

Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
June 8, 2007

Snake charmer

Snake lover shares his pets with kids

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

The first summer reading program of the season, "Reptiles Up Close" was held Thursday at Norton Public Library.

Dozens of kids, with their moms, dads and baby-sitters, crowded into the Community Room at Norton Public Library, where professional Herpetologist David M. Nieves shared a portion of his reptile and amphibian collection.

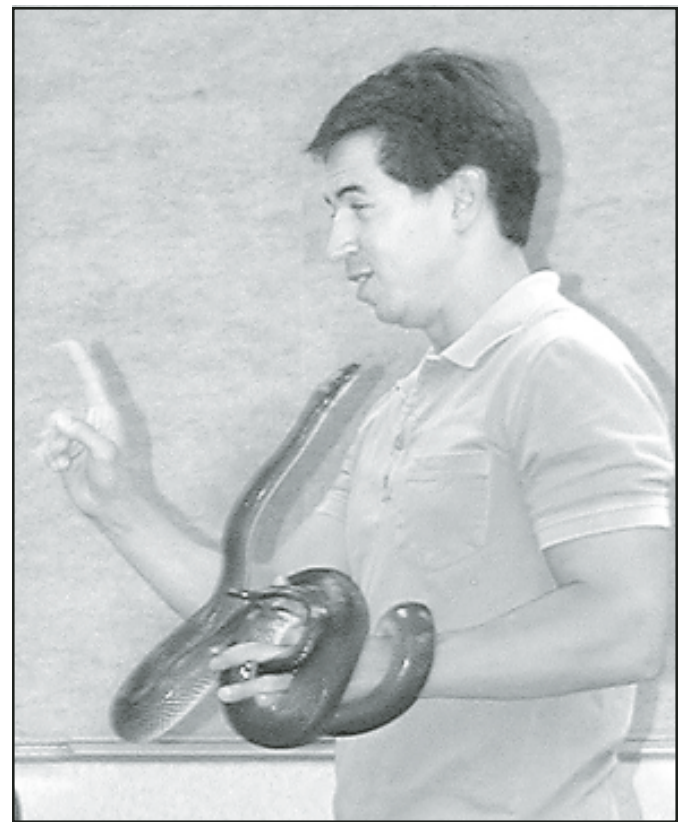
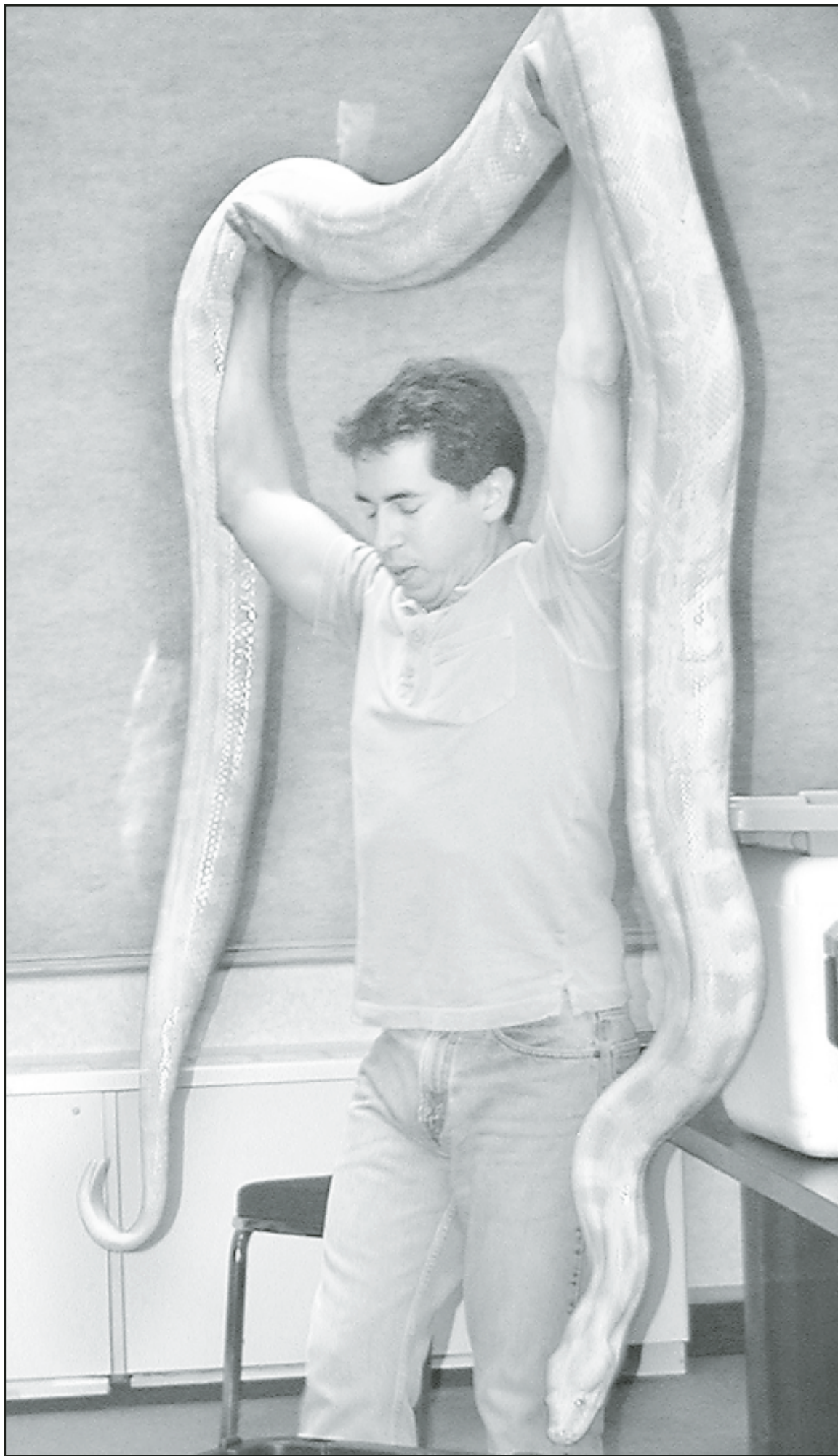
Mr. Nieves became fascinated with reptiles and amphibians at the age of eight growing up in Bellevue, Neb. Now, he travels to other countries to research and photograph his favorite subjects. He has also authored two children's books: "Reptiles Up Close" and "More Reptiles Up Close". His next book, "Amphibians Up Close" will soon be released.

