

OBITUARIES

Michele A. Bevier

Nov. 6, 1964 - April 22, 2007

Michele Ann Bevier, 42, Prescott, Wis., formerly of Norton, died April 22 in an automobile accident one and one-half miles from her home. The accident left her husband, Dana Laird, in critical condition.



Michele Bevier

She was born Nov. 6, 1964, in Norton, the daughter of Warren L. and Marjorie P. (Hawks) Bevier. She attended public school in Bonner Springs and received a degree from the University of Kansas. In August of 1991, she and Dana Gene Laird were married in Lawrence. She was a member of the First

Christian Church, Bonner Springs and was a computer programmer. Survivors include her husband; her parents of Prairie Grove, Ark.; her father and mother-in-law, Carol and Edna Laird, Topeka; three sisters, Kathleen Alumbaugh, Mound City; Jana Schafer, Prairie Grove and Julie Grey, Basehor; and a grandfather, Henry D. Hawks, Goodland. Her body will lie in state after 3 p.m. today at Penwell-Gabel Parker-Price Chapel, 245 NW Independence, Topeka. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the chapel with burial in Mount Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope for Tomorrow Pediatric Foundation, 91 Neal, Farmington, Ark. 72730. To leave on-line condolences go to www.PenwellGabel.com.

Dr. Milton F. Mack

Oct. 29, 1926 - April 11, 2007

Dr. Milton Fred Mack, 80, Boise, Idaho, husband of Helen Joyce (Castle) Mack, a former Norton resident, died April 11 at the Sunbridge Care Center in Meridian, Idaho.



Dr. M. Mack

Dr. Mack was born Oct. 29, 1926, in Newman Grove, Neb., the son of Carl Denias and Rose Clara (Denkinger) Mack. He attended various schools in Nebraska, graduating from Central High School in Omaha in 1944. Following graduation, he joined the Army Air Corps. He was discharged in 1947, and entered Nebraska University. He graduated in 1949, with a bachelor's degree in psychology. On July 29, 1949, he and Helen Joyce Castle were married in the Norton Episcopal Church. That fall, he entered Kansas City University Dental college. He graduated with a degree in dentistry in 1953. He established his dental prac-

tice in North Platte, Neb. During the 1950s and '60s he was involved with the Boy Scouts, Little Theater productions and acting as president of the local and state library boards. In the 1970s, he moved his office to Curtis, Neb., and also became active as leader of the 4-H horse club and continued to participate in Little Theater productions. Dr. Mack went on several medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Africa and to New Guinea. In the late 1980s, Dr. Mack and his wife decided to move to Boise to be close to their children and to start a new life treating people who suffered from addictions. They established the Aerie Addictions Recovery Center. Survivors include his wife, Joyce; a son, Forrest D. and Nadene Mack; a daughter, Dr. Debra Joyce Mack and her husband, Elliott Weiss; and two grandsons. His body was cremated and a Celebration of Life service was held April 14 at Trinity Fellowship Church, Boise.

Theodore C. Friebus

July 4, 1911 - April 26, 2007

Theodore Christian "Ted" Friebus, 95, died April 26 at the Phillips County Hospital. Mr. Friebus was born July 4, 1911, on the family farm in Phillips County, the son of Johann Christian and Katherine Barbara (Preuss) Friebus. He attended country school and helped his father on the farm. On June 23, 1943, he and Irene Wodtke were married at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Norton. They spent their entire married life on the farm where he was born. He was an active member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Norton, and was a Sunday School teacher. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Carl Friebus, Paul Friebus, Walter Friebus and Leonard Friebus and a sister, Agnes Ekstrom. Survivors include his wife, Irene, of the home; one son, Richard and Pamela Friebus, Terre Haute, Ind.; four daughters, Carol and Thomas Johnson, Las Vegas, Nev., Margaret and Curt Thumann, Lacrosse, Wis., Vada and Keith Schleusener, Utica, Neb. and Lila and Robert James,

Aurora, Colo.; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Hilda Friebus, Omak, Wash. and Gertrude Bohl and husband, Ervin, Norton; and one brother-in-law, Norbert Wodtke and wife, Mary Jo, Topeka. Funeral services were held Monday at Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel, Phillipsburg, with Pastor Joel Frank officiating. Vocalists were Aaron Schleusener, Addison McCullough and Hadley McCullough. They were accompanied by Cynthia Washburn. The selections were "Abide With Me", "Jesus Loves Me" and "I'm But a Stranger Here". Casket Bearers were Jim Thumann, David Thumann, Daniel Thumann, Mark Schleusener, Aaron Schleusener and Nathan Schleusener. Burial was in the Stockton Cemetery.

