

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By Betty Otter

On the afternoon of November 24, the New Almelo CYO and Jr. CYO, enjoyed a hayrack ride and roasted hot dogs.

Raymond and Bonita Slipke and family had an early Thanksgiving at the home of Raymond's sister, Linda and Ron Baumberger in Salina, on November 23. A baby shower was held for the Baumbergers' daughter, Heather, also that weekend. On Thanksgiving Day, coming to the home of Raymond and Bonita Slipke, Rachel, Landon and Raelynn were Vicki and Glen Kendall, Phillipsburg; Frank McClurg, Logan; Dustin McClurg and children, Logan.

Don Schuckman and friend, Brenda of La Crosse, enjoyed Thanksgiving with Jared and Stacey Scheetz and family.

Russ and Marcia Aumiller and grandson, Paicen Vahling took Thanksgiving dinner to the home of Russ' mother, Bernita Aumiller, Selden. She had just returned home after having surgery. Brenda and Dale Smith, Goodland, joined them.

Jeremy and Missy Rumback and family, spent Thanksgiving at the home of Ron and Paula Rumback, Oakley.

Family coming for Thanksgiving at the home of Marion and Marilyn Otter were Frank and Lavonne Otter, Josh and Kate Otter, Brandon Otter, El Paso, Texas; Gabrielle Otter, Hays; Greg and Tammy Otter, Alissa and Seth, and Steve Otter, Wichita.

Roger and JoAnn Long enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with Darin and Joanie Winkel, Bethney and Brooklyn.

Coming to the home of George and Vickie Gassmann for the Thanksgiving weekend were Frank Wilson, Rachel Wilson and friend, Rodney, Wylie, Texas; Jeremy Gassmann and girls, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Randy and Beth Gassmann and family, New Almelo; Alice and Wes James, and family, Ellis; Connie Gassmann and Lee Albers, Colby; Jackie and Chuck Wright, Lenora; Terri, Tanner and Tyler Fisher, Ellis.

Benjamin Moss, son of Cheyenne Moss, was baptized on Thanksgiving Day at Mass by Father Vincent Thu Laing. His godmother is Courtney Moss.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter for Thanksgiving and Ben's baptism were Paul and Sharon Ot-

ter and girls, Great Bend; Misty and Tyler Paul and boys, Bel-Aire; Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; Tom Otter, De Soto; Jolene and Jim Moss, and family, Smith Center; Cheyenne Moss and Benjamin and friend, David Sheldon, Smith Center; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter and Cury, Salina. On Thanksgiving evening they were joined at the Parish Hall by Rod and Cheryl Bates, Oakley; Jeff and Jerri Bates, and family, Beloit; Darren and Angie Bates and girls, Miltonvale; Dan and Tracy Bates and boys, Lincoln; Art and Karen Bates, Edmond, Okla.; Chad and Amy Bates, and family, Edmond, Okla.; Roberta and Gary Bruinekool, Renee and Kirk Persinger, Norton; Arnold and Gloria Bates, Grand Island, Neb.; Tim and Misty Uhrich, and girls, Cairo, Neb.; Jade and Zaylee Walkemeyer, Kearney, Neb.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, Wes and Alice James and family attended the ninth birthday party for Betty James, Wes' grandmother that was held in Hoxie. Tom and Gayle James, Lenora also attended his mother's celebration.

A place to call home...



On Thursday evening, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a special event, the first-ever "Chamber After Hours," along with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. (Pictured) Susan Nebel, Director of Supervised Services, discussed with Rose Garrison the floor plan for a new group living arrangement called "Our Place." It's a six-bedroom renovated group home for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Obamacare risks consumer privacy

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt this week called on the Obama administration to step up consumer privacy protections as it implements the Affordable Care Act.

"I'm concerned that the well-publicized shortcomings in the new health exchange website are just the tip of the iceberg," Schmidt said.

Schmidt and nine other state attorneys general sent a letter this week to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius raising concerns about consumer protections under the

new law. In addition to expressing general concerns about data security, the attorneys general focused on the lack of background checks or other controls to ensure the integrity of the people who become "navigators." The navigators assist consumers in signing up for coverage.

