

# A little house cleaning to be done

In looking back through my files I noticed I hadn't sent any update notes on odds and ends for quite some time. So here's a column to thank a lot of my readers for their input, comments and questions. All the Christmas letters and pictures were especially appreciated.

And in answer to the many of you who have suggested my articles should be put into book form - I would like nothing more. I do not, however, have the financial resources, nor do I know how to locate an agent or a publisher and vanity press is out of my price range. Don't think my down-homey style would appeal to the "best seller" genre since I don't write steamy sex scenes, gruesome and gory murders or clever mysteries. If anyone has any good advice for me I'm always open to suggestions. Meanwhile, thanks to The Norton Telegram, I can say I'm a writer.

It's always fun to hear comments on recipes. One reader claims she has made every recipe I've put in Cook's Corner, including the challenging Snow on the Mountain rice and trimmings, which was quite a feat as well as a feast. The favorite recipes are always Mama's old timers, especially the Cafferty Sisters Applesauce Cake. That

## Child of the '40s

Liza Deines



one has traveled all over the country. Grandma Liza Jane Cafferty would be so pleased to know her "hard times" cake is still well loved so many years after she passed it along to her daughters. Out of my traveling recipes, African Peanut Soup has been the most-requested item. If you have any requests for past recipes, let me know and I will send them out.

How I am missing the antique hunting and selling that filled my last few years in Norton. Antique shops abound but are difficult to wheel around in. Mainly I miss the homemade pies from auction food stands! It is very difficult for the children to take me to auctions now, so I do get homesick to hear a good country auctioneer's chant. Estate sales held in lovely old KC mansions in this area, but mansions are also not convenient for wheelchair access.

No news on the culinary catastrophe front since I am no longer

able to cook. If another column of those is wanted, you'll have to admit to your own catastrophes. After all, I 'fessed up to my appalling meatloaf gravy, so how much worse could your kitchen disasters be? Let's hear a few from you.

My sincere thanks for the many readers who have written to say they enjoy my childhood memories. It is for you that I continue, although since Mary Kay handles political topics, Nancy does farm and football, Rita covers health and inspiration, Carolyn writes food, chickens and decorating and Kay Melia has taken over garden columns, I'm occasionally at my wits' end for a topic to pique your interest. The journey to my wits' end isn't that far, you know.

Here's a hint, however, that a trio of true love stories will be coming up in February to warm the cockles of your hearts. If your winter has been as cold and dry as our miserable Missouri one, your heart cockles may be as chilly and dried out as mine. As they say, to be continued.

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# Feeding on Sloppy Joe's



Norton's Post Prom committee held a Sloppy Joe feed on Friday before the basketball games. Angie Bird and Vicki Bainter are seen here serving Lee and Janice Russell. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Making good fences and good neighbors

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

"Good fences make good neighbors," wrote the poet Robert Frost. But what happens when those fences get loose or the wires start to sag? Today, in Kansas Profile, we'll meet a Kansas entrepreneur who represents a company with a product that can fix such fences.

Rod Huse is a distributor for Jake's Wire Tighteners. Rod is what one might call a "ruralpreneur" - an entrepreneur in a rural setting. He is a retired educator who has always been involved in business opportunities.

"I always had a business on the side," Rod said. He taught in Wichita and in southwest Kansas and also ran the family farm which is located in the Scott County area. He taught technical education and small engine repair at Garden City Community College and then at Johnson County Community College. To supplement his teaching salary, he built homes and invested in various products.

In 2001, he moved to Vassar which is near Lake Pomona south of Topeka. He continued to teach in Johnson County, retiring in 2010 after 32 years of teaching. At that time, he decided to pursue an opportunity with a business called Jake's Wire Tighteners.

Jake was a rancher in Texas who had a gift for fixing things. One day, two of his bulls got to fighting and caused havoc on a fence. It looked like an all-day mending job. Jake walked back to his shop and, from small pieces of cattle panel, created a clip which he could use to mend the fence in no time. These worked so well that other people wanted some.

