Women win $1,500 for Christmas

Several area churches will offer Christmas Eve services Friday evening.

Edmond United Methodist will have Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. while Norton First United Methodist Church will have its services at 7 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Church of New Alamo will have Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m., while St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Norton, will have two Christmas Eve Masses at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. St. Francis will also have Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m.

Reformer Evangelical Lutheran Church will have a children’s Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. Norton Christian Church plans its 6:30 p.m. candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will begin its Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. with a pre-service caroling, the Christmas Cantata starts at 7 p.m. and an 11 p.m. candlelight service will end the evening.

Chamber of Commerce to give Christmas dinner

If you can’t be with family on Christmas Day, you are invited to attend the annual Christmas Dinner hosted by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce. The dinner will be served at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church.

A full holiday menu of turkey, dressing, and a variety of vegetables, rolls and butter will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to complete the meal. There is no charge but donations will be accepted. Volunteers are needed to help with the meal preparation, serving and cleanup. If you are interested in helping, call Karla Reed at the Chamber, 877-2851.

Reason for the season seen in area churches

With an extended holiday weekend, lots of businesses will have different hours. Most financial institutions, including First Security Bank and Trust, First State Bank, the Bank, Atwood National Bank and United Northeast Federal Credit Union will close at noon on Friday. Christmas Eve Security Assured and Commercial will be closed all day.

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It’s not official, but Miltech, a Norton business, is well on its way to abetting a ten-year tax abatement. Tax abatements are one of the economic development tools counties and cities use to encourage growth of new and existing industry. Norton County Commissioner Dean Kruse said. The tax abatements will last for 10 years, if passed by the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals said County Commissioner John Miller.

The tax abatement is only on new personal property and expansions, and doesn’t cover anything that’s been tax exempt before. The abatements are also subject to yearly review, to make sure all of the criteria are being met.

He said the commissioners make a recommendation on whether or not to give the abatements, but it’s the state board’s decision.

Norton County Appraiser Alan Hult said the expected value of the personal property and future real estate expansion that Miltech is asking for tax abatements on is to be about $480,000, which would, without the abatements, be about $61,000 in taxes over the next 10 years.

He said they’re guessing that around 12 new employees will be hired in that time.

He said the proposed abatements are still being reviewed by the state board, but the board would let them know when a decision was made.

Since the business will be expanding and adding new employees, any taxes the county pays in personal property and real estate will be made up by taxes paid by the new employees.

Business should get tax assistance

It’s going to be tough to find a downtown Norton County restaurant open on Christmas. The Beacon Cafe and Barbecue Barn will be closed both Friday and Saturday. The Station in Almena will be closed at noon Friday. K & S Cafe in Norton, and The County Line Cafe, Norton are open.

Adventures in Eating and Pure Prime will both close at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve and The Cardinal Bar and Grill, Norton, are open. The Christmas Eve, followed by Town and Country, Norton, and The County Line Cafe, Norton, are open at 3 a.m.

Winners plan to go shopping

She said she probably won’t go to any store on Christmas. “I’m just going to have to think about it,” she said.

The Christmas on Us participants won $2,000.

For the four weeks preceding the big giveaway ticket numbers appeared in random ads in a special Christmas on Us section of the paper on Tuesday. Those holding the matching numbers had Friday of that week to claim one of 10 $50 instant prizes.

By Saturday, there were no more $50 instant winners left after Tim Kelly claimed ticket No. 212735, which came from Norton Shop and Save and was held in the name of Quinns. Mr. Kelly said he was going to buy groceries for Christmas dinner with his winnings.

There were actually three numbers in last Tuesday’s paper, but only the first person to claim the prize got the money. Unclaimed were No. 183,452, which came from Moffet Drug and was hidden in the back of the Reader, ad No. 279,320, which came from Dairy Queen and could be found hidden inside the ad for Town and Country.

The other nine $50 instant winners have been: Ann Hazlett, Angie Chisholm, Ward Foley, Paul Lueschen, Jan Martin, Mary Worcester, Cathryn Hanson and Cathy Holste.

The $2,000 in the contest must be spent at participating Norton County businesses. Money spent initially at the participating businesses during the promotion is reimbursed to the business over half a million dollars.

The participating businesses were Felton’s Ace Building Center, CompuPro Inc, First State Bank, Kellie’s, Moffet Drug, Nex-Tech, Norton Flowers and Gifts, Norton Shop and Save, Walter Motor, The Sewing Box, Countryside Vets, Twonnd Country Kitchen, Quinns’ Jamboree Foods, Dairy Queen and Hot Shots.

A special thanks to these sponsors . . .

Felon’s Ace Building Center
Nex-Tech
Felon’s Ace Building Center
Computer Pro Inc.
First State Bank, member FDIC
Norton Flowers and Gifts
Dairy Queen
Norton Shop and Save
Kellie’s
Walter Motor
Moffet Drug
Hot Shots
The Sewing Box

Time to renew

U, X, Y, Z tags

The deadline to renew automobile, pickup, motorcycle, or motorbike tags for those whose names start with “U,” “X,” “Y,” or “Z” is 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30.

The computers in the treasurer’s office will shut down at 11:30 a.m., so the staff can balance the books. The office will be closed Friday, Dec. 31.

All vehicles need proof of insurance. DVINevicence and CDL renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the treasurer’s office. On Dec. 30, the renewals will shut off at 11 a.m.

Happy 50th Birthday, Grandpa!

Love, Hannah and Allison

$50 Instant Winners

Tim Kelly
Ann Hazlett
Cindy McKenna
Annie Chisholm
Ward Foley
Paul Lueschen
Jan Martin
Mary Worcester
Cathryn Hanson
Cathy Holste

$1,000 Winner

Karen VanSkike

$500 Winner

Beverly Kindler

$50 Instant Winners

Paul Lueschen
Jan Martin
Mary Worcester

Congratulations on US Winners!