



MRS. NORTHWEST KANSAS, Lori Shields of Norton, will compete the Kansas state pageant in Branson, Mo., on March 1 and 2.

Norton woman named Mrs. Northwest Kansas

Lori Shields of Norton has been selected to represent northwest Kansas in the Mrs. Kansas Pageant, set for March 1 and 2 in Branson, Mo.

This competition is the state preliminary to the Mrs. America and Mrs. World contests. Delegates compete in three categories. An interview comprises 50 percent of the score, swimsuit modeling accounts for 25 percent and the final 25 percent is the evening gown contest.

Contestants make appearances at community events, fairs and festivals. Mrs. Northwest Kansas will be promoting and educating people on her platform, "The Haven, helping families who are affected by incarceration," by speaking to groups and volunteering at activities. The Haven is a home-away-from-home for

people who come on the weekends to visit inmates at the Norton Correctional Facility. It also provides services and resources for families in need.

She will become a supporter of the National Association for Music Education, which has partnered with the Mrs. America organization to promote education in schools.

Mrs. Shields and her husband, Damien, have two children, Darius, 8, and Emmery, 2. They live in Norton, where she is a teacher's aide at Eisenhower Elementary School and a volunteer supervisor at the Haven.

If you are interested in having Mrs. Northwest Kansas make an appearance or speak at your event, contact her at (785) 874-4043 or thehaven11@aol.com.

Program to help nurses

Kansas nurses can now advance their careers at home, thanks to an agreement between 18 Kansas community colleges, including Colby Community College, and the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

The program will allow nurses with an associate's degree to receive a Bachelor of Science from KU's online registered nurse-to-bachelor of science in nursing program.

"Health care today is increasingly demanding bachelor's-prepared nurses," said Dr. Karen Miller, a registered nurse and dean of the KU School of Nursing. "We want to ensure that Kansas' nursing workforce can meet that demand, but that the state's nurses can earn an affordable bachelor's degree without having to leave their home community."

KU has offered an online bachelor's degree since 1996, she said,

but the agreement makes it easier to make the transition. It guarantees admission to every student who graduates from an associate-degree nursing program with a 2.5 grade average or higher and passes the licensing exam to become a registered nurse.

"This transfer agreement really creates increased opportunities," said Dr. Steve Vacik, president at Colby. "Our students receive advanced education and training, while the people of northwest Kansas receive additional access to the highest skilled preventative and therapeutic healthcare, saving lives and money."

Students who enroll in the program will have to earn a total of 120 credit hours, including 60 hours in prerequisites and liberal arts classes. The last 30 hours will be completed online.

Dance show planned Sunday

Joel Harrison, leader of the Tap This Cloggers from Nebraska, will present a show of dance steps at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Atwood High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

Mr. Harrison, director of competition teams for the Capital City Cloggers of Lincoln, was the youngest instructor ever inducted into the National Clogging Hall of Fame.

He was director of the 2002 All Star Pro Team for the western United States.

This group recently competed on the television reality show, "America's Got Talent." The cloggers are recognized for their high-energy precision and innovative choreography. Admission is by season ticket or at the door, adults \$20, students \$10.

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

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Jim and Linda Hollowell visited recently with school friends Ralph Hill and Patricia Norris in Pacifica, Calif. They visited the wine country north of San Francisco, toured Muir Woods and the California redwoods. The trip included a visit to China Town, Fisherman's Wharf, Lombard Street (crookedest street in the world), Golden Gate Park, the site of the Monterey Jazz Festival and a jazz concert at Yoshie's Jazz Club to see the John Scofield Trio. They traveled on Amtrak's California Zephyr and saw the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and the California Sierras. After returning to Denver, they helped his mother, Vera Matthews, celebrate her 98th birthday with family and friends.

— **Showing 2016: "Obama's America," Sunflower Theater, Fri., Sat., Sun.**

Janice Guthrie of Oberlin and Mark Elton of Castro Valley, Calif., were married on Sept. 14 by Magistrate Judge John Bremer. They are making their home in Oberlin.

