

JENNINGS NEWS

A lot like Christmas



In advance of the upcoming Christmas season, Norton city employees spent Wednesday decorating downtown Norton with holiday and Christmas decorations. Pictured is Dan Sisk hanging a candle on a pole on North State Street. Visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus will begin on Friday, Nov. 25 from 6-7:30 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. Sleigh rides and hot chocolate will also be available, courtesy of the Chamber Ambassadors. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be visiting on Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Jennings City Council is asking anyone with a non-functional vehicle parked on the street to please remove them. If anyone needs assistance moving a vehicle, contact any Council member or Marge Hartzog.

Arrangements are pending for some much needed repair and upkeep on the streets. The work will be fitted in according to the contractor's schedule, the proper temperature and weather conditions; therefore, we may have very little prior notice.

The Sunflower Senior Citizens enjoying carry-in potluck dinner at the Center on Nov. 8 were

Eleanor Morel, Rachel Carter, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Stan and Ramona Shaw, Wayne and Louise Cressler and Ruth Chance.

A business meeting was held. You may still drop off non-perishable food items at the Center, to be taken to the Food Pantry in Oberlin the second week of December. Plans were made for our Christmas dinner to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14. The main dishes and drinks will be prepared at the center. Members are asked to bring a salad or dessert and a guest.

The Jennings Book Club met at the home of Joan McKenna on Oct. 31. Some members came in Halloween costumes for the evening. The book "Okay for Now" by Gary D. Schmidt was chosen to be read by the group and discussed. Hot apple cider, coffee and delicious cake and other treats were enjoyed by Kathy Nauer, Ruth Chance, Sue Long, Patty Foster, Shelley McKenna, Lynn Tacha, Helen Rhodes, Joan Metz and hostess Joan McKenna. Costumes worn by some members and the holiday decorations added to the "Halloween" atmosphere. Halloween boo's were replaced with lots of giggles and laughter. Carla Latimer will host the

November meeting with a discussion of the book "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain.

The Jennings Tuesday Club met Oct. 25 at "Attitudes" in Norton. Answering roll call with "A Pot They Would Not Throw" were: Pat Foster, Helen Rhodes, Neoma Tacha, Alice Mizer, Joan Metz, Patty Foster, Carla Latimer, Vendla Tacha, Lila Jennings, Lynn Tacha, Shelley McKenna, Joan McKenna, Roberta McAllister and guest Doris Mizell.

The club history book and shopping for the Angel Tree gifts were discussed. The program on Throwing Pottery was cancelled because the presenter was injured by a dog.

Reminders: The Hunters Sup-

per at the United Methodist Church in Jennings was held Nov. 12, starting at 5 p.m. Roast beef, ham loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad bar and dessert bar were on the menu.

The Hunters Breakfast was held at the former Masonic Hall in Jennings on Nov. 12 from 6-9 a.m. and was sponsored by the Historic Building Preservation Committee.

Martin LaRue is a patient in the Decatur County hospital. He is improving.

Lots of little ghosts and goblins were around town Monday evening trick or treating. It was a beautiful evening.

Vital stats report now available

The Kansas 2010 Annual Summary of Vital Statistics is now available. This report contains information on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, abortions and stillbirths.

The most notable change for 2010 was the decrease in the number of infant deaths. Fewer infant deaths were reported in 2010 than in any year since vital records were first collected in 1911; though, the infant death rate in the state, at 6.3 per 1,000 live births, is just now approaching the average rate in the U.S. Kansas continues to see considerable disparity in infant deaths.

Yearly fluctuations in the rankings can be expected, and the 10 leading causes of death were the same in 2010 as they were in 2009. Heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, cerebrovascular disease (stroke), unintentional injuries, Alzheimer's disease, pneumonia and influenza, diabetes, kidney disease, and suicide remain the top killers in Kansas.

One hundred years ago, in 1911, the top killers were heart disease, tuberculosis, kidney disease, violent deaths other than suicide, pneumonia, congenital debility and malformations, diarrhea and enteritis, cerebral hemorrhage, and cancer. Overall, chronic diseases account for a substantially higher proportion of deaths today than they did at the beginning of the last century.

Other highlights from 2010 include:

-The average age at death among Kansans in 2010 was 74.1 years.

-The number of deaths to Kansas residents increased 1.8 percent in 2010, rising from 23,997 in 2009 to 24,428, reflecting an overall decline in the state's age-adjusted death rate over the past 20 years. This average is 8.9 percent higher than the estimated US death rate of 7.9 percent per 1,000.

