

# Men hope to move prisoners

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Two Norton County men want to start a business transporting prisoners for law enforcement agencies.

Terry Smothers and Lyle Aufer have applied for an economic development loan to start a business, they say is needed in Northwest Kansas. The men, both of whom work for the Kansas Department of Corrections, say that the only companies that move prisoners for law enforcement agencies are in Topeka. This means that sheriff's departments, police departments and juvenile officials spend thousands in overtime to take prisoners from one place to another.

The men were at last Tuesday's county commission meeting to see if and how much they could get from the Norton County Rural Business Enterprise fund to help get their venture off the ground.

The men hope to purchase a used vehicle for \$9,000 then equip it plus purchase leg irons, handcuffs and uniforms for both prisoners and guards. They asked the commission for money using the vehicle as collateral.

Commissioners, while they said they thought the business idea has merit, were unwilling to loan much money with only a used vehicle to secure the note.

"You're not looking for much for us to secure here," Commissioner John Miller said.

Mr. Smothers said that if the county could give the men something to get the business going they could go to the bank for additional funding.

Mr. Miller, however, said that a bank would probably want a first position collateral on a mortgage and the county also requires a first.

Mr. Smothers said that Terry Campbell of Clarence M. Kelley Youth Services, which operates Sappa Valley Youth Ranch in Oberlin, has said he would use the service to transport juveniles to the groups' facilities as soon as the businesses is licensed and insured.

The men said that they are just waiting for their permit to come through from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Mr. Aufer asked the commissioners how much they might be able to borrow from the economic development fund.

Mr. Miller suggested that the pair would be better off to take their request to a bank.

The men might also look for help from the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., since Mr. Aufer lives in Decatur County, he said.

After the two men had left, Sheriff Troy Thomson stopped by to talk to the commissioners. He said when a prisoner has to be transported it usually means overtime plus a person to replace the officer or officers doing the transporting. He said that he thought the service could save money on transportation costs.

## Blowing up a Husky storm



The Northern Valley Pep Band, made up of junior high and high school students, pumped up the crowd between games and at halftime of the basketball games between the Huskies and the Kensington Goldbugs in Alma Friday night.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble

## Violence support groups being formed

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter plans to extend Domestic Violence Support Groups, starting in March, to better serve victims in the 18 counties of Northwest Kansas.

The groups are offered at no cost to all participants and cover issues relating to all aspects of domestic violence situations.

Support groups available on March 2 include: Women's: Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.; Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Men's: Tuesday, 12 noon to 1 p.m. Call (800) 794-4624 for location and childcare information. For youth support groups contact Donna Munsch at (800) 794-4624 or (785) 625-3055 for time and location.

## Art exhibit set in Logan museum

The annual High School Art Exhibit will be on display from Friday to March 28 at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan.

Exhibited are a variety of mediums.

Participating in this year's exhibit are students taught by Peggy Stull, Norton; Lee Smith, Palco; Jerry Blank, Smith Center; René Thompson, Logan; Julie Peterson-Shea, Phillipsburg; David Chalfant, Hill City; and Rona Schultz, Grainfield

## Loans available for women

Government loans are available for women or members of minority groups, who want to own or operate a family-size farm.

"Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities," said John C. Vogt, farm loan manager for the agency in Norton, Phillips, Decatur and Rawlins counties.

Applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians and Hispanics, he said. However, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

The agency can make direct loans to applicants who are unable to get commercial credit or provide loan guarantees to commercial lenders. Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years.

For more information, contact your local Farm Service Agency.

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