

Good guy leaving, good guy arriving

Rudy Perez isn't a household word in the Norton community. Not yet, that is. But if first impressions count for anything, we are of the opinion that his name will be so etched.

Rudy Perez will become Norton Community High School's next principal. He and his family will be relocating to this part of the great state of Kansas in early summer.

Mr. Perez is completing six years at Cimarron Junior/Senior High School. He was assistant principal and athletic director for two years and head principal the past four. Cimarron High is a Class 3A school.

Mr. Perez will be succeeding Lary Stull, an outstanding administrator/educator, and certainly one who has provided the leadership that has allowed Norton Community High School to achieve and enjoy the kinds of recognition other schools hope to eventually achieve. Mr. Stull is an icon in his own right in the field of education.

Mr. Perez, and wife Kelli, visited *The Norton Telegram* on a recent trip to look over the housing market. They are very personable, excited at the opportunities to unfold, eager to begin settling in and looking forward to becoming involved citizens.

When they make their move, they will be increasing Norton's population by five — Rudy and Kelli, and children Zane, Kylie and Lauren. Zane will be a ninth grader at Norton Community High School, Kylie will be in third grade and Lauren is three years of age.

Mrs. Perez is a certified vocational home economics teacher. Something tells us the principal selection committee picked the right person to direct the affairs of Norton Community High School. Mr. Perez is outgoing, has done his homework on Norton High's many and varied paths, and will challenge his students to do the best they can.

Yes, he has some big shoes to fill. Tests to pass. And to prove himself. He'll get'er done!

Welcome, Mr. Perez. Thanks, Mr. Stull.

— Tom Dreiling

Immigration issue a tough call

The immigration issue is going to be with us for a long time and with much debate, and I fear little action. As one who lived in an area where illegal immigrants made up the major portion of migrant farm workers perhaps I view this differently.

Once again, I have to ask is passing more laws the answer or is enforcing existing ones the more cost-effective means of addressing this problem. First and foremost before we address the problem of the illegals already here we need to focus on stopping the influx into this country. Building a wall seems a bit East Germanish to me and probably with little effectiveness. Tightening border patrols at least seems a bit more humane and offers the added benefit of perhaps hampering some of the drug cartels. However, this is something I wrestle with and am interested in hearing the proposals, which will undoubtedly surface.

As for the argument of needing the workers in this country because Americans will not do the job... this is probably true. In this country we are accustomed to humane treatment and certain "inalienable rights."

Illegal workers have left such impoverished situations and with little leverage they will agree to living in housing we would not allow a dog to exist in and they have no recourse short of being sent back. Will Americans do the jobs? I don't know, but to presume they won't may be a misguided leap.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



"The sins of the father shall be visited upon the sons for seven generations." So how do we address the illegals whose parents brought them here. Now they are college graduates with a desire to contribute to our economy and tax base, yet are unable to because of the "sins of the father." No easy answer. Our country has been founded on immigrants, from whom the bulk of us descended, but most of those entered legally and met the demands of immigration officials however difficult.

Certainly the Viet Nameese boat people fought for the right to enter this country and then made the treacherous trip. And from this comes another question, can we truly afford to "round up" the illegals and send them back. Estimates say there are more than 11 million illegal aliens in this country. Is amnesty the answer, we certainly could use the tax dollars, but will they be willing to continue working in low paying jobs when their wages are taxed.

There are certainly more questions than answers and I pray for leaders and voters to have direction, compassion and sensibility.



All she needs is pink plastic flamingos

It is wonderful when your kids reach real "adulthood". By that I mean they have their own places and jobs to pay for them.

I guess we have finally reached the ultimate "I'm all grown up" moment with oldest daughter Kate. She bought a house.

The online description said, "Stunning yard". Of course, a lot of what makes a house a home is a matter of taste. But Kate was stunned anyone would do that to a yard.

Picture all the yard ornaments at Pamida in the spring in one tiny front yard with plantings run amok. My cousin said, "That is the gaudiest yard in the neighborhood."

The back yard was worse. Or better if you like that sort of thing. It is like a maze. The seller said she would leave the ornaments if Kate liked them and take them if she was going to trash them. Kate said, "You better take them."

Basically the house is good, new roof, new heating/air-conditioning, and a finished basement redone just last summer.

The rest is — well, it is a matter of taste. The previous owner liked "color". She liked peacock green. She liked intense hunter green. She liked deep aqua blue. She liked K-State purple. Kate likes purple, too. Just not on all four bedroom walls and the closet doors. We have been told the exterior of the house used to be purple. Thankfully, it is now a nice boring blue-gray.

The previous owner liked Victorian. She liked lace. She liked what-not shelves with teddy bears dressed in velvet holding parasols. She liked floral wallpaper and wallpaper borders.

