

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES



Tuesday

August 4, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Joe C. Berry

Briefly

Representative to deal with veterans

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office on Aug. 10 from 1-2:30 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with veteran's benefits. The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs is a state agency that provides free assistance to veterans and their families with veterans' benefits. Appointments preferred, but walk-ins accepted. Call 785-625-8532 for additional information.

Food distribution event of this week

A reminder was issued today of this week's government surplus food distribution for low income persons in Norton County. The menu appeared in Friday's paper; here is the schedule: Friday, 2-4 p.m., Norton Senior Center; 2-3:30 p.m., Lenora Senior Center; 9-11 a.m., Almena Senior Center; Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m., Clayton Library. Call 877-5352 for more information.

Library to hold one story hour session

This week the Norton Public Library 'Story Hour' will only have a 10:30 a.m. program. Rosalie McMullen will be sharing some exciting stories and a craft. Come and enjoy!

weather forecast



SCATTERED SHOWERS
Tonight - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Wednesday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 97. Wednesday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers. Thursday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday, July 31..... Low 52, High 91
1.20" Precipitation, Some Hail
Saturday, August 1..... Low 54, High 93
Sunday, August 2..... Low 57, High 96
Monday, August 3..... Low 61, High 93
Total Precipitation for the Month of July was 7.47 Inches
15 Days of the Month Included Some Precipitation
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God, help us to follow Jesus' example, finding peace and stillness in our busy lives. May we not be too busy or too preoccupied to listen to your voice. Amen



Hail damaged an estimated 60 vehicles at Prairie Dog State Park last Friday when several storms hit Norton. The above windshield is an example. The park had the worst hail which averaged baseball size. Park staff said

estimated damage was \$1 million which included park property. Hail also hit Norton and several miles north of town.

-Photo courtesy Steve Mathes

Baseball size hail wrecks Prairie Dog State Park

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

It was a costly hail storm that whipped through Norton County last Friday evening. Costly, like \$1 million.

That figure came from Prairie Dog State Park where park manager Steve Mathes said baseball sized hail, heavy rains of up to 2.5 inches and strong winds battered the east side of the park.

The park suffered severe property damage as well as damage to boats, campers and vehicles. Norton also received golf ball size hail, inflicting damage. However, no dollar amount was available at this time.

The National Weather Service at Goodland reported three different storms hitting Norton, starting at 6:50 p.m. when one inch hail was reported seven miles northwest of town.

At 7:30 p.m. two inch hail was reported in Norton and at 8:09 p.m. one and three-quarter inch hail was reported at Prairie Dog State Park.

Mr. Mathes said park staff estimated damage to personal property at \$1 mil-

lion.

He estimated that 40 camping units received damage ranging from broken windows, holes in roofs, destroyed vents and skylights and damaged air conditioning units.

Two new cabins received extensive damage and almost all of them received hail damage. Mr. Mathes said roof damage allowed water to run down vents, damaging refrigerators. The damaged refrigerators will cost an estimated \$1,000 each.

He estimated 60 vehicles were damaged including shattered windshields, side windows being knocked out and extensive damage to sheet metal.

"Many of the camping units and vehicles will be a total loss," he said.

The adobe house was damaged extensively by the large hail stones including the roof and north wall.

Mr. Mathes said flooding was contained to roadsides and ditches.

Park staff began cleanup immediately with the assistance of an inmate crew from (Damage - Continued on Page 5)



The Adobe House at Prairie Dog State Park was one of many buildings damaged during Friday's storm. Hail put dents in the wall and damaged the roof. Hail also damaged 40 camping units.

-Photo courtesy Steve Mathes

Idol winner looks to future

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

Norton Idol Troy Leiker is looking forward to taking the next steps in his musical career after winning the competition at the fair here on July 24.

Mr. Leiker said he competed in the first two years of Norton Idol, and last year he placed in the top ten.

"I felt like this was the year. I wanted to have total fun with it and show everyone there, as well as myself, that I could do it," he said.

For winning first place, Mr. Leiker received \$500, two tickets to American Idol Live in Kansas City, a portrait package from Lacey's Place and a recording session.

He said competing in idol would have been worth it, even if the prizes weren't there, because of the experience he gained.

Mr. Leiker said idol was put together well this year, and he commended everyone involved for making it successful.

"There was a tremendous amount of talent this year," he said.

"A good sound man makes a great

concert," he said.

Mr. Leiker said Roger Cooper, Norton Idol judge, has been very encouraging.

Mr. Leiker and Jessica Normile, last year's Norton Idol, are beginning to think about singing professionally.

"Jessie (Normile) has inspired me," he said.

Mr. Leiker said he and Mrs. Normile have discussed participating on the local music scene, but their schedule prevents them from actively participating at this time.

"It's just a matter of time," he said.

Mr. Leiker said he and Mrs. Normile hope to move onto the main stage later.

Mr. Leiker said they believe they have something great. He writes music, records and plays guitar and keyboards.

He said he hopes to represent Norton on the music scene, even though he is originally from Denver.

Mr. Leiker said he moved to Norton in 2008 to help his father. He married and had two children before divorcing. His daughter Ashland is four-years-old and his son Elijah is 18-months-old.

(Idol - Continued on Page 5)



Norton Idol Troy Leiker showed off his talent after the idol competition. Mr. Leiker writes and records music, and he also plays guitar and keyboards. He said idol inspired him to move forward with his music.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley