



Taylor Meder, a seventh grader at Norton Junior High, interviewed author Lois Ruby after her presentation Friday afternoon. The interview was recorded for broadcast on the school's news channel.

—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Author visits schools in Norton

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

With sixty years of writing experience, author Lois Ruby, Albuquerque, N.M., is no stranger to the publishing world.

On a promotional tour through midwest schools, Mrs. Ruby stopped in Norton and conducted additional workshops with students at Eisenhower Elementary and Norton

Junior High last Friday. She said she began writing when she was six years old and that she has written 13 published books; six unpublished; and one is in the works. She said her latest book, scheduled to be released in September is a ghost story set on a plantation in Louisiana. The title is, "The Secret of Laurel Oaks".

During a question and answer

period after her presentation, one of the junior high students asked what her favorite kind of book was.

She said she enjoyed doing historical fiction and contemporary fiction for older teens.

Following her program, Taylor Meder interviewed her for the junior high newscast on the school channel.

Nex-Tech ready for 2009 change

The Digital TV Transition is coming and Nex-Tech is prepared to make the transition seamless for its customers. Effective Feb. 17, 2009, all television stations will be required to broadcast their programming in a digital format and analog broadcasting will be discontinued. Some consumers have expressed concern wondering if they will have to purchase additional equipment or new televisions to continue to receive cable TV service.

Nex-Tech Cable TV subscrib-

ers will continue to receive cable TV service in the same manner they are receiving it today and will not be affected by the Digital TV Transition. No additional equipment will be necessary and you will not need to purchase a different television.

Only those who receive the broadcast stations ABC, CBS, CW, FOX, MyNet, NBC and PBS off-air with an external analog antenna or rabbit ears will be affected. For those individuals, a converter box will be necessary

to convert the digital signal back to analog format. Converter boxes will be available from consumer electronics retailers, and discount coupons can be requested from the government at www.dtv2009.gov/.

The company provides a full line of voice and data products to schools, government, residential and commercial clients, in addition to providing local telephone, long distance, cable TV, Internet, VoIP and wireless/cellular services.

Nex-Tech and Rural Telephone have offices in Dodge City, Downs, Great Bend, Hays, Hill City, Lenora, Norton, Osborne, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Quinter, Russell, Salina, Smith Center, Stockton and Wa-Keeney.

Together, Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech employ over 350 people.

Senior Center menu

April 2 - Swedish Meatballs, Spanish Salad, Mandarin Oranges, Noodles, Applesauce Cake.
April 3 - Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Corn, Bread, Peaches.
April 4 - Tuna Salad, Tomato Soup, Cucumbers & Onions, Bread, Pineapple Ambrosia.
April 7 - Tater Tot Casserole, Spanish Green Beans, Bread, Cook's Choice Fruit.
April 8 - Roast Turkey, Sweet Potatoes, Pineapple, Bread, Pumpkin Dessert Bar.
April 9 - Wieners w/ kraut, Mashed Potatoes, 3 Bean Salad, Bread, Apricots.
April 10 - Liver & Onions in gravy, Cheesy Broccoli, Fruit Mix, Bread, Cookie.
April 11 - Hamburger Stew, Fruit Cup #1, Crax, Cinnamon Rolls.
April 14 - Salmon Patties, Parslied Potatoes, Creamed Peas, Bread, Pears.
April 15 - Bierock Casserole, Seasoned Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Cook's Choice Complement.
April 16 - Chicken Fajita Salad, Strawberries & Bananas, Chips or Crax, Cherry Crisp.
April 17 - Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Jello w/carrots/pineapple, Bread, Birthday Cake.
April 18 - Cook's Choice Entree, Broccoli/Cauliflower Salad, Peaches, Bread, Pudding.
April 21 - Macaroni & Cheese w/smokies, Stewed Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Fruit Mix.
April 22 - Sloppy Joes, Tater Triangles, Pea Salad, Bun, Cinnamon Apple Slices.
April 23 - Chicken Dressing Casserole, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Carrots,

Applesauce. **April 24** - Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Coleslaw, Bread, Cook's Choice Fruit.
April 25 - Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Pineapple.
April 28 - Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Bread, Apricots.
April 29 - Chicken Fajita Pasta Salad, Jello w/mandarin oranges, Bread Sticks, Gingerbread w/topping.
April 30 - Smothered Steak, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas, Bread, Rosy Pears.

