

Breakfast 101



Hadley Hauser (left), 9, and Matt Vacura, 12, work together to create a "Breakfast Banana Split" Tuesday morning at Eisenhower Elementary School. The young people were participating in the "Breakfast 101" class, sponsored by the Kansas State University Extension in Norton County.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Student News

Ashley Tritt of Norton, has graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Tritt is one of 1,293 students who completed associate or bachelor's degrees in the spring 2011

semester.

Fort Hays State University's degree lists include only graduates whose transcripts and records have been verified as meeting all requirements for graduation.

The verification process is com-

pleted approximately three weeks after commencement.

Fort Hays State University, a state supported institution with an enrollment of about 12,000, is one of six universities in the Kansas Board of Regents system.

FYI

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with Veterans' Affairs claims work on Tuesday, July 5. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

In love with my rhubarb

By Jill Pertler

For as long as I can remember, I've been in love with my rhubarb.

It's a one-sided relationship, to be sure. If there can be such a thing as a relationship with a garden plant.

It may sound counter intuitive, having a soft spot in one's heart for a fruit that can't even be described as sweet (nor return my affections for that matter), but my devotion isn't for the rhubarb, per se. It's what the rhubarb represents.

It starts with humble beginnings, when the rhubarb emerges from the soil in the spring, looking more like an alien than a plant. Its curled leaves erupt from the ground like a gnarled hand. While not pretty, rhubarb enters the world thick and strong.

That's because rhubarb is a tough piece of produce. There's nothing tender about rhubarb. The large, heart-shaped leaves may connote visions of romance, but let's not forget they are poisonous.

Beyond the leaves, the stalks are fibrous and stringy - not juicy and soft like watermelon or strawberries.

You have to work with your rhubarb in order to bring it to a

sweetness and consistency considered worthy of dessert status.

Even so, rhubarb is a versatile vegetable (so versatile some might mistake it for a fruit). It is a welcome ingredient in everything from sauces and jams to breads and cakes. Its tartness provides a complementary background to the sweet flavors of other fruits. Best of all, it can withstand winter temperatures that fall to double-digit negatives. It is extremely winter hardy.

Because of its culinary achievements and robust durability, rhubarb, in general, is worth my attention. But my very own rhubarb - growing in my backyard - deserves my love. The reason for this is simple: my rhubarb is old.

It has been with my family for generations. The plants came from my grandma's garden, originally, traveled to my mom's plot, and then, finally, to my own backyard. Something that's been around for nearly a century has earned a place in my family's hall of fame, not to mention our recipe books.

My grandma's stint with the rhubarb was finished long before mine began; yet I feel connected to her through our red stalks. I imagine her harvesting the plant

decades ago on the farm. Her days were filled with hard work and her hands showed it. In old photographs, I can see them - working hands that were thick, strong and gnarled. My grandma and her rhubarb - I guess both were winter hardy and tough.

Not to mention versatile and resourceful. Generations ago, good folks like my grandma didn't have the luxury of superstores or the availability of produce sitting on grocery shelves year-round. She had to make do with what she had. In the early summer months, that meant cutting, cooking and canning the rhubarb so it would be available during the long winter to keep everyone healthy and hearty.

I'm not as winter hardy as my grandma was. She'd probably take one look at my hands and know they'd never last day working on a farm. Times change. Rhubarb does not. At least not in my experience.

My rhubarb has provided my family with the sustenance of its tart goodness for three generations. It is reliable, versatile and tasty. Something that's managed to be around for so long - and proven itself winter hardy - well, I can't think of anything sweeter.

Putting the 'Wild' back in the Wild, Wild West

By Congressman Tim Huelskamp

In keeping with its commitment to putting special interests ahead of the best interest of the country, the Obama Administration has decided this time that federal land designations matter more than securing the southern border. In this instance, there are two preferential groups whose desires are being jointly satiated by the President: those who seek porous and unenforced borders as well as fanatical environmentalists who will cease at little to advance their cause. Bending to these political pressures presents a considerable threat to the safety and security of America.

Under the leadership of Congressman Rob Bishop of Utah - whose home state no doubt feels very immediate effects of illegal immigration - several Members of the House, including myself, support the National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act (H.R. 1505). This legislation will prohibit the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from taking action on public lands that impede the border security activities necessary to protect the country.

Why is this necessary? Department of Interior officials have usurped the authority of the Department of Homeland Security Border Patrol agents charged with

keeping people from entering the country illegally. By declaring certain territories as federal public lands, the Department of Interior has effectively reduced the enforcement capabilities of those patrolling the border. Bureaucratic rules and regulations have left America's security forces underequipped to deal with those sneaking across the border. For example, in some instances agents are limited to "environmentally-friendly" enforcement methods such as foot or horseback when chasing drug runners who are driving all-terrain vehicles...and they aren't the pedaled model.

What does this all mean? In the name of "environmental regulation," the Interior Department has put the "wild" back in "Wild, Wild West." By taking away the most effective tools and enforcement capabilities of the men and women who are supposed to defend our border, America falls victim to criminals who enter the U.S. illegally and upon arrival, transport drugs, participate in human trafficking, and lead prostitution rings.

Environmentalists make the claim that it is the border security agents who pose a threat to the ecological well-being of the area. They say that by patrolling

these areas agents are disrupting the pristine land. What is actually the case is that the inability of agents to patrol the border that makes this land safe for leisure activities by no one. No one can enjoy the landscape. The Organ Pipe National Monument on the Arizona-Mexico border is just one example of where "wilderness" has become "wild" solely as a result of unpatrolled land. The Park's website actually acknowledges that "drug smuggling routes pass through the park." Well, if it is so obvious that such illegal activity takes place, why is it going unmonitored?

The consequences of a Wild West - in the name of so-called environmentalism - are felt across the country. America's economy is at stake when illegal activities populate it.

America's communities are threatened when criminal activity eventually and predictably expands beyond the southwest and touches all parts of the country. And, America's sovereignty is at stake when our lands cannot be defended because some radical groups control policy in America.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp represents the First Congressional District of Kansas.

Sheriff Accident Log

June 17: At 9:44 p.m. on Road E-11, a 2006 Ford, driven by Laurie Vstecka of Almena, was traveling south bound when a deer ran from the west ditch. The driver was unable to avoid contact. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident. The accident was investigated by Rich Wenzl.

June 18: At 1:07 p.m. a 2005 Ford, driven by Cynthia Field of Norton, backed up and struck another vehicle. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident. The accident was investigated by Rich Wenzl.

Email bdiederich@nwkansas.com with your society news!



Attention Norton and Almena Residents:

Nex-Tech will be replacing the battery on the outside of your house throughout the summer. This replacement will not require entry into your home, only access to the outside equipment, and will be completed free of charge.

If you have any questions, please call your local Nex-Tech store at **785-877-4135**.



117 North Norton • Norton, KS
785.877.4135 • www.nex-tech.com

June 24- June 28

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE

Cars 2

2 Hour, 3 Minutes (G) (Presented in Digital Surround Sound)

Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:20 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m. and 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Water for Elephants

2 Hours, 10 Minutes (PG-13)

All passes accepted for Bridesmaids; Only premiere passes accepted for Cars 2

Bridesmaids is General Admission \$6.00 & \$5.00 - \$3.00 Sunday Discount
Cars 2 is Premiere Price \$7.00 & \$6.00 - NO Sunday Discount

COMING SOON

PREMIERING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
Transformers 3 (PG-13)

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