

Group looks at finances

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton's new joint Economic Development Committee wants to involve all the county but isn't sure what the smaller cities should be asked to pay.

The committee discussed money at its meeting on Wednesday.

Norton County Commissioner John Miller said the committee needed to decide what it was going to charge the smaller cities — Almena, Lenora, Clayton and Edmond. He said it had been talked about possibly charging each \$500 to \$1,000 for a seat on the committee.

Norton City Administrator and city at-large representative Rob Lawson said it had been talked about doing a 60/40 percentage with Norton. He said it has been working with the law enforcement and airport agreements and it could probably work with this as well.

He said a similar thing could be done with the smaller cities and the county.

Norton County Commissioner Dean Kruse said they needed to get the smaller cities involved.

"For years we've said we'd like to see the smaller towns represented here," he said. "They're taxpayers and should be involved. We should do whatever it takes to get them to participate."

Mr. Miller said members of the committee needed to go to each city council meeting and explain what the committee is doing.

Mr. Lawson agreed and volunteered to go with someone to talk to the city councils.

"We certainly need to explain the benefits being a part of this will bring them," he said. "There are never-ending benefits with the possibility of economic growth."

"Also, every city in the county benefits from a new business comes into the county. No matter where it's located."

County at-large representative Curtis Eveleigh said the percentage of sales tax the small cities get could be a way to figure out what to charge for a seat. He said it's already figured up and so should be easy to get a percentage.

Mr. Lawson said they should do the 60/40 split with Norton based on the \$100,000 needed for the 2005 budget and then maybe have the smaller cities pay 1 percent each.

"It would cost them \$1,000 for a seat and a vote," he said. "Then the county would pay \$56,000. Whatever way we do this, we have to pay our way to have a vote."

Mr. Lawson said he thought if someone went to the city councils and explained what was happening, it would go over well.

Mr. Eveleigh said they just needed to get someone from the smaller cities to come to a meeting.

"We just need to give them the opportunity to get involved," he said.

Mr. Miller said he would call the city clerks to see if someone could come to the next meeting.

"This is an important venture," he said. "We're trying to bring resources together to get this thing to work."

Mr. Lawson agreed, but said they couldn't do it alone.

In other business, the committee:

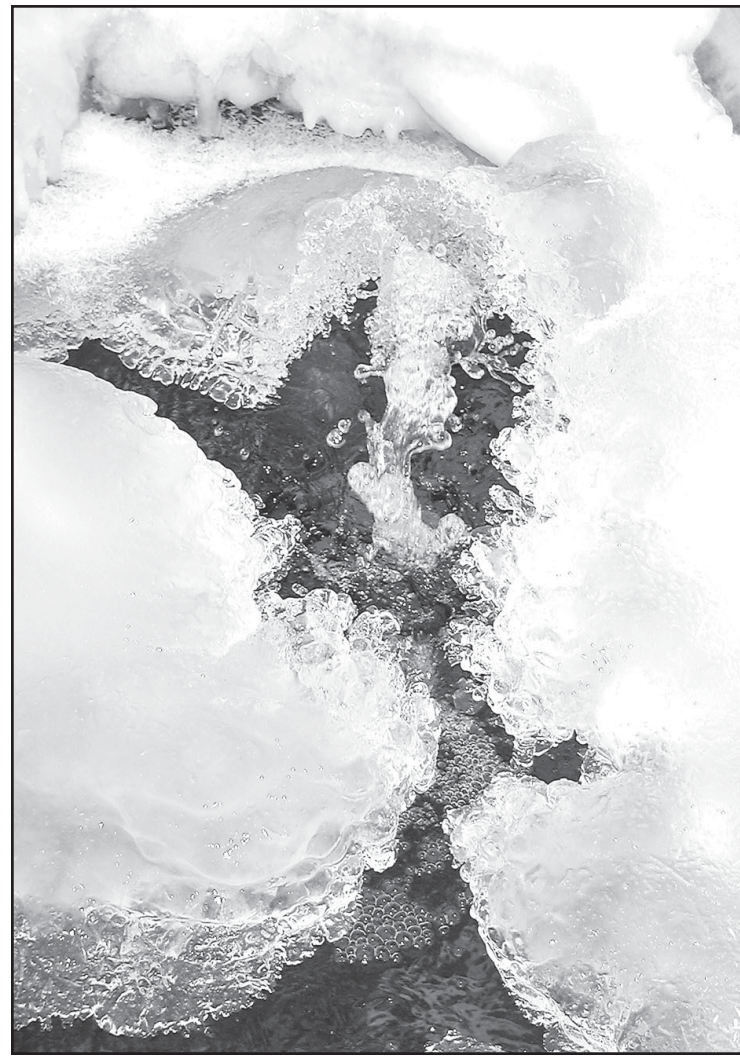
- Elected Mr. Miller as chairman, Mr. Eveleigh as vice-chairman, and city at-large representative Deena Wente as secretary.

- Discussed the open city council/committee position. Mr. Lawson said the open Norton City Council position, which also fills a seat on the committee, has been advertised for and hopefully someone will be named to fill during next Wednesday's council meeting.

- Set the next committee meeting for 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Norton City building. The first February meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, Feb. 9.
- Discussed the economic development director job. Mr. Lawson said he has had several people ask if the position has been promised to anyone yet.

- Mr. Miller said absolutely not.
- Talked about the location of the economic development director's office.

