

Share-A-Story coming to library

Smoky Hills Public Television will again present programs in seven communities in its coverage area during the last two weeks in June as part of its seventh annual Share-A-Story summer reading project.

The announcement was made by Leona Breeden, the station's educational services director.

The schedule for the Share-A-Story programs includes Norton, on June 25, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The programs will be presented at the Norton Public Library, said Breeden.

Breeden will conduct the 45-minute program, which includes viewing a short clip from a PBS children's television program,

reading a related book and doing a simple activity.

Each participating child will receive a copy of the book "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae with illustrations by Guy Parker-Rees, Breeden said.

"Smoky Hills Public Television is delighted to be able to once again take its Share-A-Story program out to the communities of our coverage area," Breeden said.

"Research shows that children who are read to 20 minutes each day are more successful in school," she said, "Reading aloud introduces the patterns of language and develops vocabulary."

"Share-A-Story has helped

millions of children nationwide become better readers by inspiring adults to shower children with words, which will start them down the road to loving books and reading," Breeden said.

Smoky Hills began its Share-A-Story project in 2003 in conjunction with PBS Kids' national program to raise awareness of the important connection between reading aloud to children and development of early literacy skills.

Smoky Hills Public Television serves 70 counties in Kansas and one county in Nebraska. It is available on ch. 9 Nex-Tech in Norton.

Group uses concert to unite churches and community

By ERICA BRADLEY
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First Methodist Church organized a concert on June 6 with the hopes of bringing the community and all denominations together for the first time.

"We wanted all denominations to participate because we wanted to show unity for God. We're all for God, and we all believe the same thing," Kelly Jones, congregation member, said.

Mr. Jones said he started planning the event a month ago. "We really looked forward to it."

The concert included sets from the Mordecai girls, the church Bridge Band and Mike and Marlene Pollack.

Mr. Jones said members from churches in Norton, as well as surrounding communities, were invited to participate in the concert.

Unfortunately, we picked a busy day and a lot of people had other commitments, Mr. Jones said.

"The Bridge Band was formed in 1998. About 20 members have gone through," said Dan Sturgill, band member.

Janet Look said she has played drums for the band since it started.

She helped with planning the event, saying the city had to be asked for use of Elmwood Park.

The concert also served as a fund raising event with a concessions stand set up.

Rhonda Browning and Kay Hawks staffed the stand, selling everything from bottled water to meals.

The stand was a fund raiser for a lighted sign to be placed along Highway 36.

"It would be used to advertise church events, as well as commu-



Michael Pollack and Chuck Look performed for the crowd during the First Methodist Church concert. Mr. Look plays for the church's bridge band, and Mr. Pollack joined the band for the set.

nity events," Mrs. Hawks said.

Mrs. Hawks is part of the nurture, outreach witness committee. "We do a lot of support activities for the church," she said.

Mr. Jones said he would love

to do another concert in a year, or maybe in the fall.

"This is something we've always wanted to do. We'd like to do it again, depending on what people think," he said.

off without pay.

• Steve Berland, BG Consultants, presented the federal aid and updated project needs for the Norton County five year bridge plan. Mr. Berland said a bridge was ready for construction, pending funding. He suggested the bridge be resubmitted this year since there was not enough in the budget last year. Commissioner Applegate made a motion to resubmit the bridge for federal funding. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Commissioner Applegate made a motion to adopt a resolution to establish a Joint Port Authority, which would insure the availability of rail service to residents in Norton County. Vote taken, motion passed.

The next Norton County Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday at 9 a.m.

Child advocates ask county for money

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The Western Kansas Child Development Center gave a presentation to the Norton County Commissioners on Monday, and in the process asked for a \$5,000 donation to help provide services to the children of Norton County.

David Fyler, program director, told The Telegram the center staff travels to 29 western Kansas counties to provide services to children who are victims of sexual or physical abuse or are witnesses of crimes. The center also provides child advocate services for court appearances.

The center has two RVs that are decorated as children's rooms, which makes it easier to interview children when there is reported abuse, Mr. Fyler said.

Mr. Fyler said the service is important for small communities because they don't have the services necessary.

"A lot of people think there aren't a lot of children in small communities who need this service. We have already interviewed 110 children this year."

He said eight children were interviewed last year in Norton County.

The Western Kansas Child Development Center is non-profit and depends on donations. The county commissioners agreed to review the donation request.

"Working with children is our passion. We will continue to do it," Mr. Fyler said.

Also at the meeting:

• Sheriff Troy Tomson spoke to the commission about hiring a part time dispatcher. The position will require a guarantee of monthly hours.

• Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste, delivered his weekly report. The commission asked Mr. Archibald to check on the inter-local agreement with Solomon Valley E-waste because the commission has not received a signed copy.

• A new law is in effect which requires the county to adopt a county identity theft program. County Attorney Doug Sebelius will take care of the policy.

