

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday
June 10, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Max Schmitz



Briefly

Wheat Tour on Thursday's agenda

K-State Research and Extension and Norton County Extension, along with Tim Schulze, will be hosting the Wheat Tour on Thursday, at 7 p.m. The plot is located six miles West of Norton (on US 36, W6 Road), then go one mile North to Road L.

Brian Olson, NW Kansas Research and Extension Agronomist, will help to go over the varieties that are included on the tour. Dan O'Brien, KSU AG Economist, will evaluate the wheat markets. Dana Peterson, Producer Policy Specialist of Kansas Wheat will discuss current issues for wheat growers including the Wheat Assessment and Wheat Alliance.

Deadline near for livestock producers

The Farm Service Agency said livestock producers have until July 18 to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. The two programs provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster. The Livestock Indemnity Program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster, while the Livestock Compensation Program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny with a high near 88. **Wednesday Night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 49, High 87
Saturday Low 56, High 93
Sunday Low 58, High 78
Monday Low 49, High 93
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, from whom all blessings flow we thank you for each of your gifts of love and caring. **Amen**



Some of the Biking Across Kansas cyclists were climbing the first hill seven miles east of Norton on U.S. Highway 36 on their ride to Smith Center on a beautiful early Monday morning.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Bikers enjoyed visiting Norton

By **DICK BOYD**

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The city of Norton received a different kind of economic stimulus over the week-end when 835 bicyclists and supporters of all ages from around the nation visited during the 34th annual Biking Across Kansas.

The bicycle enthusiasts left the Kansas-Colorado border west of St. Francis on Saturday morning, stayed in Atwood on Saturday evening and cycled on U.S. Highway 36 on Sunday with Norton as their destination.

They began arriving in Norton by noon and by early evening all were settled in Blue Jay country, having been welcomed first by Burma Shave type signs as well as a cool drink station set up by the First United Methodist Church in Norton. Later, the church served a meal for the

hungry men and women, boys and girls.

Many of the cyclists stayed overnight in the Stull Gymnasium, Norton Community High School, Norton Junior High and Norton Junior High Gym. The lot south of the Stull Gym turned into "Tent City" as many of the participants preferred to stay outside.

On Sunday afternoon, some of the bikers pedaled around town to become acquainted with Norton, shopped in the stores that were open, went swimming or completed needed bike repairs in anticipation of Monday's ride to Smith Center for the next stop.

In the evening, the 800 plus cyclists and supporters gave the Norton restaurants and Brad Hopkins' Phat Boy Barbecue a real culinary challenge!

The regular 8 p.m. meeting for all cyclists and the public was held in the

Stull Gym. The bikers were welcomed by Kim Snyder, president of the Norton City Council; Karla Reed, executive director of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and Pat Morel, Norton chief of police.

During the meeting, the day's trip was evaluated by BAK officials with suggestions on how to make the next day's trip more successful, always stressing the importance of riding safely and following all the rules of the road. One official was looking ahead to Monday and reviewed the towns they would pass through and named restaurants who will be getting ready for them in addition to tourist attractions.

Following the meeting, it was bed time in anticipation of Monday's ride. Most were up early Monday, overwhelmed the restaurants once again before setting out

on their 60 mile ride to Smith Center.

Although most of the bicycles were of the normal multi-speed variety, you knew that, with that many cyclists, some would want to ride something different and they did. The most unusual bike was made by Ben Lacy of St. Francis, who is on his eighth BAK. He doesn't cycle with his feet but with his arms and hands!

He built the bike out of two used bicycles he bought for \$50 and said he has put 2,000 to 3,000 miles on the bike. The disadvantage is that his arms get pretty tired so he reverts to his regular bike after 20 miles on the hybrid each day.

Ben Lacy is riding with his father, Les, and brother, Tanner, all from St. Francis. "We look forward every year to riding on Biking Across Kansas," said father Les.

There are also a number of tandem

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Large tusk unearthed at road work site

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**

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Great trumpeting woolly mammoths right here in Norton County?

Well, maybe.

County road grader operator Herman Pfannenstiel was trying to repair a washed out road last Tuesday when he noticed something out of place so he called his boss, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan telling him that he thought he had discovered human remains.

Mr. Brannan immediately contacted Sheriff Troy Thomson.

The call coming in about possible human remains caused quiet a bit of consternation in the office, the sheriff said.

However, when he and Mr. Brannan converged on the spot it was discovered that what looked like bones from the seat of a grader was actually a tusk.

"I got there and I said, 'I know what that is.'" Mr. Brannan said. "It's a mammoth tusk."

The tusk is about four-feet long and slightly curved, Mr. Brannan told the county commissioners on Monday.

The sheriff said that he called Sternberg Museum at Fort Hays State University

and Dr. Richard J. Zakrzewski, chief curator of the museum, sent out a couple of graduate students to look at the find.

It took them about five minutes to say, yep, that's a mammoth tusk, the sheriff said.

Both Dr. Zakrzewski and the grad students were out of the office on Monday but the secretary said that the graduate students were excited about the find saying that it appeared to be in good condition.

The museum will excavate the area, the sheriff said, adding that the graduate students thought the entire animal could be found in the area.

The secretary at the paleontology department said that work would probably not begin for a week or so because the process has to be coordinated with the graduate students, a supervising paleontologist and the county.

The tusk is on the county right-of-way, Mr. Brannan said. However, the skeleton could be found on nearby private ground. Therefore, he said, the landowner has been contacted. While the tusk was not found in the roadway, Mr. Brannan said, it is possible that once excavation starts the road will need to be closed. However,



This four-foot long and slightly curved tusk was found by Herman Pfannenstiel, county road grader, while he worked to repair a washed out road last Tuesday.

— Photo courtesy Tom Brannan

he said, it is a farm road and not used very often. To protect the site, the artifact was reburied and the sheriff has the coordinates to the location.

Retiring teachers here reveal a few secrets

By **TOM DREILING**

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How do you replace 113 years of service to a school district?

With time.

That number — 113 — represents the years of service, collectively, four retiring employees of the Norton School District are leaving behind. They were honored at a reception May 22 in the East Campus Auditorium.

At the event, each of the retirees read statements putting their careers in perspective.

One mentioned, "Snotty noses, stuck zippers, and untied shoelaces."

Another, "We had time to pull pranks on one another."

And this one, "The grocery stores weren't open on Sunday and there was no Pamida."

Or how about, "We also use a lot of latex-free gloves."

If these 'sound bits' perked your curiosity, then read on for an informative and entertaining stroll through the hallways and classrooms of the Norton School District.

Joyce Lofgreen
18 years

I always thought I was going to be a "princess"...but then, I met reality

and ended up in a classroom full of first graders! Not quite the kingdom I had envisioned...but a very rewarding one, nonetheless.

Although, I began my teaching career in Special Education in the early 70s, and then went back to teaching at the kindergarten level after taking time off for family, First Grade has been my love! There's nothing quite like being part of learning to read. I transferred to First Grade with trepidation and fear of the responsibility of teaching this "magic" skill, but I soon found that if I just taught my students how to "break the code" and provided them the opportunities to practice their

new-found skills, I became privileged to watch tremendous growth during this special year.

Some of the things I will miss are:

- The basic honesty, kindness and forgiveness of first graders.
- Wonderful comrades and co-workers.
- Brightly colored artwork splashing the walls of Eisenhower.
- The hum of soft voices in the classroom and looking around and thinking, "Hey, they're reading!"
- Playing my favorite April Fool's re-

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