Vol. 101, No. 64

^{75 cents}, THE NORTON **ELEGRAM** WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

Tuesday Our hot weather right on target August 12, 2008

Norton, Kansas Home of Don Mordecai

Color Courtesy of Ashley Furniture Hays, Kansas

Briefly

Drum roll heralds new school year

The drum roll has started and won't end until Friday morning when the new school term starts for Unified School District 211, Norton. Grades kindergarten through sixth, and junior and senior high school classes, will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No breakfast will be served, but buses will run. Athletic practices for high school football, volleyball, cross country and tennis begin on Monday, Aug. 18.

Breakfast set for all school staffers

The annual breakfast for all school staff will be held Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, Norton. The breakfast is hosted by the United Methodist Women. This is an annual event to show appreciation for the Norton District's school personnel.

By TOM DREILING

tom.d@nwkansas.com The cool spell of the last couple of days has taken our minds off what the days prior to that were like. Like: HOT!

And there were many of them. But, the turn to hot is right on target. Nothing out of the ordinary. Expected.

Norton's hottest temperature so far

Telegram by Karolyn Kingham at her Kingham farm, nine miles, would allow farm nine miles northwest of town.

The National Weather Service at Goodland posted 104 degrees as their hottest temperature so far this summer. A spokesman there said the 107-degree reading in rural Norton wouldn't be out of place. He said Hill City, where they maintain a weather station, also reported a high of 104.

for the difference in the hottest readings, the spokesman thought it could have a slight impact.

Norton has recorded 10 dates this summer on which the mercury hit 100 or above — July 1 through Aug. 8. Last year during that same time span Norton hit 100 or above on only one occasion, 102 degrees on July 8.

to be 102 degrees, which the National Weather Service said wouldn't be out of (Continued on Page 5)

• July 11, 104 • July 15, 100

• July 21, 100

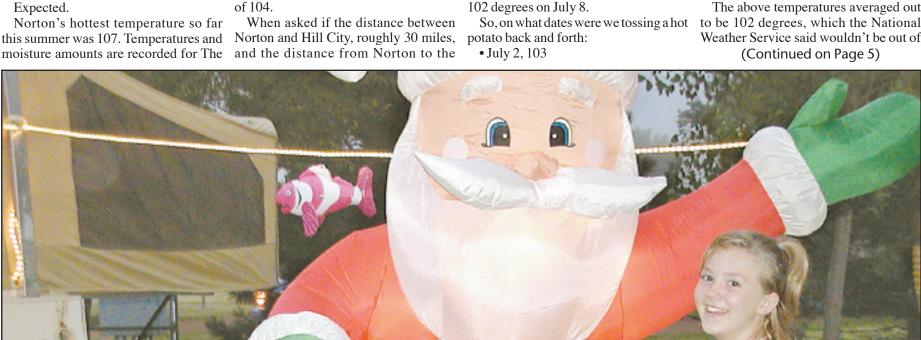
• July 23, 100 • July 24, 104

• July 27, 103

• July 31, 101 • Aug. 1, 107

• Aug. 3, 103

8 PAGES



Meeting slated for parents of seniors

An orientation session for Norton senior parents will be held in the music room of the juniorsenior high on Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. Shane Miller, high school counselor, will present information on various opportunities that are provided to the students during their senior year. Items such as important deadlines, searching for scholarships and colleges, financial aid opportunities, plus much more will be presented.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Wednesday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Wednesday Night — A chance of thunderstorms. **Thursday** A 40 percent chance of showers.

Kingham report:

| Aug. | 8 | Low 59, High 80 |
|------|--|--------------------|
| | | High 77, .90 Prec. |
| | | High 77, .15 Prec. |
| Aug. | 11 | Low 62, High 83 |
| 5 | (Readings taken at the 9 miles northwes | e Kingham farm |
| | 9 miles northwes | t of Norton) |

Prayer

Gracious God, teach us to value one another. Remind us of the consequences of our actions. Help us to act with compassion toward others and to look at life through the eyes of grace. Amen

Katie Pell, 14, and Makayla Cadwalader, 13, demonstrated how to do the When not dancing, the girls wore hoodies to keep warm. Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux hula at "Christmas in August" at Prairie Dog State Park Saturday evening.

