

Temperatures: a look at 2007

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line for this time of year.

Checking back on the summer temperatures in rural Norton in 2007, here is the report filed then:

2007

Hot! Huh?
While it's been a bit on the warm side, hot it's not.

Weather records bear that out. Karolyn Kingham, keeper of the records for The Norton Telegram from her farm home northwest of town, has recorded only one day this summer where the mercury jumped over the 100-degree mark, and that was on July 8 when it hit 102.

It's been in the upper 90s several days and teased the 100-degree

mark at 99 on a couple of occasions, but no 100 or more.

The figures checked started June 1 and continued through Aug. 12.

In 2006, in that same time frame, the temperature was 100 or better on five occasions, the warmest being 106 on July 19.

Why is that?
Why are we having a "cooler" summer this year (2007)?

Dave Floyd, at the National Weather Service office in Goodland, pointed to the higher than normal rains in this area the past several months.

"The higher humidity, because of that moisture, has taken the edge off the heat," he said.

He said basically what is hap-

pening is the sun is busy evaporating the ground moisture and letting the heat alone.

However, "cooler" may be a misnomer. He said the temperatures may be in the 90s but with humidity factors what they are it still feels hot.

"Those higher dew points," he said, "are responsible for knocking 4 or 5 degrees off the temperature."

That, he said, is what is holding back readings from 100 and above.

In 2006, here are the dates for 100 or above readings for Norton: 100, June 9; 106, July 19; 101, July 25; 102, July 28; and 101, July 31. There were no 100s or plus the first three days of August, 2006.

Christmas: 'excellent job'

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Toby Kuhn, Park Ranger, said, "The sites did an excellent job and were very creative. I know the judges, Karla Reed and Deena Wentz, had a very difficult time in deciding."

First place went to Mr. and Mrs. Shinn and Mr. and Mrs.

Taylor with their Hawaiian Luau theme. They won \$60 in Chamber Bucks.

Second place was a tie between Justin and Becky Graham's traditional Christmas theme and Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Miller's Scrooge funeral theme. Each couple won \$40.

Third place went to Jay D and Julie Daffer for their fishing theme, and they won \$30.

Also participating were Ken Roberts and Brenda Darnell, winners of \$20, and Robert and Michelle Wiltfong, winners of \$10.

It wasn't the weather typical for this time of year, but then again, it's Kansas. How many other places will you see a prairie dog in a Santa hat and hula skirt in August?

Big Brothers/Sisters: need you

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dents in their community. The "Big" and "Little" meet at the child's school during the lunch hour or after school.

"Many people think they don't have time to be a Big Brother or Big Sister," said Mary Kay Woodyard, Affiliate Director. "People are surprised to learn it only takes 30-45 minutes a week to volunteer in our school-based program. It is a great way for busy people to make a big difference."

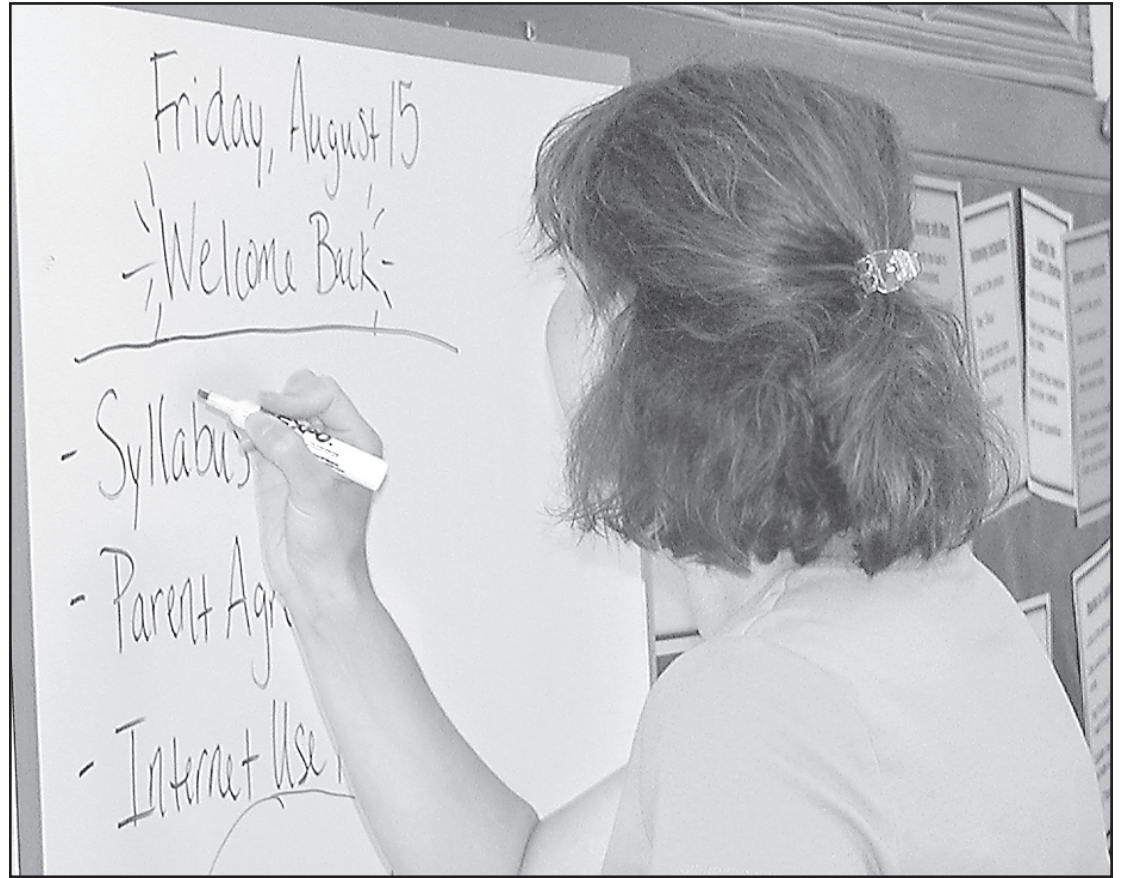
The *Bigs In Schools* program throughout the state has experienced substantial growth through partnerships with Kansas businesses. Business partners support Big Brothers Big Sisters by encouraging their employees to volunteer through the school-based program during their lunch breaks.

"We are hopeful that local businesses will get involved in this proven program," said Mrs. Woodyard. "The flexible hours of the *Bigs In Schools* program has opened doors for new volunteers. And according to the newest survey results, the impact these volunteers are making in Kansas is priceless."

For more information about the *Bigs In Schools* program or how you can get involved, please call 888-KS4-BIGS or visit www.kansasbigs.org.

kansasbigs.org.

Preparing for Day One



Mrs. Erin Manning, the computer lab teacher at Norton Junior High, jotted down the first day's agenda for her classroom.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

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