

# OBITUARIES

## Vernon J. Dawson

Jan. 21, 1964 - July 12, 2014

Vernon J. Dawson, 50, of Spring, Texas and formerly of Brighton, Colo. passed away July 12. He was born in Brighton on January 21, 1964 to Jacob and Betty (Cutler) Dawson.

Vernon grew up in Brighton and graduated from Brighton High School in 1982. He continued his education at AeroTech in Broomfield and graduated in 1983. He then moved to Spring, Texas and began his career as an Aircraft Technician for United/Continental Airlines, based out of Houston, where he worked for over 30 years.

Vernon enjoyed 4-H, racing, bull riding, traveling, motorcycles and loved to root for his Colo. teams. He was involved in car racing for several years attending and judging car shows. He had an affinity for collecting



racing memorabilia. He had a long time dream of raising bulls for the Professional Bull Riders and was a current member of the American Bucking Bulls, Inc.

He is preceded in death by his sister Tammy Dawson and grandparents, Victor and Ellen Cutler; and Jacob and Mildred

Dawson.

Vernon is survived by his parents, Jacob and Betty Dawson of Keenesburg, Colo.; brothers, Michael (Susan) Dawson and Darrel (Angela) Dawson both of Fort Lupton, Colo.; sister, Cammie (Mark) Janssen of Brighton, Colo.; three nieces, Candice, Janet and Heather; four nephews, Michael, Darrel II, Andrew and William.

Funeral services were held on July 17 at Zion Lutheran Church in Brighton. Interment followed the service at Elmwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Vernon J. Dawson Memorial Fund, Valley Bank and Trust, 30 N. 4th Avenue, Brighton, CO 80601.

Tabor-Rice Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

## How to store your fresh food safely

You read labels, buy fresh foods, and do your best to prepare tasty meals for your family. But one thing that might not cross your mind as you cook is food safety.

Safety precautions include knowing how to properly store foods after bringing them home from the store or farmers' market.

Here are some ideas to help make sure your kitchen and the foods you prepare in it are safe.

After purchase and before putting the groceries away, check the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer. Your refrigerator should be set for 40 degrees F. and your freezer should be set to 0 degrees F. or lower. These chilly temperatures will help keep any bacteria in your foods from multiplying. If your refrigerator doesn't have

### Homeed Tranda Watts, Extension specialist



a thermostat, it's a good idea to invest in a thermometer for the fridge and freezer.

Of course, refrigerated and frozen items should be put away first. Here are some quick tips to remember for foods that need to be kept cool:

- Keep eggs in the original carton on a shelf in your refrigerator (most refrigerator doors don't keep eggs cold enough).

- Put meat, poultry, and fish in separate plastic bags so that their juices don't get on your

other foods.

- Freeze - or cook - raw ground meat, poultry, or fish within 1 to 2 days.

- Freeze - or cook - fresh meat (steaks, chops, roasts) within 3 to 5 days.

- Store raw ground meats in the freezer for a maximum of 4 months..

- Freeze cooked meats for a maximum of 2 to 3 months.

Follow these handling guidelines to help prevent food borne illnesses in your family.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or contact Tranda Watts, Multi-County Extension Specialist - Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety at [twatts@ksu.edu](mailto:twatts@ksu.edu) or phone 785-443-3663.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Kynzie Stevens and Cody Temmel are the new proud parents of a daughter, Paige Adele Temmel. Paige was born on June 11, 2014 at 11:54 a.m. in Kearney, Neb. She weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 22 inches long. The proud grandparents are: John and Candice Stevens, Almena; Ed and Elsa Temmel, Norcaur; great grandparents are Bill and Gayle Alexander, Almena; Jeff and Pam Ditgen, Hutchinson, Kan.; and great-great grandmother Lila Riemann, Phillipsburg. Paige is the first born to Kynzie and Cody and they reside in Norton



## Born with the love of music

### Ron Wilson

#### Huck Boyd Institute

Jill Martin seems to have been born with a love for music. At the age of two, she was walking around singing songs in her rural Kansas home. That love of music would lead to a music career in Nashville, and ultimately to another love in her life. Special thanks to Newman University in Wichita and writer Jayden Gregory whose article was used with permission for this story.

Last week we learned about Kansan Logan Mize who went to Nashville to pursue a musical career. Today we'll meet Jill Martin who also made such a journey.

Jill Martin grew up at Andale, a rural community west of Wichita. Andale is a community of 928 people. Now, that's rural.

Jill loved music at an early age. "I think I drove everyone in my family crazy because I was constantly singing around the house," she said. As a little girl, she discovered Whitney Houston.

"I remember listening to (her) album in the second grade and I asked my dad how she got her voice to do a run, and he told me, 'She probably practiced a lot,'" Jill said. "I can remember listening to that specific song over and over until I could do it."

