

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday
May 19, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jackie Underwood

Briefly

No Monday Extra

The Telegram will alter next week's publications to allow its employees to take Monday, Memorial Day, off to spend with family and friends. There will be no Telegram Extra on Monday; however, the advertising that would normally appear in that issue will be in Tuesday's Telegram (May 26.) Due to the holiday, The Telegram will be put together on Tuesday of next week and then printed and delivered on Wednesday.

Meals on Wheels

Immanuel Lutheran Church is delivering Meals on Wheels this week (May 18-24) with Fonda Lawrence 877-3145 the contact person. The week of May 25-31, the Child Study Club will deliver, with Theola Otter the contact person at 877-3669.

They found 'angels' on the side of the road
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weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 59. Windy with a south wind between 20 and 30 mph with gusts as high as 40 mph. Wednesday - Sunny with a high near 90. South wind around 15 mph. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 57. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Thursday - A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 68. East wind between 5 and 15 mph. Thursday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a low around 53.



RAIN

Kingham report:

Fri., May 15..... Low 54, High 72
Sat., May 16..... Low 39, High 73
Sun., May 17..... Low 43, High 79
Mon., May 18..... Low 48, High 92
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, we need your help to deal with daily struggles and fears. We ask for renewed trust in you and for perseverance in overcoming challenges. Amen



The Norton Community High School Class of 2009 celebrated the end of their high school career with silly string taking the spotlight as the graduation ceremony neared an end. Norton held its graduation on

Sunday afternoon in Stull Gymnasium. The traditional large crowd witnessed the festivities.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Curtain rings down high school career

BY ERICA BRADLEY
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It was the final assembly on campus for 40 students.

Norton Community High School held its graduation ceremony for the class of 2009 on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Stull Gymnasium.

The class of 2009 was made up of 40 students.

Ashley Colip gave the welcome and also an excellent speech entitled, "Blue Gown, Hats and Tassels." KaraJo Jones gave the student address, a speech entitled

"Write Your Own Ticket."

"In the journey we begin today, we need to write our own ticket," KaraJo said.

She mentioned how close the class is, saying that seven of the 40 students graduating started kindergarden together. "We have grown closer and closer as a class," she said.

"The success this class has earned is well earned and well deserved. I am proud to be part of the class of 2009," she said.

KaraJo finished her speech by asking the class, where will tomorrow's challenges take us?

The choir sang "Thankful" and the band played "To Challenge the Sky and Heavens Above."

Principal Rudy Perez presented the class by listing the major accomplishments of each student.

He mentioned the National Honor Society members: Laura Lee Baird, Phillip Becker, Amanda Delimont, Joshua Gallentine, KaraJo Jones, Logan Kelly, Charli Lawson, Kyle Mindrup, Brittany Otter and Katharine Roy.

He also mentioned the artist of the year, Jacob VanSkike, and the artist of the year

chosen by the students, Brittany Otter.

Norton School District Superintendent Greg Man presented the diplomas.

After the ceremony, students attended a dance, bonfire and the traditional softball game that was started during their eighth grade graduation.

"If the guys have their way, we will play softball at our reunion too," KaraJo said. Ashley Colip and KaraJo Jones plan to attend Kansas State University in the fall.

Most of the students plan to attend college but some plan on starting work this summer.

Fourteen students bid farewell to high school days

By ERICA BRADLEY
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And now, the future.

The class of 2009 graduated at Northern Valley High School on Saturday at 2 p.m. Hannah Hawks opened the ceremony and gave the presentation, Abner Williams gave the student recognition, Stanton Nelson addressed the students and Principal George Griffith presented the class.

Mr. Griffith had handed out a survey to each student asking them to make comments about each other. He chose which comments to read, calling many of them hard-workers and wishing all of them the best.

Stanton addressed the graduating class by referencing several fortune cookie sayings, which inspired the class to "push ahead, take chances, and live life to the fullest."

He encouraged his fellow graduates to laugh at their embarrassing moments. Mark Twain said, "Laughter is the oil that takes the friction out of embarrassment." Stanton continued, "Laughter is the best medicine," as he fondly recalled several embarrassing moments from his classroom years at Northern Valley High School.

Diplomas were presented by Monica Wilson, Alan Woodside and Gale Hays.



Nathaniel Graham hugged his mother, Claudette, after receiving his diploma at Northern Valley High School. The students were given flowers to hand to their parents after receiving their diplomas.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

The students recognized their parents after receiving their diplomas.

The senior slideshow followed the presentation of diplomas. The slideshow included pictures of each student, which ranged from baby pictures to their senior pictures.

The class of 2009 was made up of 14 students. Most of the graduates plan to begin college at the end of the summer.

State park ranger completes tough leadership program

BY ERICA BRADLEY
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Prairie Dog State Park is fortunate to have a well-trained park ranger in Toby Kuhn, who completed a rigorous two-year program earlier this year for state park leadership.

There was high interest for acceptance into the program; only 55 students from across the nation and from one Canadian province were able to attend. Applicants were chosen based on their background and experience.

In Kansas, Mr. Kuhn and Casey Smithson from Pomona State Park attended. Mr. Kuhn worked as the assistant police chief for 11 years in Norton before moving to Prairie Dog State Park. He has been a park ranger for the the last two and a half years.

"It was an honor to be selected and to represent the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks," he said.

Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Smithson completed the program in January 2009. He said only 36 participants returned for the second year and attributed the dramatic decrease to budget problems that many states had.

Kansas Wildlife and Parks State Park

Director Jerry Hoover was instrumental in sending the Kansas participants to the second year of the program, Mr. Kuhn said.

The program was an intensive training in all aspects of park management; including trail management, recreation conflict, risk management, visitor safety and protection, budgeting and cultural resource management, he said.

The State Park Leadership School is located in Wheeling, West Virginia and involves distance learning during the regular year as well as a five day onsite study at the end of each year. Mr. Kuhn said several CDs came with the program and there were projects and other assignments that had to be completed before attending the onsite portion.

He said the onsite study involved several hours of lectures, and tests were given the afternoon of the lecture. A cumulative test was given at the end of the onsite study.

"It was very evident who did the work and who didn't," he said.

Mr. Kuhn said it was difficult to balance his work and family schedule with studying, especially after having been out

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Toby Kuhn