

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Tuesday May 24, 2011

Briefly

Click It or Ticket campaign started

Click it or Ticket campaign started Monday. The 2011 Kansas Click It or Ticket campaign lasts until June 5, wrapping around Memorial Day weekend, which is typically a busy travel period. Law enforcement officers will pay special attention to safety belt use and child passenger safety.

Get raffle tickets for library benefit

The Lenora Friends of the Library are selling afghan raffle tickets. The drawing will be held on Memorial Weekend. Mariette Smith was the afghan creator and tickets can be purchased from a Friend of the Library member at First Security Bank or at the Country Corner. The cost of the tickets is \$1 each or six for \$5.

BB gun team to hold car wash

The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team will host a Car Wash and Bake Sale this Saturday at the McMullen-Wyatt Auction location in downtown Norton. Beginning at 9 a.m., they will wash and clean all vehicles inside and out. Cost will be \$20 for cars and \$25 for trucks. Call for pick up or drop off at (785) 871-0710. All proceeds will help fund the BB Gun Team's trip to Rogers, Ark., to compete in the National BB Gun Shoot on Fourth of July weekend.

Telegram closed for Memorial holiday

The Norton Telegram will be closed on Monday, May 30 due to the Memorial Day holiday. The Monday May 30 and Tuesday, May 31 papers will be combined and published on Wednesday, June 1. This paper will go out free to every Norton home just like the Monday Extra. Be sure to get your ads in to Dana before noon on Thursday, May 26.

Markets

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Wheat	\$8.25
Milo	\$6.56
Soybeans	\$13.17
Corn	\$7.12

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Breezy with thunderstorms in the evening. **Wednesday** - Cloudy, cooler and windy with rain showers likely and isolated thunderstorms in the morning. **Thursday** - Mostly sunny.

Kingham Report

Friday, May 20.....	Low 52, High 77
	.05 Rain
Saturday, May 21.....	Low 48, High 80
	.10 Rain
Sunday, May 22.....	Low 52, High 84
Monday, May 23.....	Low 52, High 82
Tuesday, May 24.....	Low 52, 1.00 Rain

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, surround those who are insecure and depressed. Help each of us to know that your love and presence are with us always. Amen.



The Norton Community School graduating senior class is pictured on Sunday. Fifty nine students graduated Sunday, followed by a day of with school officials during Commencement Exercises in the Stull Gym celebration.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Norton graduated 59 on Sunday

By DANA PAXTON
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The Norton Community High School held their Commencement Exercises for fifty-nine graduating seniors on Sunday in the Stull Gym. After entering the gymnasium, class president, Dakota Dreher gave the welcome, followed by a prayer. Next to speak was Spencer Shirk and he spoke of Diversity being the key to everything their class had gone through and would go through in their lives. The NCHS choir then sang. The last class member to speak was Melinda Becker and she spoke about finding the "X" in the equation of our lives. The band then played a number before Principal Rudy Perez presented the class and Superintendent Greg Mann presented the diplomas.

Members of the graduating class of 2011 are: Cole Taylor Archer, Scott Dean Arehart, Joshua Michael

Asbury, Troy Isaac Bainter, Morgan Michelle Baumann, Melinda Baker, Ryan Taylor Blecha, Shaylyn Nycole Boteler, Jade Oceanna Braun, William Dean Broeckelman, Jordan Robert Brown, Melissa Kae Byler, Maia Signe Carlson, Matthew William Carlton, William Randall Cochran, Daivd Cody Cressler, Dakota Drew Dreher, Danelle Lea Eagleburger, Tyler Allen Esslinger, Kyra Quinn Fulton, Katie Lyn Gall, Jesse Scott Gallentine, Taylor Mason Gordon, Caleb Lee Goss, Justin Paul Griffith, Kelsie Paige Griffith, Epiphany Marie Grubbs, Justin Ray Heikes, Landon Dawson Keiswetter, Diedre Linn Kramer, Terrell Giovanni Lane, Caleb Josiah Laughlin, Josiah Lee Laughlin, Kaid Scott McKenna, Chance Wesley McMullen, Nicquel Ann-Marie McVey, Zoey Devan Meyers, Ashley Jo Millan, David James Mizell, Jacob Paul Mizell, Kelsie Ann Morel, Tanner Wayne Morel, Luke Thomas Ninemire, Andrew Robert Otter, Meaghan Renee Peterson, Zachary Daivd Porter,

Kaitlyn Lee Ross, Kaylen Rose Rossi, Katie Elizabeth Scott, Rachel Kylene Shepard, Sharrelle Janay Shinn, Spencer Allen Shirk, Dustyna Lynn Sprigg, Jeremy William Sproul, Rylee Dean-Haze Stanley, Rebekah Joy Streck, Lindsey Grace Tacha, Bret Michael Terrell and Kegan John Vanover.

The Scholastic Honor students were; Melinda Becker, Maia Carlson, Dakota Dreher, Zoey Meyers, Spencer Shirk, Dustyna Sprigg and Rebekah Streck.

