

Widespread flu in Kansas

With widespread activity of influenza in Kansas, State Health Officer Robert Moser, M.D., said it is not too late to vaccinate against the flu, and he encourages employers to take the necessary steps for a healthy workplace.

"I would ask that business owners and managers encourage their employees to stay at home when ill to avoid the spread of influenza in the community. It's also important for everyone to wash their hands throughout the day with warm, soapy water and to sanitize telephones, keyboards and other office equipment used often," said Moser, who is also the Secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

One of several ways KDHE tracks influenza is by monitoring the percentage of patients seeking healthcare in selected outpatient clinics who exhibit influenza-like illness (ILI), in a system known as ILINet.

"The typical peak for cases of ILI in Kansas occurs in February, and the rates we are

observing now are higher and earlier than what we usually see," said Moser.

Last week (ending January 5), the rate of ILI among patients seeking care at ILINet sites was approximately 6.4 percent. During the previous (2011-2012) influenza season, this rate peaked at 3.4 percent the week ending March 10, the latest peak of an influenza season in Kansas since surveillance began in 1995. KDHE also closely monitors influenza-related deaths. During the 2011-2012 influenza season, influenza and pneumonia, a common complication of influenza, contributed to or directly caused more than 1,300 deaths among Kansas residents, and was the eighth leading underlying cause of death in 2011. In the current influenza season, more than 460 influenza and pneumonia deaths have been reported to date.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for nearly everyone six months of age and older to reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu and

reduce the risk of spreading the flu to others. This is especially important for anyone at high risk of complications, and for anyone who is caring for, or in regular contact with, an infant less than six months of age. Babies this age are too young to be vaccinated and are more vulnerable to the complications from influenza.

Symptoms of influenza include fever, dry cough, extreme tiredness and muscle aches. Complications can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration; influenza may also worsen other chronic conditions.

"Let's not forget that influenza is unpredictable and can continue to circulate through spring," said Moser.

For information on receiving the influenza vaccine, please contact your health care provider or the local health department. Visit <<http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/>>www.kdheks.gov/flu/ for influenza facts.

Survey work to begin in Norton County

Starting Monday January 14, and continuing for approximately three weeks, a survey team from the Kansas Department of Transportation will begin surveying along K-9 Highway in Norton County.

The survey work will take place approximately 4.5 miles west of U.S. 283. Specifically, the survey will focus on the bridge located over a drainage tributary of the North Fork Solomon River.

The survey is necessary for the detailed design of the replacement of the bridge.

Survey activities will include the use of survey instruments on the ground to determine locations of features within the survey corridor. When it becomes necessary for crew members to enter private property, they will first obtain permission from the landowner or tenant.

Michael Selley, L.S., party chief with KDOT, will be in charge of this survey. For more information regarding the land survey, please contact Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 or <mailto:kristenb@ksdot.org> or visit our T-WORKS website at: www.ksdot.org/tworks.

Ranch

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He plans to use the ranch as part of his ranching organization.

He currently owns the former Running W Grazing Association in Trego County, where he's built a 6,000-head feedlot that he fills with his own cattle. He also owns a ranch near Paradise.

He owns land in Norton County, much of it irrigated, but most of it is farmed by his son and grandson.

The Pyramid Ranch, he said, is cross-fenced into six pastures and will be able to support anywhere from 1,300 to 1,600 cow-calf pairs.

He's also planning to expand oil exploration operations beyond the three wells that are al-

ready located on the ranch.

Nelson said he's already been told by an oil man that he could recover the purchase price through the sale of mineral rights.

He's hopeful the ranch purchase was a good move.

"You don't want to piss away \$10 million for nothing," Nelson said.

Winner

(Continued From Page 1)

Steve Vollertsen, Douglas Daniels, all of Norton and Linda Covington, Alma.

Trey Millan and Virginia Carlton, both of Norton and Sandi Winchell, Alma, tied for 29th with 74 wins.

Other top placers were: Len Coady, Norton, 73; Jacob Green, Norton, 73; Dalton Smith, Norton, 73; Wilma Wiseman, Norton, 73; Abby Rice, Norton, 72; Ann Becker, Lenora, 72; Lynn Nelson, Norton, 72; Devon Gasper, Norton, 72; Keegan Smith, Norton, 72; Brenda Husted, Alma, 71; Ken Gregoire, Norton, 71; Tiffany Compton, Alma, 70; Jim Winchell, Alma, 70; Dalton Miller, Norton, 70; Brenda Lenker, Phillipsburg, 69; Lisa Mussman, Phillipsburg, 69; Kenney Leiker, Ellis, 69; Tiffany Yeager, Norton, 69; Jeris Norman, Norton, 68; Nathan Morse, Norton, 67; Tom Baumann, Norton, 66; Paul Myers,

Norton, 65; Charlotte Gasper, Norton, 63; Charlotte Stephenson, Norton, 61; Ryan Hopkins, Norton, 60; Laquita Smith, Norton, 60; Lisa Shearer, Norton, 60; Shara Dukes, Norton, 59; Wilson Ellis, Norton, 56; Scott Ellis, Norton, 55; Deanna Gallentine, Norton, 55; Darin Williams, Norton, 55; Cassie Walker, Norton, 55; Brenda Beutler, Norton, 55; Aaron McDowell, Hill City, 55; Hank Kaiser, Long Island, 55; Kennedy Yeager, Norton, 53; Jasmine Covington, Alma, 52; Lexie McDowell, Hill City, 52; Alberta Geil, Alma, 51; Craig Knapp, Norton, 45; Luis W. Cass, Beaver City, 44; Patty Gall, Norton, 41; Brody McDowell, Hill City, 40.

Thanks! Many thanks to all the fans who enjoyed entering the 2012 Pigskin Pick-Em Contest and many thanks to the following sponsors: Nex-Tech, Alma State Bank, Jamboree Foods, Moffet Drug, Valley Hope Asso-

ciation, Main Street IGA, United Northwest Federal Credit Union and Engel's Sales and Service Center Inc.

Home Range Real Estate, with Duane R. McEwen as a Salesperson is announcing the property at 707 North State in Norton, Kansas for sale



This ranch style home built in 1954 with Masonite siding offers 1314 feet of living on the main floor and 988 feet in the basement. It features an island kitchen with an eat in nook, a step down living room with corner fireplace, large dining area, two bedrooms and a bath on the main level.

Extra features in the kitchen are ample cupboard space, a built-in range top and oven. The refrigerator and microwave remain with the kitchen. Both bedrooms have closets. There are plenty of windows to provide a sunny atmosphere. A large lot features a drive through driveway, one car attached garage, chain length fenced back yard and a storage shed. The patio in the back is a plus feature. In the basement is an area for the family, one bedroom, bath area, laundry and storage. The heating and air conditioner are by Lennox. The furnace was new in 2008. US Crafts Master hot water heater was new in 2012 and the roof was new in 2012 also.



Duane can be reached at 785-877-3032
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<h3>Old Toys</h3> <p>All types of toys made before 1965 Cast Iron, Tin, Banks Trains, Farming Toys</p>	<h3>Advertising Items</h3> <p>Metal & Porcelain Signs, Gas Companies, Beer, Automobile, Implements & more.....</p>	<h3>Diamond Jewelry</h3>

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