Icy artwork decorates town and country



Wednesday morning, early risers were greeted by trees and bushes covered with intricate designs made of lacy frost. Icy sculptures were seen in a pond with the recent freezing weather.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Susie Marble

Norton County woman to celebrate 103 years

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

"I've been a Norton County lady all my life," said Clair Smith, Norton, just a few days shy of her 103rd birthday on Jan. 19.

Born in 1901, on a farm 11 miles south of Norton, Mrs. Smith was the daughter of John and Ina Kidder. She was the second of six children, all of whom she has outlived.

When asked if she had to walk to school when she was young, she chuckled.

"Oh, my, yes," she said. "It was District No. 64 a mile from our home."

She recalls that her family always raised a big garden but admitted that she never milked a cow in her life.

She took her normal training after three years of high school and then taught in a one-room country schoolhouse for two years.

On March 20, 1923, she married Estes Smith, a World War I veteran. They lived on a farm south-

east of Norton growing wheat, corn and milo. The couple had two children, both of whom died in infancy; a boy at 9 days old and a daughter at 6 weeks.

Mrs. Smith said she has seen many changes and developments over the years. In her opinion electricity was the greatest thing that happened.

"It changed our lives," she said. "We didn't have to light lamps anymore."

Her husband died more than 11 years ago and she lived by herself after that.

"I just got kind of used to it," she said.

Four years ago she moved to the Andbe Home, where she said everyone is just wonderful.

She said she doesn't know why she has lived so long but is happy about it.

"I don't have any secrets to living this long," she said. "I just know I feel good."



Clair Kidder Smith

Sales class to explain state laws

The Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs is offering free training to all Norton County alcohol and tobacco retailers from 5:30-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24, at the Norton City office.

Retailers, who carry products used as methamphetamine precursors, such as pseudoephedrine, are also invited to attend.

The free seminar will provide information on Kansas laws and regulations concerning the sale of alcohol, tobacco products and items like coffee filters, lighter fluid, rock salt, and medication contain ephedrine that is used in the production of methamphetamines.

Pre-registration is required. Contact the Regional Prevention Center by noon Friday, Jan. 21.

Top Kansans to be honored

Topeka, Kan.—The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas will honor athlete and educator Lynette Woodard as Kansan of the Year and philanthropist and financier Emery Fager as Distinguished Kansan of the Year at the group's banquet at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at Maner Conference Center, Kansas ExpoCenter in Topeka.

Banquet tickets are \$35 per person or \$400 per table (seats 10). Payment for tickets may be mailed to Ed Moses, 700 SW Jackson, Suite 1408, Topeka, Kan. 66612.

Dick Boyd of Norton is the secretary of the state group.

Lynette Woodard

A native of Wichita, Lynette Woodard is in her fifth year on the women's basketball coaching staff at the University of Kansas. As a KU student, Woodard was four-time Kodak All-American and a two-time Academic All-American from 1978-'81. She is the most prolific scorer in women's college basketball history with 3,649 points. Her 1,572 career field goals and 2,994 field goal attempts also still stand as the most in women's college basketball history.

As a professional player, Woodard has been a member of women's teams in Italy and Japan in addition to playing for the Detroit Shock and Cleveland Rockers in the U. S. She was a member of the squad which captured the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics and was the first female to play with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Sports Illustrated magazine named her the top woman athlete in Kansas in the 20th century.

Emery Fager

Emery Fager serves as chairman of the board of Commerce Bank and Trust in Topeka. He has held banking positions in Overbrook, Topeka and Osage City, his hometown.

In 1959, he received permission to charter Commerce Bank and served as the first president. During his tenure, the bank has grown to more than \$1 billion in total assets. Fager has also served as state bank commissioner of Kansas and as president of the Kansas Bank-

ers Association.

His community service includes campaign co-chairman for the establishment of Topeka Performing Arts Center and chairman of the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Board. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking, Fager is the recipient of an honorary doctorate of commerce from Washburn University. In 2004, he was designated a laureate of the Junior Achievement Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS

LAND AUCTION

SELLERS: Crayton Heirs
Wednesday, January 19, 2005 @ 10:30 AM

AUCTION LOCATION: Community Building in Morland, Kansas. **SIGNS WILL BE POSTED!**

A 320 ACRE IMPROVED FARM NW OF HILL CITY S/2 OF SECTION 9-7-25
EXCELLENT HUNTING!!

CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.farmandranchrealty.com

FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.

1420 W. 4TH • COLBY, KS 67701
785-462-3904

DONALD L. HAZLETT, Broker/Auctioneer
In Cooperation w/Scotty Legere, Bel Air Realty

"When you list with Farm & Ranch, it's as good as Sold!!"

RV-BOAT EXPO

FREE ADMISSION!

JANUARY 14-15-16

FRIDAY NOON-9 SATURDAY NOON-9 SUNDAY NOON-6

Fonner Park Concourse, Grand Island

- Motorhomes
- 5th Wheels
- Travel Trailers
- Tent Campers
- Boats
- Jet Skis
- Four Wheelers

Make Your Reservations today for the 59th Annual Meeting & Free Supper of the Norton County Conservation District

Sat., January 22, 2005

Beginning at 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, Norton

SUPPER PROVIDED BY THE BANKS OF NORTON COUNTY

AGENDA: Annual Business Meeting and Election of 2 Supervisors

So we may accommodate everyone, we must have reservations by **Tuesday, January 18, 2005**

MAIL RESERVATION TO:
Norton Soil Conservation District
P.O. Box 365, Norton, KS 67654, or Call 877-2623

Please — Reservation Necessary for Supper