

Christmas shopping begins



Tiffany Yeager browsed Christmas ornaments at the National Guard Armory during the annual Norton County Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday. Many residents were able to pick up gifts as well as decor and other goodies for their homes.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Vision issues common

Vision issues among young children are far more common than many parents and educators realize. For example, one in every four American children has a vision problem, but most adults aren't aware of it. The American Optometric Association's (AOA) American Eye-Q® survey, which assesses public knowledge and understanding of a wide range of issues related to vision and eye health, showed that 87 percent of respondents were unaware of the high risk of vision issues.

To help raise awareness of the importance of vision assessments for young children, Pizza Hut and the Eye Care Council (ECC) have formed a unique partnership: Take your 3-year-old child in for a free vision assessment with an ECC optometrist and receives a certificate for a free Personal Pan Pizza redeemable at participating Pizza Hut restaurants.

"There are 10 million school children in America with vision conditions that can negatively affect learning," said Dr. Julie Toon, a Wichita optometrist and

president of the Eye Care Council. "Many parents rely on vision screenings in school to check for eye problems, but that isn't enough. Comprehensive eye exams are necessary to detect problems that a simple screening can miss, such as eye coordination, moderate amounts of farsightedness and astigmatism."

Studies indicate that 60 percent of children identified as "problem learners" actually suffer from undetected vision problems. According to the AOA's American Eye-Q® survey, only 39 percent of adults understand that behavioral problems in children can be an indication of vision problems.

"The numbers are truly shocking," Dr. Toon said. "More than 70 percent of juvenile delinquents and 60 percent of adults in literacy programs have vision problems. This partnership was developed to reduce these statistics."

Early detection and treatment provide the very best opportunity to correct vision problems and help children see clearly. The

AOA recommends that a child's first eye exam take place at six months of age. Unless problems are detected, the next exam should be at age three, and then every two years once a child begins school. Unfortunately, the Eye-Q® survey showed that 57 percent of children did not receive their first eye exam until age 5 or older.

"Good vision doesn't just happen," Dr. Toon said. "A child's brain learns how to use eyes to see, just like it learns how to use legs to walk or a mouth to form words. The longer a vision problem goes undiagnosed and untreated, the more a child's brain has to overcompensate to live with the vision problem, instead of developing and learning normally."

For more information about the warning signs of vision problems or about the free vision assessment for 3-year-old children, call the Council at 1-800-960-EYES. A list of participating optometrists is also available at www.seetolearn.com.

Funding

(Continued from Page 1)

The Kansas State Senate and House of Representatives will meet again in January.

Gov. Parkinson has the power to make the cuts necessary to balance the budget when the legislature is not in session.

"I am 99.999 percent sure our budget will be cut between \$150 and \$300 for this year," Mann

said,

In other school board business:

- Mann reported the Lenora Board of Education will discuss the transfer of property to Norton Schools at their board meeting.

Another meeting between both boards as well as an attorney from the Kansas Association of School Boards will be held in the future if

the Lenora board votes to approve the transfer.

- He also said the new handicapped bus has been put into service.

- A motion was made to reappoint Tammy Black to the Norton Recreation Commission for a four year term.

Vote taken, motion passed.

Farm agency provided over \$147 million

Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director for United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Kansas, recently announced that Farm Service Agency provided \$147,683,765 in direct and guaranteed loans to 1,288 family farmers in Kansas during Fiscal Year 2009.

"This has been a record setting year for number of loans made and dollars loaned," said Polansky.

"Some of this year's funding was made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to stimulate rural economies."

The agency processed 931 Di-

rect and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans totaling \$88,583,914.

These loans helped Kansas producers plant and harvest crops, purchase livestock and machinery, or reorganize their business. Of those, Farm Service Agency approved \$4,382,730 to 103 qualified Socially Disadvantaged Applicants, \$23,226,567 to 325 qualified beginning farmers and \$335,956 to 101 qualified youth applicants.

To purchase or improve real estate or reorganize the farm business, Kansas Farm Service Agency processed 349 Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans totaling \$58,484,921. Of those, Farm Service Agency

approved \$4,185,480 to 29 qualified Socially Disadvantaged Applicants, and \$30,906,762 to 214 qualified beginning farmers.

