



Carol Otter, President of the St. Francis Society, poured coffee for Helen Mcvey at last Thursday's Senior Citizen Christmas Party. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Seniors treated to Christmas party

Dozens of Norton area senior citizens attended the annual Christmas party held in their honor last Thursday at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall.

Every year, the St. Francis Society sponsors the party. The women of the organization do-

noted the prizes for the Bingo games and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) donated two fruit baskets that were given away. The fruit baskets were won by Kathleen Hawk and Evelyn Johnson. Alvin Mapes was the Bingo caller.

St. Francis Society president Carol Otter hosted the event and invited all the senior citizens to select an ornament from the two Christmas trees that flanked a nativity scene. The Society also donated the ornaments.

Pair escapes injuries from truck rollover

Last Friday, Dec. 7, about 11 a.m., Kansas State Highway Patrol Trooper Phil Henrikson investigated a single vehicle accident about 10 miles west of Norton on U.S. Highway 36.

Trooper Henrikson said the vehicle, an enclosed delivery truck, licensed in McCook, Neb., was heading east when a tire caught in some of the slush on the road. He said the driver lost control of the vehicle, it slid off the north shoulder of the road and rolled over on its side. Neither the driver, nor a passenger in the truck were injured.

Trooper Henrikson said, "Both were wearing their seatbelts and that's why they weren't hurt."

The names of the occupants were not released.



A delivery truck rolled onto its side after bad weather last week. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Blood drive set for Dec. 19 in school gym

While donors may want to take a holiday from giving, the need for blood will continue through the holiday season. As the season for giving arrives, people often forget about one of the most important gifts of all — the gift of life. Norton residents will have the opportunity to make this life-saving donation at the upcoming American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Norton Junior High School Gym. Everyone who comes in to donate will receive a FREE T-shirt! Walk-ins are welcome or call 1-800-448-3543 to schedule your appointment.

"It's ironic that the season of giving is the same time when we see blood donations drop significantly," said Kim Talkington, American Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representative. "We need all healthy and eligible donors to come in as soon as possible so we can meet the demand for blood during the holidays."

The Red Cross is especially concerned because of the way the holidays fall in the calendar this

year. "Generally, we see donations drop drastically for a week to ten days," said Ms. Talkington. "But with a holiday falling on Tuesday this year, we anticipate a drop in donations for at least a couple of weeks. It is critical for

area hospital patients that a stable blood supply is maintained during that time."

For more information on other ways the Red Cross is at work in the community, please check www.redcross.org.

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Houses for Sale

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Listed to sell at \$129,900.00. Price reduced to \$119,000.00

131 BRYANT — This very nice 4 plus bedroom 2 bath home in Almena, KS sits on 2 1/2 acres with outbuildings and grass. The home has a large living room, formal dining room, and a large kitchen. Outside there is a patio, 2 car garage, large shop, hay storage, barn shed, and another small building close to the pasture. This property is selling for \$109,000.00. Price reduced to \$97,000.00.

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Man survives house collapsing

By SHARON CORCORAN
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What do you do when a man is trapped in a collapsed house?

The fire department, ambulance, police, even a front-end loader showed up. As it turns out, rescuers used a chain saw to cut a hole in the roof and pull Harold Johnson out.

Johnson, 56, Goodland, said he was tearing down an old house on 11th Street just east of Grant Junior High on Saturday, Nov. 10, when the roof collapsed. He said the property is owned by his friend, Elmer Jacobs, who told him he could salvage the lumber for a garage.

Johnson said he was waiting for a tow truck to come to pull the roof down about 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, when it fell on its own. He said a teacher at the junior high heard the crash and came to see if he was all right. He told the man he was hurt and to call an ambulance. The teacher was Travis Witman, said Linda Enfield, secretary at the junior high.

