

# Close call



Marilyn Mack of Oberlin narrowly escaped her burning car Sunday night. She was in Norton to play Bingo and after the games were over she headed home. When she neared the intersection of 36 and 383 west of Norton, she noticed the floorboard on the passenger side glowing red. She pulled to the side of the road and got out to investigate and the car burst into flames. Caleb Goss of Norton was the first to arrive on the scene and made sure Marilyn was not injured. The rural fire department was called out to extinguish the flame. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## PUBLIC RECORD

### District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse. Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

#### Nov. 10

Aug. 29-Brian L. Gade, Norcatur; Charge: Vehicles; unlawful acts; e.g. registration; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

Aug. 29-Brian L. Gade, Norcatur; Charge: Vehicles; liability insurance coverage required;

Found: Guilty; Fine: \$173.

Oct. 20-Mason T. Gordan, Norton; Charge: Speeding 77 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$155.

Aug. 2-Brittany E. Kolman, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Aug. 16-Desiree Sue Lechner, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 95 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$293.

Oct. 9-Elier Molina Gomez, Lovington, N. M.; Charge: Speeding 85 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$203.

Sept. 29-Brett Post, Prairie View; Charge: Driving on right side of roadway required; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$173.

Oct. 22-Robert J. Reiners, Plainville; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$167.

Oct. 15-Anthony Mark Roy, Bogue; Charge: Speeding 82 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$185.

Oct. 18-Joshua William Streeker, Spearville; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$167.

Oct. 19-Sheri Kasper, Norton; Charge: 1. Speeding 30 in 20 school zone, 2. No proof of insurance; Plea: 1. Guilty, 2. Dismissed/proof; Found: 1. Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100 school zone, costs \$76, total \$176.

Sept. 13-John Krieger, Wichita; Charge: Driving while suspended; Plea: Guilty; Other action: Sentence reduced with proof of re-instatement; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

64 in 45, 2. No driver's license; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: 1. \$84, 2. \$100, costs \$76, total \$260.

Oct. 13-Andrea Bromn, Tekamah, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Sept. 11-Robert Marx, Clayton; Charge: No motorcycle license; Other action: Dismissed with proof of obtaining license; Sentence: Costs \$76.

### Municipal Court

#### Nov. 10

Oct. 9-Mikel McLellan, Norton; Charge: Disorderly conduct; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Oct. 9-Shara Dukes, Norton; Charge: Disorderly conduct; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Sept. 30-Daniel Sauvage, Oberlin; Charge: 1. Speeding

## POLICE LOG

#### Nov. 7

Dog complaint  
Request for accident report  
Investigate hit & run accident  
Information concerning missing spouse  
Keys locked in vehicle  
Two vehicle stops

#### Nov. 8

Keys locked in vehicle  
Two vehicle stops  
Report of verbal dispute  
Civil matter concerning ownership of dog  
Civil standby  
EMS assist  
Report of fight  
Report of vandalism behind school shop, windows were soaped  
Activated alarm, Dairy Queen

#### Nov. 9

Activated alarm, Dairy Queen  
Report of missing vehicle, civil matter  
Request from Norton Co. Hospital to speak to individual  
Three vehicle stops  
Request to speak to officer concerning parking trailers on street  
Report of gas skip, Loves  
Report of two vehicle accident  
Two barking dog complaints

Activated alarm  
**Nov. 10**  
Two vehicle stops  
Report of intoxicated individual leaving Valley Hope  
Report of individual being beaten up  
Domestic battery situation, one arrest  
**Nov. 11**  
Three reports of keys locked in vehicle  
Traffic control for parade  
Assault investigation  
Child custody dispute  
Intoxicated individual causing disturbance  
Same child custody dispute  
Gas skip, Diamond Shamrock  
Report of windows being soaped  
**Nov. 12**  
Activated alarm  
Two vehicle accident  
Report of harassing phone calls  
Report of individual driving by residence and yelling  
**Nov. 13**  
Four vehicle stops  
Report of business yard signs are being stolen  
Report of individual that had fallen and couldn't get up  
Report of dead cat in roadway  
Two vehicle accident

# Tips for choosing a turkey

Shopping for a turkey sounds simple, but holiday cooks, and particularly first-time holiday hosts, can find labeling confusing, said Karen Blakeslee, K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

To begin, if buying a whole bird, it's best to allow about one pound per person. If choosing a boneless turkey breast, allow one-half pound per person, she said.

