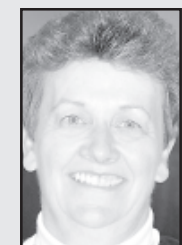


Protect yourself from wildfire



Home Time

By Tranda Watts
Multi-county Extension Agent

Northwest Kansans can and should prepare to protect their homes from wildfire. Firefighters already have faced a clear demonstration that Kansas is at risk to wildfires, as more than 8,500 acres in Harvey County went up in smoke between Feb. 9 and Feb. 12.

Rangeland fire danger in Kansas right now ranges between very high and extreme. Dry La Nina-related weather is combining with wind to turn much of the state into a tinderbox. The U.S. Climate Prediction Center is calling for drought to develop or worsen in most of the state through April.

Three simple steps can have a big impact on reducing home risk: • Don't store firewood or other flammable materials under decks, overhangs or elevated porches. Keep combustibles at least 30 feet from the house. • Don't allow dead organic material such as leaves, needles or twigs to accumulate anywhere on the house exterior.

Rural residents, in particular, should also consider preparing a four-part wildfire plan: • Make sure the emergency number for the fire department is where you can find it. Place it on your speed dial, if necessary.

the event a wildfire is nearby. With outdoor fires, often the best plan is to account for all family members first. Then make sure all doors and windows are closed, and check that you've completed your preparations. After that, you can think about whether to wet down your roof and yard.

In any case, follow emergency personnel's instructions on whether to remain with your home or to leave while firefighters extinguish the blaze. You cannot outrun a fire when it gets close.

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Internet Tonight! 475-2206

Weekend guests of Dave and Patty Stapp, Kaitlyn and Sam on Feb. 10-12 were Kortney Stapp and Jerrod Poire of Emporia. Saturday was spent visiting Dave and Linda Schlep and Spence in McCook and wedding shopping.

The annual meeting of the Norcatour Citizens Alliance was held Feb. 16 at The Bank in Norcatour. Members present were Kristi Gallentine, Bob Streyve, Rodney O'Hare, Darren Wentz, Troy Wentz and Denny Leichter.

Beverly Morris spent Thursday night, Feb. 16, with her grandmother, Esther Miller, before going to Norton Friday morning to do osteoporosis tests.

Velda Ward expected to transfer from the Decatur County Hospital to the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin. Frank Ward was in the Kearney hospital after being flown there from the Oberlin hospital.

Shawna and Johnny Crum, Shawnda and James of Denver came on Feb. 17, to visit Frank and

Velda Ward at their respective hospitals. The Crums stayed in Norcatour Sunday night and went home on Feb. 20.

Lora Linn Leichter was to be dismissed from the hospital at Burlington, Colo., the middle of last week and return to the Bee Hive Assisted Living Center in Stratton. Her daughter, Lila and Bryan Freshment of Tacoma, Wash., flew in Feb. 18, for a week-long visit.

Memorial services for Nancy L. Ester, 89, were held on Feb. 21 at Wesley Towers in Hutchinson on Feb. 21 for Nancy L. Ester, 98, of Hutchinson, who died Feb. 14. Her husband, the Rev. Delbert W. Ester, died on June 22, 1938, in Creighton, Mo.

Winners of the Cardinal Bar and Grill pool tournament on Feb. 13 were: first, Seth Cantrell of Lenora; second, Valerie Faris of Oberlin; and third, Josh Kier of Clayton.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Denise Bailey, Monty and Linda Hunt - Feb. 22; Gail and Denise Bailey - Feb. 23; Juanita Eckhart - Feb. 24; Mike Helm - Feb. 25; David Hare, Robert Schoenrad - Feb. 26.

Mark and Terry Cross and daughter, Heather Mogolov, and Parker, all of Olathe, came on Feb. 9, to visit Janice and Rodney O'Hare and Linda and Monty Hunt, and also visit the women's father, Lowell Sebaugh, at Cedar Living Center in Oberlin.