-Kansas resident births (40,439) decreased by 2.3 percent from the 41,388 births in

2009. The resident birth rate of 14.2 births per 1,000 population in 2010, last peaked in 2007 at 15.1.

-The number of marriages dropped slightly in 2010 to 18,150 from 18,268 in 2009. The number of marriage dissolution (divorces and annulments) in Kansas increased in 2010 to 10,579 from 10,333 in 2009.

-Population density of Kansas was 34.9 inhabitants per square mile, a 14.4 percent increase. 36 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than six persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Johnson with 1,149.6 persons per square mile.

Overall, 97,987 vital events either occurred to Kansans (birth, death, stillbirth, abortion) or occurred in Kansas (marriage and marriage dissolution).

The full vital statistics summary report is available at www.kdheks.gov/hci/annsumm.html

Prepare your family for disaster

On any given day, news headlines highlight disasters or other emergencies across the United States, causing Americans to evaluate their own levels of safety.

According to the Federal Signal 2011 Public Safety Survey, half of Americans feel they are less safe today than they were prior to the 9/11 tragedy. In addition, almost four out of 10 consider their city or town to be slightly to completely unprepared in the event of an emergency, including unexpected emergency risks such as natural disasters, terrorism and health pandemics.

While recognition should be given for the advancement achieved in safety preparedness, continuous efforts need to be made with visible progress to make Americans feel safer and set to respond during a state of emergency. Even though public safety officials are responsible for enhancing awareness and preparedness, it is the responsibility of each individual to be ready when disasters occur. Collective efforts by all should not stop until 100 percent of the population believes safety is a priority in their community.

So, how can you better protect yourself and your family?

1. Be proactive. Build a safety plan for you and your family and implement it so that you can best react to the unexpected. Make an emergency kit that is easily accessible. Remember the importance of critical recommendations such as texting first and talking second when cell carrier signal strength is reduced.

2. Be connected. Timely communication is key in a state of emergency. Technology allows for several channels of communication to alert people when a crisis hits. Most cities have solutions and/or services that enable residents and visitors to enroll and receive information that ranges from traffic and weather emergencies to hazardous materials situations, and everything in between.

3. Be aware. Familiarize yourself with the changes that have been made in your community to alert the public of a natural disaster, health pandemic or terrorist attack. New technologies and systems are constantly being updated and it is important to be aware how those changes affect you and those around you.

To see the Federal Signal survey and learn more about how to better protect yourself and your family, visit www.alertnotification.com.

Highway

(Continued from Page 1)

Though the Department of Transportation resurfaced the selected portion of highway just this month, with asphalt, Lawson explained that the resurfacing was a very temporary fix and by the time the geometric

improvements get underway in 2014, the asphalt surface will be broken down again and in need of repair.

"Highway 36 is a state highway, so the city basically applied for a grant and will fund part of the project for a road we don't normally maintain," Law-

son said, "but it's a way for us to work together with the state and get some much needed improvements to a street our citizens use every day."

Correction

Due to misinformation, Bob Covington was mis-identified on page 5 of the Telegram's Salute to Veterans in Tuesday's edition.

The Norton Telegram will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 877-3361 to report errors.

We believe that news stories should be fair and factual and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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SMITH CENTER, KS**

Chris Mansholt - chrismansholt@landmarkimp.com
Dwayne Lorence - dwaynelorence@landmarkimp.com

**Friday, December 2, 2011
PHILLIPSBURG, KS**

Chris Mansholt - chrismansholt@landmarkimp.com
Mike Baetz - mikebaetz@landmarkimp.com

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011
GOTHENBURG, NE**

Tag Kenning - tagkenning@landmarkimp.com
Jeff Debban - jeffdebban@landmarkimp.com

**Tuesday, December 15, 2011
LEXINGTON, NE**

Jan Lien - janlien@landmarkimp.com
Larry Buhlmann - larrybuhlmann@landmarkimp.com

**Thursday, January 12, 2012
MINDEN, NE**

Robb Kuper - robbkuper@landmarkimp.com
John Hitchcock - johnhitchcock@landmarkimp.com

**Friday, January 13, 2012
HOLDREGE, NE**

Duane Hunke - duanehunke@landmarkimp.com
Joe Hays - joe_hays@landmarkimp.com

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