

Weather played havoc with gardens

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Last week in this space, a few of you may remember that yours truly discussed the planting of tomatoes. The basis of my dissertation was that you should consider setting out your tomato plants a little earlier than you normally do each spring and therefore pick a fresh tomato a little earlier. My words were something like “plant early, have a plan to protect the plants in case of a late frost, and then eat a tomato earlier.”

Remember that? Good advice, huh? I thought it was. For the last six years I’ve put my plants outside about the First of May without a problem. This year, it was the sixth of May when before the first ones went out, and May 9 before I finished. They were nice plants, all home-grown, five or six of my favorite varieties, protected with the tall cages wrapped with two feet of black plastic on the bottom, and all that other good stuff.

On May 12, here comes Jack Frost with his icy cold paint brush and proceeds to deal my plants a serious blow! On May

13, another visit, as if old Jack was some kind of close relative. He returned sometime during the early morning hours of May 14 and 15 and caused additional havoc out there. I even placed a newspaper page over every plant after the second day, but the damage was apparently already done.

Actually, and perhaps miraculously, it appeared that about 15 or 20 of the original 51 plants may have survived. Several others have been or will be replaced. It’s slow going for an older fella, and I haven’t even planted my beans and cucumbers yet. Nor have I planted my one hill of zucchini. If only I had planted the zucchini earlier rather than the tomatoes!

Incidentally, the coldest temperature during that infamous four morning period, as recorded at the National Weather Service just five miles from my garden, was 30 degrees on the morning of May 13. None of the other three cold mornings saw a temperature of less than 32.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. My loss was infinitesimal compared to what is hap-

pening to the wheat crop over a wide area of the High Plains. A beautiful start toward a decent wheat crop, and then no moisture. We are almost unbelievably dry!

On a related note. I thought Jason Graves, a District Ag Agent based in Salina and writes for the Salina Journal each Thursday, wrote a very timely article last week. He wrote about the stress our trees are enduring right now, and that it is vitally important to water them now. Not next week. Now! Jason noted that trees are tough, but many of our trees haven’t had meaningful moisture since 2011. For those of you who are planting a tree this spring, failure to water it often enough will likely result in a loss. And that goes for trees that were planted anytime in the last five years. Until they establish a deep root system they are in serious danger without a regular watering schedule.

For information about tree planting and keeping those trees healthy, contact your Extension Agent, or a knowledgeable Master Gardener.

April’s Leadership Winners!



From Left to Right: Kenton Thalheim, Haillee Bingham, Andromeda Haussermann, Delaney Sides and Tyler Burge.

—Courtesy photo

Kindergarten – Tyler Burge
Tyler Burge is the Kindergarten leadership award winner. Tyler comes to school with a positive attitude and is ready to learn each day. Tyler has demonstrated good listening skills during teacher instructional times as well as group learning activities. Tyler treats his classmates with respect and has good behavior throughout the school day. – Michael Thompson

1st Grade – Delaney Sides
Delaney Sides is the first grade leadership winner for April. Delaney has a strong work ethic and does her best in the classroom. She always listens and adds to classroom discussions. Delaney shows good citizenship by following classroom rules and respects her peers and teachers. She has a positive attitude and does what is asked of her. Delaney works hard on her classroom work and helps others when

needed. –Tammy Vincent
2nd Grade – Kenton Thalheim
Kenton Thalheim is the second grade leadership winner for April. Kenton has a strong work ethic and has used free time to achieve Accelerated Reader goals. His curiosity and eagerness to learn have made him a good role model for his peers. He is kind, helpful, and encouraging to his classmates. Kenton is a positive person who has a good sense of humor. –Julie Thompson

3rd Grade – Hailee Bingham
Hailee Bingham is the 3rd Grade Leader for the month of April. She has shown how to adjust well to a new school. Hailee is eager to work hard and learn new things. She has a positive attitude and has been very successful in accelerated math and accelerated reader even though she has been in our school a very short time. Hailee is a good friend and

gets along well with everyone. She has shown how to be a leader in the classroom as well as when others are not watching. –Jill Gebhard

4th Grade – Andromeda Haussermann
Andromeda Haussermann is the 4th grade Leadership winner for the month of April. Andromeda follows the rules and is very respectful to her peers and all adults. She always turns her work in completed and on time. Andromeda is a very good role model and is always willing to lend a hand to others. She is always very cheerful in the mornings and loves being at school. She is a great leader and sets a good example for others to follow. She is full of integrity and is a disciplined student. Congratulations Andromeda! –Monica Wilson

Leadership award winners receive a certificate and a “Husky” bag.