Among the animals he displayed were a lizard named, George, an albino rat snake, a turtle and a 150-pound python named, Maggie.

The theme of this summer's reading program is "Get a Clue". Next week's program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, with Dr. Sarah White and her assistant Shannon Douglas. Another program will be held at 2 p.m. with Children's Librarian Mary Luehrs sharing about "Flying Saucers".

Holding, Maggie, a 150-pound python, (left) David Nieves, professional herpetologist, was the first attraction of this summer's reading program at Norton Public Library. Mr. Nieves (below) showed the audience another snake from his collection.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



Norton, Kansas
Home of Tom Baumann

Briefly

Class teaches kids babysitting skills

Norton County Farm Bureau Association and Norton County Extension will be sponsoring a Babysitting Training Clinic from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Norton Public Library on Monday.

Youth can learn to be better babysitters through this clinic which emphasizes the physical safety and security of the child. It also points out other important needs such as friendship, companionship, understanding and patience. Students will learn about children of different ages, how to relate to them and how to avoid some of the pitfalls that often accompany child care.

Both boys and girls are encouraged to participate in this clinic. A \$5 registration fee will be due the day of the clinic to cover supplies and certification. Pre-register by calling Patsy Maddy, 877-7262 as soon as possible.

Representative to help veterans

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City office from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 11 to assist veterans and their families with veteran's benefits. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted. Call 785-625-8532.