Her vocal abilities continued to grow. By the fourth grade, she was performing solos. By

the seventh grade, she was singing in weddings with a band called The Martinaires. While with the band, she discovered her knack as a country singer and learned the classic country songs that she continues to love.

Jill attended Newman University in Wichita. She joined a local band called "Annie Up" and toured the Midwest performing with the group. After graduation, she made the big move to Nashville, Music City USA.

In Nashville, she auditioned for a local TV show. She didn't make it as a contestant, but something else happened: She met a guy named Logan Mize.

As we learned last week, Logan Mize also grew up in small town Kansas near Wichita and went to Nashville for a music career. Logan and Jill met in Nashville in 2008 and were married in 2010.

Professional music careers seem to have their twists and turns. In 2005, Jill had auditioned unsuccessfully for the television show American Idol. She decided to try again in 2010. After a successful audition, she earned the "golden ticket" - a yellow paper from the show saying that she had advanced to audition at Hollywood Week, where judges select the finalists who will appear on TV.

"It was such a great experience and it really made me realize what type of artist I want to be and what kind of artist I do not want to be," she said. Jill did not advance beyond the Holly-

wood round, but she did achieve something much greater. On the day she was sent home from the show, she learned she was expecting. Talk about twists and turns... "God had a better plan for me," Jill said.

Logan and Jill now have a little boy named Lincoln. As he has grown older, Jill has resumed her musical career.

In January 2013, she recorded a very personal debut album, Jill Martin. "The songs on the album were so personal for me," she said. "I wrote them with my husband about my life. It's scary putting it out there, but I feel like if you are honest in your songs, people will relate to them."

Relate they did. The album reached No. 24 on the iTunes music chart and was also featured in Billboard magazine, reaching No. 2 on the Heat-seeker chart - a remarkable accomplishment for an independent artist. The album received a number of rave reviews on iTunes and five out of five stars.

"It was a dream come true," Jill said. For more information, see [www.jillmartinmusic.com](http://www.jillmartinmusic.com). Jill Martin seems to have been born with a love of music which took her all the way to Nashville. There she also fell in love with Logan Mize. We salute Jill Martin, Logan Mize, and all aspiring small town Kansas musicians for making a difference with their creative talents. I love it.

## 50th Anniversary

Norman and Paula (Hicks) Strayer, Norton, are happy to be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24. They were married at the Norton United Methodist Church in 1964. They purchased and lived on the Strayer family farm, West and North of Norton, for 46 years before moving to Norton in 2010. Norman is a life-long farmer and also a State Brand Inspector for the last 30 years. His occupations and his love for horses has afforded him many cherished friends through the years. Paula stayed home to raise their family until they attended school, then worked as secretary of Norton Junior High School for 14 years, catered and then became an insurance agent in Norton for 10 years. Now retired, she works part-time at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce. Her joy of cooking has been a gift of love for her friends and family all her life. They attended the coun-



try Church of the Brethren until moving, now attending the Norton Christian Church. The Lord has been the center of their family. They are blessed with three children, their spouses and 10 grandchildren: Todd and Mary Strayer, Matt, Colby; Megan and Michael of Twin Falls, Idaho; Jeff and Colleen Hardiek, Lexi and Gage, of Hill

City, Kan.; Steve and Kelly Brooks, Ashlyn, Eli, Bristol and Erin, of Johnson City, Kan. The couple's children are hosting a family celebration at Grand Lake, Colo. for the occasion. Later they have a trip planned to Alaska. They would love well wishes from their friends. Mail to 607 W. Woodsfield St., Norton, KS 67654.

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## ACCIDENT REPORT

In The Month of July a total of four vehicles hit a deer, all with no injuries reported.

**July 1-A** red Mitsubishi Eclipse driven by Amanda M. Willmes of Norton was traveling southbound on county road E4. Willmes lost control of the vehicle and slid into the east ditch and overturned. Willmes was taken to the Norton County Hospital with injuries.

**July 2-A** white 2000 Ford F-250 truck driven by Chance McMullen of Norton was traveling eastbound when the driver

failed to navigate a curve in the road. The vehicle entered into the south ditch striking two signs before crossing the intersection and entering into the east ditch and traveling south bound. The vehicle spun around, exited the ditch and came back up on the roadway coming to a rest on its wheels facing back northwest. McMullen was taken to the Norton County Hospital with injuries, the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Call Shylo with all of your society news!!!

### A Celebration of Life for Alta Dutton

Service will be held  
Saturday, July 19  
at 2 p.m.  
at the  
First United  
Methodist Church  
in Norton

Alta left this world on  
May 13, 2014  
at the age of 92.  
Come help celebrate  
her life with family and  
friends.

Sunday, July 20  
the Maple Grove  
Church will be  
having a music  
program with  
Terry Rice,  
Virgil Mock  
and Others  
Church is at 11:00 a.m.  
Potluck Dinner Follows  
Program at 1:00 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome to come and  
enjoy all or part of the day

July 18-  
July 23

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**NORTON THEATRE**

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