

# Grade school days are now over

Today I will graduate from the eighth grade at the WaKeeney Grade School.

My classmates and I have been practicing for two weeks during music class to perfect the traditional step, pause, step, pause without staggering while staying with the beat of the music. Darlene Boxberger, our music teacher, is in despair over Mo, who simply cannot start out on the right foot and has no sense of rhythm. Every day he has to come in at recess for special practice and so far no progress is evident. "To a Wild Rose" by Edward McDowell is to be presented by the girls, sextet and it has been so often rehearsed we are all heartily sick of it.

Miss B has been imploring we girls to clear up our complexions by foregoing chocolate and drinking lemon juice every morning. Then we must soak our grubby little-girl elbows in the squeezed out lemon halves to heal the softball scrapes and whiten the skin. We are all to wear white and there shall be no scabby grey elbows making an unseemly appearance when we march down the aisle. There has been much ado about hairdos (sedate) and stockings (beige) and jewelry (limited). Miss B has also quietly rounded up white dresses for a couple of girls who couldn't afford to buy new ones. She really does care about all of us. Meanwhile, Mr. Morlong is in charge of seeing that the boys all have white shirts, neckties, clean handkerchiefs and haircuts.

We graduates are gathered in a nearby classroom. The boys struggle with tight collars and

## Rock'n Roll Kid

Liza Deines



neckties, the girls are equally uncomfortable in seamed stockings. My dress is white organdy, embroidery down the front, puffed sleeves which I am convinced make my arms look like sausages, and a white grosgrain ribbon tied around my nonexistent waist. Gwen and I have shoes just alike, little white heels with nylon net inserts in the sides, very sophisticated. Betty's shoes have baby doll toes and Sharon Ann's have clear wedges with roses embedded in the plastic. We clip clop about, feeling very grown up, if a little unsteady. It is warm. We are itchy and anxious in our unaccustomed finery.

Miss B appears with a huge florist's box from which she distributes white carnation boutonnières for the boys and long-stemmed red carnations for the girls. The room reels with their sweet, spicy scent. Faintly we hear the piano prelude beginning above the parental buzz of pride in the auditorium next door. "Line up, line up," Miss B directs and we scurry to our assigned spots. Frantic whispers of "Does my hair look all right?" and "Straighten your seams!" mix with last minute applications of Tangee lipstick. We are ready!

The double doors swing open, the pianist proceeds into "Pomp and Circumstance" and here we

go. And suddenly, as if by magic, all the boys are handsome, standing straight and tall, even awkward Mo taking off on the correct foot. All the girls are lovely, every curl in place, every elbow sparkling clean. Surrounding us are purple crepe streamers, white wicker baskets of purple iris and, on a lace covered table, silver trays of fancy cookies, creating an overwhelmingly festive atmosphere. The faculty and the county school superintendent stand at the front of the room smiling at us encouragingly as we file in without a single misstep. Speeches, music, awards, diplomas and handshakes all pass before, around and over us in a blur. Before we know it we are in the reception line being hugged, congratulated and photographed.

Right in the midst of the excitement it hits us all at once. Grade school days are over. The glory of being the "big kids" is gone. Next fall we won't be coming to this familiar red brick building where we know every nook and cranny, where we have been a group for nine years. Fall will take us to the big high school on the other side of town where we will be that lowest of the low, freshmen. Fall will bring us new classmates from the rural grade schools scattered across the county. Fall will take us to Trego Community High School and life will never be quite the same ever again.

Our childhood is gone. NOTE TO MY NORTON READERS: Miss Boxberger later became Mrs. Myron Veh and taught my children music at Eisenhower Grade School in Norton.

# They took our breath away on Prom Night



J.D. Gall, Lacey Keilig, Raven Brown and Landon Hamel pose for pictures at the Norton Community High School prom on Saturday.

Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

# Club News

By Deb Krueger

The Norton Rotary Club met on Monday. Members present were Ted Sanko, Kevin Baughman, Doc Wilfong, Myron Veh, Chris McDiffitt, Jerry Moritz, Alberta Slaby, Deb Krueger and president Joy Johnson.

The program was the Norton Public Library, which was presented by Mary Luehrs, Director.

There are many old and new programs at the library including internet check out and reservation of books and inter library loans enabling library patrons to obtain books from libraries across Kansas. There is a new system allowing library users to download books to MP3 players and ipods.

Residents have attended educational programs at the library and Monday at the Movies which is the last Monday of the month at

1:30 p.m. Members were encouraged to stop by the library to learn about the many other activities and check out a book.

The Oberlin Chapter of the National Association of Federal Employees welcomed two new members, Cecil Hess and Steve Nelson, when they met at Wheat Ridge Terrace in Oberlin on Saturday.

President Gary Zodrow conducted the business meeting. Pamela Maxwell, field representative for Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Topeka presented an informative program about health benefits for the group, then answered questions

Members of Oberlin chapter include active and retired federal employees of Norton, Decatur and Rawlins counties.

# Student News

Students from the SkillsUSA chapters at Central Community College in Columbus and Hastings placed in state competition March 25-27 at Central Community College-Columbus.

Skills USA is a national organization that provides secondary and post-secondary students in trade, industrial, technical, technology and health occupations with leadership, citizenship and character development programs

and activities.