Card of Thanks

We are deeply grateful to all who remembered Ted and our family with cards, flowers, food and memorial gifts. The comfort and support given to us by friends and neighbors has been a genuine blessing. The family of Ted Friebus

Mary M. Wudtke

Nov. 28, 1925 - April 28, 2007

Mary Maxine Wudtke, 81, a 1943 graduate of Jennings High School, died Saturday, April 28, at the Norton County Hospital.

She was born Nov. 28, 1925, in Allison, the daughter of Raymond and Regina (Austerman) Slipke. After graduating from Jennings High School, she taught school a few years, then went to cosmetology school in Topeka. She operated her own shop for 33 years in Norton. She married Marvin Wudtke on Jan. 3, 1976. They lived in Norton, where she was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Erma Travis and Rita Boltz, and a brother, Edwin Slipke. Survivors include her husband, Martin, Norton; sisters-in-law, Miriam Slipke, Hoxie; Alma Schulze and Leonora Braun, Norton; Ida Gowens, Galena, and Norma Jean Davis, Colorado Springs; and brothers-in-law, Herman Wudtke and Arthur Wudtke, Norton. A vigil service will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Norton. Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the church with the Rev. Vincent Thu Laing officiating. Doris Yeager will be the song leader and Eloise Hawk the organist. Selections include "On Eagles Wings", "Only A Shadow", "Peace is Flowing Like a River" and

"Here I Am, Lord". Casket bearers will be Michael Slipke, Raymond Slipke, William Slipke, Alan Slipke, Ron Baumberger and Bill Campbell. Burial will be at the Norton Cemetery. A memorial was established in her name. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

God looked around His garden, and He found an empty place. He then looked down upon this earth And saw your weary face. He put His arms around you And lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful He always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering. He knew you were in pain. He knew that you would never Get well on earth again. So He closed your weary eyelids, And whispered, "Peace be thine." He took you up to heaven With hands so gentle and so kind. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you didn't go alone, For part of us went with you The day God called you home.

Her 'un-prom' better than the real deal

My mind is made up. There is absolutely nothing worse than going to a prom alone. I'm sitting on the sidelines in a pretty baby-blue formal. It has a crocheted ribbon bodice with the requisite net and tulle fluffy skirt and a little bolero jacket. At home it looked pretty good — here it looks like just what it is — an inexpensive, year-old dress from Sears. My mind is also made up that I am getting out of here, one way or another, before another dance number starts.

The early part of the evening was not too bad. There was a lovely dinner cooked by the junior class mothers and served in the festively decorated cafeteria. Little dance program booklets with tiny pencils attached by tassels were at each plate along with fancy nut cups and decorated napkins. We had a quick and funny speech from the class president, then readings of the Class Will from the seniors and the Class Prophecy from the juniors. Lots of laughter and fun until we all adjourned to the gymnasium for dancing.

The theme this year is "Cuban Love Song" so the band has maracas and the musicians are all costumed in sombreros and embroidered shirts. Even so, they are playing rock 'n roll hits. The music is pretty good and I could just sit and listen but then I spot the busybody teachers trying to coerce the guys in the stag line to come dance with the wall flowers. The resulting expressions of disgust and distaste on their faces are all it takes. I'm leaving, and right now.

Dad was to come pick me up at ten o'clock but I can't hide that long. My white high heels are not conducive to walking so I sneak down to the locker room and put on my ugly gym shoes. They make quite a fashion statement with the formal but I am past caring. I leave by the side doors and start trudging home. Not crying yet but some pretty solid snuffling going on.

