



As "Pomp and Circumstance" was played, Northern Valley seniors Stephanie Tubbs and Justin Lee joined their classmates and marched into the gymnasium Sunday for the last time as students.

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

## Northern Valley graduates fifteen

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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At 4 p.m. Sunday, the 15 Northern Valley seniors entered the gymnasium in Alma for the last time as students. The class was escorted by juniors Taylor Hammond and Hannah Hawks as the "Pomp and Circumstance" processional was played by Pat David and Stanton Nelson. Programs were distributed by Eric Woodside and Brittney Braun.

Senior Brian Sproul delivered the opening address while Abner Williams recognized the seniors. Senior Ben Rojas gave the student

address followed by a slide show recounting events in the lives of the Class of 2008.

Senior Amy Shearer recognized the parents of the class and each parent was presented with a flower in appreciation.

School counselor and class sponsor Monica Wilson announced the class valedictorian and salutatorian. Co-valedictorians were Stephanie Tubbs and Hannah Ponstein; salutatorian was Amanda Hopkins.

Superintendent George Griffith presented the class who received their diplomas from Ms. Wilson,

teacher, Doug Zillinger and school board member, Blaine Marble.

Newly graduated senior Elliott Conard gave some closing remarks.

The graduating class included: Elliott Scott Conard, Joni Lia Hilburn, Amanda Kay Hopkins, Blake Thomas Johnson, Richard Lee Kersch, Jessica Kristine Largent, Le Dang Mai Phuong, Justin Matthew Lee, Bryce Lee Marble, Hannah Elizabeth Ponstein, Benjamin John Rojas, Amy Rae Shearer, Brian Gregory Sproul, Stephanie Paige Tubbs and Amanda Rose Turman.



Norton graduating senior, Ashley Smith Maybon, got a hug from classmate, Justin Bainter, following commencement exercises Sunday afternoon. Justin's classmates gave him special recognition by presenting him with his own Norton Community High School letter jacket.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Nortonite gets position at K-State

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Shannon Washburn, a native of Norton, remembers the year 1991 well. As a Kansas State Officer for FFA, he traveled the state with a team of six that presented workshops on leadership, motivation and personal development to fellow FFA members.

The experience, he says, served him well as a high school agricultural education teacher at Hugoton High School in the mid-1990s, and as an instructor at Kansas State University from 1998 to 2001.

In August, Washburn will return to his roots. He has been named the new associate professor of agricultural education at K-State, after six years in a similar position at the University of Florida.

"I'm a product of agricultural education in Kansas," said Washburn, a native of Norton.

"I'm thrilled to be getting this opportunity to return to my home state, to the Midwest, and to serve agricultural education in Kansas."

"People in Kansas have a firm appreciation of the agricultural industry," he said. "Therefore, I think Kansans see the value of agricultural education in the public schools."

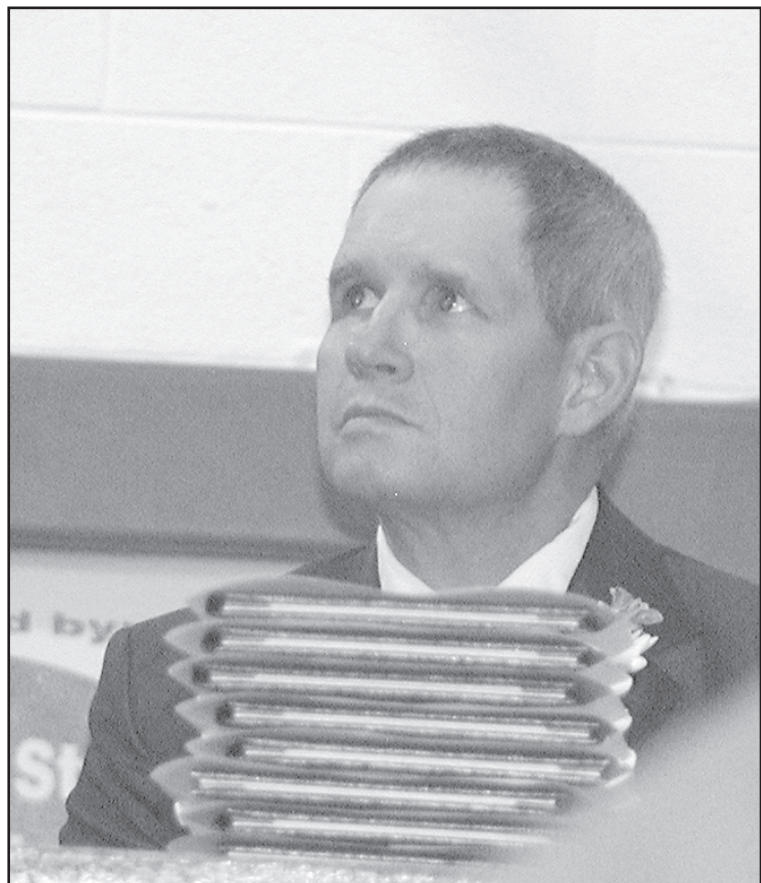
Washburn earned bachelor's and master's degrees from K-State in 1995 and 1999, and the doctoral degree from the University of Missouri in 2002.

Daryl Buchholz, the associate director for Extension and Applied Research at K-State, said Washburn's hiring will benefit Kansas' Extension agents, as well.

