



Residents of the Andbe Home entertained guests with an exercise routine called "Ageless Aerobic Arena". In addition to the scarves pictured, they also used paper plates for part of their routine. — Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

Residents celebrate with fall festival

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Monday evening friends and families celebrated the annual Fall Festival with residents of the Norton Andbe Home. The dietary staff prepared homemade chicken and noodle and chili soups along with apple pie and ice cream for dessert.

The evening included a program by the residents called, "Ageless Aerobic Arena". Part of the program featured colorful scarves which the residents moved in a choreographed routine. Another part included paper plates. The audience was invited to participate in another routine called, "Lonesome Trail".

Darlene McEwen, Resident Resource Coordinator, explained to the guests that the routines are part of the residents regular exercise program held on Tuesdays.



Andbe Home administrator Kent Blake put a "dollop" of ice cream on slices of apple pie at Monday evening's Fall Festival at the home. Carrying the serving tray was dietary staff person JoAnn Philippi. — Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

She said the routines take half an hour to perform and encourage movement.

Following the program, a drawing was held for an Irish Chain quilt made by the residents. Don McMullen was the winner. Gar-

ret Kasl, Topeka, won an afghan made by Pauline Goeken and quilted pot holders were won by Mary Ann Hager.

Proceeds from the evening went to the activity fund at the Andbe Home.

County reviews revitalization plan

By VERONICA MONIER
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Norton County is looking at a tax rebate program.

Diane Becker, Norton County Economic Development director, said the Norton County Commission is looking at the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, which is a property tax rebate program. The commission is planning a public hearing on the plan at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 13 in the commission room at the courthouse to listen to public comment.

After that, they will look at passing the plan in the county.

Ms. Becker said that if passed, people who apply for the plan have the opportunity to get a rebate on a portion of their property taxes. The rebate covers new construction or improvements to existing property over \$10,000.

It's important to note, she said, that it is not \$10,000 worth of construction costs, but rather \$10,000 of increased property value, which is determined by the county appraiser.

Residential property is capped

at \$50,000 and commercial, agriculture, recreational and industrial property are capped at \$250,000.

The rebates are done on a sliding scale for a 10 year period, she said. People meeting the requirements would get a 100 percent rebate on the added value in the first year and a 10 percent rebate in the tenth year. It decreases by 10 percent each year.

For example, she said, in a Norton residential area, taxes on \$10,000 would be approximately \$185 and taxes on \$50,000 would be about \$925. On commercial property, taxes on \$10,000 would be about \$400 and on \$250,000 would be approximately \$10,040. So, for a \$10,000 increase in a residential property value, a rebate in the first year would be about \$185.

The way the rebate works is people will pay their property taxes and then receive a rebate check the following June.

In order for the plan to be enacted in Norton County, it has to be passed by the commission. And then all the taxing entities

in the county have to agree to participate, which includes all school boards, cemetery boards, library boards, townships, and fire districts.

If they don't agree but the commission passes the plan, it will still be in effect, but the rebate will be smaller.

"We're really hoping everyone will see the good in this," Ms. Becker said. "In Kansas, there are 53 counties who have some form of the plan. We've thoroughly researched to make sure we have the best possible plan here."

The goal of the plan, which was originally created in 1994, is to increase the tax base in the long-term, she said.

"I think it's going to be great for the county," she said. "It provides an incentive for expansion and revitalization of the entire county."

For more information, people can view the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in its entirety at www.discoverNorton.com or they can call Ms. Becker at the economic development office at (785) 874-4816.

Food to be distributed

The Norton County Senior Citizens, Inc. will distribute government surplus food next week. Food available at this time includes: corn flakes, apple juice, vegetable soup, dried cherries, grape juice and peanut butter.

Distribution will take place from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Lenora Senior Center; from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, at both the Norton Senior Center and the Almena Senior Center; and from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Clayton Library.

For more details call Ramona Pabian at 785-877-5352.

Students, inmates show support for God's Pantry

By VERONICA MONIER
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God's Pantry has been busy this year.

The Pantry is a service provided by volunteers from the Trinity Episcopal Church and the community-at-large. Community members donate food and money to the Pantry, which is run by church volunteers, to help people who are in need of a little extra food.

Elaine Mann, a volunteer with God's Pantry, said so far this year, they've served 177 people and still have the holidays to get through. Last year, for the whole year, they served 193.

The Pantry, she said, is for emergencies and so people are usually allowed to come in and get food three times in a six-month time frame. But, she said, sometimes there is just problem after problem and, in situations like that, they will make exceptions.

So far this year, she said they have spent \$10,400, which doesn't include the food given to them. Last year, they spent a total of \$9,400.

"Usage is up, but cost of groceries is up as well," she said. "Connie Johnson, who does our shopping for us, does a great job finding bargains and sales. She really makes the money stretch."

Mrs. Mann said they used to really worry about money and

food. But, she said, as soon as the shelves are empty, someone brings in some food and when they need money to buy food, someone brings that in, too.

"Connie (Johnson) recently mentioned to me that we're getting low again and needed to put out a plea for help," she said. "At the same time, the Northern Valley students gave us the proceeds from a dance they had. Also, a letter was sent to me from an inmate at Norton Correctional Facility, who sent us a check for \$25. That came out of his personal account, which took a long time for him to earn."

She said these are two segments of the population people tend to look down on for causing problems. But, they stepped up and

donated to help people in need.

"We really appreciate their help," she said. "And now with this thing you guys are doing, we're really blessed."

Mrs. Mann was referring to the first ever Christmas Cookie Contest *The Telegram* is holding. More information about the contest will be in the Friday, Nov. 9 edition of the paper.

God's Pantry accepts donations of canned and non-perishable food items and cash donations to buy food. They do occasionally accept perishable items as well. The Pantry is open every Sunday at 3 p.m. and stays open as long as people keep coming. They also will make emergency appointments, if someone needs food before Sunday.

Mrs. Mann said they usually average between four or five people a week, but have gotten more than that before.

People in need of an emergency appointment can call Mrs. Mann at (785) 877-2019 or Mrs. Johnson at (785) 877-2039.

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