

Coloring Contest



The Norton Telegram received over 70 entries for its 2012 Christmas Coloring Contest. (Pictured) Society Editor Mike Stephens hangs the pictures outside the Telegram office for public viewing. In the 0-6 years old category, first place went to Hallie Brooks, second place to Katrina Wilson and third place to Austyn Cox. In the 7-12 years old category, first place went to Natalie Kinderknecht, second place to Ashlyn Buffington and third place to Coy Kinderknecht.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Kansas is 24th healthiest state

Kansas Ranks 24th in Overall Health in 2012, up one spot from last year's Rankings. Vermont is the healthiest state for the 6th year in a row; Mississippi and Louisiana tie for last. Nationwide, nearly 28 percent of the population is obese and more than 26 percent get no exercise, resulting in increasing prevalence of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Americans are living longer due to several medical advances, but unhealthy behavior and preventable illness threaten quality of life, according to United Health Foundation's 2012 America's Health Rankings®.

While premature, cardiovascular and cancer deaths have declined since 1990 by 18.0 percent, 34.6 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively, Americans are experiencing troubling levels of obesity (27.8 percent of the adult population), diabetes (9.5 percent of the adult population), high blood pressure (30.8 percent of the adult population) and sedentary behavior (26.2 percent of the adult population).

UnitedHealthcare watches America's Health Rankings closely to better understand the health of individuals and communities nationwide and in Kansas and has several programs in place designed to address these needs. Programs educate U.S. and Kansas citizens on how to live healthy lives and empower individuals to advocate for public health improvement.

"America's Health Rankings from United Health Foundation is an incredibly valuable tool for us to clearly understand health

trends facing us as a nation and here in Kansas," said Tony Sun, M.D., medical director, UnitedHealthcare of Kansas. "By identifying the key opportunities we face as a state we can pursue innovative solutions to those opportunities."

Kansas's Bill of Health

According to the 23rd Edition of America's Health Rankings, Kansas is 24th this year compared to 25th in 2011 when compared with the health of other states. This year's report finds that, similar to every other state, Kansas has its share of strengths and challenges.

Kansas's Strengths: low prevalence of binge drinking, low prevalence of low birthweight and a high rate of high school graduation

Kansas's Challenges: low per capita public health funding, limited availability of primary care physicians and high occupational fatalities rate.

"While we celebrate the improvements our state has made in a variety of areas, we still have a long way to go to reverse the direction of many health trends," said Dr. Sun. "The good news is that there are programs and initiatives underway in Kansas that promote collaboration among all stakeholders to address health challenges and get our state's health back on track."

Diabetes and Obesity: This year's Rankings identified that there are more than 630,000 obese adults in Kansas and more than 200,000 Kansas adults with diabetes. But programs and partnerships across the state are helping to steer Kansas adults and children in a healthier di-

rection. This year's Rankings show that, although Kansas has one of the lowest amounts of public health funding in the U.S., it has increased from \$37 to \$45 per person over the past five years.

The United Health Foundation is continuing to enhance its website, americashealthrankings.org, with a variety of tools to help individuals make healthy choices, including customizable reports, enhanced social media and other innovative online resources.

All 50 States: Vermont Still the Healthiest; Mississippi and Louisiana tie for last.

For the sixth year in a row, Vermont is the nation's healthiest state. Hawaii is ranked second, followed by New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Minnesota. The five least healthy states are South Carolina (46), West Virginia (47), Arkansas (48), and Mississippi and Louisiana, which tied for the 49th slot. States that showed the most substantial improvement in rankings include: New Jersey (nine slots), Maryland (five slots), and Alabama, Colorado, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Rhode Island (three slots).

Nationwide: Improved survival rates offset by escalating rates of chronic illness.

This year's Rankings show that national death rates have improved in several key areas, including: premature death, cardiovascular death and cancer deaths.

To see the Rankings in full, please visit: www.americashealthrankings.org.

Disability waiver waiting list reduced

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan announced recently that, as the result of a review of the Home and Community Based Services Physical Disability Waiver program waiting list, the Physical Disability waiting list has been reduced by approximately one-third.

"We have been looking at ways to better manage the Physical Disability waiver program, and our first step was to get an accurate count of the number of individuals on the list. The waiting list has apparently been inflated," Secretary Sullivan said. "Our recent survey of individuals who are on the list shows us that the actual waiting list is significantly smaller than originally reported to us."

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services contracted with an independent third-party call center to contact all of the 3,462 individuals who were on the waiting list as of last July.

There are currently 5,703 individuals receiving Physical Disability waiver services in Kansas. This waiver program is designed to provide services to help Kansans with physical disabilities to remain in their homes or other community-based settings. These services allow individuals to live as independently as possible with the assistance of supportive services provided through the waiver program. The Physical Disability waiver program promotes and supports participant self-determination.

In July, AnswerNet, based in Hays, began contacting individuals on the waiting list and was only able to reach 377 of the 3,462 on this list, about 11 percent. The results validated the belief that further work needed to be completed by Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to determine the integrity of the Physical Disability waiting list. With those results in hand, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services asked the Centers for Independent Living and other Case Management Entities to re-contact the clients they had added to the list and certify

that the waiting list information was correct. The centers and entities were required to certify that contact information was updated, or to certify that the waiting list information is no longer correct (as the agency was unable to contact the person) or they no longer needed services and the person should be removed from the waiting list.

The results of the re-survey showed that the Centers for Independent Living and other Case Management Entities were able to certify that 1,226 individuals should be removed from the waiting list. The net result of the process is that the Physical Disability waiting list was reduced by approximately one-third, to 1,947. Approximately 250 new individuals were added to the list since the process began, for a current total of 2,197.