Lowell came to Norcatour with them for the day on Friday, Feb. 10. After a home-cooked meal he made the rounds at the Cardinal Bar and Grill, post office and elevator, visiting friends. All had supper at the Cardinal Bar and Grill Friday night. Lowell returned to Norcatour again Saturday to visit with all of the fam-

ily. Lowell has recuperated well from a hip replacement, but has been fighting gout and a soft tissue infection in one of his feet.

Genevieve Brunk, Hill City, made a trip Friday, Feb. 10, to Manhattan to spend the weekend with her sister, Bonnie and Bob Rapp. Evan Rapp, son of Ben and Yvonne Rapp, visited his grandparents in Manhattan on Feb. 19. He is a high school senior, and visited the Kansas State University campus Monday.

Nicholas Rapp, son of Bill and Sandi Rapp, moved from Lawrence to Manhattan on Jan. 1. Nick works for a wholesale supplier for plumbing, heating, and sheet metal contractors, and he will be working at the new office his company opened in Manhattan on Feb. 27.

The next Senior Citizens meeting will be at noon on Friday at the Educational Building. The Royal Neighbors of America will be entertaining the seniors with their annual soup and pie dinner and card party.

On Feb. 15, the Norcatour Royal Neighbors sponsored a birthday party at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin for Berenece McKay. Those attending were Beth Johnson, Maxine Brooks, Shirley Gallentine, Lee and Lora Arnold, Sandi Gade, Mary Sedlmayer and Dorothy Woods.

The Royal Neighbors of Norcatour will sponsor a card party at the Methodist Church Educational Building in Norcatour at noon on Friday. Reservations were requested by Tuesday, Feb. 28, to Beth Johnson at (785) 693-4384.

'A Little Lent Can Be Good For You' By the Rev. Rick Langness, St. John's Lutheran Church

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert 40 days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

The season of Lent is upon us. It is the 40 days prior to Easter which symbolize the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. If you count all the days you will find that Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, actually takes place 46 days before Easter, since we do not count the Sundays.

These six Sundays are in Lent but not a part of Lent. This is like we who are Christians are in the world but we are not of the world.

The purpose of the season of Lent is to focus our eyes upon our own sins and the temptations we face so we can fully appreciate the death of Jesus on Good Friday and rejoice in his resurrection at Easter. We do this by choosing to go without certain comforts or foregoing certain activities.

I have chosen to deny myself that most addictive pastime of playing Spider Solitaire on my computer. The focus is to turn away from my selfish actions and direct my time and energy to the kingdom of heaven.

Now I've contemplated the idea of a solitaire

marathon on Tuesday to go along with the tradition to binge on Fat Tuesday and then repent on Ash Wednesday; but I think I can walk away from it without too much sorrow and pain. Yet I am not too sure what might happen if someone comes into my office and offers beads to let them play a game on my computer.

The problem we face with Mardi Gras is that we turn one day into two, and then three, and so on. We spend our lives indulging ourselves to the point that we completely overlook Good Friday and then turn Easter into another day to celebrate with more sugar and sweetness. And we never stop to consider the consequences of our sin and the reality of the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ in our place.

Every Christian is obligated to observe the season of Lent; not as a work done to make oneself righteous before God, but as an opportunity to observe the work of God done to make us righteous with the very righteousness of his Son, Jesus Christ, given to us through his sufferings and death upon the cross.

To forego this season of repentance is nothing short of forgetting the forgiveness that is already ours; for how can we remember our forgiveness when we have forgotten our sin? "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"



Good Samaritan News

Printed on our calendars this month is a Greek proverb which reads, "The heart that loves is always young." If you were to visit, live or work here you would shout a hearty "Amen." Just the sound of Eva Bryan's contagious giggle would be enough to convince you. There is so much love in this place. These short articles can never do justice to the fun we actually have, so take what is written and multiply it by at least three.

