

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

10 PAGES



## Friday

November 27, 2009

### Briefly

#### Santa expected to be home today

Santa will be home on the Norton County Courthouse lawn, 105 S. Kansas, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. starting today. He will be there at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, with his last appearance being Dec. 17.

#### Wrestling meeting to be held Monday

The Norton Wrestling Club will hold its annual preseason meeting for adults on Monday, Nov. 30 at the East Campus Auditorium.

All adults who have children ages 5 to 18 who are interested in learning the basic fundamentals of wrestling are invited. Beginners will practice from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Monday and advanced will practice from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

The Norton Wrestling Club has been a solid foundation to many Norton Blue Jay state champions and medal winners.

Last year, 18 Norton kids wrestlers advanced to the state tournament in Topeka. There were eight medal winners, including one champion and two runner-ups. Call Rick Green at (785)871-1548 with questions.



Bri Woodyard received her H1N1 vaccine from Registered Nurse Leslie Pfannenstiel at the Norton County Health Department Tuesday afternoon. The department holds vaccine clinics once a week, depending on how much vaccine is received. Shipments usually arrive weekly.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## H1N1 vaccine opens to a new priority group

By ERICA BRADLEY  
[ebradley@nwkansas.com](mailto:ebradley@nwkansas.com)

Norton County Health Department has been distributing H1N1 vaccines to residents since shipments began arriving in early October, but many people are still hesitant about getting the vaccine.

Gina Frack, health department administrator and registered nurse, said they have administered an estimated 625 vaccines.

Clinics have been held once a week for certain priority groups, namely health-care workers, people who have children six months and younger and pregnant women. This week a new priority group was introduced: adults 25-65 years old. Frack said the state informed her during a recent conference call that 62 percent of people are not planning on getting the vaccine.

According to World Health Organiza-

tion, data compiled so far indicates the vaccine matches the safety profile of the seasonal flu vaccine. The seasonal flu shot has been used for more than 60 years.

Frack said the H1N1 vaccine closely matches the virus, meaning it protects people against getting it.

"It is a very effective vaccine," she said.

(Vaccine - Continued on Page 5)

## Budget cuts affect local schools

By Kevin Bottrell  
[kbottrell@nwkansas.com](mailto:kbottrell@nwkansas.com)

In what has been called a sweeping, unprecedented and crippling move, an apologetic Gov. Mark Parkinson cut \$258.9 million from the state budget Monday.

"To the recipients of funds who are hurt by this, I am sincerely sorry," Parkinson said in a news conference Monday. "Unfortunately, we are now to the point of potentially making crippling cuts to state services."

Parkinson was responding to new revenue estimates that put the state budget, already cut several times this year, in the hole by about \$260 million.

Much of the focus this year has been the legislature's and governor's cuts to education.

In this round, K-12 education was cut by \$36 million.

Norton Schools Superintendent Greg Mann said the governor's cuts will mean a decrease of \$86,000 for Norton schools.

He said next year could be worse for the budget.

"If there is no increases in revenue, the cuts last year and this year will be nothing in comparison," he said.

Parkinson also reduced supplemental money for schools by \$85.9 million, but will be using federal stimulus money to compensate.

The money had been earmarked for 2011, he said, but states have the discretion to use that money at any time.

Other cuts to the state budget include: \$50 million from the highway maintenance fund. The money will be transferred to the state's general fund.

\$5 million from the Kansas Bioscience Authority - an organization that oversees bioscience research throughout

(Budget - Continued on Page 5)

**MARKETS**  
Cash Prices-Norton  
November 24, 2009

CORN	\$3.50
SOYBEANS	\$9.92
WHEAT	\$4.75
MILO	\$3.35

Ag Valley  
314 W. North Street  
Norton, Kansas  
785-477-5148

## weather forecast

Tonight - Clear with a low of 31. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a high of 55. Saturday night - Mostly cloudy with a low of 34. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 45, winds northwest at 3 mph. Sunday night - clear, low of 36. Monday - Sunny, high of 55 with winds southwest at 6 mph. Monday night - clear, low of 34. Tuesday - 20 percent chance of snow with a high around 57 and a low around 31.

## Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 24, High 47  
Wednesday.....Low 30, High 45,  
.500 Precip.  
Thursday ..... Low 22, High 56  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm  
9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, remind us to share what you give us with those in need and then to be still, waiting for your will to be done. Amen



Valentina Puchkova and Lucy Gosselin finished off Christmas decorations at Lucy's mom's home early this week. Valentina is a foreign exchange student from Kazakhstan who is currently attending Bethany College with Lucy. She is excited about spending her first Thanksgiving in Kansas.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## Christmas On Us rolls on

We are well into our second week of Christmas On Us. A total of 1,537 tickets were collected during the first week, and this past week 2,860 tickets were collected.

So far, four \$50 instant winners have claimed their winning tickets. Sharon Batsan claimed the first ticket last week.

She got her ticket from Mainstreet IGA, and Joel Hrabe and Angie Woodring, who received their winning ticket from Mortensen Computer Services.

Jane Burton claimed her ticket Wednesday afternoon. Her ticket came from Nex-Tech. Debra Terrell also claimed her winning ticket Wednesday from Stitch up a Storm.

Five numbers came out in this Tuesday's Christmas On Us game. Keep

looking for matching ticket numbers in the Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 Christmas On Us ads for your chance to win.

You get one ticket for every \$10 transaction per customer at any sponsor and a limit of 250 tickets per person per transaction. You receive one ticket per person per week at The Telegram with no purchase necessary. If a cashier forgets to give you your tickets, be sure to remind him/her at the time of purchase.

Norton Telegram General Manager Dana Paxton said, "We haven't brought in as many tickets as we did by this time last year but we hope to see the numbers greatly increase as more winners come forward."

Don't forget to be at the Norton Senior Center at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 for your chance to win in the big drawing.

## A first Thanksgiving is a new experience

By ERICA BRADLEY  
[ebradley@nwkansas.com](mailto:ebradley@nwkansas.com)

Thanksgiving has been an American tradition since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, but for many foreign exchange students the holiday brings new experiences.

Lucy Gosselin's family are residents of Norton and have welcomed a foreign exchange student into their home this week. Valentina Puchkova is from Kazakhstan, near Russia. She and Lucy attend Bethany College together where they are both majoring in education. Valentina is in Kansas for a year through the exchange program at the college.

"I'll be here for a year. It's a new experience for me," Valentina said.

She is currently taking classes in writing, persuasive writing, speaking, general psychology and Spanish. She

is the only student in her favorite class, Spanish

"I'm going to be a teacher of English or Spanish," she said.

She said English is required in Kazakhstan where students are required to study two languages. She chose Spanish because she "loves the language." Her native language is Russian.

Valentina arrived in Kansas on Aug. 31. Classes had already started. She said it was the first time she had been on a plane and was amazed at the Frankfurt airport.

She especially noticed the diversity of people in the airport. She said Bethany has a diverse population as well.

Valentina has made several friends, saying they have been the best experience since she arrived. She is excited to play

(Student - Continued on Page 5)



Georgia Mann handed Christmas On Us tickets to Russ Erbert after he made a purchase at Destination Kitchen. Tickets are given out at participating merchants, and instant winners are drawn every week. Winning numbers can be found in Tuesday's Telegram.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