Bus applications due by July 15

Parents of children who live in Norcat and want them to attend school in Norton, are reminded that out-of-district transportation busing applications are due in the Oberlin School District office by July 15. Statutes allow Norton buses to enter Norcat to pick up students providing the student's application has been filed.

All students are required to renew their applications on an annual basis. Applications may be picked up at either school district office, however they must be filed in the Oberlin office.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 53. Saturday — Mostly sunny with a high near 88. Saturday Night — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Sunday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 54, High 79
Wednesday Low 63, High 91
Thursday Low 50, High 80
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of all the world, teach us how to use our resources and abilities to better the lives of those around us and in communities beyond. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Local bank adds ATM to services

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

First Security Bank and Trust is offering its customers a little more convenience with a new ATM.

Bank President Karl Kohfeld said the bank bought the property on the corner of U.S. 36 and Second Avenue about three weeks ago. The property belonged to Lottie and Wayne Wiltfong.

The bank had the old building torn down to make way for a drive-through ATM machine. They will also be planting grass and landscaping the area.

"This is a service we want to offer to our customers and the community," he said. "The industry is moving more toward credit and debit cards. Technology is advancing and this is a convenience we want to give to our customers."

Mr. Kohfeld said they bought the property because the location was ideal and would provide easy accessibility to the bank's customers.

He said they expect the project to be finished in 45 to 60 days.

Norton library ranks fourth in state for service

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

Norton County residents will be glad to know their libraries are doing a good job. They have been recognized in an index ranking Kansas public libraries on how well they serve their communities. The index is compiled by Steve Read, director of McPherson Public Library.

Libraries are ranked according to the size of the community they serve and compared to all libraries in the state.

Among libraries serving 2,500 to 3,999 people, Norton Public Library ranked fourth, serving 300 to 499 people; Almena City Library ranked thirty-second; and

serving up to 299 people, Lenora ranked twenty-second.

Other area libraries ranked were: Sunshine City Library, Prairie View, fifteenth; Jennings City Library, nineteenth; Norcat Public Library, thirtieth; and Logan Public Library, sixteenth.

Every year, each library in the state of Kansas, files a statistical report. This report contains the daily records that keep track of traffic in and out of the library. It details the number of items checked out every day. Nowadays libraries check out not only books, but videos, audio cassettes and DVDs. Included in the annual report (Continued on Page 5)

Cattle killed in truck accident

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

A load of cattle headed to a packing plant in Dodge City took a little detour early Tuesday morning.

Sheriff's Deputy Scott Bohl said a semi-truck loaded with 44 head of cattle failed to negotiate the turn from Kansas Highway 383 onto U.S. 36 at 2:25 a.m. Tuesday. Officer Bohl said the driver may have misjudged the curve on the approach to U.S. 36. It is also possible the cattle may have shifted, contributing to the upset. The driver of the semi, registered to

Fischer Brothers Trucking, Lesterville, S.D., was taken to Norton County Hospital by Norton Emergency Medical Services. He was later released.

Four head of cattle were killed in the wreck. Local farmers and ranchers were called upon to help round-up and contain the remaining 40 head. Officer Bohl said it was a real rodeo for awhile, but with the help of portable livestock panels, horses, pickups and trailers, the animals were contained. They were transported to Norton Livestock where they were kept until another truck could pick them up.

Development looking for new director

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

The Norton County Economic Development Board is once again hunting for a new director.

Director Wade Carter said he plans to attend law school this fall and has told the board he will be leaving sometime in August. He has been accepted into the law program at the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

He hasn't turned in his resignation yet, but wanted to give the board a "heads up". He's hoping they will get someone hired before he has to leave, and so hasn't set a specific departure date yet.

Mr. Carter said they have received three applications for the position so far. The deadline to send in resumés is June 15. The board, he said, will be reviewing the applicants after that.

The economic development office already has one new face for the summer. Diane Becker, a graduate of Jennings High School, has been an intern since May 29.