

# Kolaches by the hundreds



Marjorie Hartzog, left, and Helen Rhodes worked together to make centers for the kolache fillings. The women, along with others, joined forces a week ago Friday to make over 100 dozen of the treats for the Jennings Firemen's Fun Day.

— Oberlin Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# County: Hardship noted

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Archer said that he was against the road closing because he uses the road being considered and it would pose a hardship for him if they decided to close it.

Mr. Wyrill asked the commissioners if they would consider allowing him to place cattle guards on the road in question. County Attorney R. Doug Sebelius said that it would take a considerable amount of study and research prior to approval because there are questions with the road laws, open grazing, county liability and insurance. The commissioners

said they would like to review state documents pertaining to cattle guards, road signage and several other questions.

Questions about alternate routes and bridge concerns were brought up. The landowners present voiced their opposition to closing the road and asked the commissioners to leave it open. Mr. Wyrill asked the commission to view a map with the range land involved, and said that if the closing did not work and cattle guards were not allowed, he would like to have the commission allow a fence in the corner of the section.

The commissioners closed the meeting saying they would review all the information and make a decision, and they would inform the landowners of their final decision.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor, gave his weekly report. He said the City of Norton's recycling loads are increasing, and that each week since the new recycling schedule started the weight has increased. Mr. Archibald also said there seems to be better interest in the recycling program after the City of Norton sent out the letter regarding recycling.

Mr. Archibald said the inmate labor at the landfill is working better now with the new regulations in place. He said crews are being monitored more closely and several checks have been put into place.

At 11:45 a.m., the commission went into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss attorney-client information with County Attorney Sebelius. The commission

returned to open meeting at noon with no action taken.

Jane Wyatt, Emergency Medical Services Director, gave her report on department operations. Mrs. Wyatt said she and Pat Pomeroy attended a Norton County Hospital medical staff meeting that day and reported on the discussion at the meeting and gave the commission information of which they needed to be made aware.

Several other topics were discussed with Emergency Medical Services personnel, including staffing questions they had for the commission.

There was also a brief discussion about the new Emergency Medical Services facility.

# Wind energy focus of meeting

By BRANDY LEROUX  
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Thirteen northwest Kansas county representatives, including Norton County, met on Aug. 13 to decide if they would be interested in together forming a consortium to bring wind energy to this area of the state.

Diane Becker, Norton County Economic Development Director, attended the meeting.

"There was a great turnout from all the counties invited. The entire room was full, which is indicative of the high level of interest in the subject," said Miss Becker.

She said there are several hurdles to overcome if all the counties agree to form the consortium. The commissioners will need to first define the purpose of the group whether it be strictly regulatory or will undertake a more active approach. After the scope of the organization is defined, the commissioners will need to research the various options for wind energy regulation and craft a plan that best fits our region.

"With a consortium of counties agreeing upon a uniform set of

regulations, it will prevent some of the challenges that the wind developers commonly face when developments cross county lines and each county has their own set of regulations. More importantly, it will give the northwest Kansas region a competitive advantage in wind development," said Miss Becker.

This past spring, the Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development hosted a one-day conference in Phillipsburg in an effort to inform the public about the complex wind energy industry. Kansas Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson spoke about the issues surrounding wind energy.

Lt. Gov. Parkinson also serves as the chairman of the Kansas Wind Working Group, a 33 member group appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in Jan. 2008 to "educate stakeholder groups with the current information on wind energy markets, technologies, economics, policies, prospects and issues," according to the Wind Working Group website.

There will be a Kansas Wind

and Renewable Energy Conference Sept. 23 and 24 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.

"I urge everyone to attend these meetings, whether they are for or against wind energy, to learn about the industry and to provide input to our local leaders," said Miss Becker.

"There are many websites that provide more information on wind energy. I suggest starting with the Kansas Corporation Commission, Energy Programs Division website [www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/](http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/)," said Miss Becker.

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# Birds: Always know where they are

(Continued from Page 1)

When Mr. Ohlsen is doing yard work, Tink is always near him, too.

The Ohlsens say they always know where Tink and Big Boy are, just by listening to their chirps.

"They have very distinctive chirps," said Mrs. Ohlsen, "which are easy to tell apart from the other birds that live nearby."

The Ohlsens hope Tink and Big Boy will fly off and learn to fend for themselves. They've been feeding them less and less each day in hopes that the babies will learn to get food themselves, though it's too early to tell how well it's working.

Kingbirds are from the genus *Tyrannus*, which means "Tyrant." They are large insect-eating birds. Adults are grey-olive on the back and wings, with a dark line through the eyes, like a mask. The undersides are a light orange-yellow. They have long pointed wings and large broad beaks. They have a long black tail with white outer feathers.

Kingbirds get their name from their "take charge" behavior, and will aggressively defend their territory from even much larger birds like hawks.

Though they are migratory birds, flying in flocks to Florida and the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America, the Ohlsens aren't sure if Tink and Big Boy will go or not, since they don't have parents to teach them.

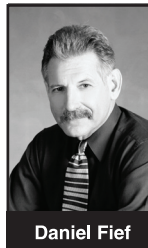
"If they don't migrate, we aren't sure what we'll do. They have been coming to us less and less, and have been hanging around with an adult kingbird. We're hoping they'll take off and migrate with the adult," said Mrs. Ohlsen.

In the meantime, Mrs. Ohlsen is contacting bird sanctuaries to find out what the next step is.

"We spent a lot of time making sure they survived the first three weeks, and we'd hate to see them not make it through the winter," said Mrs. Ohlsen.

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