Ahead of me I see a tall guy in a dinner jacket ambling along and as I approach I realize it is Lanny. He is one of the best-looking guys in school but he also is one who has been passed along from grade to grade by teachers who just wanted to get

Rock 'n Roll Kid



Liza Deines

rid of him. He cannot read much at all, is not athletic, not gifted in art or music and mathematics is a total mystery to him. I feel very sorry for him and I wonder what will ever become of him when he goes out into the world. "Hi," I say as I come up behind him. "Gave up on prom, too?" He turns and smiles and replies, "Yeah, no fun for guys like me."

"Me neither," I say and we saunter along together. "Yeah," he says, "You're too smart and I'm too dumb."

My look of surprise prompts him to explain. "Guys are scared of you 'cause you get good grades."

"Guys," I say succinctly, "Don't like short, fat girls that laugh too loud."

He looks down and says, "Well, no girl will even talk to me 'cause I'm not smart, even if I do look good."

We stop and look at each other and start laughing, somewhat hysterically. "We make the perfect couple."

We walk on, leisurely, and after awhile he looks down and says "You're not that fat, y'know."

"And you're not that dumb," I reply. "I could coach you with your reading, but I can't help you with math. I only have a C in algebra."

He looked at me, amazed. "No one ever offered to help me before. Gosh, a C," he adds wistfully, "I've never had a C in anything."

"You will," I promise and as we go on he shyly takes my hand. His hand is big and he makes me feel small. It's nice.

Maybe proms aren't all that important. Could be conversations and people are more my style. Good thing, too, 'cause the prom was a bomb!

FROM THAT OLD PHILOSOPHER, ROGER MILLER: You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd, but you can be happy if you've a mind to.

Have a story idea? Call 877-3361 and let us know ... we'd love to hear about it!

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Lela Huff

April 28, 1920 - April 28, 2007

Lela Huff, 87, a native of Decatur County, died Monday, April 28, at her home in Northglenn, Colo. She was born April 28, 1920, at the family farm near Kanona. She attended Center School, and North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minn. She married Leonard Huff at the Frickey farm near Kanona on March 25, 1939. They began their married life on a farm in the Lyle community. She served on the Spring Branch School and Decatur County Farm Bureau boards, was a 4-H leader and taught Sunday School for 30 years. The couple moved to Leech Lake, Minn., in 1967, where they owned and operated a resort. Later they spent their winters in Broomfield, Colo., and summers at Lake McConaughy, near Ogallala, Neb. They also lived in Oberlin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard; a son, John LeDon Huff; a grandson, Joseph Schwab; her parents; and six brothers and two sisters. Survivors include three daughters, Patricia Schwab and family, Norcatour; Peggy Glenn and family, and Paula Maloney and family, Northglenn, Colo.; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a brother, Norton Frickey, Denver. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the Oberlin Cemetery with her grandson, Kerry Glenn, officiating. One of Mrs. Huff's own recordings, "Singing As I Go" will be played. A memorial was established to the donor's choice. Pauls Funeral Home of Oberlin is in charge of arrangements.

READERS

Stanton Nelson, a piano student of Jennifer Ruder, Norton and Tali Margulis, Fort Hays State University, will be presenting a recital at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 6 at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. 7th St., Hays. Admission is free.



S. Nelson

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COMING SOON: •Firehouse Dog
•May 4-Spiderman 3
•May 18-Shrek The Third
•May 25-Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

Let's go to the Movie

Movie passes accepted for both movies

Norton County Economic Development is providing **FREE TRANSPORTATION** to the **USDA Housing and Energy Forum** in Phillipsburg on May 2, 2007.

It will be limited to a first come first serve basis. We will leave from the Economic Development Office at 2:15 p.m., arriving by 3:00 for the Housing Segment and will return to Norton by 5:45 p.m. We will leave again at 6:15 p.m., arriving in Phillipsburg by 7 p.m. for the Energy Segment and will return to Norton by 10:15 p.m.

We may be stopping at Almena to pick up/drop of interested residents

If interested in transportation, please call the Economic Development Office at 785-874-4816