Monday was Presidents' Day. During Social Hour, Joey Hirsch brought presidential artifacts and trivia to the table. Eva Bryan, Edla Olson, Jeanette Conway, Alvina Unger, Fern Anderson, Walt Mosier, Ruth Laidig and Virginia Ike enjoyed the challenge and the company.

At 7 p.m., the Cub Scouts arrived to hold their Pinewood Derby. Under the leadership of Tom Wasson, seven very energetic boys raced their pinewood cars to the delight of their parents and 16 residents. Evan Shobe, William and Teagen Enfield, Micah Burke, Braden Wasson and Jude and Justice Harris squealed and cheered at the finish line when their cars won!

Tuesday, we painted-a-president. Jeanette Conway, Virginia Ike, Marilyn St. Clair, Hazel Flaska and Marie McChesney all helped to marbleize two busts of Lincoln, turning them into beautiful expensive-looking marble statues. One was placed in each neighborhood in a prominent place.

At noon, we had our second lunch buffet. This will be an ongoing weekly occurrence. It is another step toward our Christian Communities of Care (culture change) movement. It allows residents a choice in what they eat and how much they would like to eat. The staff members eat with them, making it seem like going out for dinner — something special. Resident David McGee said, "That was a

very good lunch and such a neat idea."

Social Hour was spent reading "Letters from Lincoln." This book was published in 1878. We learned a lot about 'Honest Abe,' including why he grew a beard. Edla Olson, Ruth Laidig, Fern Anderson, Fern Mapes, Walt Mosier, Everett Fisher, Dena Gillespie, Virginia Ike and Elsie Macy enjoyed cookies provided by the Decatur County Farm Bureau.

On Thursday, Pi Alpha ladies came to celebrate the February birthdays honoring Elsie Macy, Jeanette Conway, and Bonnie Weskamp. They brought delicious homemade pies and serenaded us with beautiful music. Club members attending were Pat Wright, Eris Young, Eileene Grose, Estella Waldo, Eunice Martin, Fern Wenger, Virginia Spratling, Joyce Ploussard, Dee Ray, Elaine Bryan, and Cecil Hess, all of Oberlin.

Friday was a much-awaited Social Hour. All over the facility were invitations inviting everyone to a surprise. Resident June Saum had arranged and planned a surprise Staff Appreciation party and a Just-For-Fun party for the residents. She helped Jeanette Diederich make three huge pans of cinnamon rolls to be served. The anticipation (and bribe offers to find out early) were so much fun!!

Saturday night was our monthly Pizza and Poker Party. Harold Demmer, Pooch Portschy, John Ready, Doris Miller, Jeanette Conway and Lucy Schissler gathered to play for peanuts and other tasty treats provided by the Forget-Me-Not Ministry of Dennis Brown.

Again, a big thank you to all of our faithful volunteers! We love you and couldn't do without you! Recent guests: Dena Gillespie - Earl and Pat Hartzog, Daryl and Marge Hartzog, June Vavroch, Jennings.

in Norton on Friday. On Saturday, the women went to work SHARES in Norcatour. On Sunday Toots Magers, June Jolly and Kathy VanMeter went to the Prairie Chapel for a pancake supper and later went to Norton for party pitch.

News was received that Earnest Huff was flown to the hospital in Kearney, Neb., on Thursday with influenza A and is still there. Prayers are with Earnest and Donna Huff for a speedy recovery.

Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

Table listing church services for various congregations including Oberlin Sacred Heart Catholic Church, United Church of Oberlin, St. John's Lutheran Church, etc.

Lyle News By Deanna Sumner

Family who came to the home of Toots Magers last Saturday to do good deeds for her were Richard and Jane Engelhardt, Mike, Pam, Brittney and Tyler, and Kevin Engelhardt and friend, Catherine. On Sunday, Judy and Charlie Easton came and had lunch with Toots.

The Lyle ladies sewed on Monday. Toots Magers and Kathy VanMeter attended Bill and Pat Schwab's 50th wedding anniversary reception at the Andbe Home

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