

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Don Mordecai

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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.

Meeting slated for parents of seniors

An orientation session for Norton senior parents will be held in the music room of the junior-senior 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
Aug. 9..... Low 66, High 77, .90 Prec.
Aug. 10..... Low 65, High 77, .15 Prec.
Aug. 11..... Low 62, High 83
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest 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

Our hot weather right on target

By TOM DREILING
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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 this summer was 107. Temperatures and moisture amounts are recorded for The

Telegram by Carolyn Kingham at her 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.

When asked if the distance between Norton and Hill City, roughly 30 miles, and the distance from Norton to the

Kingham farm, nine miles, would allow 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.

So, on what dates were we tossing a hot potato back and forth:

- July 2, 103

- 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

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



Katie Pell, 14, and Makayla Cadwalader, 13, demonstrated how to do the hula at "Christmas in August" at Prairie Dog State Park Saturday evening.

When not dancing, the girls wore hoodies to keep warm. — Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Christmas...already?

Yes, at Prairie Dog State Park

By BRANDY LEROUX
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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 Dog 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 the prairie dog at the entrance sign in the spirit — a santa hat and a hula skirt. There 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 Christmas" written on the boat.

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce provided \$200 in "Chamber 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.

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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

This month as thousands of Kansas children go back to school, Big Brothers Big Sisters reminds the community that it is the perfect time to get involved in the life of a child.

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters is changing the way kids grow up in Kansas. In fact, a study released this week from

the Department of Education reports that Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bigs In Schools program is "well-designed, efficient and effective."

"Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters has made tremendous progress in its second year of the U.S. Department of Education mentoring grant. Key findings show 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:
√82 percent of children had improved

self-confidence
√55 percent of children improved academically as measured by grades
√50 percent decrease in unexcused absences

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