

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Tuesday

December 1, 2009

Dangerous new method for meth

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Methamphetamine dealers used to spend hours cooking over an open flame, often in rural areas, but the new shake-and-bake method allows users to cook a small amount in a very short period of time.

The new formula involves simply shaking the ingredients in a soda bottle to produce the drug. The new method is a concern for local authorities as well as residents.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson said an estimated 15 meth busts were made last year in Norton County. He said it was easier to catch people cooking meth before because it took days to cook and the chemicals produced a strong smell.

The shake-and-bake approach is becoming more popular, especially since it can be mixed on the run and requires fewer ingredients. Users can carry the ingredients with them and turn a bathroom or a car into a meth lab.

The new method, according to the sheriff, makes it harder to make a meth bust because it does not take as long to cook and an elaborate lab is not needed.

"We don't have the opportunity to catch them in the process of making meth," he said.

The new method produces less meth, enough for one or two hits. Cooking large batches used to take hundreds of boxes of pills.

States across the country, as well as the federal government, have passed laws restricting the amount of pills

a customer can buy in one month. The limit is currently nine grams, or 300 pills, a month. The shake-and-bake method allows users to use fewer cold pills, allowing them to get away with cooking meth under the law.

Sheriff Thomson said dealers in the county can send people to chain stores in surrounding areas, such as Kearney, McCook, Hays and Colby, where they can sneak under the radar to buy more pills.

Shaking is not safer than the regular cooking method. The bottle can explode if there is any oxygen left in it. A simple mistake such as opening the bottle too fast can also cause an explosion.

Sheriff Thomson said the shaking method is more dangerous because people are holding the bottle when

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Briefly Meals on Wheels schedule released

Midwest Energy, Norton Farm Service Agency Office and Norton County Hospital will deliver meals Nov. 30 through Dec. 6. Contact Curt Luehrs, 877-5487, at Midwest Energy, Nancy Hager, 877-5156, at Norton Farm Service Agency Office and Alice Hawks, 877-3351, at Norton County Hospital for more information.

Santa will be home Thursdays in Dec.

Santa will be home on the Norton County Courthouse lawn, 105 S. Kansas, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. His last appearance will be Dec. 17.

Booster Club meeting scheduled

All Norton Community High School sports fans are invited to the meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin will report on the Blue Jays' sub-state game with Wichita Collegiate and review the 2009 season. Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will give season previews. You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend the meetings.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
December 1, 2009

CORN
\$3.52

SOYBEANS
\$9.80

WHEAT
\$4.67

MILO
\$3.32

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 22. Blustery with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph. Wednesday - Partly sunny with a high near 35. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 13.

Kingham report:

Friday, Nov. 27 Low 34, High 68
Saturday, Nov. 28 Low 27, High 60
Sunday, Nov. 29 Low 25, High 46
Monday, Nov. 30 Low 26, High 56
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, show us what you want for us, and give us wisdom to do your will and not our own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Cages and barrels for hens and breeding roosters were lined up behind the residence where Sherman County Sheriff Deputies and other officers searched for evidence of cock fighting last Tuesday. The offices arrested the couple who lived in the trailer, 16 miles south of Goodland. Charges are pending. -Telegram photo by Tom Betz

Cock fighting operation discovered

By Tom Betz
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A combination of sheriff deputies, wildlife officers and animal health officers searched a suspected cock fighting operation about 16 miles southeast of Goodland last Tuesday morning.

A trailer house was surrounded by more than 100 chickens spread out with about 70 of the roosters tied by short ropes to individual barrels in the front yard.

The owner of the birds and his wife were arrested and taken to the Sherman County Bastille where they were questioned by Investigator Burton Pianalto and a Spanish speaking Kansas Parks and Wildlife officer.

Sherman County District Attorney Bonnie Selby said Tuesday afternoon the charges are pending against the bird owners, and the evidence investigation continues

with sample birds being impounded and brought to town for further testing.

Sherman County Deputy Jason Showalter briefed the 20 officers at 8 a.m. at the Kansas National Guard Armory, and the officers assembled south of town about 9:55 a.m. when the first officers approached the trailer house located at 5285 Rd 23 near the bottom of a draw near the Sherman and Wallace County line between County Road 25 and Road 23.

During the briefing Showalter had said the location had been under investigation since May when contact was made with the house on an unrelated issue.

He said the sheriff's department had obtained a search warrant on information about illegal cock fighting being held in an arena at the site.

Selby said on Monday the state law had been changed

to a felony, and felt there was sufficient evidence to obtain the search warrant.

The trailer was the home of Jesus Soto, his wife, Alma and three children. When the officers approached the house the wife was at home, and told officers the chickens were theirs. The couple were arrested and taken to town and the children were released to an uncle who lives in town, Selby said.

Deputy Showalter said the first part of the operation was to secure the area and to arrest anyone found at the location. He said the second part would be evidence collecting and split the officers into three groups. One group collected evidence inside the house, one collected evidence inside the nearby quonset where they expected to find evidence of the cock fighting and an

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Santa's first visit



Norton children were greeted for the first time this year by Santa at the Norton County Courthouse last Friday. Three-year-old Trey Wilcox, son of Virgil and Donna Wilcox, was one of the first children to give his list to Santa, which included a bicycle and train. Santa will be at the courthouse Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. through Dec. 17. -Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Budget expected to be on target for year

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton County's budget is expected to be on target for this year in spite of declining sales taxes.

During yesterday's county commissioners meeting, Treasurer Cindy Linner gave the data for September. She said \$25,579.19 was brought in during that month, a decline of about 20 percent.

"It's down a little bit. People are being more conservative," Linner said.

She attributed the decline to a decrease in vehicle business. The decrease is reflective of declining taxes across the state.

In an interview after the meeting, Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt said sales taxes go into the county's general fund.

"It's revenue we factor into the general fund," he said.

Wyatt said the county's budget is expected to be on target if next month's revenue hits \$21,000.

In other commission business:

• Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald reported on activities at the landfill. He will attend a meeting in Osborne tomorrow about e-waste. Commissioner Carolyn Applegate will attend the meeting as well. He also reported that no inmates from Norton Correctional Facility had arrived at the landfill. An inmate typically works at the site. He wasn't sure why an inmate was not there.

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