

A clip above...



Kujo had his nails clipped for a good cause Wednesday. The long-haired dachshund and his owner, Sara Durham, went to Norton Animal Health Center, where they were clipping nails for Relay for Life. All the money earned for the service will be donated to the relay. Mrs. Durham, the relay's chairwoman, was one of the first customers to take advantage Wednesday. Pictured are, from left, Shannon Douglas, Dr. Sarah White and Mrs. Durham.
— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

4-H'ers do well at regional club day

By KEITH VANSKIKE, County Extension Director
Norton County 4-H'ers did well in the Regional 4-H Club Day, which was held March 30 in WaKeeney. All top blue participants were allowed to give presentations that were given at their own club day. Each section allowed one or two top blue performances that were selected at their own Club Day to perform at the Regional Event.

The counties involved in the Regional were Phillips, Smith, Norton, Graham, Rooks, Trego, Osborne and Ellis. Participating from Norton County were:
• Junior Demonstrations — Abbie Smith, blue; Wyatt Wentz, blue;
• Senior Demonstrations — Carissa Wentz, red; Caleb Vanover, blue;
• Project Talks — Megan Wentz,

blue; Wyatt Wentz, blue;
• Instrumental Solo — Katrina Wentz, blue;
• Instrumental Ensemble — Zach Esslinger and Austin Hager, blue;
• Vocal Solo — Katrina Wentz, blue;
• Vocal Ensemble — Kelsey and Lauren Mordecai, blue;
• Dance — Prairie Dog 4-H Club, blue;
• Skits — Cedar Ridge 4-H Club, blue;
• Model Meetings — Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club, blue;
• Public Speaking — Katrina Wentz, blue;
• Junior Readings — Dalton Vanover, red; and
• Senior Readings — Michael Callaway, blue.

Drafting takes home third win

The Norton Drafting team won its third straight Northwest Kansas Drafting contest at Goodland by winning five out of the eight categories. The five grand champions were: Adam Myers, freshman, Beginning Mechanical; Kyle Mindrup, sophomore, Advanced Mechanical; Michael Ward, senior, Pictorial Hand Drawn; Chris Davis, senior, Architectural Floor Plan; and Aaron Daniels, senior, Architectural Elevation. Michael Ward won the "Best of Show" which is considered to be the top drawing in the contest. He edged his teammate, Adam Myers, in the voting. This was the second year in a row that Michael has won that award. Other top placers in the beginners categories were: freshman, Cody Cook; sophomores, Samantha Cook and Hannah Fulton; juniors, Tim Becker, Alex Thomas and

Megan Kats; and senior, Todd Zink. In advanced categories, the top placers were: sophomores, Nathan Felton, Zac Dreher, Nish Millan and Vernon Carlton; junior, Josh Sprague; and seniors, Aaron Daniels and Chris Davis. Others who competed were freshmen Kerstan Richmeir, D.J. Ebner and Alex Simoneau. Drafting instructor Jim Myers said, "Boy, did the kids do well! I was so proud of their efforts. That's three in a row and after winning by percentage points last year it was great to win it comfortably this year. To win the "Best of Show" is awesome, but to win it two straight times speaks volumes on what a great draftsman Michael Ward is and how hard he works at it. I am very excited for him." The Norton team will compete at the Hays Technology Fair April 26 and 27.

Three local girls compete at nationals

Three local girls were members of the District No. 5 Horse Hippology team that traveled to Denver earlier this year to compete in the National Western Roundup Horse Classic. They were Emily Zillinger, Jessica Zillinger and Kylene Hager. Shayne Runnon from Phillipsburg was the fourth member of the team. The team placed second in the



E. Zillinger J. Zillinger K. Hager

questions about each and four sets of team problems. Jessica Zillinger was the top placing individual. The team placed fifth. The judging portion of the competition required the team to judge four classes of horses. The team placed third. Overall, the team placed second with Jessica placing third and Kylene placing seventh.

Wildfires listed in top five natural hazards

By TOM DREILING
Tornadoes. Severe thunderstorms. Flooding. Severe winter storms. Those four weather events pop up most often when asked what Kansas' top five natural hazards are. Top five? That's right, and no. 5 on the list is 'wildfires.' The Kansas Forest Service said that in 2006, wildfires swept across an estimated 150,000 acres in the state. That's more than 234 square miles. The forest service estimated that it cost nearly \$500,000 to battle those 2006 wildfires. The Kansas Fire Marshal's office is still at work on damage estimates for 2006, but they report wildfires took the lives of three people in 2005, including two firefighters. The report further said the property value that burned totaled \$693,000. Bill Chornyak, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said ensuring wildfires don't get started isn't just a concern for rural areas, but "it's a critical, personal responsibility for every Kansan." "Under the right conditions, the simple toss of a cigarette out of a car window could lead to a significant fire, affecting hundreds of acres and damaging numerous businesses or homes," he said.

"By focusing on what each of us can do to prevent wildfires, we can reduce the need for local, state and possibly federal emergency response, which can result in thousands of dollars in expenses to government and, therefore, to taxpayers each year," Mr. Chornyak said. Dry, spring conditions cause nearly 75 percent of the state's wildfires, according to the forest

service. Major causes of wildfires include: Using a lantern, candle or propane stove in a tent; burning spark-producing trash or logs; setting off fireworks around anything that can burn; not ensuring that fires are totally out, including camp fires or used cigarettes; and parking or driving on dry grass with a vehicle that doesn't have a spark arrester.

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LODGE NOTICES

American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63
Second and Fourth Monday
Joe Ballinger, Commander

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Dennis Gilhousen, President
Lee Smith, Secretary

Sons of the American Legion
Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.
James Railsback, Commander
Alan Hale, Adjutant

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each month
Gary Bruinekool, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
108 South Kansas, Norton
Thursday-7:30 p.m.
Fun Night—Last Thursday of each month
Randy Knoll, Noble Grand
Bill Cochran, Secretary

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