

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Friday

March 5, 2010

Briefly

Residents urged to fill out 2010 census

Census forms were mailed Monday to roughly 12 million American homes as the government begins its once-a-decade count of everyone living here.

People are urged to fill them out and return them. Those who do not mail the form back can expect a visit from a census taker at their door to ask the questions from the form.

The form has 10 questions about residents' ages, date of birth and whether or not the head of household owns the home. The head of household's Social Security number is not needed and never asked.

Representative to meet with vets

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office on March 8 from 1—2:30 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with veterans' benefits.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs is a state agency that provides free assistance to veterans and their families with veterans' benefits.

Call 785-625-8532 for more information.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
March 2, 2010

CORN \$3.40
SOYBEANS \$8.69
WHEAT \$3.98
MILO \$3.02

314 W. North Street
Norton, Kansas
785-877-5188

weather forecast

Tonight - A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy with a low around 37. South wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 55. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Saturday Night - Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy with a low around 31. Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a high near 55. Sunday Night - A 50 percent chance of showers.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, March 2 Low 27, High 46
Wednesday, March 3.... Low 25, High 53
Thursday, March 4 Low 29, High 56
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of all our days, help us to treasure each person and each day you give us. Guide us to live always for your glory. Amen



Natoma to add jobs

By ERICA BRADLEY
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After a slowed year, business at Natoma Corp. has picked up with new orders coming in and an expansion being planned.

Last June, Natoma Corp. was notified that they had received a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan. The loan, which is a zero interest, 10 year loan, will be used to create jobs and expand the manufacturing part of the building. The loan will total \$740,000, and Natoma will provide an additional \$775,427. The total amount for the project is expected to be \$1,515,427.

Natoma Corp. President Gail Boller said the loan requirements include the creation of six jobs. He expects more than six jobs will be created.

"The whole idea is job creation, and I think we'll be able to provide that," Boller said.

"We've always exceeded the job requirements. My prediction is we'll add 25 jobs in the next 10 years," he said.

Boller said the economy had slowed business. Before the economic downturn hit, Natoma employed 70 employees but had to let 20 go.

Boller said he could see the economy starting to turn around last fall. This spring has brought new orders from existing clients as well as new clients. The increase in business has taken employees from having their hours cut to working overtime.

"We've seen a complete turnaround," he said.

Boller expects construction to begin in May or June.

Natoma is one of the highest-paying companies in Norton. Their manufacturers go through a two-year training period, making them highly skilled in manufacturing small parts for the aerospace, medical and environmental fields.

Boller said Natoma is currently hiring.



Eisenhower Elementary School held their annual kindergarten roundup Monday afternoon with 45 future students and their families in attendance. Parents and children were able to look around the school before getting information from Corey Roy, principal, and Joan Streck, school nurse.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Increased kindergarten enrollment is expected

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Eisenhower Elementary School held their annual Kindergarten Roundup on Monday afternoon with 45 future students and their families in attendance.

Principi Corey Roy said he expects 50 new kindergartners in the fall, an increase from the 38 enrolled this year. He said there are currently two kindergarten sections. A third will be added if next year's class reaches 50 students. He said there is no decision about a third class or who will teach it.

Many rural schools are struggling with declining enrollment.

"This is very encouraging," Roy said.

Roy said kindergarten is not required in Kansas. Parents can choose to have their children go part time or full time.

"You don't need to make a decision tonight," he said.

He said most parents choose to have their child attend full day kindergarten. If the half-day option is selected, parents have to provide transportation to have their child picked up at noon.

Norton Community Schools Nurse Joan Streck presented health information for the incoming class.

Parents will need to provide the following for registration: a birth certificate; social security card or number; child health assessment, filled out by a licensed health care practitioner; annual student health history, filled out by a parent; and proof of current immunizations including Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP), five doses; Polio (IPV/OPV), four doses; Measels, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), two doses; Hepatitis B, three doses; and

Chicken Pox (Varicella), two doses.

She said the proper forms for food intolerance or allergies also need to be turned in at registration.

Streck also discussed the importance of eye exams.

"We highly recommend a vision exam prior to school," she said.

She said vision screenings are not required before a child enters kindergarten. Children receive screenings in kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades or any time per request of a teacher

Enrollment forms and emergency contact forms were required to be turned in Monday night. Other forms will be turned in during registration. Roy expects registration to take place around Aug. 10.

The school open house will be held Aug. 19 from 5-7 p.m.

Council approves equipment purchase

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The city council approved the purchase of a utility pickup during Wednesday's city council meeting after approving the purchase of other pieces of equipment in the last month.

The utility truck was requested last year and was budgeted for 2010.

In an interview after the meeting, City Administrator Rob Lawson said the truck is needed because there is a shortage of vehicles in the utility department, and

because they transport material, such as cholorine.

"They deal with a lot of hazardous material," he said.

The utility department employs four people, and there are currently three vehicles.

Utility Committee Chair Donna Foley discussed bids received with the council. Two bids were received, and Water Treatment Plant Manager Chris Frack also checked with state surplus. The state has two 1999 pickups, one with

199,000 miles and the other has over 200,000 miles.

The low bid was from Jim Frack for a 1994 Ford XLT extended cab, half ton pickup at a cost of \$4,950.

Foley made a motion to approve the low bid and purchase the pickup from Jim Frack. Half of the cost will be paid from both the sewer and water funds. Vote taken, motion passed.

In other council business:
• Economic Development Director Diane Stiles was present to give a semi-

annual report regarding Norton City/County Economic Development. She reported on the projects that have been undertaken in 2009 and grants that have been obtained.

She asked if the city has any specific goals for their strategic plan. Roberta Ryan stated a new swimming pool would be a goal for the city.

• Foley stated the Utility Committee also discussed the meter calibration tests at the water plant, which are required

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Norton Correctional Facility Laundry Manager Schukman and Laundry Supervisor Brown displayed a quilt made by one of the inmates. The quilting program has only been active for a year, but 50 quilts have already been donated to local organizations.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Program donates quilts to local organizations

By ERICA BRADLEY
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It's been a little more than a year since the laundry staff at Norton Correctional Facility began having inmates use scraps of material to make laundry bags, aprons and other items for use in the prison, and it wasn't long before they began producing quilts to be donated to organizations within the community.

Laundry Manager Schukman said 50 quilts have been made since March, 2008 and have been donated to the Andbe Home, the Haven and other organizations. Scripture bags were also made for a church in Norton.

Jim Rowh, who started the Haven, said several quilts were donated.

"We use them all the time," he said. The Haven is a non-profit organization

in Norton where families of inmates can stay for a small fee.

It is run entirely off donations, both monetary and other donated items.

Donating the quilts to organizations in the area was a goal the prison staff had when starting the program.

It also provides 10 inmates with a way to learn a new skill, community service opportunities and a creative way to spend their time.

Inmates working in the program are only able to spend an hour a day on their quilts.

"They put a lot of time and energy into figuring out what they're going to do," Schukman said.

She said they have been successful at donating the quilts at the local level. She

(Quilts - Continued on Page 5)