

OBITUARIES

Lillian May Fuller

Jan. 2, 1922 - Feb. 4, 2014

After a wonderful life of many years not being stubborn but just independent, Lillian May Fuller passed away at the age of 92 on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014 in Paola. On Jan. 2, 1922 she was born in Marysville, to John and Ann Elizabeth (Clark) Wise.

She was united in marriage to Robert Fuller Jr. on June 7, 1964 in Ellis.

Lillian worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at the Hospital and Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Norton, and retired in 1977.

Lillian was a member of Red Hat Club, First Christian

Church, former Rebekka Lodge, Church Deacon and a past president of Christian Women’s Fellowship.

Left to mourn her passing are her sons, Mike and Marie Fuller of Salina, Ron Fuller of Lincoln, Neb., and Charles Fuller of Grand Island, Neb.; daughters, Pam and Doug Doty of Grand Island, Neb., and Sherry and Perry Cadd of Merino, Colo. A niece, Katherine Hoegler of Paola, and a nephew, John Nickins, of Toledo, Ohio and two great-nieces, Renee and Ross Diviak of Spring Hill, and Christine Spake of Kansas City. She is preceded in death by

her parents, husband, brothers, Chester, John, and Sylvis Wise; sisters, Emma Wise, Martha Fowler, Frances Roberts, and Mary Nickins, and one daughter in-law Rhonda Fuller.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 at the First Christian Church in Salina.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church and are in care of Ryan Mortuary 137 N. 8th Salina KS 67401.

Words of comfort for the family may be left at www.ryan-mortuary.com.

DEATH NOTICE

William Maurice “Bill” Kirk

Feb. 5, 2014

Former Clayton area resident, William Maurice “Bill” Kirk, of Topeka, passed away Feb. 5, 2014, at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka.

Services will be held Mon-

day, Feb. 10, 2014, at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Clayton.

Burial will be held in the Clayton Cemetery. Friends may call at the Enfield Funeral Home

in Norton, on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, from 5 until 7 p.m.

Arrangements are with the Enfield Funeral Home in Norton.

Support for manufacturing in Kansas

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

San Francisco, California. A large metro-rail construction project is underway, with the rails supported by huge 40,000 pound abutments. A heavy duty metal framework attaches to the abutments and supports those rails. Where do you suppose that metal framework was constructed? Would you believe, halfway across the continent in rural Kansas?

Doug Routh is the owner and founder of R-TECH Tools, the remarkable company which built the framework for these abutments. Doug is a Kansan. He graduated from Wamego and went to trade school in Salina. He worked in Kansas City and came back to Wamego to work at what was then Baldersons Manufacturing. For five years, he worked in a heavy equipment repair shop in California.

When Doug heard that Caterpillar had purchased a controlling interest in Baldersons, he thought that might create an opportunity for related business in the area. Doug and his wife Rachelle moved to Wamego again. In 1993, they set up a business known as R-TECH Tool and Machine, or R-TECH for short.

“We started out repairing machines and equipment for contractors or farmers,” Doug said. For the first few months, it was just Doug and Rachelle. “I’d set up the machines, and she ran them,” Doug said. She also did the books.

The company grew, but it has remained a true family business. “Every one of my kids works for

me in some way,” Doug said. Rachelle still helps too. Their oldest daughter Chantel is the office manager, which includes handling human resources and accounting. Son Joshua oversees purchasing and tooling. Daughter Cassie enters orders and helps with accounting. Twin sons Jacob and Jordan are freshmen at K-State, but also help on the shop floor and office. In fact, R-TECH now has more than 50 employees.

“We try real hard to take care of our people,” Doug said. “We have one of the only climate-controlled shop floors around.”

In 2008, the company made the largest investment in the history of the business, purchasing a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art Versatech bridge mill. “It’s one of the few of that size in private hands around here,” Doug said. “That purchase has catapulted us to the next level.”

