# OBITUARIES

### Creta Mae Fought Oct. 19, 1924 - Jan. 29, 2012

Creta Mae Fought, beloved mother, grandmother and friend, returned to the arms of our Savior on Jan. 29, 2012 at the age of 87. She died peacefully in her sleep following a valiant struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Creta Mae was born to Emory Roy Chase and Hazel Ada Betterton on Oct. 19, 1924. She was the tomboy and sweetheart of her parents, fulfilling every desire parents carry for their children. She had no siblings but grew up on "the farm" with every imaginable playmate and playground a child could desire. It was there that she inherited her unshakable work ethic and servant's heart. She graduated from Norton Community High School and shortly thereafter married the love of her life and husband of 68 years, Gordon Ludlow Fought.

Together they raised three children, Melba Ann Schnelle, Donald Gordon Fought, and James Curtis (Jim) Fought. Like their parents before them, Creta Mae and Gordon made their home on the farm in their early married years, but moved to Norton where she supported Gordon in his work and made their house a warm and inviting home to all. Service was an innate personality characteristic she had and flourished in her many activities and membership at the Norton Christian Church.



She exemplified and was a role model to all who knew her as a living witness of the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Even her happy past time of crossword puzzles were in her pursuit of knowing God's word and seeking a heart like his.

Creta Mae was never credited to the living witness she was. She never sought her own praise. While raising her children and tending to her home, she also faithfully served as the caregiver for the elderly members of her family. One by one her tireless efforts enabled them to stay in their homes as long as possible, her father, her mother, mother-in-law, aunt and great aunt.

Creta Mae is survived by her sons: Donald Fought (Vickie) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; James Fought (Tina) of Park City,

Utah; son-in-law Robert Schnelle (Sabine) of Johnson City, Tenn. Also surviving are seven grandchildren: Lanette Schnelle Cutright (Troy) of Topeka; Deric Schnelle (Tessa) of Overland Park; Kathleen Fought Burd (Marty) of Tempe, Ariz.; Tyler Fought (Alyssa) of Portland, Ore.; Kelly Fought Royall (Johnny) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Austin Fought (Amy) of Mount Herman, Calif.; Adam Fought of Winston-Salem, N.C. She would unashamedly boast of them all and the twelve greatgrandchildren and one greatgreat-granddaughter that graced her life as she graced theirs.

Services are to be on Feb. 25 at the Norton Christian Church at 11 a.m. and will be officiated by the Reverends Larry Lyles and longtime friend and spiritual mentor, Darell Boston. A luncheon hosted by her friends and sisters of the church will follow to which all are invited in sharing the life of our mother, grandmother and friend. Private interment services will be at the Norton Cemetery.

Creta Mae is best described as a woman of unconditional and uncompromising love. This is her legacy. In lieu of flowers, her family asks a gift to someone you love with a flower, hug them very tightly and love them the way she would, unconditionally.

# BIRTH

Blake and Brianna (Deenihan) Wolf of Hill City announce the birth of their son, Hunter James Wolf. He was born Nov. 29, 2011 weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 22 inches long.

Maternal grandparents of Hunter are Jan Deenihan and the late Michael Deenihan of Hill City.

Maternal great-grandparents are Beryl Johnson and the late Kenneth W. Johnson of Glade; and Matilden "Tillie" Deenihan and the late John "Jack" Deenihan of Wichita.

Paternal grandparents of Hunter are David Wolf of New Almelo; and Jeannie and James Waters of Concordia.



Paternal great-grandparents are Robert and Elaine Simoneau of Lenora; and Elsie

Wolf and the late Jim Wolf of Norton.

# Vanderhoef/Thompson engagement



## Initiative deadline is Feb. 24

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas will provide approximately \$2 million to conserve the water in the Ogallala Aquifer through the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative. The application cutoff date is Feb. 24 to be considered for Fiscal Year 2012 funds. The service will fund this initiative through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

The Ogallala Aquifer, also known as the High Plains Aquifer, is a vast, yet shallow underground water table aquifer located beneath the Great Plains in the United States. It is one of the world's largest aquifers and covers an area in portions of eight states, which include Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. Much of the High Plains region relies on the Ogallala for water but the water in the Ogallala Aquifer is diminishing because of widespread irrigation use in the High Plains states. Financial assistance is available through the initiative for producers considering converting from irrigated cropland to dry land cropland, as well as assistance for more efficient irrigation systems and management. All participants must meet eligibility requirements. In Kansas, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for conservation practices related to the initiative To sign an application, stop by your local Department of Agriculture Service Center and

visit with the staff. For more information about initiative and other natural resources conservation programs, please contact your local office or conservation district office. The office is located at your local Department of Agriculture Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov. More information is also available on

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thompson announce the engagement of their son, Michael, to Julia Vanderhoef, daughter of Jonnie and the late Laura Vanderhoef of Lakeview, Mich.

Julia is a 2011 graduate of Grand Valley State University School of Nursing and holds her R.N. degree.

Michael is a kindergarten teacher at Northern Valley Schools in Almena and also farms with his family.

A March 2012 wedding in Michigan is planned, as well as a reception at the Norton Eagles Lodge on March 24. The couple will reside on a farm northeast of Almena.

#### **Richard Allen Bennett** April 14, 1941 - Feb. 2, 2012

Richard Allen Bennett, age 70, of rural Meriden, Iowa, passed away Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012 at his residence north of Meriden.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Cherokee. Internment will take place at Mt. Calvary Cemetery outside Cherokee at a later date. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.greenwoodfuneral.com.

