

Edmond asks for help with city road project

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back and talk to them again.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from Mr. Brannan that the road department was out trying to flatten some of the ruts caused by melting snow and ice. But, he said, until all of the ice melts this spring, the roads aren't going to be great.
- Signed utility agreements for county bridges OS-186 and OS-52.
- Learned that four stop signs and two intersection signs on Roads E-2 and E-3 were damaged. He said the posts were basically cut in half after someone fired nine or ten shots in each. He said whoever did it left a lot of beer cans laying near the signs. The sheriff's

department is investigating.

- Heard from Roxane Kent, co-owner of O'Brien's, about changing the current resolution on liquor and food sales regulations. Bobby Millan also was in to talk about the matter. Ms. Kent said that current regulations require her to have at least 30 percent of her gross sales coming from food to meet her license requirements. Mr. Sebelius said the law requires that this be changed by a vote of Norton County residents at the next general election, which won't be until November of 2008. The commission said they didn't have a problem with putting the question on the ballot, which would need a resolution by the county or a petition by Ms. Kent.

Register of Deeds office commended for good work

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- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Spoke to Craig Renner, First State Bank, about the Andbe Home bonds. Mr. Renner wanted to make sure the county's intent was to continue with the bonds as earlier agreed. They also spoke about the collateral and assignment of the property, which would include the existing eight apartments and the 12 proposed apartments. County Counselor Doug Sebelius said this is not a mortgage because the county can't mortgage the property. Mr. Renner asked if the county had been approached to

extend the current lease prior to term. Mr. Sebelius said he didn't think that was necessary unless the Bonds Counsel made it a requirement.

- Appointed Dr. Jeff McKinley as district coroner and Norton County coroner.
- Heard a report from Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman on the spraying of noxious weeds by the state park. He said the park office submitted a report showing acres that were sprayed in 2006 at Prairie Dog State Park. Mr. Beckman said he would continue to work with the park to help control the noxious weed problem



Citizens interested in the economic development of Norton County met Jan. 24 at First State Bank for a teleconference with a Kansas State University professor to discuss bio-diesel

production. Craig Heskett, in the white shirt and tie, facilitated the conversation. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Potential bio-diesel plant gets some attention

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

It could be the start of something good, but time will tell.

A Kansas State University professor recently discussed the possibility of a bio-diesel plant in Norton County with a group of interested citizens and members of the board of directors of Norton County Economic Development.

Mike Woolverton, a visiting professor of agricultural economics at K-State, was featured on a teleconference call Jan. 24 in the basement conference room at First State Bank. Craig Heskett, a vice-president at First Security Bank, acted as facilitator for the conference which was open to the public.

Mr. Woolverton explained that bio-diesel fuel can be made from soy bean oil and converted into a

petro-diesel substitute. Unlike the production of ethanol, bio-diesel takes no water. Mr. Heskett said that was one of the attractive features because water is always an issue in western Kansas.

Another feature of bio-diesel production is the by-products. Those attending learned that 100

pounds of soybean oil make 90 pounds of bio-diesel and 10 pounds of glycerin which is used in soap and cosmetics.

Mr. Woolverton said the main consideration is how many acres of soybeans would there have to be within a 100 mile radius of Norton County. He said it has to be fea-

sible to haul grain to plant.

Mr. Heskett said everything is still in the data gathering stages. "We're just trying to keep an open mind and consider all the possibilities," he said.

Anyone interested in corresponding with Mr. Woolverton may e-mail him at: mikewood@agecon.ksu.edu.

County health holds blood draws on Feb. 12

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- Liver Functions — (Total albumin, globulin). These tests can be used in detecting and/or monitoring liver function damage, tissue damage or inflammation.
- Alkaline Phosphate — (Uric acid, calcium, phosphorus). Used for detection and monitoring of bone, tissue and parathyroid disease, such as arthritis, gout, bursitis and lupus.
- Glucose — This test is to measure blood sugar levels and is used to help diagnose and monitor diabetes mellitus.
- Cholesterol — (Including HDL, LDL, VLDL, triglycerides and ratios). These are fats produced in the liver that combine with fatty oils in the blood stream. Cholesterol is further broken down and measured as HDL (good cholesterol) and LDL (bad cholesterol). The person who has higher levels of LDL is at greater risk of heart disease. Triglycerides determine the level of simple fats in the blood.
- CBC — (Complete blood count with differential). This provides information about the hematologic system, immune response and many other organ systems.

Profile No. 2 is a PSA for \$20. The PSA is a test that detects an enlarged prostate, infected prostate and/or prostatic cancer. It can be used to evaluate disease progression and to monitor treatment.

The third profile is a TSH for \$15. The TSH is a test that is used to evaluate thyroid function and detect if there is too much or too little hormone secreted by the thyroid.

The three profiles can be done individually or can be combined. For more information, contact the health department at 785-877-5745.



Crews used an excavator and loader to dig out the trash that was left after last fall's fire in downtown Norton. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Fire clean-up well on its way

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sa. "Just hauling it off. We thought, at first, we'd try to separate it. But the way it was laid in there, we can't do it. We're just taking it all to the landfill."

He said there wasn't anything that was salvageable and the landfill is flattening it after it's been

dumped.

Once it's filled in, he said the city will have to replace some sidewalk and curb and gutter. After that, it's up to the city council and the public to decide what to do.

For now, he said, they are just going to leave it as a vacant lot. For the future, the council is thinking

of either making it into a parking lot or a little park area where a few trees will be planted. Either one of those options will allow the possibility of a new building being built in the future.

"We're just glad to see it getting done," he said.

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