

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

10 PAGES

## Tuesday

### February 2, 2010

#### Briefly

### Disc Club to hold food drive Feb. 5

A food drive will be held at Elmwood Park Disc Golf Course on Feb. 6. A players' meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. with tee time at 10 a.m. One round of singles with closest to the pin prizes will be held, then another round of singles or doubles. A raffle for a new disc golf basket will also be held. It will cost \$20 to participate, but each player will receive a KDGA food drive disc and a Norton Tourney ESP or Z Disc. All proceeds will go to the food bank. Lunch will be provided by the Norton Disc Golf Club.

### Meals on Wheels in need of volunteers

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver this week. Call Alice Hawks, 877-3351, for more details.

Meals on Wheels Schedule:  
Feb. 1 - 7 Community Volunteers, contact Alice Hawks 877-3351  
Feb. 8 - 14 Redeemer Lutheran Church, contact Cynthia Washburn 877-3004

Feb. 15 - 21 American Legion Auxiliary, contact Marcia Wiltfong 877-2459  
Feb. 22 - 28 Community Volunteers, contact Alice Hawks 877-3351  
Volunteers should report at 11:30 a.m. for the noon delivery. It is important that each group have 3 persons, each with their own car, to deliver the noon meal.

**MARKETS**  
Cash Prices-Norton  
February 2, 2010

**CORN**  
\$3.16

**SOYBEANS**  
\$8.31

**WHEAT**  
\$3.84

**MILO**  
\$2.81

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

## weather forecast

Tonight - Areas of freezing fog after 3 a.m. Wednesday - Areas of freezing fog. Wednesday Night - A slight chance of rain before midnight then a chance of rain or freezing rain.

### Kingham report:

Friday, January 29 ..... Low 18, High 33  
Saturday, January 30 .... Low 13, High 41  
Sunday, January 31 ..... Low 13, High 36  
Monday, February 1 ..... Low 24, High 45  
1/2" Snow

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

### Prayer

O Lord, thank you for being with us on any road we must travel. When we come to a wilderness, guide us. We trust you to keep us strong until the journey is through. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## Home health service continues

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

Norton County Health Department's home health service is now one of the only services for the elderly in the area with Graham County closing their home health in January.

During the Jan. 25 Norton County Commissioners meeting, Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department administrator, told the commission the health department has been asked to serve Graham County residents.

In an interview after the meeting, Frack said Graham County's home health service closed Jan. 1.

"They lost their home health service," she said.

Graham County's Health Department called Frack to request services.

Frack said they will not be able to handle all of the Graham County residents. "It will be a case-by-case basis," she said.

Frack told the commission she would put Norton County's needs first.

She also reported on a presentation she gave to the Kansas Legislative Policy group in Topeka. The presentation was on public health. She said Norton County has been selected for the small health care representative for the Governor's immunization advisory group.

Frack also presented a quote from Mortensen Computer Services to replace a computer and monitor. The quote, for \$950, was approved by the commission.

In other commission business:  
• Four tax roll corrections were presented to the commission for abatement due to property that was classed incorrectly, double taxed trailer and property sold that was not reported. The total amount abated was \$822.12. The statements were signed by the commission.

Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge supervisor, spoke with the (County - Continued on Page 5)

## Blocking the right-of-way



City crews worked to cut a tree down on West Street last Friday. The tree had been in a right-of-way. Many trees across town are scheduled to be taken down. City crews work on the trees during the winter. —Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## High School implements new program

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

In an effort to reduce their failing and drop-out rates, Norton Community High School has changed their students' class schedule to allow for an advisor-base period during first period.

Norton Community High School Principal Rudy Perez said the period is meant to help students who are struggling with their assignments.

"The number one reason kids are

failing is because they are missing assignments or not turning assignments in," Perez said.

"This is not isolated to Norton," he said.

Perez said when he started at the high school the failing and drop-out list was 14 pages long. It is now nine pages.

"That's a good improvement, but I would like to cut it in half. My goal is to have each freshman graduate with their class on time," he said.

All of the students were divided between teachers. Each teacher has about nine students. The period also serves as an opportunity for mentoring.

"It's about developing relationships with students," Perez said.

Perez said peer-to-peer mentoring usually results and is another benefit to the advisor-base period.

The School Improvement Team, made up of one representative from every department, decided to pilot the period

this semester instead of waiting until next year to make the change.

To allow for the 30 minute period, two minutes were taken off each class with ten minutes being taken off the activity period.

"We decided as a group to adopt that schedule," Perez said.

Perez said it has gone over well so far, but some students have concerns about how they will use that time since they

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## State offers matching grants for education

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

Saving for college is a struggle many middle-class Kansas families are having to deal with, but they can apply for help through a matching grant program offered by the state.

Kansas State Treasurer Dennis McKinney said the K.I.D.S. program is an opportunity for families to begin planning for their child's education. It matches up to \$600 a year, but a minimum of \$100 must be deposited each year to be eligible for the matching grant.

"If you're willing to work hard, save and invest in education, we're willing to help you do that," he said.

The program is geared towards people who are below 200 percent of the federal

poverty level.

"It's a good program if you're not in a high tax bracket," he said.

The program uses the Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program. To open an account, a deposit of \$250 must be made or \$25 can be deducted from a bank account every month.

The money can be used for universities, community colleges or technology colleges.

Applications for 2010 can be downloaded after Feb. 15 on the Treasurer's Web site, [http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/matching\\_grant.php](http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/matching_grant.php). Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. Participants have to reapply every year.

## Resident celebrates 105 years

By HARRIETT GILL  
[hgill@nwkansas.com](mailto:hgill@nwkansas.com)

Still feisty at 105, Alta May (Huff) Van Gundy celebrated her 105th birthday on Jan. 31 at the Andbe Home in Norton. Alta was born on Jan. 31, 1905 in a sod house near Devizes, the daughter of Noah and Martha Huff.

"No doctor, just my dad and Mrs. Woods, a neighbor who was a midwife," Alta said.

Alta May was a licensed practical nurse. She worked in the Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings for many years. Alta was also a reflexologist with a large clientele.

She has outlived three husbands. Her first husband was a farmer near Lyle; her second husband was a farmer and a veterinarian who taught her his secret



Alta Van Gundy

recipe for "leaf oil," a liniment; and she outlived her third husband after they both retired.

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