Richard Allen Bennett, son of Richard Vaughn Bennett and Helen Louise Fullerton Bennett, was born on April 14, 1941 in Norton County. He attended school in Lenora, and he also would work the wheat harvest for Joe Berry Custom Cutting from Texas clear to Canada. He served in the Army National Guard from 1963 –1969.

On Aug. 20, 1962, Richard was united riage to Martha (Bates) Bennett in New Almelo. To this union, one son was born, Ronald A. Bennett. Richard and Martha moved often due to his work and finally made their home in rural Meriden, Iowa for the last 25 years of his life and were members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Cherokee, Iowa.

tion as a bridge construction foreman and crane operator. Many bridges in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska, the Rathbun Dam in Appanoose County, Iowa as well as the Norton County Reservoir Dam in Kansas where he started with Graves, all stand as a tribute to his life's work. His family and work were his whole life. Richard loved the outdoors, fishing, and hunting, especially deer, both bow and shotgun. He had a very tender heart for small animals and a special place in his heart for cats, especially the furry friends he took in and cared for.

Richard passed away unexpectedly in the comfort of his own home. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Richard (Vaughn) and Helen Bennett, a sister, Marian, a brother, Kenneth and brother-in-law, Howard Hughes.

Duplicate Bridge

The results from Wednesday night's Duplicate Bridge at Norton Manor are as follows:

First place honors went to Mary Lue Archibald and Alberta Slaby and second place went to the duo of David Graham and Jovce Sumner

Richard spent 49 years with Graves Construc-

Richard is survived by his wife of 49 years, Martha Bennett of rural Meriden, Iowa; his son, Ronald Bennett of Sioux City, Iowa, a sister-inlaw, Sharon Bennett, nieces, nephews, very special cousins, and friends.

Memorial donations can be made in his name to CRMC Hospice in Cherokee, Iowa.

## Dennis Ray Schrock Feb. 11, 1953 - Feb. 5, 2012

Dennis Ray Schrock, age 58, of Gothenburg, Neb., formerly of Edison, Neb., died on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 at Missouri Delta Medical Center in Sikeston, Mo. He was born on Feb. 11, 1953 in Denver, Colo. to Maurice R. and Sharlene J. (Garrett) Schrock.

He grew up in Kansas and Colorado. He graduated high school from Peetz, Colo. in 1971. He attended college at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo.

He married Sandy Sneddon in 1973 and moved to Alaska. One son, Trent, was born to this union. He later married Robin Schlegel in Holbrook, Neb. in 1978. They were married for 21 years. To this union, four children were born.

For several years, he worked for the Holbrook and Edison Co-op elevators and later Arapahoe Feedmill. In 2001, he moved to Gothenburg, Neb. and was a truck driver for Dart Transportation. He was a member of the Spirit of the Rock Church in Oxford, Neb.

He is preceded in death by his father, son Chris-

topher in 1980, and his grandparents.

He is survived by his mother, Sharlene Schrock of Holbrook, Neb.; sons, Trent Schrock of Holbrook, Neb., and Josh Schrock of Arapahoe, Neb.; daughters, Nicole Tidyman and husband Kent of Edison, Neb., Sonya Sitorius and husband Nick of Oconto, Neb.; sisters, Linda Roelle and husband Jim of Peetz, Colo., Sherry Segelke and husband Jerry of Greeley, Colo.; Bobbi Moore and husband Mike of Arapahoe, Neb.; eight grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Condolences and personal reflections may be left at wenburgfuneralhome.com.

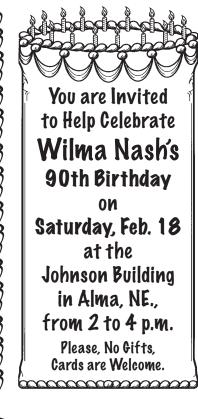
There will be no viewing or visitation as cremation was chosen. Funeral services will be Monday, Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Spirit of the Rock Church in Oxford, Neb. with Pastor Ken Breinig officiating.

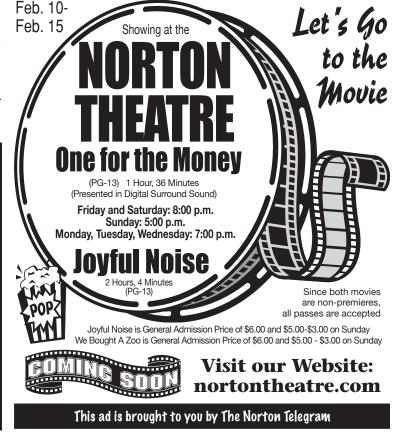
Inurnment will be Monday, Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Rexford Cemetery, in Rexford.

Wenburg Funeral Home of Arapahoe, Neb. is in charge of the services.

the Kansas Web site at www. ks.nrcs.usda.gov.







Older workers to be honored

The Kansas Department of Commerce and the Older Worker Task Force will host the annual Older Worker Awards Ceremony on March 30.

This event honors older workers who continue to play a very important role in the Kansas workforce and economy, as well as their employers.

The ceremony will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 30 at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library.

Nominations for workers 55 and older and for companies that employ older workers are due by March 2. The online forms can be found at KansasCommerce. com/OlderWorkers.

Call Mike with all your social news. 877-3361 mstephens@nwkansas.com

NGH **The Norton County Hospital** and the Norton County Health Department will hold a Community Health **Needs Assessment Meeting on** Monday, February 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Prairie Land Electric Conference Room

> The Public is Encouraged to Attend Lunch Will Be Served - No RSVP Needed