He developed and refined his idea, and it looked like a business opportunity. Then Jake was diagnosed with colon cancer and suddenly passed away. It was a sad turn of events.

In Jake's memory, his nephew - who had been his partner in the business startup - patented the clip and called it "Jake's Wire Tighteners."

As the business grew, Rod Huse in Kansas was contacted about becoming a distributor.

"Before I took this on, I went to a lot of farm suppliers to see what (of this type of product) was out there," Rod said. "There was nothing close."

The wire tightener itself is a heavy duty clip with a couple of hooks. To use it, the operator hooks the clip onto a loose wire and uses a metal handle to roll and tighten the wire.

"It is quick, inexpensive, and very simple to use once a person learns the technique," Rod said. Turning the handle tightens the wire by rolling it on the clip itself.

"We roll the wire onto the clip - we do not crimp it," Rod said. "Anytime you crimp the wire, you weaken it. If you have wire that is really brittle, nothing can be done for it. But because we roll the wire rather than crimping it, it does work on rusty wire."

"For a quick and inexpensive repair, this is hard to beat," Rod said. It's appealing to ag producers, but Rod has found benefits to others as well.

"This little clip will tighten about anything that fits in the handle," he said. Rod has especially found applications in the shipping business, where businesses can use the clips to help secure a load for shipping.

Rod's job is to secure distributors for the company: "We set

up individual dealers as well as businesses," he said. "It might be a farm supply store, a lumberyard, or a hardware store."

He goes to farm shows to showcase the product to customers and prospective dealers. Rod has helped secure dealers all over the region, and there are dealers in Canada and Australia as well as the U.S. Meanwhile, Rod lives in the rural community of Vassar, with a population of 530 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, see [www.jakeswiretighteners.com](http://www.jakeswiretighteners.com).

"Good fences make good neighbors," wrote Robert Frost. This product from Rod Huse helps keep those fences good and strong. We salute Rod Huse and all those involved with Jake's Wire Tighteners for making a difference with creative entrepreneurship. That makes for good fences and a good neighborhood.

Call Mike  
with all your  
social news.

877-3361

mstephens@nwkansas.com

# HONOR ROLL

## NCHS Honor Roll

### 2nd Nine Weeks

#### Highest 4.00

#### Seniors

Katherine Boteler, Eli Bozarth, Jade Braun, Samantha Gordon, Tawni Griffey, Kami Jones, Teslee Nickell, Alex Riggins, Rachel Slipke, Teal Stewart.

#### Juniors

Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Kristen Burge, Leif Carlson, Katelyn Engelbert, Ashley Hildebrand, Cody O'Hare, Johnnye Ruder, Jared Shelton, Landon Slipke.

#### Sophomores

Lindsay Addington, Neysa Carlson, Chance Uehlin

#### Freshmen

Casey Ambrosier, Kyle Bell, Philip Boutwell, Weston Erbert, Kirstin Georgeson, Lauren Mordecai, Raenee Patterson, Valery Rostek.

#### Honors I 3.50-3.99

#### Seniors

Ryan Bainter, Rheanon Baker, Lane Bigge, Sierra Black, Jared Bohl, Cassius Dole, Andrew Ellis, Cody Ellis, Stephanie Hager, Julia Kent, Katie Koch, Alexis Lively, Alec Melvin, Vaughn Newman, Brett Pulec, Dylan Sprigg, Wyatt Wentz.

#### Juniors

Branson Addington, Marisa Maddy, Hannah Pollock, Ethan Ross, Drew Schrum.

#### Sophomores

Katie Bohl, Christian Boser, Conor Cox, Stephen Cummings, Morgan Farber, Connor Griffey, Wyatt Harting, Jesika Smith, Kobie Unterseher, Stewart Whitney.