"Agricultural education is a natural fit for Extension agent [professional] development, and his experience... will bring great benefits to both the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension," Buchholz said.

In addition to his teaching duties, Washburn has conducted research to understand factors that help teachers stay in the profession; and studies that have helped develop agricultural curriculum in Egypt and Haiti.

But, he says, Kansas is home. "I've been a long way from home for a very long time," he said. "We are looking forward to being back, close to family, and working with teachers in Kansas."



Seated behind a stack of diplomas, Northern Valley school board member Blaine Marble waited to hand them out to members of the Class of 2008. Commencement exercises were held Sunday afternoon in the school's gymnasium.

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

## Cloud County College names outstanding alum

Don Lambert, Kansas City, Mo., nationally known arts advocate, actor and author, is the 2008 Cloud County Community College Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

Lambert will be recognized at the college's graduation ceremonies today at Harold Clark Stadium, Concordia.

Last year, the Concordia native received the National Governors Association Arts Promotion Award at its annual meeting. He was nominated by Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

In 2000, Lambert received a Daily Point of Light Award from the Corporation for National Service with President Bill Clinton as its honorary chair. Lambert grew up in the Clyde and Concordia areas, graduating from a one-room country school and Concordia High School in 1968.

A 10-year 4-H member, he showed cattle and sheep in the Cloud County Fair. At age 16, Lambert was in the first production of the Brown Grand Players organized by Sue Sutton and was in productions for the next three years.

At Cloud County Community

College, Lambert was Student Senate president, Who's Who in American Junior Colleges inductee, and writer of a regular *Concordia Blade-Empire* column about junior college activities entitled "Thunderwords" which received an award from the Kansas Press Association.

Lambert graduated from Cloud County Community College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Kansas State University in 1972 and a Masters degree in American Studies from the University of Kansas in 1996.

While at K-State, he was The Collegian student newspaper sports editor, College Republicans president and active in student government.

In 1972, he moved to Washington, D.C., to work on the staff of Kansas United States Sen. James Pearson. He volunteered on the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern and at Arena Stage. Returning to Kansas, Lambert was a reporter for the *Ottawa Herald* for five years, receiving awards for his photography and writing including two Golden Quill Awards from the Kansas National Education Association.

## Norton hands out 57 diplomas

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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And now a new chapter begins.

Sunday afternoon, in Stull Gymnasium, Norton Community High School held commencement exercises.

The seniors entered the gymnasium after the presentation of the colors by Boy Scout Troop No. 181. The class was escorted by its honor guard of Ashley Colip, Kara Jo Jones and Kyle Mindrup. The high school band, under the direction of David Will, played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" processional.

Logan Kats gave the invocation and welcomed everyone to the ceremony followed by Sara Lentz who spoke on, "Little Moments".

The school choir, directed by Valerie Leising, sang, "Go the Distance", from the movie, "Hercules".

Lacy Ellis delivered her message, "What A Ride", followed by the band playing, "Novena".

High school principal Rudy Perez shared some of his, "Final Thoughts" about the seniors before he presented the Class of 2008.

In a special presentation, Wes-

ley Georgeson, speaking for his classmates, gave a special tribute to one of their own — Justin Bainter. The class also presented Justin with a specially-made letter jacket with his name on the front and "2008" on the back.

One by one, as their names were called, the class members stepped forward and received their diplomas from Superintendent Greg Mann.

To conclude the program, the class stood and sang the school song, "Alma Mater", written by Bill Ward.

Members of the Norton Community High School graduating class are: Jessica Arehart, Justin Bainter, Timothy Becker, Andrew Black, Todd Bolt, Carson Braun, Austin Brown, Chantille Campbell, Sara Campbell, Sydney Cliff,

Kayla Cook, David Counter, Jr., Courtney Cox, Jared Cox, Zachary Dole, Kyle Edgett, Lacy Ellis, Bryce Engelbert, Nolan Evans, Alyssa Farber, Wesley Georgeson, Layne Graham, Ashli Hageman, Cindel Harrington, Preston Herman, Rachael Hickman, Galen Hildebrand, Aaron Husted, Kierstyn Johnson, Haley Jones, Logan Kats, Megan Kats, Benjamin Kaus, Cherean Kendall, Karlynn Kent, Courtney LeClair, Sara Lentz, McKenzie Linner, Zachary Mannel, Ashley Martinez, Scotty Marx, Ashley Smith Maybon, Clay McMullen, Kylie Morel, Levi Ninemire, Travis Ray, Logan Runnion, Patrick Shaffer, Jeffrey Soderlund, Jessica Strickland, Alexander Thomas, Aaron Van Der Wege, Luke VanSkiike, Tabitha Vincent, Valerie Wagoner, Lucas

## Area town has warning woes

By Karen Krien  
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If there is a tornado in Cheyenne County in the middle of the night, the 911 dispatcher will need to contact the on-call St. Francis city plant employee.

That person will need to go down to the plant and sound the siren by pushing a button. The siren cannot be activated unless someone manually pushes the button.

This arrangement has worked for a number of years when there was someone on duty at the city plant 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Today, the city plant employee hours are only in the daytime.

At the 911 dispatch board meeting a week ago Thursday, Gary Rogers, emergency director, said this arrangement "bothers me big time!"

The St. Francis City Council is responsible for getting either a phone line or a radio connection to the 911 dispatch office.

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