COLLEGE NOTES

Scholarship recipients announced for 2014-15

Jack and Wanda Mechsner Scholarship Fund

- \$1,000 scholarships to: Bailey Ambrosier - Norton Darcy Bainter - Norton Johnnye Ruder - Norton Leif Carlson - Norton Katelyn Engelbert - Norton Ashley Hildebrand - Norton Cody O’Hare - Norton Ian Vincent - Northern Valley \$500 scholarships to: Landon Slipke - Norton Marisa Maddy - Norton Jared Shelton - Norton

- Hannah Pollock - Norton Austin Hager - Norton Elva Bailey Memorial Scholarship awarded to the following Northern Valley students: Alex Tharman - \$1,000 Brittanie Larison - \$750 Aaron Pinzensham - \$1,000 Hunter Chandler - \$1,000 Brooke Hammond - \$1,000 Jordan Baird - \$1,000 Ian Vincent - \$1,000 A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Bailey Ambrosier by the Leo Moody Scholarship Fund. St. Francis of Assisi Parish

- Scholarships: Darcy Bainter and Katelyn Engelbert \$1,000 each - Evelyn and Lester Fredde Memorial Travis Cressler \$250 - A.M. (Babe) and Josephine Hickert Memorial Zachary Esslinger \$500 - Gordon and Lulu Brantley Memorial Marc Miller and Garrett Otter \$750 each - Jack and Wanda Mechsner Jared Shelton \$800 - St Francis of Assisi Church Eli Bozarth \$500 - Glen and Helen Tweed Memorial

Corrections employees recognized

Uniformed: Tim Gill

Tim began employment with the Norton State Hospital in 1981 and made the transition in 1987 as the facility changed over to Norton Correctional Facility. He has worked his way up through the security ranks and is currently a Corrections Specialist III.

Tim has continued to show true dedication to his performance and the performance of others. During the past year he has worked as Relief Shift Supervisor (split shift) and served as SORT Commander. During this time he has continued to coordinate some very quality training, a SORT Basic train-

ing, provide quality training as an instructor to the Basic training classes, and performed well on shift. Improvement in training also includes the creation and building of an obstacle course with assistance of some dedicated SORT officers. Tim is always willing to change off days to accommodate training/SORT schedules which is sometimes a difficult task considering he works a split shift (nights/day). He takes great pride in the performance of those on shift and SORT and sets a high standard for himself and his subordinates. He also does a good job of providing positive feedback to staff.



Non-Uniformed: Barbara Ard

Barbara began her employment with the Kansas Department of Corrections at Topeka Correctional Facility where she worked for six years. She started as an Administrative Assistant and when she resigned had promoted to an Accountant 1. Barbara took a short break from corrections work and moved out of the Topeka area. She began employment with Stockton Correctional Facility in January 2013 as a Senior Administrative Assistant.

Barbara is very knowledgeable and is an asset to the Stockton Correctional Facility. She goes above and beyond to assist all areas of the facility as well as all staff. Barbara

exhibits efficiency and organizational skills that have benefited both East and Central Units. She brings her past experience of working at TCF to the facility. This has allowed the Business Office to modify some processes and learn some short-cuts in the SMART system. She answers questions and performs tasks with a good attitude and willingness to help. She carries a positive attitude and is one that staff goes to for guidance. She is an Equal Employment Opportunity Representative. She keeps supervisors informed and is always willing to give her assistance wherever it is needed. She is noted as being pleasant and a pleasure to work with.



Contract: Tina Gehring

Tina is employed with Corizon and works in the clinic as a registered nurse. She has been employed with the clinic since March 2011. During her employment she has set the highest standards of integrity and providing quality health care to Norton Correctional Facility. Tina is dependable and establishes professional relationships with all her co-workers. Her supervisors note that they are extremely fortunate to have Tina as part of the Correctional Health Care system. Tina’s assessment skills and charting are outstanding and she can handle herself in an emergency situation as proven in February 2014 when she was called on to respond to a medical emergen-

cy in the middle of the night involving an inmate suffering from seizure type symptoms, possible blood sugar related. The offender was reacting in a manner that made it extremely difficult for him to be attended to both physically and through verbal communications as his behavior was similar to that of a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Her professional conduct was impressive and she administered medical attention as needed, ensuring the wellbeing of the individual until he was stable enough to be transported to the clinic. It was noted by security staff that her conduct and performance set an example of the Norton Correctional Facility’s highly efficient medical department.



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.

May 8

April 16-Bruce A. Anderberry, Axtell, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 81 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$177.

Justin S. Borntraeger, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

Oct. 31, 2013-Michael Darrell Bush, Jr., Porterville, Calif.; Charge: Speeding 65 in 55; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$163.

April 7-Ryan Jordan, Clear Lake Shores, Texas; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

April 5-Luis Martinez, Arkansas City, Kan.; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$172.

April 4-Janet M. Prokup, Bevier, Mo.; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$159.

April 7-Daniel K. Slim, Yah-tahy, N.M.; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$165.

Feb. 2-Kyle Stewart, Norton; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

March 15-Rafael A. Velazquez-Dominguez, Guy-mon, Okla.; Charge: Speeding 80 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

April 19-Kenneth F. Von Holten, Rock Fall, Ill.; Charge: Failure to yield at stop or yield sign; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

April 18-Mario Hernandez, Goodland; Charge: Personal

flotation devices not available (x2); Found: Guilty; Fine: \$196.

April 26-Phoukhong Ithivongkham; Charge: Five short saugeye/walleye (less than 18 inches); Found: Guilty; Fine: \$346.

May 15

April 21-Michael John Blanks, Hill City; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

April 19-Kelly R. Brink, Nehawka, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 77 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$153.

April 19-Kelly R. Brink, Nehawka, Neb.; Charge: Child passenger safety; restraining systems and seatbelts; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$60.

May 5-Craig R. Halstead, Arnold, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.



It can be hard to appreciate the small moments in life when you’re focused on fighting breast cancer. But at Good Samaritan Hospital, those moments are the very reason we do what we do. From the very first line to the closing scene, your story is our story—and we’re here to help you find your happy ending.

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