is a big plus for communities that have been unable to find a U.S. physician interested in these opportunities. When access to medical care improves for underserved Kansas communities, it is a good trade."

Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) and Kent Conrad (D-ND).

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# As time changes, so should batteries

It's time to spring forward with Daylight Saving time on Sunday morning, but it's also important for everyone with battery operated smoke alarms to change the battery in them at this time as well.

The practice of making sure homes have a working smoke alarm can dramatically reduce the loss of life due to fire, said State Fire Marshal Jack Alexander. All Kansans need to adopt this life saving habit and to practice home fire drills to be certain everyone is familiar with the smoke alarm signal and to determine a safe and quick evacuation, he said.

The National Fire Protection Association survey found that 96 percent of the households had at least one smoke alarm. In one-quarter of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work. Households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms. Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. It is also important that smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years.

Here are some tips for installing and maintaining your smoke alarm:

- Choose a smoke alarm that bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas and for added safety, install smoke alarms in every room where people sleep.
- Have a qualified electrician install hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Install a new battery in all

smoke alarms at least once a year and install a new battery immediately if an alarm "chirps" to indicate a low battery.

• Replace smoke alarms that use extended-life, lithium batteries when the alarm "chirps" or fails to respond to periodic testing. The batteries in these units cannot be replaced.

• Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

• Test smoke alarms every month. Use the test button, or an approved smoke substitute, and clean the units, according to manufacturer's instructions. Do not use an open-flame device to test the alarm.

Special smoke alarms are made for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights. Vibrating devices may also help in some cases.

Some other fire safety tips are:

- Check flashlight batteries. Always keep a working flashlight near your bed, in the kitchen, basement, and family room. Not only will this help you signal for help in the event of a fire but can be used during other emergencies such as storms or power outages.

• Install fire extinguishers in or near your kitchen and know how to use it.

• Make sure your children know and understand fire safety. Children are at double the risk of dying in a home fire, because they often become scared and confused during fires. Show your children where smoke alarms are located and that they recognize the sound.

• Plan and practice your escapes routes. Identify at least two different escapes routes and practice them with the entire family.

OPENING SOON: APRIL 3

*Garden Gate Florals, Etc.*

Hours: Mon-Fri.: 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ruby Pflieger and Lynn Ward  
785-874-5125 or Toll Free 1-866-873-2252

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# Bulletin Board

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