Joy Votapka returned home Monday from Topeka, where she spent the weekend with her daughter, Nancy Ellis. Mrs. Votapka and her sister, Vera Durr, of Hutchinson, spent two days last week at the Bridges in Madison County, Iowa.

— **Watch "In Search of the Lord's Way" each Sun. 7:30 a.m., Ch 9, Cable TV.**

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Dorothy Moore, Dewaine Stapp, Ardis Roe, Norma Anderson and Max Carman. Lows went to Neil Marshall, Ardythe Cederberg, Dorothy Moore, Kelva Dryden, Norma Anderson, Ardis Roe and Doris Fringer. Chicken Foot domino winner was Kay Marcuson. Pitch highs were won by Dorothy Moore and Pat Abbey with lows going to John Cederberg and Ardythe Cederberg. Bridge highs went to Annette Miller and Cynthia Matson.

— **Showing 2016: "Obama's America," Sunflower Theater, Fri., Sat., Sun.**

Eunice Martin and her daughters, Candy Rauhut of Garden City, and Connie Robison of Littleton, Colo., returned home Wednesday from Silverdale, Wash., where they visited a week with Mrs. Martin's sister, Lila Thorson.

Dwayne Jones underwent surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., on Thursday. He returned home Sunday with his wife, Betty, and their daughters, Tonya Tally of Oberlin, and Tina Jones of Phoenix, who had been with him for the surgery.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes returned home Friday from Creede, Colo., where they spent a week vacationing in the area.

Club News

Members enjoy lunch

The Calico Gals Club met Sept. 19 for lunch at Roger's Bar and Grill in Herndon, then went to the lovely yard of Jan Hackney for the meeting.

Present were Donna Kelley, Barbara Duell, Millie Lippelmann, Detta Anderson, Bette Grout, Phyllis Screen, Sandy Counter, Mrs. Hackney and Margaret McEvoy.

The club collect and flag salute were repeated. The treasurer's report was given and the courtesy committee reported on Mrs. McEvoy's surgery on Aug. 13.

Roll call was answered with

Group hears about park

The Oberlin Chapter of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees met at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Sappa Park shelterhouse near Oberlin with 18 members and guests present.

President Rob McFee conducted the business meeting. He and other officers, Keith Van Skike, vice president, and Annette Miller, secretary-treasurer,

were re-elected. Gary Anderson presented an interesting program about Sappa Park. A hamburger cookout and socializing followed. The next meeting will be in Norton in November. Members of the Oberlin chapter include active and retired federal employees from Norton, Decatur and Rawlins counties.

Painting class to be offered

Two certified instructors will teach Bob Ross painting classes at the Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan next month.

T.R. Mathews and Sandy Seamone of Arriba, Colo., will show, step by step, how it is to paint the Bob Ross way. No experience is necessary. Bring a roll of paper towels; all other supplies will be provided.

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Woman publishes new book

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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A serial killer has moved to Jennings, and the town vampire doesn't know what he thinks about the newcomer.

That's the premise of Brenda Coffman's new book, "Forsaken," which is available now on Amazon.com.

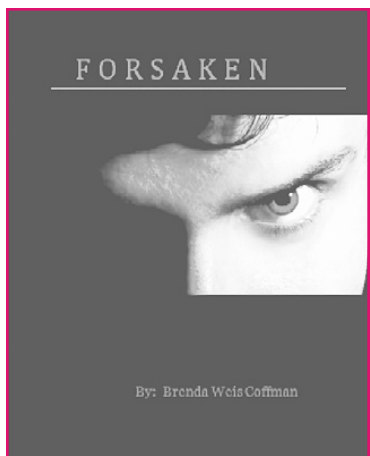
"All of the characters are fictional," said Mrs. Coffman, "and it's based in a small town in Kansas, so I guess living in a small town in Kansas definitely has had an effect on that."

Mrs. Coffman published a previous book, "Diana's Dream," that she said received 4 1/2 stars on Amazon.com. It also made it to the No. 3 position on Amazon's top free best sellers list in horror. And she has a first one in the works.

"I was going to do a follow up on the first book," she said, "but it's not the second part of the book — just similar. It's about a girl in high school who is dating a boy, and then they break up. Then she's kidnapped and taken to a cabin."

