

# 'Oh, look at this!'



Kaytie Henrickson (right) who is "almost 9 years old," and her sister, Rebekah Henrickson, age 3, looked at the displays of Santas at the Norton Public Library. See the story of the new library exhibits on page 8.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Oil leases keeping office busy in Decatur County

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Decatur County register of deeds office has worked 400 more documents so far this year, compared to this time last year, mostly because of oil leases being extended.

A lot of those were three-year leases, said Register Judy Gaumer. Those were signed for the first time in 2005, so the documents are now being renewed.

Probably about 70 to 75 percent of the documents done in the office on the first floor of the courthouse, said Mrs. Gaumer, are related to oil, and that has been true since early in 2005, when an oil boom in the county really took off.

With new technology, she said, exploration companies have new ways of being able to tell where the oil might be.

There was oil activity in the county in the past, she said, but with the improved technology, it's increased.

Of course, the price of oil has gone to record highs, so drilling has become a good investment again and people are looking here for oil again.

Although the leases have to be filed in the register's office, said Mrs. Gaumer, companies don't

have to say how much the lease rate is per acre.

Just in October, she said, 41 lease extensions have been filed in the county.

Mrs. Gaumer said the deeds office doesn't have any information about how much oil has actually been produced.

She said she does have the new affidavits of production on file. They must be filed when a well goes into production.

In 2003 and 2004, she said, there weren't any filed. In 2005, though, there were three, 2006 there were 10, in 2007 10, and so far in 2008 four.

The process starts with the oil company leasing drilling rights for the land from either the landowner or the owner of severed mineral rights.

A lot of those leases, she said, were done three years ago, when the oil companies really became interested in Decatur County.

Most of those original leases were for three years, she said. Many of those are now being extended for three years, although some are for two and some for five.

Not all leases, she added, are extended. Some are dropped.

Mrs. Gaumer said she isn't

sure where oil companies get the information on where the oil is, although there are companies that come in and do seismograph testing. Those companies sell the research to the exploration companies, she said.

The oil companies buy the information and come up with a likely place to drill. Before that is done, the companies find investors to help pay the cost of drilling a well. Just like with all investments, there is risk, said Mrs. Gaumer. Those investors basically get a part of the oil production, if there is any. If there is none, they can lose all their money.

Landowners who are on the lease, she said, normally get one-eighth of the gross proceeds from a well each year.

When a company hits oil, she said, they file an affidavit of production in the her office. That affidavit gives the legal description of where the well is located.

Some of the companies that have worked in the county include Murfin Drilling Inc. from Wichita, and Great Plains Energy Inc. out of Wahoo, Neb..

Both are drilling contractors. J. Fred Hambright Inc. and McCoy Petroleum Corp. have been active as leasing agents.

## Plans begin for Nov. 11 Veterans Day Parade

By **BRANDY LEROUX**  
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Bands, church floats, 4-H Floats, Scouts, and a variety of other groups will be in the Norton Veteran's Day Parade on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m.

"Weather holding up, it should be a great parade this year," said Jake Durham, coordinator for the parade. "I try to get everything in town I can."

The Norton Community High School and Junior High Marching Bands, will be performing, as well as the Northern Valley High School and Junior High Marching Bands and the Logan High School Marching Band.

There will be antique cars and trucks, and fraternal and social organizations.

Line-up for parade entries will begin shortly after noon at the East Campus parking lot. Marching veterans need to meet at the Norton Christian Church parking lot. Veterans who are unable to walk in the parade may ride in vehicles.

"I'd like to give a special thanks to Richard and Marsha Wilfong for helping organize the parade," said Mr. Durham.

Anyone who wants to be in the parade can enter anytime, to include during the line-up. Mr. Durham said late entries are encouraged.

There is one special request Mr. Durham has for those enjoying the parade — "Please don't park on State Street, from the library to Washington Street."

## Early freeze may hurt crop yields

Normally a hard freeze in late October or early November in Kansas comes too late to hurt row crop yields. But this year, a significant acreage of grain sorghum and soybeans may not have reached maturity at the time of the first hard freeze, said Kraig Roozeboom, Kansas State University Research and Extension crop production specialist.

A smaller proportion of the corn acreage also may be susceptible to yield losses from the hard freeze, Roozeboom added.

"This is due to a combination of late planting and relatively cool summer and fall temperatures," he said. The potential for yield loss on immature crops is different for grain sorghum, corn, soybeans, and sunflowers. He explained some of the differences:

- Grain sorghum — Sorghum grain weight is not reduced by temperatures of 32 degrees F. However, as the air temperatures fall below freezing, sorghum yields may be reduced, depending on the stage of grain development at the time of the freeze. Maximum damage occurs when plants are exposed for two hours or more to a temperature of 28 degrees or lower; damage is less severe if plants are exposed for less than two hours.

At the soft dough stage of grain sorghum, the estimated yield loss from freeze injury is 38 to 52 percent. At the hard dough stage, yields may be reduced from two to 27 percent, depending on how

far along the grain development is. By the time the grain is physiologically mature, a freeze causes no yield loss to grain sorghum.

- Corn — Corn leaves are not seriously damaged at temperatures near 32 degrees. Damage to corn leaves begins to occur at temperatures below 29 degrees. An extremely hard freeze, 28 degrees or lower, can result in damage to the ear shank. Ear shank damage prevents the plant from moving any stored sugars into the developing grain.