Kate cannot even sleep in her sister's

Back Home Nancy Hagman



room because the collection of china dolls creeps her out. (She thinks they are watching her.)

"It made me cringe," she said. "I just kept telling myself, I can change it. I can change it."

The seller left one sweet teddy bear. She left some of her shelving — it was attached to the walls in such a way that the only way to get it down was with a hacksaw. She left lots and lots of nail holes.

Kate had some plumbers come and look at things because she is moving appliances around. One is her present landlord. He said, "Haven't you found a rich farmer to marry yet?"

The second shook his head and said, "This is a lot to do by yourself."

That got her dander up! To prove she can face any challenge she did what any independent woman would do. She called her Daddy.

We helped with some things over the weekend. A big benefit to her father was that once he got there and appraised the situation he decided he needed to buy some new tools. The house has oak hardwood floors upstairs. I noticed some bottles of floor treatment on the kitchen counter. The seller had left them.

"That's nice," I said. "Yes, but I wish she hadn't left this," Kate said and waved a package of mousetraps. Oh, oh, was she

trying to tell us something?

We pretty well tore the place apart (only got it half way back together) and never saw a mouse, time will tell.

A third contractor came by while we were there. He made a point of letting us know he was divorced and told us what he would do "if this was my house". I wasn't sure if he was hitting on her or if he just wanted to help out a defenseless, cute, young girl. Emphasis on YOUNG, as in way too young for you, buddy!

Now that the lawn ornaments are gone, most of the wallpaper is stripped and some of the painting is done, I am beginning to see that the house has a lot of potential. I know Kate hates the term but it will be "cute," admittedly a whole lot less colorful.

With things beginning to green up, and sans yard ornaments, the yard may even live up to its "stunning" billing. Still it is way over planted.

Does she need a husband? I think not. She has friends and family who will help whenever they can. She did hire the divorced contractor to do the plumbing. She is tiling the kitchen floor herself.

Getting tile cut for other projects she has undertaken has been a pain. And it costs \$40 to rent a tile saw for half a day. Then she got a gift certificate from Home Depot as a housewarming present. She said, "I think I will buy a tile saw."

A woman with her own tile saw does not need a man! A bigger problem for her parents, how do we top a tile saw as housewarming gift?

Wait, I think I have got it — does anyone know where I can get some of those pink plastic flamingos? They would be just the thing for her yard.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Norton City Council should consider wind/solar farm

To the Editor,

I read in the paper about the city council purchasing electric power because it is cheaper than paying for the fuel to produce our own.

Let's face it, fuel costs will continue to rise. I, for one, am sick and tired of paying ever increasing prices to the big oil and gas producers. If there is a way of getting out from under their thumbs, I am all for it.

Kansas always has an abundance of wind and sun. I can't think of any day in

the year when we don't have one or both of these sources in full power. I would urge the city council to seriously consider using these two sources of free energy. Yes, we would have to purchase wind generators and/or solar panels. But we wouldn't have to purchase all of the equipment at once. We could budget to purchase a few wind generators or solar units per year and set them up to start producing power. It wouldn't take too many years to have a fully functional wind/solar farm that would supply the biggest

percentage of our power needs.

The money being paid to outside sources for power would stay here in Norton to make our community stronger. Our electric bills would not be skyrocketing to the outer limits and best of all, no one could regulate, tax, reduce or shut off our energy sources.

Makes sense to me. Anyone else have any ideas?

Sincerely,
June Prout
Norton

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Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ Clarke Nelson, Jessica Zillinger, Cody Lowry, recipients of top FFA awards handed out at the Northern Valley FFA Chapter's annual banquet. (via e-mail)

✓ Verla Grysch, for stepping in to keep the Norton County Economic Development office operating.

✓ To all involved, in relocating the Lenora historical bridge to Prairie Dog Golf Course.

✓ Frank and Velda Ward, on your 60 years of marriage.

✓ Sarah Durham and Barbara Ballinger, among volunteers coordinating efforts for the Aug. 18-19 Relay for Life. (If I could be provided with the names of other volunteers involved, they, too, would be recognized in this column. - Tom D.)

✓ Rick Stoddard, for the powerful anti-smoking message delivered to Norton and Northern Valley students. (via e-mail).

✓ Sue Merklein, for your ongoing fight to prevent sexual violence, and your timely letter in *The Telegram* on April 14. (via regular mail)

✓ The Easter Bunny, and everybody else who battled the fierce winds to participate in the annual Easter egg hunt on the courthouse lawn.

(Send your submission(s) for this column to tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, slip it in the mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654, or drop it by the office. Restrictions are few, but birthdays must be submitted by a family member only. The column is open to our entire readership. - tom@)