

Tax foreclosure property sale brings cash to county coffers

By VERONICA MONIER

The tax foreclosure sale that was held by Norton County on Feb. 13 did better than in previous years. Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson said this year's sale raised a lot more money than the last one, which was held three years ago. The lots sold for anywhere from \$5 to \$3,000.

Out of the 28 lots that were up for sale to pay for delinquent real estate taxes, 11 went up for sale at the auction and 10 sold. County Attorney Doug Sebelius said the eleventh lot was being held, because the bidder has unpaid real estate taxes.

If the taxes are paid, the sale will probably be good, he said. If they aren't paid, the county may have to sell it again.

Norton County Treasurer Cindy Linner said the money from the sale will go to pay off the delinquent taxes.

The 11 properties were:

- Tract 1, Norton area, owned by Robert D. and Charlanda S. Arehart, Osawatomie, sold to Robert D. Mordecai II and

Cynthia S. Mordecai, Norton, for \$500.

- Tract 2, Almena area (together with all of the furnishings, furniture and equipment of the building and business known as the Almena Recreation Center), owned by Evelyn Baird in care of Ron Waggoner, Norton, sold to John C. Arford, Jr. and Ada Arford, for \$3,000.

- Tract 6, Clayton area, owned by Jerry L. and Cheri L. Grewell, Clayton, sold to Shannon M. Brooks, Clayton, for \$1,700.

- Tract 13; Norton area, owned by Bobby Leonhart in care of Larry Stutz, Pawhuska, Okla., sold to William J. and/or Amy L. Vacura, Norton, for \$50.

- Tract 14, Lenora area, owned by Ralph Sharpley, Jr., Hoxie, sold to Polish Traders L.L.C., Willow Springs, Mo., for \$5.

- Tract 15, Lenora area; owned by Ralph Sharpley, Jr., Hoxie, sold to The Kansas Property Trust 0213, Longmont, Colo., for \$120.

- Tract 16, Norton area, owned by Nora B. Michener, Norton and John E. Michener, sold to Gerald

U. Coffman, Lenora, for \$2,200.

- Tract 18, Oronoque area, owned by Oronoque Community, Inc., Norton, interested party Oronoque Christian Church, sold to Dan Hazlett, Norton, for \$50, the property is being held in suspense until delinquent real estate taxes have been paid.

- Tract 19, Norton area, owned by John R. Rojas, Norton, lienholder ABA Recovery Service, and First Security Bank and Trust, sold to The Kansas Property Trust 0213, Longmont, Colo., for \$1,000.

- Tract 24, Lenora area, owned by Bertie Thompson, Lenora, sold to Edwin Johnson, Lenora, for \$2,000.

- Tract 26, Clayton area, owned by Melisa J. Wolfe, Northrop, Minn., and Jon S. Smith, Clayton, sold to Polish Traders LLC., Willow Springs, Mo., for \$1,500.

The previous owners of the lots in the tax foreclosure sale had until the hour of the sale to pay the taxes, which were delinquent for at least three years.



Danielle Richard, a fifth grader from Lenora Elementary School, pondered her word during the Norton County Spelling Bee held last Tuesday in Almena. Danielle was eliminated at the end of the second round when she left out a "p" in "peppermint".

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Something for nothing always gets 'em

By LIZA DEINES

In the height of the dust bowl of the 1930s, when ready cash was rare, clever merchandisers discovered that if they offered a "premium" with their product, their sales increased.

My grandpa used to say, "Give a customer something for nothing and they'll always come back for more."

My brother and sister remember the joy of splitting a peppermint stick that used to come packed in the center of the coffee jar.

Until the advent of powdered laundry soap, most housewives made lye soap each spring using rendered grease from the butchering, ashes saved from the coal stoves, and lye. These ingredients were all boiled in a huge kettle outdoors and molded into blocks which were then whittled into the laundry tubs.

While it was a messy and tiresome project many of the thrifty housewives hesitated to spend money for a product they could make themselves. Proctor and Gamble came up with the idea of packing a towel in each box of powdered soap. Sales took off and the idea of the premium was born.

Swansdown cake flour was another luxury item that offered premiums to boost sales. Their special refined flour made a wonderful

Collector
Chat
Liza Deines



difference in homemade cakes but housewives balked at the extra pennies until a tin measuring cup marked with the Swansdown logo was included in the box.

That worked so well, they tried a new idea — you could send in several boxtops with a small amount of money for an even nicer premium. What better than a colored glass cake plate?

At auctions, in shops and browsing flea markets today you can often find these beautiful pink or green depression glass cake plates. The sunflower design was exclusive to Swansdown.

Other items offered for boxtops were angel food cake pans and occasionally you will find layer cake pans with the Swansdown logo.

My mama was the thriftiest of housewives, but even she succumbed to the temptation of the "I got it with boxtops" craze. Still today, I have a small household hammer that she got from Arm and Hammer Baking Soda and an ornate sugar shell that she obtained for 20 boxtops and a dime from a

long-forgotten product.

