

Reservoir hosts another successful July 4



boree foods arrived with a trailer load of fresh cold watermelon. For the past twelve years, the Risewicks have provided a huge watermelon feast for anyone who wishes to partake. This year they served approximately 60 watermelon.

Boy Scout Troop 181 had the honors of raising the American and Kansas flags, followed by 12-year-old Taylor Earlenbusch, of Piedmont, S.D. and granddaughter of Gary and Carol Earlenbusch, who sang the Star Spangled Banner. As if by chance or perfect timing, as she sang "The bombs bursting in air," a great burst went off signaling the start of a great evening.

After more watermelon was eaten and as people began to gather for the fireworks, the Legion Riders posted colors. At dusk the Boy Scouts retired the flags for this year's celebration.

At about 10 p.m. the fireworks display began. The technicians lighting the explosives were all volunteers. Larry Nelson was the piro-tech, Russ Erbert was the shooter and several others donated their time to help out.

Those that have helped for years were Tim Kelley, Steve Meese, Harold Shinn, Mike Barrett, Wally Burton, Dan Hazlett and Kenny Calwalader. This year's newbies to help out were Todd Boller and Shane Wyatt. Boat control was Drew Knuth.

Great loud bursts of color filled the skies over the water. Neon necklaces and bracelets could be seen dancing around on the beach, oos and ahhs filled the air and smiles came over people's faces as everyone joined together to celebrate our Independence Day.

After the display was finished everyone

made it back to their camps or cars and left in a long slow line of moving headlights exiting the park. The crowd was safely directed from the park by Kansas State Patrol, Park Employees and the Norton County Sheriff's Department.

The fireworks are provided every year exclusively by donations given to the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"If everyone that attend this years display would donate \$2 to the Chamber we could have an even bigger and better show next year," stated Russ Erbert. "If you enjoyed this year's display, next year, when you see the donation cans sitting on counters, give a little to make it even better."

Special thanks go out to all of those who donated to purchase the fireworks, all of the volunteers who set them up and fired them off, Marvin Machett for deejaying the events, the Boy Scouts and the Legion Riders for their flag presentations, Ms. Earlenbusch for singing, the Risewicks for the watermelon, Prairie Dog State Park employees for all of their hard work getting the park in such beautiful condition, Kansas State Patrol and the Norton Sheriff Departments for directing traffic, Dairy Queen for donating the food for all the volunteers who do the fireworks, Prairieland Electric for digging the holes to set explosives in, the local rural fire department, ambulance crews, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and to everyone who attended.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year. If anyone was missed, our apologies, we appreciate everything that everyone did to

make this celebration possible.



(Top left) The fourth of July holiday weekend brought people to Prairie Dog State Park in droves. There was something for everyone to do. While some went out on boats, jet skies, tubes and water skies, others opted out for an afternoon at the beach. Siblings Brennen and Halle Pfannenstiel enjoy the sand and surf throughout the hot afternoon.

(Above) Braylyn Brooks joins his mother Cheri and sister Hallie at the watermelon feed during the Fourth of July celebration at the Prairie Dog State Park. He is washing his watermelon down with a nice cold sno-cone.

— Telegram photos by Dana Paxton

By DANA PAXTON

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The 14th annual Fourth of July celebration at Prairie Dog State Park was once again a huge success. Numbers of those attending exceeded past years with 1,600 cars entering the park for the celebration.

The camp grounds and beach were full of families enjoying the cooking out, sun, fun, and time together. Boaters, jet skiers, tubers, water skiers, swimmers and people on floaties filled the water.

The celebration officially began at 7:30 p.m. when Rich and Dawn Risewick of Jam-

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