In the short term, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services will begin pulling 100 individuals off the waiting list to receive waiver services due to new money appropriated for the waiting list during the current state fiscal year. Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services is also in the process of making several policy changes to better manage the waiting list. State staff will now manage the list instead of community providers.

In addition, individuals currently on the waiting list receiving state plan Medicaid services will benefit from regular interactions with their care coordinators employed by the new KanCare plans. Individuals on the wait list not enrolled in a KanCare plan will receive regular communication from Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services staff. Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services is also now contracting with Aging and Disability Resource Centers to determine functional eligibility for the Physical Disability waiver (in addition to two other HCBS waivers) in order to eliminate the conflicts of interest within a system where the same organization had been able to determine eligibility, provide case management and provide services for the same client. The ADRC contract is with 11 non-profit area agencies on aging.

PUBLIC RECORD

Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

Dec. 6

Nov. 2-Zackery Otter, Norton; Charge: No liability insurance; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$300, costs \$76, total \$376.

Nov. 12-James Davis, Norton; Charge: Driving in violation of restrictions; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine waived-community service to be assigned March 2013, costs \$76, total \$76, license suspended to first Thursday, January 2013.

Nov. 3-Julia Kent, Norton; Charge: Failure to yield; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Community service to be assigned March 2013.

Nov. 19-Janie McCracken, Mukogee, Okla.; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Dec. 13

Sept. 23-Andrew Horesky, Norton; Charge: 1. DUI, 2. Speeding 35 in 20; Plea: 2. Guilty; Other action: 1. Diversion with city prosecutor;

Found: 2. Guilty; Sentence: 2. Fine \$60, 1. Diversion one year, assessment \$500, KBI lab fee \$400, diversion fee \$100, costs \$76, total \$1,136, probation for one year.

Aug. 30-Steven Kaerberle, Clafin; Charge: 1. DUI-2nd offense, 2. PBT refusal, 3. Refusal to submit to alcohol test; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: 1. Fine \$1,250, 2. \$200, 3. \$1,250, costs \$76, total \$2,821. 1. 90 days jail, 3. 90 days jail suspended to 10 days, if fines paid in one year. ADSAP evaluation and follow recommendations.

Nov. 4-Levi Thompson, Hastings, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Nov. 25-Kathy Walker, Omaha, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Nov. 27-Bradley LeBeau, Norton; Charge: No proof of insurance; Other action: Dismissed/proof provided.

Dec. 20

Dec. 9-Sean Braun, Norton; Charge: MIP of alcohol; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$300, jail costs \$104, court costs \$76, total \$480. Two days

jail to be served Dec. 31, 2012 and Jan. 1, 2013.

Nov. 29-Adam Albertson, Lincoln, Neb.; Charge: 1. Speeding 50 in 30, 2. No proof of insurance; Plea: 1. No contest; Other action: 2. Dismissed/proof; Found: 1. Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$90, costs \$76, total \$166.

Report of harassing text messages

POLICE LOG

Nov. 13

Keys locked in vehicle Assist Sheriff's Dept. with deer accident

Nov. 14

Report of open door of residence

Report of unattended death Funeral escort

Parking citation (2) two vehicle stops

Parking citation Report of possible domestic problem

Nov. 15 Investigate suspicious individual

Vehicle stop Domestic situation

Report of harassing phone call

Report of harassing email

Nov. 16 EMS assist

Report of missing Rx meds Suspicious individual

Funeral escort Report of stolen debit card usage

Keys locked in vehicle Funeral escort

Report of harassing text messages

Report of erratic driver

Fire alarm, Norton Manor

Keys locked in vehicle Building checks

Nov. 17 Domestic situation, one arrest

Funeral escort Individual wanting people evicted

Report of theft from Dairy Queen

Civil standby

Nov. 18

(2) two vehicle stops

Report of dog running loose

Keys locked in vehicle

Report of verbal altercation

Two vehicle accident

Report of theft

Nov. 26 Report of walk off from Valley Hope

Request from Valley Hope in getting individual back

Citizen's assist

Request to remove individual from property

Report of someone breaking out windows in downtown business

Vehicle stop

Two vehicle accident, High School parking lot

911 hang-up from Hillcrest Motel

Nov. 27 (5) five vehicle stops

Nov. 28 Contact with individual sitting in front of East Campus

(4) four vehicle stops

Motorist assist

Motorist assist

Report of stolen gun

Report of smoke by swimming pool

Nov. 29 Activated alarm, Armory

(4) four vehicle stops

Report of two vehicle accident, Crane and Nixon

Report of window peeper, Kennedy

Nov. 30 Parking citation

Assist Sherman Co. Sheriff's Dept.

Parking compliant

Keys locked in vehicle

Report of water leak

Dec. 1 Report of harassing phone calls

One arrest for violating court orders

Vandalism and theft at laundry mat (3 or 4 juveniles approximate age 13 years old)

Multiple reports of vandalism by same juveniles roaming around town

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Assist Sheriff's Dept. with high-speed vehicle

Request for extra patrol, report of someone trying to gain entrance to garage

Dec. 2 Report of harassing phone calls

Report of broken windows at 4-H building

Two vehicle accident, First Stop

Report of individual blocking traffic

Report of two individuals harassing each other

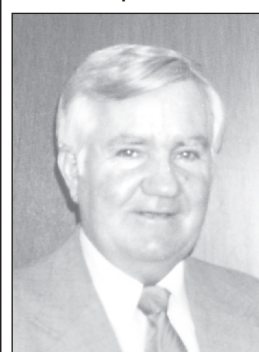
Traffic control at Methodist church

Questions concerning restraining order

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