(Requested contribution \$2.50 per meal. Checks payable to Homestead Nutrition Project. Guests under 60 pay full cost of meal \$4.75 at the site. Home delivered \$5.)

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Serving from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 4
Prairie View Sr. Citizen/
Community Center
Spaghetti, Ketchup,
Bread, Dessert, Drink
FREE WILL DONATION



Norton City crews worked all day Monday to pick up debris placed curbside during the annual City-Wide cleanup. Loading refuse on State Street was Steve Reedy, left and Jan Maley. The crews will continue to pick up trash today and tomorrow.

—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

County adjusts cleanup program

Monday's rains caused a cancellation of that day's county-wide cleanup. Landfill manager Curt Archibald said the free dump days will be extended through Thursday.

Norton County provides this service to allow for proper disposal of solid waste. County residents will be allowed to bring tree limbs,

appliances and construction debris to the solid waste facility at the east edge of Norton.

Anyone bringing waste is asked to follow the signs and dispose of their articles properly. Items will be separated by: construction debris, including furniture, siding, windows and carpet; metal, including appliances and metal;

a tree pile for trees and branches; and a compost pile for grass, leaves and yard waste.

There will be a charge for tires and appliances not accompanied by a certificate saying freon has been removed.

If you have any questions, you may call the landfill at (785) 877-5790.

Kansas' Forest Service at risk

Kathleen W. Ward
kward@oznet.ksu.edu
K-State Research and Extension

The ropes attached to today's federal funds are tangled in and around states' goals and choices for everything from human services and university research to K-12 school systems.

Some new funding rules are adding a knotty twist, however, for state forest services which deliver both state and private (e.g., tribal) forestry programs. The U.S. Forest Service has started a major shift that eventually could transfer 65 percent of states' traditional base funding into a competitive grant pool.

The plan is to complete the shift within five years, said Ray Aslin, long-time head of the Kansas Forest Service. The United States Forest Service transferred 15 percent of states' base into the pool last year and plans to take another 10 percent each year until it reaches the total.

By then, the change could very well be threatening some state forest services' survival, while narrowly defining grant winners' major programs, Aslin said.

"State and private forestry programs in general haven't fared well under recent Congresses and the current Administration. Those kinds of ups and downs aren't that uncommon," Aslin said.

"Washington's concern now, though, is to ensure that most of what we have left goes for national forestry priorities in projects where Americans can get the biggest bang for the buck," said Aslin.

States have always supported the U.S. Forest Service's goals; so, its priorities are nothing new, he

said. States such as Kansas didn't receive an equal share of annual forest service allocations, however. A federal funding formula determined their share size, and they learned to get the most from every dollar.

"But, those less-than-equal states now are facing increasingly crucial fights for grants in which the winners take all," Aslin said. "Their heavyweight rivals include state programs working with huge native forests, big timber industries, a larger tax base, more state resources, and/or big resident or tourist populations to affect."

Adding to the problem are some traditional, locally determined differences in how state services have supported the United States Forest Service goals, he said.

For example, "fire management" and Smokey Bear have meant quite different programs in such states as timbered Oregon, open-prairie North Dakota and

highly populated Rhode Island.

The High Plains provide little protection from the forces of nature, Aslin said. So, prairie states' forestry programs have focused not only on woodlands but also on using trees to save, support or improve all natural resources — ranging from topsoil to songbirds. In Kansas, at least, that quickly led to yet another goal: to improve every citizen's quality of life in a harsh environment.

Some highly populated states may have faced similar differences, he said, in how they could best support national priorities. "For example, they may have lacked available or accessible land for true forests," he said.

"I'm already working with state foresters to the north," the forester said, "trying to develop combined grant proposals that the United States Forest Service might view as having a big enough impact."

Service Learning Day scheduled

The Norton Junior High School annual Service Learning Day will be held from 12:30 to 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

All of the students will be divided into teams of four to six and will be led by an adult sponsor. The work done by these teams is at no charge to the business or individual receiving them.

Work that can be done by the students includes picking up branches, sweeping sidewalks,

preparing flower beds, washing windows, washing vehicles, painting and many other jobs. Countless individuals and businesses have benefited from these services in the past.

Planning for the 2008 Service Learning Day is underway.

If you know of a business or individual that could use help, please contact Melissa McClain, junior high counselor at 877-5851.

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