

Selden fire claims lives of 10 puppies

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
 A fire at a dog kennel near Selden claimed the life of 10 puppies last Tuesday afternoon.
 Chris Rall had been working in the field with her husband, Jerry, and when she returned home at 1:12 p.m. she found smoke and flames coming from her dog kennel.
 The kennel housed Lhasa Apso, Shihtzu, Bichon Frise, Boston terrier and Jack Russell dogs Rall has raised for the past year and a half. She called 911. Rall said it did not take long for area fire departments to arrive and start battling the kennel fire.
 "They were fantastic," Rall said. "They were able to put the fire out from the outside and nobody got hurt. These volunteer guys are wonderful."
 Fire departments from Selden, Rexford, Hoxie and Menlo responded to Rall's residence five

miles southwest of Selden. Also responding to the fire were Mayor Jacque Boultinghouse of Selden and Ross Carder of Hoxie, a Midwest Energy employee who had been in the area. Carder is also the fire chief of the Sheridan County Rural Fire Department based in Hoxie.
 Rall said Carder told her the fire probably started in the motor of a fan she had installed in the kennel to circulate air for the dogs. She said the fan was similar to one owned by one of her sons which had its bearings lock up and overheat.
 "Fortunately he was home when it happened and it didn't catch fire," Rall said of the faulty fan.
 Responding to a fire at a dog kennel prompted Menlo residents to send more than fire equipment.
 Rall said Sharon Munk of Menlo, mother of two of the firefighters, owns a kennel and

understands the challenges of moving dogs to safety. Rall said the Munk family, as well as Selden kennel owner David Gould, provided her portable kennels for transporting her dogs. The Munk family and Boultinghouse provided water for the dogs because the kennel's water had to be shut off while the fire was being fought.
 All 28 of Rall's adult dogs had been accounted for, the last one being delivered home after being found by a neighbor. Rall said the dog had run away Tuesday as firefighters battled the blaze.
 Rall said her state and federal kennel owner's licenses expire at the end of June and she has decided not to renew them. She said her brother, Dan Mumm of Selden, also a kennel owner, is housing her dogs and will absorb her business.
 "It would just take too much to rebuild in such a short time," Rall said.



Ron Hunter

Ag-Valley holds annual meeting

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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 Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Ag Valley Cooperative Ron Hunter painted a bright picture for the 60 cooperative members who attended last Tuesday's annual meeting at the American Legion.
 Mr. Hunter gave the annual report and said refunds to members this year totaled over half a million dollars. That is \$100,000 more than was paid out last year. Lots of figures were given and every category was up from last year.
 Mr. Hunter said, "We want you to be profitable on the family farm." He also commended all the cooperative employees on their hard work.
 Ag Valley Co-op has five different locations, Maywood, Arapahoe, Orleans, Edison and Norton. There are 2,700 ag producers who are voting members and 700 non-producer members.
 He told Norton members that a dump pit has been added to their facility. He said they would be glad to know they no longer have to back in to dump their grain. He guaranteed a completion date of June 15. The new pit is located west of the elevator.
 Mr. Hunter told members that the Norton feed mill renovations are done and that the mill is up \$20,000 in revenue as compared to last year. He also said that in the first three months of 2007, fertil-



The new dump pit at Ag Valley Co-op is waiting for the auger to complete the project. Elevator operator Les Schievelbein stood by the pit that will make grain dumping much easier for truck drivers. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Colby restaurant fined for labor law violations

COLBY — Colby's Dairy Queen restaurant has been cited for alleged youth employment violations and assessed \$14,575 in civil money penalties, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.
 The investigation indicated 18 minors were working in violation of the youth employment provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
 Colby Dairy Queen representative Tom Waldschmidt declined to comment. Dairy Queen has paid the youth employment civil money penalties and has agreed to carefully monitor future compliance.
 According to the labor department, the restaurant was cited for 14 and 15-year-olds working as late as midnight, as many as eight hours per day on a school day and

as many as 35 hours during a school week. During the summer the minors worked as many as 9 1/4 hours per day and as many as 52 1/4 hours per week.
 The 14 and 15-year olds were found working in violation of Reg. 3 occupations by operating a french fryer that did not have the automatic raising and lowering mechanism. Minors also were allegedly driving a motor vehicle to the grocery store for supplies.
 "This enforcement action is part of the department's continuing efforts to eliminate the use of youth employment in prohibited occupations," said Aracelis Scarbrough, Wage and Hour acting district director in Kansas City.
 Scarbrough said the labor department does its own investigations and responds to complaints. Scarbrough declined to say how

the department was involved with Dairy Queen's issues.
 The department's youth employment regulations identify 17 hazardous occupations prohibited for workers under the age of 18. □ Fourteen and 15 year olds may work in certain occupations outside school hours, but not before 7 a.m. or later than 7 p.m. (9 p.m. from June 1 until Labor Day). They may not work more than three hours on a school day and 18 hours in a school week or eight hours on a non-school day and 40 hours in a week when school is not in session. □ The regulations require that 14 and 15 year olds may only use deep fat fryers that are equipped with and utilize devices that automatically lower and raise the baskets into and out of the oil or grease.

Smoke on the horizon...



There was lots of smoke and flames as brush and grass clippings smoldered late last Thursday afternoon on the grounds of Norton Correctional Facility. Prison and fire officials ruled the cause spontaneous combustion. The fire was buried with dirt and soaked with water. Eight men and four trucks from Norton Rural Fire Department responded to the call. They remained at the site on the far north side of the prison grounds for about an hour. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Lack of people keeps board from doing business

Without a quorum, it was impossible to conduct any business at last night's Norton City/County Airport Board meeting.
 Chairman John Miller and board members Gail Boller and Jim Williams were present, but four members are required to conduct business.
 Others present were board secretary Sandy Smith, legal counsel Karen Griffiths and George Land, pilot for Valley Hope. Media representatives were Deena Wente, KQNK Radio and Carolyn Plotts, The Norton Telegram.
 The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., July 9 in the basement of the City Office Building.

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