

# County talks business

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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The Norton County commissioners are working to help one business expand and another one open a store in Norton.

The commissioners talked with representatives of Ag Valley Co-op along with Diane Stiles, director of Norton City/County Economic Development office, and Steve Berland with BG Consultants about expansion sites at their meeting on July 12.

The company needs good access off of a road that is not obstructed by highway traffic and access to the railroad.

The railroad access is a key issue for the expansion the commissioners learned and cooperation between groups, working on the project, will be essential.

Ms. Stiles also talked to the commissioners about incentive proposals to bring in Family Dollar, a chain-store retailer with low cost merchandise.

Out of three proposals, Ms. Stiles had for the county to look at, the commissioners liked one that would offer tax incentives for five years. The incentives would need to be authorized by both the county and the city since both receive sales tax money.

The commissioners said that they did not want to harm other businesses in the county and especially those in Norton by providing an unfair advantage to a new business but wanted to help with economic development.Bridges were also on the agenda as the commissioners talked with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan, Mr. Berland and a representative of the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The man from the state said that after the failure of the bridge in Minnesota that sent several cars into the Mississippi River and killed many people, the state and federal government has been beefing up standards for bridge inspections.

Kansas has three bridge inspectors that look at county bridges. During inspections a random 10 percent of the county's bridges are inspected, he said.

The state has standardized this inspection process and the requirements are very specific, he said, and all inspections must be done by engineers.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked to Rhonda McDowell about how to deal with bills to the emergency medical services that will need to be written off.
- Heard from Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman that he has received reports of weed problems in Conservation Reserve grass. He said he was checking to see if there is a problem and report back.



The 312th United States Army Band out of Lawrence, Kansas preformed at the East Campus auditorium last Wednesday night. They were brought here by the Norton County Arts Council as a fund raiser to bring the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall to Norton in September.  
Photo by Dana Paxton

## Army band helps wall to move

By DANA PAXTON  
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Last Wednesday the Norton County Arts Council brought the 312th United States Army Band to town as a fund raiser for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall coming to Norton Sept. 23-27.

The band originates out of Lawrence. The 42 man band has a busy summer touring and performing free of charge all over the nation. Under the direction of Commander, CW4 Robert Claggett, music performed included selections from the past to the present. Instrumental and as well as vocal pieces were performed. All solo songs were sung by SGT Ashley Reynolds. There was also a clarinet solo and a trio of trumpeters.

The band was activated on October 1, 1973 as part of the 89th Army Reserve Command out of Wichita. During the early 70's the band consisted of only female musicians but in 1977 there was an aggressive recruitment to get more males involved.

The band features a marching band, concert band, rock band, jazz combo, brass ensemble, woodwind quintet and ceremonial detail. The 312th was named as an official "Bicentennial of the United States Constitution" band and the state of Kansas named it an official "Eisenhower Centennial" band.

The band is made up of soldiers from 30 different professions and they make between 15-25 perfor-

mances a year. There itinerary has them in Crazy Horse South Dakota today then to Gering Neb. on the 28th and if you missed them here on the 21st you can catch them in Colby on July 29th. They will wrap up their summer tour in New Orleans Aug. 3-5.

At one point during the concert they did a tribute to every branch of the military. While playing their song, every military person in the crowd was asked to stand and be honored as well as saluted by the commander. This was a very touching moment.

President of the Arts Council, Carol Erlenbush said, "I am very pleased with the turn out and figure that over 400 people were in attendance."

## JENNINGS NEWS

Matt Hall and Jeaneane Rodriguez, Brighton, Colo. recently visited with his mother and his grandmother, Pat Hall and Violet Foster. They also visited Norma Richards, Oberlin, Deanna Hanschilds and daughter Annette with granddaughter Alayna who were visiting from California.

Helen Rhodes, her sister Ruth and Jerry Ridge, Garden City flew to Portland, Ore. on July 7th to visit their brother Bill and Jean Brainard. They visited three days in Lincoln City, Ore. with nieces and nephews. Returning to Kansas on July 13th.

Jane and Jim Wahlmeier, Concordia attended church Sunday with her mother, Rachel Carter.

Mary Mapps and Rachel Mapps, California recently purchased the former Paul Heit house in Jen-

nings. We welcome them to our town.

Our electricity was off Saturday morning from 7:30 a.m. to almost noon. We were glad they got it on before the p.m.



Tues., August 3

"I strongly support Libby as our next Secretary of State ... she is by far *the most qualified candidate* for this office."

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KANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

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## Candidate

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"All forms of energy will be needed, coal, oil, wind, solar and biofuels. We need to work with all and keep energy jobs here and not send them to out of the country," he said.

Barnett said, "I am for term limits. I am pro-life. I am convinced that a good congressman

listens and responds to the people who elected and depend on him to represent their interests."

Barnett is a graduate of Emporia State University and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Kansas. He and his wife Yvonne, reside in Emporia. They have two children, Chelsea and Blake.

## MBM Motorsports



## Norton County Fair

July 31 and Aug. 1, 2010

Elmwood Park Speedway

NORTON, KANSAS

**Saturday, July 31**

Start Times: Pit Opens - 4:00 p.m.  
Grand Stands - 5:00 p.m.; Hot Laps - 6:00 p.m.  
Races - 7:00 p.m. (**No Modified Races**)

**Sunday, August 1**

Start Times: Pit Opens - 4:00 p.m.  
Grand Stands - 5:00 p.m.; Hot Laps - 6:00 p.m.  
Races - 7:00 p.m. (**All Five Classes**)

Admission: Adults-\$10; Children-Ages 5 to 13-\$5; 5 and Under Free  
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