• The commission discussed the policy on vacation and sick leave. The county policy will be that benefits will be given to full time employees. Benefits will not be earned if an employee takes time

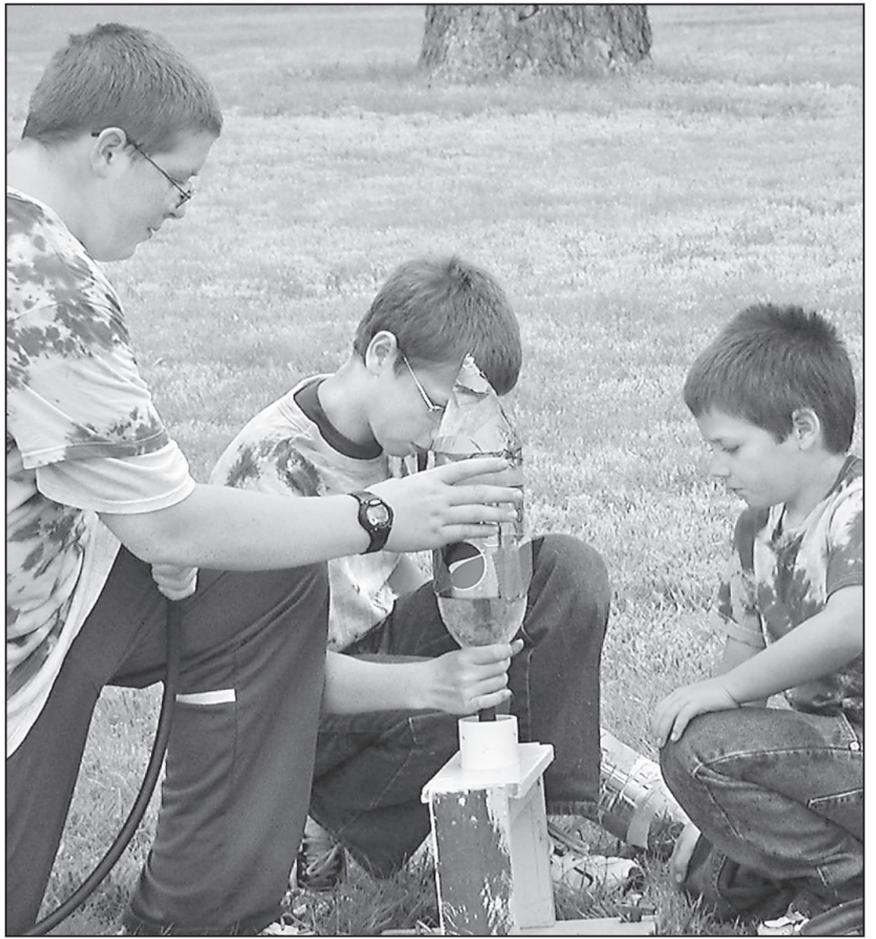
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Countdown



Anthony Wentz, Wyatt Wentz and Bryndon Wentz shot off their bottle rocket at 4-H Day Camp at Elmwood Park earlier this week. Anthony and Wyatt were junior leader helpers for 4-H this year. The rockets were popular among the boys.

- Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Farmers' markets season arrives

By NANCY PETERSON
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'Tis the season: Kansas' farmers' markets, which typically open in May and early June, are making fresh, local foods available throughout the state.

"Shopping the local markets offers opportunities for customers to meet growers, learn more about a variety of foods and how they are grown, and how to choose and use the local foods," said Jana Beckman, coordinator of the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops.

Beckman, who is based at K-State Research and Extension in Manhattan, spends many of her working hours helping farmers' market vendors learn more about food, food safety and sustainable agriculture, and is, for a variety of reasons, an enthusiastic supporter of the local markets.

"Choosing local foods eliminates farm-to-market travel time during which food quality and flavor can suffer," Beckman said. Choosing local foods also reduces the cost — and environmental impact — of the transportation.

Shopping with local growers allows consumers who may have no previous connection or experience with farm life or agriculture to learn more about food production and how to enjoy a variety of health-promoting foods, she said.

Markets generally recruit local growers, who, according to the 2008 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service Survey, sell primarily at local farmers' markets.

Farmers' markets are the only marketing outlet for 70 percent of farmers' market vendors, Beckman said.

While most of the foods sold at the markets is locally grown, some markets do allow regional or other foods to also be sold, said Beckman, who advised asking the vendor how and where the food was grown, how it was harvested, and, what, if any, post-harvest procedures have been used to protect the food on its way to the market.

Prices for fresh produce and other products offered at local farmers' markets will generally be comparable to prices in other

markets, Beckman said.

During peak season or production, when supplies are plentiful, seasonal produce is typically lower in price; at local markets, consumers also may be able to save on fresh produce such as apples, potatoes or onions that may be less uniform in size than produce sold in larger supermarkets, but every bit as good — or better.

Shopping the markets throughout the season can be educational and entertaining, and, in many communities, a social event, Beckman said.

More information about Kansas farmers' markets and special events (community festivals, for example) is available www.local-harvest.org, at county and district Extension offices, and at www.kansassustainableag.org.

READERS

— First Church of God Vacation Bible School, June 23-26, 9-12 noon.

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