Christmas...already? Yes, at Prairie Dog State Park

By BRANDY LEROUX bleroux@nwkansas.com

It was a dreary evening. Dense fog reduced visibility to less than a quarter of a mile. Not exactly the weather one pictures for Christmas in August at the Prairie Doge State Park. Children were running around in blue jeans and "hoodie" sweatshirts.

August 9 was the date set for the 5th Annual Prairie Dog Christmas, sponsored by Prairie Dog State Park and the Tourism Committee.

The weather didn't seem to dampen the "holiday" spirit of some campers. Harold and Janelle Shinn and Charlie and Vickie Taylor decided on a Hawaiian Christmas for their theme this year. Their inflatable Santa was wearing a hula skirt, standing next to a North Pole sign. They even put mas" written on the boat. the prairie dog at the entrance sign in the spirit – a santa hat and a hula skirt. There merce provided \$200 in "Chamber were inflatable palm trees and a lot of Christmas lights strung around.

Mrs. Shinn, who helped set up the decorations, said, "We started with the decorations at about 11 this morning, and

finished at 3 this afternoon. Last year our theme was Santa goes to Sturgis. We had Santa on a Harley holding a sign that said 'Sturgis or Bust.'

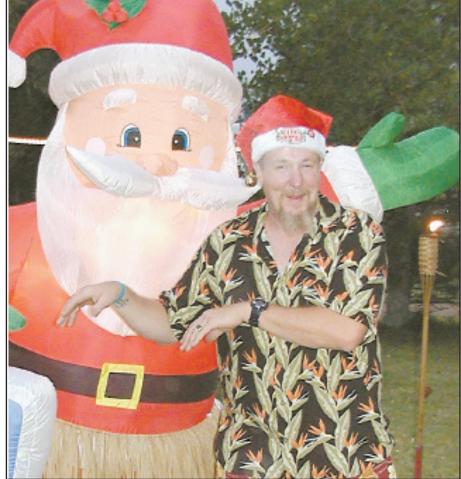
And the reason they seemed to have pulled out all the stops? "We've won first place twice, and got second place last year. We're trying to win back our title," said Mr. Shinn.

Mike and Vickie Bailey and Mick and Collette Miller's campsite was holding a funeral for Scrooge — mourning optional. Little white crosses were in the ground, complete with flowers. Under a canopy, Santa was holding a bible and standing over a casket, giving a eulogy to the famous cranky miser.

Someone had even found an inflatable Santa in a boat, with "Hooked on Christ-

The Norton Area Chamber of Com-Bucks" for prizes. The weather is probably also the reason participation was down this year, as well as the number of people coming out to see the sites.

(Continued on Page 5)



Harold Shinn demonstrated his version of the hula Saturday evening next to Santa. His team's campsite won first place in the "Christmas in August" decorating competition.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Big Brothers/Sisters start school year with positive report

children go back to school, Big Brothers Big Sisters reminds the community that In Schools program is "well-designed, it is the perfect time to get involved in the life of a child.

changing the way kids grow up in Kansas. year of the U.S. Department of Education In fact, a study released this week from mentoring grant. Key findings show that

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bigs efficient and effective."

"Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters has Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters is made tremendous progress in its second

This month as thousands of Kansas the Department of Education reports that goals were exceeded in ten of the areas including number of children matched and percentage of matches sustained for one year or longer," according to The Austin Peters' Group report to the organization.

The report also states: $\sqrt{82}$ percent of children had improved self-confidence

 $\sqrt{55}$ percent of children improved academically as measured by grades $\sqrt{50}$ percent decrease in unexcused absences

The school-based program, Bigs In Schools, pairs volunteers to at-risk stu-(Continued on Page 5)