At the dough stage of corn, the estimated yield loss from freeze injury is 35 percent if there is only leaf damage; and 58 percent if the ear shank is also damaged. At the full dent stage, damage to leaves will cause an estimated 11 to 26 percent yield loss, while damage to the ear shanks will cause about

22 to 45 percent yield loss. By the time corn is in late dent, freeze damage to leaves can cause an estimated zero to six percent yield loss; and ear shank damage may result in one to 12 percent yield loss. If the corn grain is physiologically mature, a hard freeze will not directly reduce grain yields.

- Soybeans — Soybean leaves are not damaged until air temperatures reach 26 degrees. If the leaves are damaged close to the stem, then the stage of grain development will determine the amount of yield loss.

Gift idea:  
Telegram!

## Strevey: comments on carnival bill

(Continued from Page 1)  
the Hunger Task Force for the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Strevey said he and Mr. Faber have had a chance to talk about the new state law which would force home-owned carnivals to carry more insurance, have their rides inspected and all of the workers trained and certified.

The law slipped in through the process at the end of the session, said Mr. Strevey, but it could spell the end of home-owned carnivals throughout the state. That resonates a lot in this district, he said, because there are several home-owned carnivals, although they are not common throughout the state.

He said he knows that Mr. Faber and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer are working to pre-file a bill so it can be brought up at the beginning of the session to change the law back to how it was. This is a pretty steep hurdle to overcome, said Mr. Strevey.

He added that he knows his opponent voted against the bill, but surely he realized what a disaster it would be in this part of the state.

He should have raised the roof, said Mr. Strevey.

Mr. Strevey said he's lived in Kansas all his life and is now happy to see some kind of movement towards wind energy. There are finally some government subsidies to help with wind development, he said. It's surprising to hear about so many foreign countries developing wind energy and manufacturing the parts.

For wind energy to be fully developed, said Mr. Strevey, we need more transmission lines, especially to move that power into Colorado. This is where government can help out, he said, giving tax breaks and other incentives to develop those lines.

For so long, he said, those in power have borrowed money and cut the taxes to keep spending down. That plan is finally reaching a point where it is falling apart, he said. What would we do if the government could no longer borrow money? The government needs to get back to the 'pay as you go', which will be tough, especially in a falling economy.

The opportunity to pay down debt has been there in the past, said

Mr. Strevey, but instead of current officials taking that opportunity, they have borrowed more and cut taxes.

That philosophy just isn't going to work any longer, said Mr. Strevey. Hopefully, people realize that it's time for a change.

Another thing to look at, he said, is that the courts have forced the government to spend a significant amount of money on education. The courts moved into a legislative role and have put the legislators into a bad spot, he said, because it will be hard to pay that with falling revenue.

The lawmakers need the freedom to make laws and decide the budget without the judicial branch stepping in.

"People should vote for me if they want to change what's happening in Topeka," said Mr. Strevey. "John has been part of the Republican leadership and has worked hard, but also has been part of the leadership that has brought us into these terrible times.

"If voters want to change that, they need to change who they send to Topeka."

## Faber: against tough carnival law

(Continued from Page 1)  
about a new bill which will exempt home-owned carnivals. Mr. Faber said he will be a co-signer on the bill, though since he's in a race, he can't ask for a bill now.

The proposed bill will exempt home-owned carnivals from the law passed last year, he said, although they would still have some of kind of inspection. One person in each community, a local person, he said, could be trained and certified to inspect the rides.

There are still some questions and details to iron out on the proposed bill, he said, but it's in the works.

Mr. Faber said he's always supported development wind energy

and will continue to do so. There are already transmission lines coming into this area, he said. On the state level, he said, he's been in favor of exempting those from property taxes. Of course, the federal government has also given wind energy a break. Wind energy, said Mr. Faber, is actually expensive power, but with the tax breaks it's workable.

Over the years, he said, he has also worked on water issues, which are important in his arid district.

The budget, said Mr. Faber, will be really tight this year, probably the tightest since he's been in office. Even with concerns about the economy, he said, he is fairly

optimistic that we can solve most of the state's problems.

Another project coming up, said Mr. Faber, is a new state transportation plan. If we can pay as we go on that, he said, it should come out OK.

Mr. Faber serves as the chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, which deals with farming, wildlife, parks and water issues. Other committees he serves on include the Rules and Regulations, Education and Budget.

He and his wife Renee have three boys, two of whom live in Colby and one who attends Washburn University in Topeka. They have six grandchildren.

Your Business on the web  
You.com

Your Business on  
www.NWKansasOnline.com

BE SURE your Business is Listed  
www.NWKansasOnline.com  
Call 785-462-1149

**CITY OFFERS SAFE RIDE HOME!**

**Individuals in the City of Norton may request a free ride home from local establishments serving alcohol on the evening of October 31, 2008. Individuals are encouraged to use this program to allow a safe ride home without incident or harm to themselves or others. For a Safe Ride Home, call Affordable Classic Limo Service, 202-0952.**

**SPONSORS OF THIS SAFE RIDE HOME INCLUDE:**  
City of Norton; I.O.O.F. Lodge #157, Western Distributing, Craig Krizek D.D.S., Eagles Lodge, Nex-Tech, Ebke's Liquor, Norton Homestore

✓ RE-ELECT  
**JOHN MILLER**  
*Dedicated*

**DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Paid for by John Miller  
Karen Reedy, Treasurer