Johnson remembers the teacher and a woman talking to him and thinks he was unconscious for a while, and he remembers Officer Cary Amos from the Goodland Police Department trying to help. Another officer, the fire department, an ambulance crew, including Bruce Gleeson and Johnson's neighbor Crystal Hernandez, a front-end loader and the fire department showed up.

He said he had gone into the house and closed the door when the roof came down. Johnson said he ran for the west window to get out but didn't make it. He found himself trapped with his right shoulder under the roof. He ended up with a dislocated knee cap four inches higher than where it belonged, some broken right ribs, a fractured right scapula and torn ligaments in his right leg.

His wife Beverly, 52, a certified nurse's aide at Goodland Regional Medical Center, was at home and heard the calls on the scanner.

"It scared me to death," she said. "I didn't know what was happening."

She got a neighbor to take her to the collapsed house.

Mr. Johnson said Mike McGlone from Stage Stop Towing was five minutes away when it happened.

"He had something to do really quick before coming over," Johnson said, "or he would have been in there with me."

When the driver heard about the collapse, Johnson said, he was so upset he couldn't remember the address. Johnson said Jacobs told him he was lucky to have made it out alive.

"I ended up sideways between the beams," Johnson said. "Elmer said I was lucky. Usually there's a joist there where I was, but it was missing."

It could have been worse. The Johnsons have twin sons, Sean and Heath, 11, and Sean planned to be at the house to help. Mrs. Johnson said, but he was playing games.

"Thank goodness he opted out," she said.

"No," Mr. Johnson said. "I didn't want him to go that day."

Johnson said every time he went to the house, the teachers at the junior high waved at him, and that day, it was no different. He saw one teacher wave, but he didn't know his name. He was grateful the man came to his aid, though.

And he was glad to have so many friendly faces at the scene. Johnson said Amos is a friend, and Gleeson has come by to ask how he's doing. Hernandez lives on the next block on Broadway, and her children are friends with the Johnson boys.

Johnson was in the hospital here three days, then at home two weeks before being sent to Denver on other complications. He was in the hospital there Monday through Thursday and got home at midnight Friday.

Then he had another problem: he couldn't get up the steps into his house. Mrs. Johnson called 911 because she couldn't remember the administrative line for dispatch,

and a police officer and someone from the fire department came and carried him into the house.

"I'm laid up six weeks," he said. "I can't move my leg at all."

He said he'll be able to borrow a wheelchair, but he needs a ramp to get in and out of his house.

Johnson said they are buying their house at 317 Broadway from Jacobs, but it doesn't have a garage. Jacobs told them they could tear down the house on 11th to use the lumber to build a garage and play area for the boys, but the building will be on hold for now.

The house was built in the 1920s, Johnson said, and the wood is seasoned, really strong. Besides the wood, they have found other treasures in the house and a shed on the property.

There was some stuff that belonged to someone who had been in the Navy, she said, adding they would like to find the owner. Among the items were letters with a Navy postmark from 1945.

Johnson called the collapse a "freak accident." He's always safety conscious, Mrs. Johnson said of her husband, but things happen. And this wasn't the first.

He worked on a carnival when he was younger, she said, and got hit with 440 volts of electricity while working on the top of the Ferris wheel.

"I had it unplugged," Mr. Johnson said, "but the guy who ran it went and plugged it back in."

Since then, just a little static electricity sends him through the ceiling, Mrs. Johnson said, but he's quite a handyman.

City of Norton Snow Ordinances

The City of Norton wants to remind the public of our three snow ordinances. One requires the removal of snow and ice off public sidewalks within 24 hours after the fall of the snow or sleet. The second ordinance relates to removing parked vehicles from emergency snow routes. When the City of Norton publicly announces through the news media that an emergency snow condition exists, it is a violation to have any vehicle or trailer parked on a designated emergency snow route. The third ordinance makes it a violation for any person to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk so as to constitute an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street. The city of Norton thanks everyone for their efforts in complying with these ordinances.

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