

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

March 25, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Bob Madden

Briefly

Orientation for parents planned

An orientation session for parents of next year's freshmen at Norton Community High School, will be held in the music room of the school on Thursday at 7 p.m. Topics, such as academic requirements, enrollment process, and expectations, will be discussed.

'B' tag renewal due by March 31

March 31 is the deadline to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycle or motorized bike tags if your last name or business begins with "B". When renewing, remember to include your current proof of insurance for all vehicles. According to Cynthia J. Linner, county treasurer, "We need to verify the VIN number, policy number and current expiration date. Computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. each day for balancing. Mrs. Linner also said her office can only renew regular driver's licenses and issue ID cards. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Effective Jan. 1, 2006, all CDL licenses have to be renewed at a full service office: Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

County job fair scheduled Friday

The Norton County Job Fair will be held from 4 to 8 p.m., Friday at the Norton Junior High School gymnasium. If you need a job or have a job to offer, the Job Fair can bring you together.

The event is co-sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and Norton County Economic Development.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 34. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Partly sunny with a high near 58. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise mostly cloudy with a low around 35. **Thursday** — Partly sunny with a high near 55. **Thursday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 30. **Friday** — Mostly sunny.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 32, High 59
Saturday Low 26, High 51
Sunday Low 18, High 54
Monday Low 24, High 76
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for showing us your love by helping us accomplish what we need to do each day. Amen

'Yes, Sir! No Sir!'

Life of a Cadet not for everyone

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Now in his third year at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., Cadet Michael Sprigg is on a speaking tour in his home town. Cadet Sprigg said upper classmen with good enough

grades could qualify to make these public appearances. He graduated from Norton Community High School in 2005 where he had been a two-time state wrestling champion for the Norton Blue Jays.

He is the son of Dave and Charla Sprigg,

Monday he spoke to students at Almena, the Norton Rotary Club and Norton junior and senior high students. He also planned to speak to Norton's Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Cadet Sprigg said he had no military background and did not know anything

about West Point until he was contacted about wrestling for the academy. He said he had a lot of learning to do. He said the first summer after his enrollment was basic training. "That was the worst part. They break you down, then build you back up," he said.

He said the first year at West Point is probably the hardest. Cadets are restricted to campus and allowed few privileges.

Cadet Sprigg said the food at West Point is okay, except for breakfast which is always cereal or oatmeal. He spoke slightly better for lunch and dinner.

His second summer, he took advanced training and was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., where he spent a week working with armored tanks.

Cadet Sprigg said his third summer was spent at Fort Sill, Okla., working with real soldiers and the real Army.

In his junior year, he is taking a heavy class schedule of 18 credit hours. His emphasis is in business. He is a third year letterman on the wrestling team, but injury last season and illness at the beginning of this season have kept him from his peak performance. He is, however, looking forward to his senior year.

He said each year's class has a nickname. Freshmen are called "Plebes"; sophomores are "Yuks"; juniors are "Cows"; and seniors are "Firsties".

After he graduates, he will be commissioned a second lieutenant and be obligated to serve in the regular Army for five years and three in the Army Reserve. He said he would like to be in field artillery.

Cadet Sprigg said about 1,200 men and women begin as "Plebes" each year. He said about 200 either drop out or are asked to leave during the next four years so that each class graduates about 1,000.

He said the student population is about 85 percent male and 15 percent female.

He said he had a great deal of admiration for his female counterparts who, for the most part, have to do everything the men do, including carrying 100 pounds of equipment during forced marches.

Cadet Sprigg said he is glad he chose to attend the military academy. "It's not the worst decision I ever made," he said.



Cadet Michael Sprigg spoke to members of the Norton Rotary Club Monday about his experiences at the United States Military Academy, West Point. Cadet Sprigg is in his junior year there.

- Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Figures show dip in population

By TOM DREILING
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The population estimates, based on July 1, 2007 figures, are in and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Norton County lost 94 people. The latest report gives Norton County a head count of 5,422, compared with the July 2006 figure of 5,516.

Although these are estimates only, they are important because the numbers you see above figure in the mix when federal aid is distributed.

The 94 number does not necessarily mean 94 people moved out of the county. The estimates are based on deaths, births and location changes.

In the 2000 federal census, Norton County had a population of 5,953.

Estimates since then show:

July 1, 2000 — 5,947
July 1, 2001 — 5,814
July 1, 2002 — 5,762
July 1, 2003 — 5,730
July 1, 2004 — 5,636
July 1, 2005 — 5,578
July 6, 2006 — 5,516
July 1, 2007 — 5,422

Neighboring Phillips County has an estimated population of 5,356., the latest figures show:

In the 2000 federal census, Phillips County had 6,001.

Estimated figures since then show:
July 1, 2000 — 5,994
July 1, 2001 — 5,862
July 1, 2002 — 5,753
July 1, 2003 — 5,629
July 1, 2004 — 5,589

July 1, 2005 — 5,444
July 1, 2006 — 5,371
July 1, 2007 — 5,356

Decatur County had 3,472 people in the 2000 census.

Estimated figures since then show:

July 1, 2000 — 3,459
July 1, 2001 — 3,434
July 1, 2002 — 3,352
July 1, 2003 — 3,263
July 1, 2004 — 3,188
July 1, 2005 — 3,068
July 1, 2006 — 3,030
July 1, 2007 — 2,955

Graham County had 2,946 people in the 2000 census.

Estimated figures since then show:

July 1, 2000 — 2,922
July 1, 2001 — 2,872

July 1, 2002 — 2,843
July 1, 2003 — 2,778
July 1, 2004 — 2,707
July 1, 2005 — 2,663
July 1, 2006 — 2,647
July 1, 2007 — 2,607

Figures for the July 1, 2007 estimated population for several other counties in northwest Kansas are:

Cheyenne, 2,801; Gove, 2,637; Rawlins, 2,558; Trego, 2,929; Rooks, 5,160; Sheridan, 2,493; Sherman, 5,959; and Thomas, 7,314. Ellis County's estimated population is 27,464, down from 27,507 counted in the 2000 federal census.

In 2000, Kansas' population, according to the federal census was 2,688,418. The 2007 estimated figure is 2,775,997 — a growth of 87,579.

Egg-citing time for youngsters here Saturday

An afternoon shower left Easter eggs and fat rounds of foil-covered chocolate dripping with moisture and melted part of the candy coating from jelly beans, but that didn't discourage hundreds of youngsters from grabbing the treasures out of the grass at the Norton County courthouse on Saturday.

The party started at 1 p.m. as children lined up to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny (Lucy Gosselin) before hitting the grounds to round up as many eggs and pieces of candy as their sticky little



It was a mad dash by four and five year olds during Saturday morning's annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Norton County Courthouse lawn. Parents stood and watched as their children gathered the brightly colored eggs. The hunt was sponsored by the Norton Child Study Club.

- Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

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