The National Honor Society members were; Troy Bainter, Melinda Becker, Billy Broeckelman, Melissa Byler, Maia Carlson, Dakota Dreher, Diedre Kramer, Nicquel McVey, Kaylen Rossi, Spencer Shirk, Dustyna Sprigg and Rebekah Streck.

This class consisted of artists, musicians, athletes, writers, thinkers, readers and leaders to name just a few. We at the Norton Telegram would like to wish each and every graduate the very best life has to offer.

Big changes could come at mail processing center

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
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A proposed consolidation of the Hays mail processing facility could move mail pickup time at the Norton Post Office forward by as much as two hours.

Rick Pivovar, Postal Service district manager for Nebraska and Kansas, said at a public meeting in Colby on May 9 that the service is studying consolidating the mail processing centers in Colby and Hays into the one in Salina as part of an overarching plan to combat crippling revenue losses over the past decade.

Pivovar said that mail going to be processed in Salina should actually get improved delivery to much of eastern Kansas—overnight instead of the current two-day service. However, outbound trucks will have to leave earlier, and mail not brought in before the deadline will go out the next day.

Even if a letter misses the truck, he pointed out, the mailer doesn't lose anything. The service will be the same as if it had made the truck today — two-day delivery in much of the state.

- Some sample cutoff times:
- Norton, which now leaves at 5:30 p.m., would leave at 3:30 p.m.
 - Norcatur: now 2:55 p.m., change to 4:35 p.m.
 - Jennings: now 4:05 p.m., change to 2:25 p.m.
 - Colby: now 7 p.m., change to 4 p.m.
 - Brewster: now 6:20 p.m., change to 3:25 p.m.
 - St. Francis: now 4:40 p.m., would change to 2:15 p.m.
 - Goodland: now 4:40 p.m. (Mountain

Time), change to 1:45 p.m.
• Hoxie: now 5:56 p.m., change to 3:21 p.m.

Pivovar said there would be no changes in delivery times, retail services, business mail acceptance or commercial rates. However, some carriers, especially those in rural areas, wouldn't be able to make it back in time to get outgoing mail onto trucks that night.

A letter announcing the public meeting said, incorrectly, that the pickup times would not change. Officials said that's true in some of the areas under study, but not here. The letter did not get changed to reflect that — and news stories about the meeting as a result were incorrect.

Pivovar said the consolidation will save about \$130,000 a year at the Colby and Hays post offices, mainly from reduced work hours.

Asked if any clerks here would be reassigned to Salina, Pivovar said he would have to follow collective bargaining agreements in the contracts with the American Postal Workers Union, which represents mail clerks. A new contract is being voted on now, he said, so he's not sure what the rules will be. Employees can request transfers, however, and Pivovar said he has a limited ability to transfer excess work between facilities.

The Postal Service is in what Pivovar called an "acute financial crisis." Electronic communication, the recession and changes in the makeup of the mail have resulted in a 42 percent decline in first class mail since 2001. The service lost about \$8.5 million last year, and Pivovar estimated it would have to spend

Miller announces run for the Kansas Senate

Norton County Commissioner John Miller announced Friday that he has filed for the Kansas Senate, running against a veteran incumbent.

Miller is the first to file for the 40th District seat now held by Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell.

The district represents 18 counties in northwest Kansas, including Norton, Decatur, Cheyenne, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Rawlins, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Rooks, Scott, Trego, Wallace and Wichita.

Miller, a farmer and rancher who has been a Norton County commissioner since 1996, said Monday that his commission term would expire in 2012 and he had already decided not to run again.

"Protecting our rural way of life is my No. 1 priority," Miller said. "I want to take my experience as a county commissioner, farmer and small business owner to Topeka to ensure that our voice is being heard. Western Kansas is the foundation that our state was built on, and its health is vital to our long-term economic success."

"Rural Kansas is at a crossroads. We can — and must — do everything in our power to create jobs, protect local services and jump start an aggressive revitalization of the rural communities that this state was built upon. That's what I will be focused on doing, and I look forward to traveling the district and talking with voters."

Miller said he was born and reared in Norton. He graduated from Norton Community High School and attended Colby Community College. He and his wife, son and daughter-in-law operate the family farm and ranching operation. Miller and his wife Beverly have been married for 35 years and have four grown children and nine grandchildren. They also operate the bowling alley in Norton.

Miller says that he is a "pro-life" candidate and attends the Norton First United Methodist Church.

In addition to his work on the commission, Miller has been appointed to the state Juvenile Justice Authority, the Community Advocacy Committee and the state Board of Emergency Medical Services. He is a three-term member of the Kansas Association of Counties board and serves on the board of the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool, a cooperative which handles county insurance coverage.

Sen. Ostmeyer has not yet filed for re-election. He said Monday that he plans to run for another term. He said Commissioner Miller had called to tell him he planned to run, but otherwise, the two have not talked. The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012.

Miller can be contacted at John-Miller@ruraltel.net or by phone at (785) 871-0450.



John Miller

