

WISE COUNTY

Wise sees little growth

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) released its population estimates last month, and Wise didn't experience much growth.

From January 2017 to January 2018, NCTCOG estimated only 240 new residents moved to the county, with the greatest absolute growth in Decatur, which added 70 residents for a total of 6,600.

Wise County Judge J.D. Clark said the estimates seemed low.

"[NCTCOG] typically relies on information from the cities," Clark said. "I think in reality, the population is a little higher."

Clark did point out that the fastest growing city in the region was just outside of Wise County, Ponder. The far western Denton County town grew by 30.9 percent last year.

"The numbers show small growth here, but by COG's 2040 projection we will be over 100,000. The same organization sees a lot of growth coming our way," Clark said.

Newark experienced the greatest estimated percentage growth at 3.7 percent, adding 40 residents within the year to increase the population to 1,120. The trend of growth in South Wise seemed to hold, with Newark, New Fairview and Boyd seeing percentage growth above 1 percent.

NCTCOG estimated that Chico and Runaway Bay have added no new residents in 2017.

Paradise and Lake Bridgeport were not included in the estimates.

NCTCOG numbers show most of the growth within city limits, adding only 20 people to the county's population.

	2010 Census Population	Jan. 2017 Estimate	Jan. 2018 Estimate	17-18 Absolute Change	17-18 Percentage Change
Wise County	59,127	62,460	62,700	240	.4%
Alvord	1,334	1,340	1,350	10	.7%
Aurora	1,220	1,410	1,440	30	2.1%
Boyd	1,207	1,360	1,380	20	1.5%
Bridgeport	5,976	6,130	6,150	20	.3%
Chico	1,002	1,010	1,010	0	0%
Decatur	6,042	6,530	6,600	70	1.1%
New Fairview	1,258	1,460	1,480	20	1.4%
Newark	1,005	1,080	1,120	40	3.7%
Rhame	1,522	1,610	1,620	10	.6%
Runaway Bay	1,286	1,370	1,370	0	0%
Remainder	33,678	35,560	35,580	20	.1%

WISE COUNTY

Courthouse security kicks up next week

BY KRISTEN TRIBE
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New security measures will be in place at the Wise County Courthouse beginning May 22. Wise County Chief Deputy

Craig Johnson told commissioners Monday the security upgrade is long overdue. "As with any change, it may be strange at first," he said, but he and Sheriff Lane Akin expect the process to go

smoothly. The four glass doors now used by the public to enter the courthouse will be locked. They will be accessible only by county employees who have been issued a badge. The

public entrance will be at the ramp on the corner of Main and Trinity Streets, which leads into the basement. Anyone entering the courthouse will be required to walk through a metal detector.

Bags and purses will be sent through an X-ray machine.

"Obviously, we want it to be secure, but we want it to be efficient, too, and I think they're prepared for that," said Wise County Judge J.D. Clark.

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Smith
e Obituaries,
page 5

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See page 8

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See page 5

ZLES
and Comics,
page 4

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page 12

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