Of course almost every household had a full complement of "oatmeal" glass that came packed in oats. Anchor Hocking put out measuring cups with advertising, too, but they were so well used and so often washed that it's a happy day when you find one with readable print still remaining.

And how many of those of us who grew up in depression days wore chicken feed sack dresses to school? A new shipment of chicken feed was always an exciting time.

We all dashed down to the warehouse hoping for a pretty new print to make a dress or perhaps an apron or kitchen curtains. Mama was a true artist with ric rac, piping and reused buttons. She made those feed sack creations look great.

There are not many premiums today although there are still box top offers and the toys that come in breakfast cereals. More pennies, quarters and dimes to spare and "something for nothing" is not quite the thrill it used to be. But finding and collecting those old premiums and the memories they bring back still holds the thrill for me.

MY MAMA SAID: Be one of God's marigolds — bloom wherever he plants you.

Inattention, deer cause accidents

On Feb. 13, a backing accident occurred in the Mil-Tech parking lot when Christina T. Files, 20, Norton, backed a 2002 Dodge Ram and didn't see a 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier parked behind and to the left of her vehicle. The Ram struck the Cavalier and caused over \$500 in property damages. No injuries occurred.

On Feb. 14 the Norton County Sheriff's department responded when an eastbound 1988 Pontiac struck a deer on K-383. The animal bounded from the north ditch, and driver Janelle M. Fritz, 16, Almena, was unable to avoid it. No injuries occurred. Over \$500 in damages to the Pontiac were reported.

Another deer accident occurred on Feb. 17. Rex Mulder, 31, Logan, was driving a 2001 Dodge pickup west on K-9 when a deer came out of the south ditch. Mulder was unable to avoid hitting the animal, which caused over \$500 in damages to the Dodge. No injuries occurred.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING
The Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas invites the public to Kansas Baseline Training on March 9 and 10, at the Norton Library Community Room.

Baseline is a program created to increase the awareness of the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on the individual, the family and the community. Baseline is a tool that assists communities in prevention efforts. The two days training is a fun and learning experience for all who participate. Manuals will be available at no charge to you for your ease in understanding the training concepts. (12 CEU's are available). The training will begin on Tuesday, March 9 and run Wednesday, March 10. Registration will take place at 8:30 a.m. with the training beginning at 9 a.m. and dismissing at 3:30 p.m. Pre-Registration is required since a maximum of 24 participants is allowed, deadline for pre-registration is March 7. There is no fee for the training, snacks and lunch will be provided. This training will be sponsored by the Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs and Juvenile Justice Authority.

For more information or to pre-register please contact the Regional Prevention Center at 785-625-5521 or 1-800-757-2180.

Speller makes it two in a row

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Stanton Nelson, a seventh grader from Northern Valley Junior High School, held off the competition to sweep the Norton County Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

Last Tuesday, 15 students, three each from Lenora Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton Junior High, Northern Valley Elementary and Northern Valley Junior High, met in the Northern Valley High School auditorium for the annual county spelling bee, sponsored by the schools and *The Norton Telegram*.

Stanton, son of Terry and Sara Nelson of Long Island, won first place by spelling "covetous", then "mahogany."

He will represent Norton County in the All-Kansas Spelling

Bee on Sunday, March 28, in Topeka at the Garvey Fine Arts Center at Washburn University.

Last year he placed in the top 20, finishing 18th in the state. Stanton captured the first place plaque provided by *The Telegram*.

Second place went to Hannah Ponstein, an eighth grader from Northern Valley Junior High. She is the daughter of Harlan and Beth Ponstein of Long Island. She was awarded the second place plaque.

Kyle Mindrup, son of Bernie and Jane Mindrup, Norton, took home the third place plaque. He is a seventh grader from Norton Junior High school who erred on "perjury".

Next in order were Alison Cole, sixth grade, Northern Valley; Jared Cox, eighth grade, Norton Junior High; Tyler Montgomery,

fourth grade, Northern Valley; Bryttani Porter, eighth grade, Norton Junior High; Clinton York, fourth grade, Lenora; Jordan Wahlmeier, fourth grade, Eisenhower Elementary;

Kelsey Kinderknecht, eighth grade, Northern Valley; Katie Grose, fifth grade, Eisenhower Elementary; Audrianna York, fifth grade, Lenora; Ashley Stewart, sixth grade, Eisenhower Elementary;

Danielle Richard, fifth grade, Lenora; and Staci Dole, fifth grade, Northern Valley.

Judges for this year's contest were Mike Korte of Lenora, Mirla Coleman of Norton and Jill Stoelting of Northern Valley.

Jim Springer, Long Island, was the moderator/pronouncer.



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THE NORTON TELEGRAM
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Legislative Townhall Meeting with
Sen. Stan Clark & Rep. John Faber
Attorney General Phill Kline
Saturday, March 6, 2004

3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Norton — Town & Country Kitchen
5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Almena — Senior Center

Pd by Clark for Senate, Jim Robben, Treasurer & Faber for House, Ed Carson, Treasurer