

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By Betty Otter
Joining Raymond and Bonita Slipke and their children, Rachel, Landon and Raelynn for Thanksgiving were, Bonita's mother, Vicki and her husband, Glen Kendall, Phillipsburg; and her brother, Dustin and Crystal McClurg and family, Logan.

Russ and Marcia Aumiller hosted Thanksgiving dinner for their children, Jeremy and Missy Rumbach and girls, Lenora; Josh and Sarah Vahling and boys, Lenora.

The family of Marion and Marilyn Otter celebrated Thanksgiving with them. Those present were Frank and LeVonne Otter and family, Greg and Tammy and family, New Almelo; and Steve Otter, Wichita.

Jared and Stacey Scheetz and family spent Thanksgiving day in Hays with Stacy's cousin. Then Stacey and children Hailee and Braydon, spent several days with grandpa, Don Schuckman,

in La Crosse. Stacey's sister, Melissa and family enjoyed being at grandpa's house, also.

Family coming to spend some time at the home of Roger and JoAnn Long were their daughter, Roxie and Ed Schuster and family, Milford, Ohio. Joining them on Thanksgiving were their daughter, Joanie and Darin Winkel and girls. Coming to hunt deer the next week were their son-in-law and grandson, Jack and Joseph Cella, Denver, Colo.

Guests at the home of George and Vickie Gassmann for Thanksgiving were Jeremy and Brandi Gassmann and girls, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Alice and Wes James and girls, Ellis; Connie Gassmann and Lee Albers, Colby; Jackie and Chuck Wright, Lenora; Wallace and Wilma Wilson, Pomona; Doug and Susan Wilson, Salt Lake City, Utah; Sherry Sanders, Kelly and David, Amarillo, Texas;

Terri and Tanner Fischer, Ellis; and their friend, Barry and daughter.

Family coming to spend time at the home of Alfred and Betty Otter Thanksgiving week were Tina Ritter and children, Olathe; Paul and Sharon Otter and girls, Great Bend; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Jim Moss and family, Smith Center; Mark Otter and family, Ulysses; Ashley Otter and her fiance, Travis, Kearney, Neb.; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter and family, Salina. Thanksgiving evening the Otter family joined Rod and Cheryl Bates, Oakley; Art and Karen Bates, Edmond, Okla.; Chad and Amy Bates and family, Edmond, Okla.; Paula Bates, Dakota Dunes, S.D.; and her fiance, Clint Alexander, Sublette; Arnold and Gloria Bates, Grand Island, Neb.; Bertise and Gary Bruinekool, Lenora; and Renee and Kirk Persinger, Norton; at the Parish Hall in New Almelo.

Bonds

cheaper in 2018, because the Holcomb plant will be paid off by then. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Rob Lawson stated KMEA is doing away with its mutual aid program and so he talked to Prairie Land about them providing mutual aid instead. They will provide mutual aid for a fee. He also reported, the City tested the Load Tap Changer at Norton County Hospital and it was in good shape. One more substation will need to be tested at the swimming pool next spring. Lawson said the new Christmas decorations have been received and are being put up, and the materials are in to do the work on the storm sewer on Crane Street. Work is expected to begin after school is out. Lawson pointed out that the City has had a lot of water leaks lately.

The Council also carried a motion to have the Parks Department begin re-aligning the headstones in the cemetery and leveling the ground where the graves have settled.

Council member Roberta Ryan reported the Utility Committee met and discussed the water usage and sewer charge at the new ice plant.

Ryan also made a motion which was seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Resolution #13-2012, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for sewer service charges for the year beginning Jan. 1, 2013. The rates will not increase. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Council voted to adopt Resolution #14-2012, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for water

service charges for the year beginning Jan. 1, 2013 and Resolution #15-2012, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for refuse service charges for the year beginning Jan. 1, 2013. The rates will not increase.

The Council approved the Norton County Community Foundation's request to replace the sidewalk at 212 S. Kansas, with the City providing the labor and the property owner paying the cost of materials directly to the concrete provider.

Ron Briery said ideas for using the Hansen Foundation grant money will be discussed after the first of the year and stated, maybe some of it could be used to put something nice where the trees were removed in downtown.

Improvements

wise, he said, the county will only have an easement and may not be able to do all it needs to do in the future.

"We don't know what's going to happen on that end of town," he said.

Engineer Kenzil Lynn said that a lot of county roads are put on easements, where the county doesn't own the land.

"And that's a problem some times," Mr. Miller replied.

Mr. Miller also noted that the county had some drainage problems in the area.

Mr. Porter asked if his firm could get some preliminary plans going so that they know

what will be needed for the right-of-way and construction schedule.

Mr. Lynn said that the overlay work will be pretty simple but the concrete will be a bigger deal.

Commissioner Miller said that both the county landfill and the sale barn must be considered when planning any reconstruction of the intersection because traffic will have to be rerouted during the construction and the county doesn't want either disturbed any more than necessary.

Mrs. Applegate asked how long the intersection might be

under construction and was told about three to four weeks. She said that the county needs to check the alternate routes and make sure all the bridges are strong enough for the expected traffic.

"We just need to go take a ride," Commissioner Miller agreed.

Commissioner-elect Charles Posson suggested that the county might look at a shoo-fly around the construction area, also.

Mr. Porter also suggested that the county could do a one-lane road through the construction but that he noted tends to raise the costs.

Few and far between...



Birds are few and far between this pheasant season but Jesse Hudson of Pittsburg, Ks. was able to find one after two days of hunting. He cleans his bird at the cleaning station where he was staying at the Brooks Motel in Norton last Friday.
— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

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