Because the navigators have access to consumers' personal information, the lack of screening creates a risk of identity theft or other privacy violations.

"The federal standards for navigators provide inadequate

consumer protections to prevent the stealing of personal information," the attorneys general wrote.

In August, before the October 1 implementation deadline for the new law, the attorneys general sent a previous letter to Secretary Sebelius raising concerns about the lack of background checks on navigators and the risk that consumer privacy could be at risk. They have not received a response to that previous letter.

This week, the Secretary testified before a United States Sen-

ate committee that it is possible for people with a felony conviction to become navigators with access to consumers' personal information.

In addition to Schmidt, the letter was signed by the attorneys general from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and West Virginia. Copies of the August letter and yesterday's letter are available at <http://1.usa.gov/1bdMv2g> and <http://1.usa.gov/1hmUZNg>.

Lending rates for December 2013 released

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) today announced interest rates for December 2013. The CCC borrowing rate-based charge for December 2013 is 0.125 percent, unchanged from 0.125 percent in November 2013.

The interest rate for commodity and marketing assistance loans disbursed during Decem-

ber 2013 is 1.125 percent, unchanged from 1.125 percent in November 2013.

Interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans approved for December 2013 are as follows, 2.000 percent with seven-year loan terms, unchanged from 2.000 percent in November 2013; 2.625 percent with 10-year loan terms, unchanged from 2.625 percent in Novem-

ber 2013 and; 2.875 percent with 12-year loan terms, unchanged from 2.875 percent in November 2013. The interest rate for 15-year Sugar Storage Facility Loans for December 2013 is 3.125 percent, unchanged from 3.125 percent in November 2013.

The maximum discount rate applicable for December 2013 for the Tobacco Transition Pay-

ment Program is 5 percent, unchanged from November 2013. This is based on the 3.250 percent prime rate plus 2 percent, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Further program information is available from USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Financial Management Division at 202-772-6041.

State Park announces their hours and prices

Prairie Dog State Park announces the following dates for 2014 sales:

December 9 - The office opened at 7 a.m. to process long-term and extended stay (14-28 days) permits on a first come first served basis. Payment must be made at the time of the transaction. No reservations of less than 14 days will be processed through the office at this time.

December 16 - All 2014 licenses and permits go on sale through vendors, online and the park office. This includes hunting/fishing licenses, annual camp and vehicle permits, etc. 2014 licenses purchased are valid for the remainder of 2013.

December 20 - The online camping reservation system, www.reserveamerica.com, will open to the public at noon. This will be the first opportunity to make reservations of less than 14 days for the 2014 camping season. Please remember that cabin reservations can be made 364 days in advance through the same web site.

For more information, please contact the park office at 877-2953.

Norton County Arts Council

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST

Your Favorite Display and Address:

List of Entry Addresses can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce or the Norton Telegram

BALLOTS DUE BY NOON DECEMBER 14
AT THE NORTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Introducing the newly redesigned, 30th anniversary...

THIRTY 30 SERIES

HYDRABED





from **TRIPLE C** INC

Winchells Inc.

Phillipsburg, Kansas (785) 543-2118

Lots of Great Prizes Donated by Businesses Listed Below!!

CHRISTMAS COLORING Contest

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY WITH COLOR!








The Norton Telegram and area Businesses are Sponsoring a Christmas Coloring Contest

Stop by the Norton Telegram or the Almena Market in Almena and pick up one of the six designs. Return the colored picture to The Norton Telegram or the Almena Market no later than Tuesday, December 17. The pictures will be displayed in the lobby of The Norton Telegram for judging on Thursday, December 19.

Prizes have been donated by the following businesses:

Dairy Queen: Treat Tokens to all Entrants; Norton Animal Health Center: \$20.00; First Security Bank and Trust Co.: \$25.00 in Gold Coins; End Zone: Ribbons; Norton Theatre: Movie Tickets; Pizza Hut: Personal Pan Pizzas; Norton Sports Center; Here's Your Sign; United Northwest Federal Credit Union; The Norton Telegram.