



Repair crews from Oklahoma, Missouri and Louisiana lined up along US Highway 36 after they rolled into Norton to help

restore power to the area after the weekend’s ice storm.

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

# Winter weather cripples western Kansas

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She said a few people have been staying the night at the shelters and many more are taking advantage of the hot food. She said they averaged 40 to 50 people eating in Long Island and had 115 come in yesterday in Prairie View.

The shelter in Long Island has been extended to anyone in Almena or the Almena area who is without power and is in need of a warm place to stay or a hot meal.

“We’ve had wonderful help from the community,” she said.

Erna Lee Gebhard, a volunteer at the shelter in Long Island, said at one time, Long Island was with-

out heat, electricity and water. Thankfully, she said, electricity and water have been restored in town. The Long Island shelter survived on lit candles to keep the temperature in the lower 60s the first night.

The shelter has had people from Long Island, Almena and Kensington stay with them. Tuesday night, three planned to stay. Kensington and Almena were still without power.

“Someone will be here to keep the shelter open as long as there’s a need,” she said. “It’s starting to slow down, but we’ll still stay as long as anyone needs us to.”

Deb Hays, a Red Cross volunteer helping out in Prairie View, said they set the shelter up Sunday night. Power in Prairie View went out Saturday. People in the area have either gone home with family, gone to a motel, stayed at the shelter or have generators in their homes to keep warm.

She said seven people stayed the first night and around five more stayed Monday night. Tuesday, they had already fed about 75 people by 6 p.m.

Ms. Hays said the Prairie View shelter will also stay open as long as needed.

“We don’t know how long it will

be before the power is back on,” she said.

## Student is sentenced for threats

A Norton student is in custody of the Juvenile Justice Authority after being sentenced for making two bomb threats at the Norton Community High School.

Justin Lee Gibson, 15, was sentenced Thursday afternoon by District Magistrate Judge Deb Anderson after pleading guilty to one count of felony criminal threat. A second count of felony criminal threat was dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

The threats were written on the walls of two separate bathrooms on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. The threats, which had different messages, caused the school district to evacuate its buildings and call in the Kansas Highway Patrol’s bomb-sniffing dogs. Both searches turned up no bombs, or bomb materials.

At the time, Superintendent

Greg Mann said they were sure the threats were just a sick prank, but decided to err on the side of caution and so, called in the Patrol’s dogs. The first threat was found after school was dismissed, but the second was found while school was in session, and so the students were evacuated according to the district’s evacuation procedures.

At the sentencing, Judge Anderson ordered that Gibson be immediately placed into the custody of the Juvenile Justice Authority for 12 months. The Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services in WaKeeney will be finding him an out-of-home placement.

The judge also ordered Gibson to pay restitution of \$3,250 to the Norton School District and \$4,490 to the Kansas Highway Patrol. He must pay court costs of \$25 and his court-appointed attorney’s fees.

## A bird in the hand...



This little female cardinal sat perched on an ice-covered branch in the yard of Jim and Carolyn Plotts, Norcatur. She waited, patiently, for Mr. Plotts to fill the bird feeder, she and so many other birds have come to count on this winter.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Storm causes Almena to lose power

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With no power, a lot of homes were without heat. He said 35 to 40 people had to be re-located. “No-

## Development discusses biodiesel

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reduces the need for foreign oil, is easy to use in the current infrastructure, has an economic benefit to rural communities, is better for the environment, and it follows “Support the Midwest, not the Middle East.”

Mr. Jirak said there is no water involved in making biodiesel at most plants. Some plants, he said, still use water to separate the biodiesel from glycerin, but most plants are using the non-water method.

He said biodiesel biodegrades twice as fast and is less toxic than table salt.

One acre of soybeans that pro-

duces 42.6 bushels will make 68 gallons of biodiesel.

“There’s a lot of room to grow in the biodiesel industry,” he said. “There are only 65 plants in production across the U.S. and none yet in Kansas.”

To start a biodiesel plant, he said a feasibility study is the first step. Then comes board member assembly, mission statements and goals, and delegating tasks to smaller committees.

In response to the community discussion, the Norton County Economic Development Board had a special meeting, where it was decided that a feasibility study will be done.

not affected by the storm. A few went to motels,” he said.

Chief Graham said, “I am very proud of the turn-out of volunteers. Not only from the fire department, but from the community. The school provided a bus to help us pick up people; the Community Center provided coffee for the volunteers; and Sheriff Troy Thomson has been doing a wonderful job of helping us out. It was just overwhelming, the people who showed up to help.

County roads and highways are returning to normal traffic even though Almena’s city streets remain extremely icy.

# City acquires damaged property

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thing with it.

- Approved 2007 cereal malt beverage applications for: not for consumption on the premises — Jamboree Foods; Love’s Country Store; R&C Petroleum, Inc.; Pamida No. 236; and Norton Shop

and Save; for consumption on the premises — Pizza Hut; Town and Country Kitchen; Rainbow Lanes, Inc.; Thunder Promotions, LLC.

- Recessed the meeting until Dec. 29 to take care of any remaining year-end business.

## AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Jan 2 — Chicken & Rice Casserole, Scandinavian Blend Veggies, Rosy Pears, Bread, Pudding. Jan. 3 — Swiss Steak w/Tomatoes, Baked Potato, Corn w/Green Peppers, Bread, Apricots. Jan. 4 — Beef & Noodles, Tossed Salad w/Carrots, Strawberries & Bananas, (Noodles) Brownie. Jan. 5 — Hot Dog w/Kraut, Mashed Potatoes, Jello w/Fruit, Bun, Cookie.

Jan. 8 — Hamburger Mushroom Stroganoff over Noodles, Peas & Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Choice Complement. Jan. 9 — Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Bread, Peaches. Jan. 10 — Lemon Baked Fish, Spanish Green Beans, Rice Pilaf, Bread, 5 Cup Salad. Jan. 11 — Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Spinach, Bread, Cook’s Choice Fruit. Jan. 12 — Ground Beef Stew, Broccoli Salad, Biscuit, Plums.

Jan. 15 — Hamburger Cheese Casserole, Corn w/Green Peppers, Apricot Halves, Bread, Pudding. Jan. 16 — Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Seasoned Carrots, Rolls, Rosy Pears. Jan. 17 — Chicken & Noodles, Peas, Tomato

Vegetable Medley, Bread, Strawberries w/Topping. Jan. 18 — Meat Loaf, Au Gratin Potatoes, Fruit Mix #1, Bread, Cake w/Frosting. Jan. 19 — Sausage Gravy, Italian Blend Veggies, Green Beans, Biscuits, Cinnamon Apples.

Jan. 22 — Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Tater Tots, Bun, 1/2 Banana. Jan. 23 — Turkey Slice w/Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Apple Salad, Rolls, Bread Dressing. Jan. 24 — Tuna & Noodle Casserole, Pea Salad, Jello w/Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Rolls, Crispy Rice Bar. Jan. 25 — Chili w/Beans, Apricots, Crackers, Cinnamon Roll. Jan. 26 — BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Winter Mix Veggies, Bread, Mixed Fruit w/Cherries.

Jan. 29 — Macaroni & Cheese/Smokies, Green Beans, Four Fruit Compote, Rolls, Choice Complement. Jan. 30 — Smothered Stead, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Steams Cabbage, Carrots & Onions, Bread, Peaches. Jan. 31 — Chicken & Vegetable Casserole, Spinach Salad, Rolls, Pineapple Ambrosia.

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