

Norton County records 11 inches of rain since May 1

By TOM DREILING
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What's a little rain among friends? Depends on how you define 'little.'

Going through the Norton area weather records from May 1 through this past weekend, a *little* turns out to be something like 11.11 inches.

The records are maintained for The Telegram by Karolyn Kingham on her farm nine miles northwest of Norton.

In all of that, it is easy to recall the storm in late May when torrential rains, pushed by heavy winds, damaged countless miles of rural roads and many bridges in Norton County and left behind 5-6 inches of puddles, ponds and lakes. May's total alone was 8.17 inches.

And in June, we have had a total of 2.94 inches (though the past weekend).

Ironically, in this time span, winter also peeked in its out-of-season face, leaving one inch of snow on May 2. Remember?

The June rains have occurred on

these dates and left the following deposits: 5th, .20; 6th, .02; 16th, .22; 17th, .70; 18th, 1.50; and 19th, .30.

Three May rainfalls left 1.20 inches, 5.00 and 1.20 to account for 7.40 inches of the 8.17.

The rains have resulted in lush lawns, colorful flowers, in general beautiful scenery. But on the flip side are the damaged roads and bridges, creating a challenge for the county's road and bridge department, which, despite the obstacles, are making headway. Supervisor Tom Brannan and his troops charge ahead.

The conversation now turns to what benefit, or harm, these heavy rains will have on the pending wheat harvest, if these conditions persist. The harvest has begun in the southeastern part of the state and the experts are of the opinion drier conditions must persist, and soon in this area, to allow all elements to come together and allow the machines to move onto supportive surfaces so the golden grain can be cut and hauled in.

They also look to the sky and listen to the forecasts.

Tasty treats

Youth prepared to make fortune cookies Tuesday at Colby United Methodist Church. The church has offered a variety of classes for youth from pottery, cooking and model rockets.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Area churches to have concerts this weekend

High gas prices, busy schedules, and a listening area that stretches 75 miles in every direction all combine to make holding concerts in the tri-state area a very difficult endeavor.

That's why Tri-state Praise KGCR is changing their tactics.

Rather than asking listeners to drive up to two hours one way to hear some great live music, station manager James Claassen said the station is bringing the concerts to their listeners.

The weekend of June 27 - 29 the station is introducing a new concert series at churches in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., McCook, Neb., and Colby. The featured group will be the up and coming band The Sonflowerz, made up of two sisters from Colorado Springs.

Claassen said The Sonflowerz have just released their first national project and are doing very well, reaching the top 10 in at least one national chart. The group has toured in both the United States and in Europe for the past several

years and last year was named the best over-all vocal group at the Gospel Music Association Music in the Rockies competition.

"The station was extremely fortunate to get a group of this caliber to kick off the concert series. The Sonflowerz have agreed to come for a free-will offering, meaning that there will be no ticket costs at the door," Claassen said.

The weekend will kick off with a late night concert at 9 p.m. MT Friday in the Cheyenne Wells Christian Church (translator site 88.5FM).

The Saturday venue will be the Christian Church in McCook beginning at 7 p.m. (translator site 95.3FM). The weekend will wrap up in Colby Sunday at the Berean Church with a starting time of 6 p.m.

Claassen says more information about the group The Sonflowerz or the concert series is available at www.kgcr.org or by calling 888-882-5427.

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Call 1-866-504-5898 or visit www.KansasStateTreasurer.com/KIDS to apply.

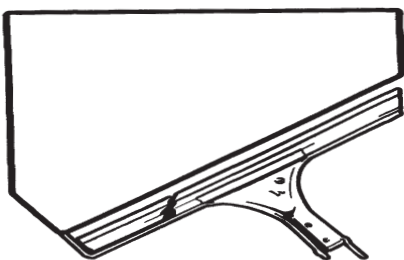
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