Today, the company does large parts manufacturing, CNC machining, welding and fabrication, and prototype design and engineering.

“We work real close with customers, building products that might not be practical for them to do themselves,” Doug said. “We try to build a long-term relationship, rather than running from one job to the next.”

R-TECH has been described as “the machine shop of choice for major manufacturers.” One of those is Caterpillar, just as Doug had predicted back in 1993, but their customers extend across the nation and beyond.

An Italian engineering firm was stationed in Manhattan do-

ing repair work on Tuttle Creek reservoir. One of their engineers stopped in at R-TECH, saw the company’s machines at work, and asked if he could bring his boss. In a few days, the boss came in and was so impressed that he called the superintendent in Boston and said, “You need to get plane tickets and come here immediately.” One week later, the superintendent was there. R-TECH is now doing projects for this company.

What are some examples of R-TECH projects? In addition to the abutments for the San Francisco metro-rail, the company has done work on undercarriages for locomotives, bulldozer attachments in Waco, Texas, drilling rigs in West Virginia, silicon wafer bases in New York, and amusement park rides across the country. R-TECH products have literally gone coast to coast.

That’s impressive for a company based in the rural community of Wamego, population 4,220 people. In fact, Doug and his family live south of the nearby unincorporated rural community of Wabaunsee which has a population of fewer than 100 people. Now, that’s rural.

For more information, go to www.rtechtool.com.

It’s time to leave San Francisco where we found support frameworks on giant abutments built by this company across the country. We salute Doug and Rachelle Routh and all those involved with R-TECH for making a difference with entrepreneurship in manufacturing. Rural Kansas can be thankful to have that type of support.

Our February Artist of the month is Crystal Vette from McCook, Neb. She has beautiful handcrafted jewelry on display just in time for Valentine’s Day. For more information on any of our classes or exhibits check our website at hansenmuseum.org or call the museum at 785-689-4846.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents The 37th Annual High School Art Show which will be showing Feb. 7, through March 9. There will be a preview for this exhibit on Sunday, Feb. 9. Area schools that are involved in the art show this year are, Norton, Phillipsburg, Hill City, Logan, Smith Center, Oakley, Ellis, TMP, and Plainville.

We will once again be offering the Joy of Painting classes

with certified Bob Ross instructors, Sandy Seamone and TR Mathews. The classes are being held Feb. 15 and 16, in the community room at The Dane G. Hansen Museum. Classes run from 9 a.m. – noon and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday they will be painting “Fall Glory” and Sunday will be “Morning Light.” Contact Nova at the museum for more information on how you can learn to paint the Bob Ross way.

CORRECTION

Due to reporter error, in the February 4 issue of the Telegram it stated in the front page story “Woman injured in accident” that the victim’s name was Neola Hoover Daffer. This was incorrect, her name is Neola Ruth Hoover.

The Norton Telegram will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 877-3361 to report errors.

We believe that news stories should be fair and factual and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Employees recognized

Employees of the 4th Quarter 2013

Uniformed: Dennis Norris
Dennis began his career with Norton Correctional Facility in September 2010 as a Corrections Officer. Dennis has worked many posts at NCF and is currently assigned as the 4-12 A3 OIC.

COI D. Norris is noted as having excellent work ethic, is self-motivated, and remains highly visible and mobile during his shift. He carries himself in a professional manner with a positive attitude. He is firm, fair, and consistent in dealing with offenders and there are few problems that arise when he is on duty. Dennis often completes numerous pat and room searches every day. COI D. Norris is also noted for being a very dependable team player and serves as a staff mentor.



Non-Uniformed: Luke Pfannenstiel

Luke began his career with Norton Correctional Facility in February 2012 as a Corrections Officer and promoted to Corrections Counselor I in August 2012. CCI L. Pfannenstiel was assigned as the B-Unit CCI after his facility counselor training was complete. Due to staff absence, Luke as a new counselor worked B-Unit alone from January 2013 until rotation took place in June 2013. During the time he was assigned alone to B -Unit Luke managed a caseload of 100 inmates and handled the day

to day tasks that are normally done by the UTM and CCII supervising the unit. Luke managed to keep up the paperwork and meet the needs of his caseload with little supervision. Luke is an exceptional employee and a self-starter. He comprehends assignments the first time and does not require additional training. Luke recently was chosen to be a member of the SORT team and graduated in November 2013. He was highly praised for his skills and participation. Luke will be a long term asset to Norton Correctional Facility as his career develops.



Commodity lending rates set

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) recently announced interest rates for February 2014. The CCC borrowing rate-based charge for February is 0.125 percent, unchanged from 0.125 percent in January.

The interest rate for commodity and marketing assistance loans disbursed during February is 1.125 percent, unchanged from 1.125 percent in January.

Interest rates for Farm Stor-

age Facility Loans approved for February are as follows, 2.375 percent with seven-year loan terms, up from 2.250 percent in January; 3.00 percent with 10-year loan terms, up from 2.875 percent in January and; 3.125 percent with 12-year loan terms, up from 3.000 percent in January. The interest rate for 15-year Sugar Storage Facility Loans for February is 3.375 percent, unchanged from 3.375 percent in January.

The maximum discount rate

applicable for February for the Tobacco Transition Payment Program is five percent, unchanged from January. This is based on the 3.250 percent prime rate plus two percent, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Further program information is available from USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Financial Management Division at 202-772-6041.

Workshop to address combustible grain dust

Kansas State University will offer a combustible grain dust prevention workshop teaching advanced mitigation methods on Feb. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Omaha, Neb., following the 2014 GEAPS (Grain Elevator and Processing Society) Exchange.

The three-hour advanced training will focus on house-keeping practices, proper grain unloading and grain handling, and controls, with a demonstration of sensors and other engineering controls. In this program, the emphasis will be on controlling dust in the grain receiving area, spouting design, bucket elevator safety, sensors for bucket elevators and other material handling equipment. In addition, the course will cover venting, explosion suppression

and isolation.



“The past two years, we have focused on increasing awareness of basic grain dust explosion understanding and mitigation techniques. Now we will go beyond this to research-based mitigation methods,” said King-sly Ambrose, project leader and K-State assistant professor in grain science and industry.

As a result of the workshop, participants will be able to identify active steps to mitigate immediate threats, improve their knowledge on dust mitigation methods and have a better understanding of equipment used throughout a grain handling facility.

“KSU’s extensive awareness

programs of grain dust hazards and mitigation methods have had a profound effect on raising awareness about the prevention of grain dust explosions,” said Dirk Maier, grain science and industry department head. “Gaining a deeper understanding of the equipment and methods that individuals and facilities can employ to reduce the risk of explosions and loss in grain handling and processing facilities will help to prevent future grain dust accidents.”

Online registration for the workshops is available at www.grains.k-state.edu/igp. More information is also available by contacting Ambrose at grain-dust@ksu.edu or 785-532-4091.



Free Computer Classes will Resume on Tues., Feb. 11 at 5:00 p.m.

We will have an overview of previous classes on:

- E-mail
- E-mail Attachments
- Backing Up Data
- Etc.

It's Free-Everyone Welcome
101 S. State, Norton, KS
PHONE 785-874-4844



Farm and Commercial Truck Regulations
Monday, February 10 - 7:00 p.m.
Norton Public Library Community Room
FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CALL (785) 877-5795 BY FEBRUARY 7, 2014
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•Brakes/Tires/Lights/Antique Tags •Compliance Reviews
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Feb. 7- Feb.12

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Ride Along
1 Hour, 50 Minutes (PG-13)
Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.
The Lego Movie
1 Hour, 50 Minutes
In 3D (PG)

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Let's Go to the Movie

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