More than 700 secondary and post-secondary students competed in about 75 events at the State Leadership and Skills conference, which was sponsored by Nebraska SkillsUSA. First place winners will participate in national competition in June in Kansas City, MO.

Casey Dole of Alma was on the CCC-Hastings team that won first place in Welding Fabrication.

# Police Log

**March 30**  
4:20 p.m. Report of unsecured refrigerator in back yard, 600 block W. Washington  
5:12 p.m. Motorist assist  
6:08 p.m. Report of hit gas meter  
8:29 p.m. Report of gas skip, Loves  
9:00 p.m. Welfare check  
10:35 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington  
11:26 p.m. Barking dog complaint,  
**March 31**  
2:32 a.m. Report of one vehicle accident with deer, Diamond Shamrock  
3:45 a.m. EMS assist  
11:44 a.m. Parking citation  
12:49 p.m. Report of mail scam.  
1:19 p.m. Report of vandalism, Norton Community High School  
1:27 p.m. Report of lost dog, 100 block N. Wabash  
1:30 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, End Zone

1:39 p.m. Dog found  
3:26 p.m. Motorist assist  
7:00 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 500 block Wilton  
7:15 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 400 block Waverly  
8:18 p.m. Request for ride home, Norton County Hospital  
**April 1**  
4:00 a.m. Activated alarm  
5:51 a.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Diamond Shamrock  
6:00 a.m. Keys locked in vehicle, 36 Motel  
10:08 a.m. Barking dog complaint, Wilton & Jones  
12:10 p.m. Report of hit and run accident, 700 block N. 2nd  
2:05 p.m. Two dogs running loose, 300 block N. 1st  
3:51 p.m. Two dogs running loose, E. Park St.  
3:53 p.m. Two dogs running loose, 500 block Grant  
4:08 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington  
5:46 p.m. Two vehicle accident, Pamida

7:11 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 700 block N. 2nd  
8:40 p.m. Report of individual kicking back door, 300 block N. Norton  
11:20 p.m. Request to speak to officer concerning stalking order  
**April 2**  
9:45 a.m. Report of suspicious package, Library  
11:50 a.m. Report of individual not welcome at residence, 500 block State  
8:28 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Subway  
9:47 p.m. Report of kids sneaking around house, Brown St.  
9:50 p.m. Report of dog running loose, Elmwood Park  
10:10 p.m. Report of harassing text messages  
11:00 p.m. Parking citations  
**April 3**  
2:03 a.m. Report of intoxicated individual walking  
4:08 a.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Loves

# HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Museum is proud to announce the return visit of a Wheatland, Wyo. artist.

Barbara Schaffner will be instructing a four-day painting workshop at the Dane G. Hansen Museum, 110 W. Main, Logan.

These classes will be held on April 14, 15, 16 and 17 and will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a one hour break for lunch.

This learning opportunity is brought to you through the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program and offered at reduced rates to the public.

Cost of the workshop is \$140 with discounts available for Hansen Museum members.

Intermediate and advanced artists may call 785-689-4846 for more information or to register by phone.

The class is limited to twenty students.

Schaffner was an honors student at West Texas State University, majoring in fine art and art education and returns to Logan to instruct her eighth oil painting workshop for Hansen Museum.

Schaffner's western scenes and wildlife painting have hung in galleries in six western states and Canada and success has come to her through numerous shows and top awards.

Schaffner was honored with the Wyoming Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year 2003 award and won the purchase award in December

2005 at the 2-Shot Goose Hunt Art Show in Torrington, Wyo.

Schaffner also recently completed a historic painting of "The First Steamship to Arrive at Fort Union-1832."

Schaffner enjoys living close to the mountains where she can view and photograph the elk and other wildlife she depicts in much of her work.

Her studio, "Wyoming Trails Gallery," is located at: 1004 16th Street, Wheatland, Wyo.

We're Doing It Again!

**PIE SALE**

\$1.50 Per Serving

Thursday, April 15  
9:30 a.m.  
Norton Senior Center  
— Free Coffee —  
SPONSORED BY  
Mid-Century Federated Club

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361

Please join family and friends as we celebrate the 85th Birthday of Frances Bader Reception at the Sunflower Senior Center Jennings, Kansas Sunday, April 18, 2010 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No Gifts, Please

April 9- April 14

Showing at the

**NORTON THEATRE**

**Alice in Wonderland**

1 Hour, 57 Minutes (PG) (Presented in Digital Surround Sound)

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.  
Mon., Tues., Wed. 7:00 p.m.

**Clash of the Titans**

2 Hours, 0 Minutes (PG-13) Premiere

Only premiere passes for Clash of the Titans; All Passes for Alice in Wonderland

Premiere Price: \$7.00 and \$6.00 for Clash of the Titans/No Sunday Discount General Admission: \$6.00 and \$5.00 for Alice in Wonderland/\$3 Ticket Sunday

**Iron Man 2**  
Shrek: The Final Chapter  
Visit our Website: [nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

**FYI**

The Northwest Kansas Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will hold their 37th annual recognition banquet and dance on April 21 at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. The dance is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is open to all senior citizens. Dance tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact the RSVP office at 462-6744 for further information.

**Correction**

The city council story on April 9 was incorrect. Downing Drilling is not being fined. They are facing liquidated damages.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**  
APRIL 11-17

Northwest Kansas Library System

Communities Thrive @ Your Library

George Seamon Jr., Assistant Director of Northwest Kansas Library System

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK!**