To help producers recover from losses due to natural disasters Kansas Farm Service Agency approved eight Emergency Loans totaling \$614,930.

For purposes of Farm Service Agency farm loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Beginning farmers include those that have farmed less than 10 years.

Farm Service Agency makes

loans to purchase and operate family size farms.

Loan funds can be used to finance livestock, farm equipment, annual operating expenses, and most other farm related expenses. Interest rates vary from 1.5 percent to 4.875 percent depending on loan type.

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements which are outlined on the Farm Service Agency Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov. Anyone having questions or wanting to make an appointment with a loan officer shall contact Farm Service Agency at the local United States Department of Agriculture Service Center.

Pick-Em

(Continued from Page 1)

Arapahoe; Lexi Voss, Alma; Fig Millan, Kathy Zimmerman, Charlotte Stephenson, Sandy Husted; Chase Rice, Ken Gregoire, Tom Baumann, Heather Simmons, Taryn Graham, Doug Ray, Amanda Ray, Ja'Nee Moore, Douglas Daniels, Dustan Daniels, all of Norton.

Incorrect on four contests were: Nish Millan, Goodland; Brooke Baird, Long Island; Julie Hilburn, Bob Covington, both of Alma; Jim Ninemire, Dan Mannel, both of Lenora; Don Cass, Beaver City; Tiffany Yeager, Jeris Norman, Tayah Braun, Rich Braun, Brittne Schock, Kollean McMullen, LeRoy Newell, Tom Davis, Dennis Maybon, Travis Ray, Rick Green, Jacob Green, all of Norton.

Missing five games were: Ann Becker, Lenora; Sandi Winchell, Alma; Hank Kaiser, Long Island; Deanna Gallentine, Virginia Carlton, Linda Matson, Chriselle Thomson, Regina Beikman, Nathan Morse, Stacy Area, Lindsey Tacha, Abby Rice, David Newell, Baylee Miller, Dalton Miller, Diana Smith, all of Norton.

Miscuing on six contests were: Brenda Husted, Alma; Kenney Leiker, Hays; Ellen Kemper, Gary Kemper, both of Phillipsburg; Wilma Wiseman, Lynn Nelson, Kerri Ray, all of Norton.

Jasmine Covington, Shirley Stutterheim, Rodger Stutterheim, all of Alma, missed seven games. Linda Covington, Alma and Lawrence Wiseman, Norton,

missed eight each.

Final week's entries

The 12th and final week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. this Friday and received in the mail no later than Saturday or you may bring them to the Telegram office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em page advertisement in today's Telegram for this week's high school and college games.

Extra entry blanks for every member of the family are available from any of the sponsoring businesses.

Only one entry per person per

week is allowed and entry blanks must be from either the newspaper or from sponsors. No copies or faxes are allowed.

The fan who picks the most winners during the 12-week contest will receive \$50 in scrip money plus an engraved trophy.

Scores of last week's games were:

Norton 17, Hutchinson Trinity 7
Wichita Collegiate 19, Scott

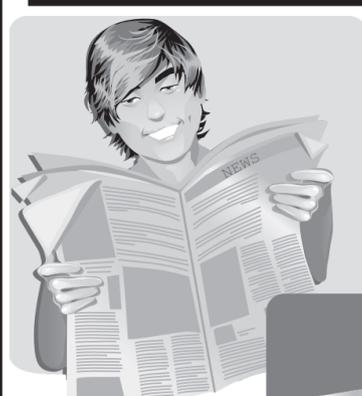
- City 17
- Smith Center 10, Meade 0
- Oakley 3, Ellis 0
- Quinter 28, Clifton-Clyde 20
- Nebraska 31, Kansas 17
- Missouri 38, Kansas State 12
- Iowa State 17, Colorado 10
- Ole Miss 42, Tennessee 17
- Oklahoma State 24, Texas Tech 17
- TCU 55, Utah 28
- Georgia 31, Auburn 24
- Ohio State 27, Iowa 24 O.T.

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