



Jim Pfannenstiel shows off a quilt to bidders while Lance Kinderknecht conducts the auction at the St. Francis Ladies Society Annual Dinner and Bazaar Sunday.

-Telegram photo by Judy Sherard

Auction benefits Catholic parish

By Judy Sherard
jsherard@nwknansas.com
Organizers estimate more than 400 persons attended the St. Francis Ladies Society Annual Dinner and Bazaar Sunday in the Parish hall in Norton.

The bazaar started Saturday with the sale of fancy work items. Baked goods were offered for sale at the dinner Sunday. A dinner of turkey and dressing, roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn and rolls was served buffet style. Salads and desserts to complement the meal were donated by members.

Carry out orders also were available. Food preparation, all done by volunteers, begins with cooking the turkeys on Friday, said Carol

Otter, Ladies Society president. Volunteers show up on Saturday to peel potatoes, set up tables, decorate and work on all the other preparations for the event.

The variety of quilts auctioned after the meal included six large sized, three baby quilts and one crocheted afghan. The quilts are all donated by members of the church. Some are the products of an individual and others the work of many, usually worked on all year or longer, Otter said.

Members of the Catholic Youth Organization also held a raffle. The money raised is used for members of the group to attend the national conference. This year it will be in Indianapolis.

The Junior Catholic Youth Organization for junior high

students, sponsored games such as a fish pond for youngsters set up on stage.

Knights of Columbus members also helped with the event and sold Tootsie Rolls.

Otter said the final tally hasn't been done yet, and outstanding bills paid, but the auction went really well.

The event has been held for at least 40 years, Otter said. It's the largest fundraiser of the year for the Church and is the second Sunday in October.

It takes the cooperation of the whole Church, as well as assistance from some local businesses. The proceeds benefit the whole parish, she said.

Hugs will be missed

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with the biggest one the use of computers.

"Even the kindergarteners go to the computer lab. It's amazing what they can do."

The students change, too, as they move through the grades, but they still remember Goscha.

"I see them downtown, and they give me a hug and tell me they miss me."

He doesn't plan to let his ties to the children and the school come

unraveled. He will be available to substitute if his replacement needs him, he says.

And next year he expects to lead the way on International Walk to

School Day just as he has in the past.

After all, he will miss those hugs as much as the youngsters.

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Transportation Department requires city to move water lines

By **HARRIETT GILL**
hgill@nwkansas.com

The City of Norton received a plaque of appreciation from the United States Department of Commerce and the United States Census Bureau for assisting in the 2010 Census. Mayor Corns read the accompanying letter at the regular meeting of the Norton City Council on Oct. 6.

Brian Thompson of Mapes and Miller presented the 2009 audit report. He reported the City complied with all Kansas Statutes and no statutory violations or areas of non-compliance were found.

"The City audit showed a 'clean opinion' which if you look on the Kansas Guide, is the best or top for the state," said Thompson.

There being no discussion the audit was accepted by the council and Mapes and Miller were authorized to file the audit report with the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Mayor Corns reported that there are several positions that will be coming open on Nov. 30th on Norton City Boards and Committees. Tourism Committee, Housing Authority Board, Planning Commission, Library Board, Recreation Commission and Airport Board will have positions available. He asked that the positions be advertised in the local news media.

The mayor reported on the city sales tax receipts collected in August which totaled \$20,473.68 with a year to date sales tax receipts totaling \$321,008.27.

"It would look like we are finally catching up with last year's totals even though it has taken until August," said Corns

Karen Griffiths reported that the City is supposed to have a Board of Health. This Board includes a City Health Officer and two members of the City Council. She asked the Mayor to appoint two city council members to serve on this board and this term

would expire in April. Doctor Jeff McKinley is the City Health Officer. The Mayor did not make any appointments at the regular meeting.

There are two properties that Karen Griffith and the Code Inspector are working on and there should be a resolution for abatement at the next city council meeting.

Griffiths stated she was contacted by Tommy Finklea of Tommy's Trucks about whether the city would accept a settlement payment of \$1,500. She said he had previously agreed to pay a settlement of \$6,000 last year and never did. Trial is scheduled for Oct. 25.

Gabe Walz was introduced by Police Chief, Pat Morel. Walz is the city's newest police officer. He began employment on Sept. 20.

City Administrator, Rob Lawson, said a \$15,000 one-time grant has been received by the Norton Fire Department from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Lawson also reported that Vance Poage had submitted a letter announcing his retirement. His last day will be on Dec. 28. Poage has worked for the City since April of 1986.

The Public Works Department, Electrical Distribution crew and the Public Works Committee met with the Kansas Department of Transportation regarding a highway improvement project. The City will have to move the 10 inch water line that goes out toward New Age, a 4 inch water line on the north side of the road and relocate 10 power poles. This is going to be costly but the City will have to move them as they are on Kansas Department of Transportation right of way.

Lawson stated he had been contacted by a County Commissioner and he said that they are willing to go in on the cost to relocate the water line since there was originally a three-way split with the City, County and New Age on

the water line. Economic Director Scott Sproul is looking to see if there is any stimulus money.

Public Works committee also looked at the drainage on Warsaw Street by the hospital project. New drainage tubes were put in and a ditch was eliminated.

Lawson stated that was a 12 foot hole that posed a threat and a grate and concrete walls will be installed. The city will contribute to the cost of this change order.

The Finance Committee Chairman, Jeff Otter, reported that the committee met and had the semi-annual performance evaluation of City Administrator, Rob Lawson. The City Administrator's contract is automatically renewed unless written notice is given in advance and Otter stated the contract will automatically renew.

Otter reported that there is still not a supervisor for the inmate work crew.

The council went into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. There was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

A motion was made to go into a second Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel.

Council resumed and a motion was made to advertise for the position which will be coming open in the Water and Wastewater plant. This was approved by the council

A third Executive Session was taken for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

The Code of Conduct to govern the performance of its elected officials, employees or agents engaged in Community Development Block grant projects was approved by the Council.

The Fair Housing/Civil Rights Policy for the Community Development Block Grant project was approved.

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