Should you choose a hen, or a tom?

"Simply put, a hen is a female and typically smaller in size; a tom is a male and typically larger," Blakeslee said. "The choice depends largely on the guest list. For a small crowd, choose a hen; for a larger crowd, a tom." The flavor will be the same, she said.

Fresh or frozen?  
"A fresh turkey will be chilled, but at a temperature no lower than 26 degrees F (the temperature at which poultry begins to freeze)," Blakeslee said.

If a fresh turkey is preferred, the food scientist advised ordering it in advance and picking it up a day or two before the meal.

Purchasing a frozen turkey in

advance allows consumers to take advantage of sale prices, said Blakeslee, who noted that frozen turkeys must be stored at 0 degrees F or below. She advises shoppers to examine the packaging to make sure the turkey is frozen "rock hard."

"With a frozen turkey, consumers are reminded to allow plenty of time to thaw it," said Blakeslee, who recommended placing a frozen turkey (breast side up, and in its original wrap) on a pan with a lip in the refrigerator to thaw.

Allow 24 hours of thawing time for each 4 to 5 lbs.; for a Thanksgiving meal, for example, start thawing a 15-lb. turkey on Monday, she said.

"Basted" indicates a turkey has been injected with solution of water, broth, butter, seasonings or other flavor enhancer, but, according to Blakeslee, basting does not guarantee improved flavor or better quality.

A "free-range turkey" must have access to the outdoors at least 51 percent of the time, and a "fryer-roaster" indicates a young turkey, less than 16 weeks old and of either sex.

"Natural" or "all natural" indicates that meat and poultry

products have minimal processing and do not contain artificial flavoring, coloring, preservatives, artificial or synthetic ingredients.

"No added antibiotics" or "raised without use of antibiotics" requires producers to document that animals were raised without antibiotics in feed, water, or intra-muscular.

Designation as "organic" indicates that a product meets the USDA requirements of the National Organic Program, which prohibits the use of genetically engineering methods, ionizing radiation and sewage sludge for fertilization and also includes processing requirements.

"Organic methods alone cannot guarantee food safety and security, said Blakeslee, who noted that organically produced eggs were recently found to carry salmonella.

Focus on food safety, said Blakeslee, who noted that one of the single most important food safety and health rules - washing hands before and after handling raw and cooked foods, and before and after eating - is often overlooked.

# Weathering the storm in rural Kansas

By Ron Wilson,  
Huck Boyd Institute

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it," said Mark Twain. Yes, we all feel the impact of the weather. Today we'll meet an innovative private meteorologist who is providing weather-related services to rural Kansas.

Chris Sramek is owner and meteorologist at Decision Weather in Atwood, Kansas. Chris grew up on the family farm near Atwood. He was studying computer science at Fort Hays State when he visited Boulder, Colorado. While there he visited the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and one might say he was "blown away" by what he saw there. The cutting edge technology and weather analysis was very impressive.

"I knew this was what I wanted to do," Chris said. On the same trip, he took a personality test which suggested that he was not cut out to be a computer programmer. So Chris decided to make a change and transferred to the University of Nebraska where he graduated in Meteorology.

He took a position with a private meteorology firm in Kansas City and worked there seven years, but he really wanted to get back closer to the farm and family in Rawlins County. In spring 2001, Chris made the move back to Atwood where he established his own meteorology firm called Decision Weather and got involved with his hometown.

"The folks in Kansas City told me, 'You're the first radio-TV weather personality that we've had that's gone the other way,'" Chris said. "Most of them are coming from small towns and trying to move into larger markets." After all, Atwood is a community of 1,258 people. Now, that's rural.

