



A retired firefighter helped out by spraying water on a nearby tree, while the Norton Fire Department waited on more manpower to arrive at the blaze last year that completely destroyed the Norton Archery Club and U.S. 36 Collectables. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier



Norton and Lenora firemen were among the many who fought off heat and exhaustion to put out two flaming buildings. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Winter storm tips include family kits

The Kansas Adjutant General's Department passed along these winter storm-related tips in light of the Dec. 28-29 weather event.

- The Department's Director of Public Affairs, Sharon Watson, said all Kansans must be prepared for severe winter weather by making a home emergency kit, which includes food, water, medications, extra clothing, flashlights and batteries, a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and other necessities. People who had used supplies in the recent storm are urged to restock their supplies.

- Road travel is discouraged; however, if you must travel, make sure your vehicle's fuel tank is full. Arrange your travel plans so you can leave well ahead of the storm front and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.

- If purchasing a generator to provide power, bear in mind they can be deadly if not used properly. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, operate generators outdoors only in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home and protected from direct exposure to precipitation (preferably under a canopy, open shed or carport). Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages. Observe the generator manufacturer's instruction and do not plug the generator into a wall outlet. Talk to the retail business you purchased the generator from for additional details and heed what you hear from them.

- Some people may be tempted to clear snow from their roof. The

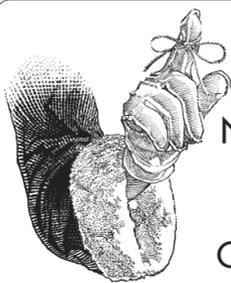
Kansas Department of Emergency Management urges caution, because it may prove a bigger hazard to attempt to clear the snow. Roofs are typically designed to withstand an average snow load for a region. Parts of the country with generally heavy snowfalls may have roofs built to withstand 30 to 40 pounds of snow per square foot. Areas with lighter average snowfalls may be built to hold only about 30 pounds per square inch.

If you leave the ice and snow on a roof, there is risk of collapse; however, if you remove the snow,

shingles may be damaged or the person removing the snow may be injured. Always consider the health and safety of the person working on the snow- and ice-covered roof.

If a roof has withstood several winters of average snowfall with no signs of structural fatigue to rafters and trusses, it may be better to leave the snow in place, rather than risk life and limb or unnecessary damage to the roof by removing it. Consult experts in the field of snow removal from structures before making your decision.

NewsLine:
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REMINDER

The following kids from Norton still need to pick up their honorable mention prize for the 12 Days of Christmas Coloring Contest

Stop by the Telegram Office at 215 South Kansas

- Bailey Ambrosier • Casey Ambrosier • Jessica Ambrosier • Parker Baughman • Dylan Goss • Riley Goss • Tommy Hanes • Connor Haresnape • Andrew Heskett • Cale Patterson • Raenee Patterson • Libbi Puga • Dalton Smith • Keegan Smith • Coral Stewart

Top stories: Dr. Hartley retires

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elsewhere. Mr. Graber was the school's football and track coach for 11 years.

- The Norton County Hospital is looking for a doctor to take the place of Dr. Roy Hartley, who retired after 39 years. Dr. Hartley announced his retirement to the hospital board in April. At the end of December, the hospital was still looking.

- The Norton Cemetery Improvement committee, with the help of the Norton City Council, finished updates and improvements to the cemetery. They put up brick posts, installed a water drip system and planted trees as part of the project.

- The fate of the trees downtown hung in the balance as the Norton City Council decided whether or not to cut them down. After the protests of several residents, the council decided not to remove them, but said they absolutely needed to be trimmed back so drivers' views weren't impaired.

- After three years, the City of Norton has started on its sewer plant project, which will completely update and renovate the

plant. The water treatment plant is still in the works.

- The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce managed to snag newly hired, Kansas State University football coach Ron Prince to speak at its annual banquet. Mr. Prince was well received by the people of Norton.

- Norton County had a mess on its hands when numerous dead geese were found at a feeding facility south of Norton. The site was declared a bio-hazard and was inspected by state, federal and local officials.

The remaining birds were fed and taken care of at the county's expense and then later sold when the threat of bio-hazard was cleared.

- After six years and three attempts to get a grant, the Lenora PRIDE committee was approved for a Community Development Block Grant to help pay for a new community building. The building is multi-purposed, serving as a library and a place to host receptions, meetings and training events.

- The Prairie Dog Golf Course had a little history added to it when a historical bridge was moved in

April by Norton County's road and bridge crews from outside of Lenora to the golf course.

- Three teenagers belonging to the Sunflower Gun Club, a precision air rifle shooting group, did well in competition. One of the three, Carson Braun of Norton, did well enough to qualify to shoot in Junior Olympics in Colorado.

- Bus and Coach International, a California bus company, is helping to rejuvenate Jennings. The company bought the Jennings School in March, after the school no longer had the student population to keep its doors open.

- Parents of students and staff of the Norton School District were shocked when bomb threats were found written on bathroom walls on two separate occasions. The threats were never carried out, but students and teachers were still evacuated. The culprit was eventually found and pleaded guilty to one count of felony criminal threat and is now in the custody of the Juvenile Justice Authority.

- The weather has been a bit chaotic this year, ranging from nearly a foot of snow in March to drought all summer and fall and then several inches of ice in December.

Reception honors retiring official

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A reception honoring Norton County Commissioner Dean Kruse on the occasion of his retirement was held Monday on the second floor of the courthouse.

Mr. Kruse has represented District No. 1 and Ward 1 of the City of Norton for the last 12 years.

He said he has seen many changes during his 12 years as a commissioner. But, one of the greatest accomplishments of the commission is the improvement of county roads. He said, "We believe our county roads are in better shape than they have ever been."

He said he was also proud of the work that the commission did on the improvements to Norton County Hospital and the new ambulances.

Important issues he sees facing the county in the future are consolidation, declining population and economic development.

Mr. Kruse said he hopes to slow down now that he is retired. He is the manager of the volcanic ash



Dean Kruse, left, received friends and well-wishers during a reception in his honor Monday at the courthouse. Richard Miller stopped by to thank Mr. Kruse for his service to the County. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

mine at Calvert and will continue in that capacity. But, perhaps he will have more

time to dedicate to his hobbies of collecting cast-iron banks and antique toys.

Foundation provides water well loans

Certain low- to moderate-income individuals or families may be eligible for money to construct, repair or improve household water well systems through one percent interest loans from the Foundation for Affordable Drinking Water.

The Foundation was established through the National Ground Water Association.

Qualified applicants can borrow up to \$8,000 at 1 percent interest for a term not to exceed 20 years. To qualify, households must:

- Own the home and use it as the principal residence.
- Have as the primary drinking water source an individual household well system located on the property of the home.
- Must meet income eligibility requirements.

• Be located in a city, town or unincorporated area with a population of less than 50,000.

Currently, the program is available in Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The Foundation will not underwrite a loan once a project is underway or has been completed. Most new home construction projects are not eligible.

Another important aspect of the loan program is to educate loan recipients on the importance of regular well maintenance and annual testing of their well system.

Complete information, including application forms and require-

ments and income eligibility limits, can be accessed by going to www.ngwa.org and clicking on the link for Foundation for Affordable Drinking

Water. Applications and additional information can also be obtained by contacting the Foundation at 800-551-7379, or email Paul Humes at phumes@fadw.org.

You also can learn more about the program by going to www.wellowner.org and clicking on "Financing."

"Water is essential, and the Foundation is committed to helping those in greatest need," said Humes, foundation director.

"If you have a real need and meet the qualifications for this program, we encourage you to apply."



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