"I want to show some of the things that teenagers go through from day to day, all the stresses you go through that you tend to forget about when you look back."

Mrs. Coffman said she grew up in Pennsylvania and went to Point Park University there, where she received a bachelor's degree in business. After college, she moved around a bit, and lived in cities, including Columbus, Ohio. After a while though, she wanted to get out of the city. She found Jennings on



By: Brenda Weiss Coffman

the Internet and has lived there since March 2011.

She and her husband Dan have two boys, Brendan, 15, and Lucas, 12, who they home school. Mrs. Coffman said she teaches her boys and writes full-time from home now.

So how did she get started? "I actually won a contest in the local newspaper," she said, "in seventh grade. It was a story about Christmas. And I've been writing ever since."

"I am one of those people who can't sit still, so I have all kinds of hobbies. I collect coins, and I read like crazy. I do a lot of things online, too."

One of those things is write, and you can find over 100 articles by her on helium.com, an open-source website with articles on every subject, from how to buy a horse to why you shouldn't buy perfume on impulse.

It may not be exactly where she thought she'd end up, but Mrs. Coffman is sure of one thing: she's a writer, through and through.

"I always thought I'd be writing more fantasy stuff," she said, "but I guess Stephen King had more of an influence on me than I realized. He talks about the English teachers who always say they're working on their book, and I thought, 'I just have to get on top of it.'"

Fall festival set for Saturday

Granny Mae's Pumpkin Patch, near Dorrance, will open for the fall season on Saturday.

Offered will be an old-fashioned fall festival atmosphere including over 100 different varieties of pick-your-own pumpkins and gourds. Featured also will be live music, bonfires and covered trolley rides to Scarecrow Meadow.

The Cider House will be stocked with pumpkin ice cream, fresh baked cookies and other treats including fresh hand-dipped caramel apples.

The patch is located off I-70 at the Dorrance exit 199, approximately three miles south, two miles west and a half mile north. Signs will be posted.

Art show to be held in Russell

The Russell Original Art Review is gearing up for its 44th show from Sunday to Tuesday, Oct. 14 to 16, at the 4-H Building in Russell.

Since 1969, the show has given professional and amateur Kansas artists a chance to show and sell their work. Categories include oil, watercolor, other two-dimension, sculpture, ceramics, pastels, photography and computer-generated or manipulated original composition.

All artists 16 years and older living in Kansas are eligible. All work must be original and not previously

exhibited at this show. Entries may be brought to the 4-H building from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Monday or Tuesday, Oct. 7, 8 and 9. There is no limit on the number of entries.

The show will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 12 and 13, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14. Admission is free.

About \$3,200 in cash prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the judge.

For details, write to ROAR, Box 94, Russell, Kan., 67665 or go to www.roarart.org.

New Arrival

Faith Leora Carman

Faith Leora Carman was born Sept. 5, 2012. She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. Her parents are Kendal and Amy Carman of Oberlin. She has two brothers, Isaac and Gideon, and three sisters, Patience, Moriah and Hope. Grandparents are Duane and Norma Carman and Jack and Donna Fortin, all of Oberlin. Her great-grandfather is Donald Fulk of Cave Junction, Ore.



Faith Leora

Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission Presents

Marla Matkin in "Cattle Towns and Soiled Doves" The Gateway, September 29, 7:30 p.m.



Take a walk on the wild side - the Victorian Era wild side with a first person presentation offered by Marla Matkin. Using her persona of a soiled dove, humor and sensitivity, Marla will entertain, inform and spin a downright amusing yarn. You'll be transported to the frontier cow towns, complete with painted ladies and characters who walked the streets and rode the range. This is a season ticket event or \$12 for adults, \$7 students grades 1-12.

For questions or information call Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557, or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

Book Signing and Art Work Sale Saturday, September 29th, 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Native Nicole Koetter author of Christian children book "If I Were an Animal"

Mary E. Arehart of Holdrege, "God's Yard Light" a mother's story of a special son

All Art Work will be 20% off also

New Life Bookstore
212 Norris Ave.
McCook, Nebraska
(308) 345-6889