But Chris could see how the technology was changing to enable electronic communication, and he wanted to use the technology to benefit agriculture. He set up Decision Weather to provide personalized weather

forecasts and weather consulting to individuals and all types of businesses, such as agriculture, construction, radio, transportation, public works and roads, education, aviation, recreation, and public utilities.

For the first two years, Chris operated from an office in his home. Then he rented space downtown, and in 2006 Decision Weather purchased the building where they operate today. Decision Weather utilizes a fully staffed state-of-the-art weather lab equipped with a broadcast studio, high-speed Internet, and multiple PC weather stations. He's done weather reports for communities from Salina to Fort Morgan, Colorado, but now focuses on his core region.

Chris does the weather forecast on the radio stations in Colby and Goodland and provides private weather consulting services for his various clients. At first, most of his clients were businesses like construction companies and golf courses, but the ag side of his business has grown so much that farmers make up most of his clients today.

For example, his clients might receive a daily email or text with the weather report. Then when they get into a busy farming or construction season, they might consult with Chris about weather conditions - such as if

they are preparing to pour concrete or spray a field.

The name "Decision Weather" is fitting, because his weather reports and analyses help his clients decide on how to plan their outdoor work. If a farmer needs to spray for weeds or pests, for example, Decision Weather provides key information on wind speed and direction so as to make sure that nearby fields are not affected.

"I'm not necessarily just delivering the weather anymore," Chris said. "My job is more consulting with people and helping them interpret what they see."

For more information, go to [www.decisionweather.com](http://www.decisionweather.com).

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Yes, weather affects all of us, but this entrepreneurial Kansan has found a way to build a business of serving agriculture and consulting on the weather. We commend Chris Sramek for making a difference by bringing his expertise back to rural Kansas. His work can help rural Kansas weather the proverbial storm.

And there's more. Remember that Chris got involved when he moved back to his hometown? He ended up leading an initiative which is transforming his community. We'll learn about that in next week's Kansas Profile.



## 4-H Denver Trip Benefit Meal

**Saturday, November 19**  
6:00 P.M.  
Norton Armory - \$6.00 at the Door  
Serving: Beef Fries, Ham, Beef and Turkey

Come To Our

# Fall Coffee!

We Are Having A

## PUZZLE EXCHANGE

We Have Puzzles We Want To EXCHANGE!!!

Bring Your Puzzles and Come for Coffee and Cookies on

### Thursday, November 17

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

## Whispering Pines

W. Highway 36 - Norton, Kansas

Kansas Department of Aging - Partnership Loan Program  
MEDICAID APPROVED - HCBS APPROVED

## Advisory lifted at Logan City Lake

Water samples taken by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at Logan City Lake in Phillips County have concluded that the toxic level of blue-green algae has subsided for that body of water. Though experts still advise caution, the department has lifted the Public Health Advisory there.

"Our testing showed that there are no high areas of concern at the moment," explained Tom Langer, Director for the Bureau of Environmental Health. "That said, if you see any green material floating in the water, you, and especially your pets, should avoid it."

This concludes testing for blue-green algae for the year.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com)



### Computer Technician

Colby Community College is accepting applications for a **Computer Technician**. Full-time, 12-month position providing technical guidance and expertise in the areas of microcomputer hardware, software and the campus network. Includes minor repairs to microcomputer hardware, installation, updating and cataloging of software, general maintenance of computing hardware, installation of new hardware and installation and maintenance of the microcomputer portion of the campus network. Work with students and staff to provide software and hardware support. Associate degree in computer science or related field preferred. Experience in the appropriate field is highly desirable. Must have good communication skills to work with diverse population of users. To apply, send letter, resume and all postsecondary transcripts by Dec. 5, 2011 to Colby Community College, Attn.: Bev Anderson, 1255 S. Range Ave., Colby, KS 67701. Materials may be emailed to [bev.anderson@colbycc.edu](mailto:bev.anderson@colbycc.edu). CCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to diversifying its work force.