#### Freshmen

Adriana Ankenman, Adam Baughman, James Berry, Hailey Branek, Audrie Burge, Alma Clavijo, Taylor Dicks, Briannah Fessler, Alexis Hartwell, Gavin Lively, Molly Maddy, Audrey Morel, Nickala O'Hare, Kylie Perez, Quinton Porter, Peyton Renner, Lexi Voss.

#### Honors II 3.00-3.49

#### Seniors

Jacob Brooks, Chalise Christensen, Javen Colip, Austin Duscher, Chris Fisher, Jordan Hartwell, Brianna Karnopp, Carson McKenna, Shelbi McKenna, Dalton Miller, John Risewick, Treven Rossi, Alex Strough.

#### Juniors

Gabriel Bird, Kayla Campbell, Chris Chambers, Travis Cressler, Zach Esslinger, Shauna Gibson, Jordyn Gosselin, Austin Hager, Kolton Harting, Damian Lawson, Marc Miller, Cole Renner, Abbie Smith, Cody Temmel, Danielle Wagoner.

#### Sophomores

Derick Campbell, Sheridan Dillehay, Kenzie Esslinger, Sierra Griffith, Adrienne Hager, Mickey Hahn, Jordan Karnopp, Tyler Kuhn, Andrew McMullen, Kendall Miller, Derek Rowh, Molly Scott, David Smith, Breven Sondergaard.

#### Freshmen

Andrew Bashford, Hanna Brooks, Cayanna Campbell, Evan Chamber, Mariah Dawley, Brendon Frack, Morgan Griffey, Ward Hayes, Cameron Heikes, Skylar Johnson, Rachel Jones, Mike Kasson, James King, Rachel Koerperich, Shelby Mulford, Nicholas Peterson, Dalton Pfannenstiel, Elizabeth Smith, Kristin Stewart, Ryan Thraikill, Quentin Wentz.

## NCHS Honor Roll

### 1st Semester

#### Highest 4.00

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# Fertility management workshop during drought

It is increasingly important to properly manage your agricultural inputs and especially during times of extreme environmental stresses, noted Keith P. VanSkiike, Twin Creeks District Agent. To address the topic of Fertility Management, K-State Research and Extension, has scheduled a workshop at the Library Community Building in Lenora, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

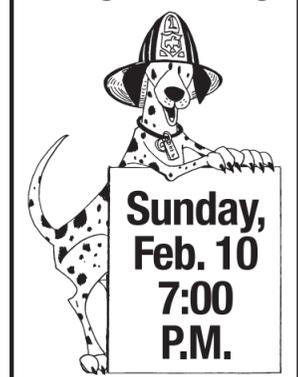
This workshop will be presented by Dr. Dave Mengel and Dr. Dorivar Ruiz, K-State Research and Extension Soils Specialists. Topics include: Nitrogen and Phosphorous. Does it matter what the Nitrogen and Phosphorous source is? What about Zinc, copper and chloride? Soil testing: when, how, and what nutrients, Utilizing test results to formulate a fertilization plan. Topics will also

include the latest updates and hot topics with soil fertility and fertility amendments and products.

Cost for the program is \$10 for the meal and materials.

Payable to:  
Twin Creeks Extension District  
Norton Office  
107 S. State Street  
Norton, KS 67654.  
RSVP by February 13, 2013.  
Call 785-877-5755

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Norton Rural Fire  
District #2  
Budget Meeting



Sunday,  
Feb. 10  
7:00  
P.M.  
AT THE  
Norton Rural Fire Station

Savings on Rows of WIX Ag Filters  
UP TO 75% OFF  
BUMPER TO BUMPER Auto Parts Specialists  
Non-Inflated List Prices on All Heavy Duty WIX Farm Filters

Oil & Filter Booking  
Jan. 30 thru Feb. 7  
Customer Appreciation Day — Thursday, February 7  
STOP IN FOR COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS  
Roy's Sales and Service  
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