



Kay Snodgrass, with help from her granddaughter, Abbie Smith, demonstrated how to make rope out of yucca. The demonstration was one of the many things Mrs. Snodgrass talked about during her presentation to the Golden Glow Club Monday evening.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

County looks at revitalization act

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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The Norton County Commission is looking into the Neighborhood Revitalization Act.

Economic Development Director Diane Becker and Norton County Appraiser Alan Hale joined the commission on Aug. 27 to discuss the act and whether or not it would be beneficial to county residents. They also talked about the way the act is designed to include both housing, or residential, and commercial property.

Several questions relating to the program, including a financial cap for the residential property, were also spoken about.

The program is currently designed for 10 years, however some felt the program should be shortened and a cap put on the residential property, while leaving the commercial cap off.

To implement the program, the commission will have to have a public hearing and comment period.

The commission decided that a few revisions and corrections needed to be made to the act and that they needed to talk to their legal council before making a decision. When the new draft is done, the commission will discuss it again.

Ms. Becker gave the commission her weekly report on what economic development is doing. She said she had attended several meetings and planned on attending several more. The commission received an invitation to the 20th anniversary of the Norton Correctional Facility, which will be Thursday, Sept. 27. The members of the commission, county clerk and Ms. Becker are planning to attend.

Ms. Becker also talked about the Solomon Valley Resource, Conservation and Development's five year plan. The commission was given a copy of the plan to review and then sign for approval. The commission had several questions concerning the plan and wondered if all of the goals could be completed. They also wanted to know who would be responsible, out of all of the overlapping entities in-

involved, for getting things done. After reviewing the plan, the commission signed it, saying that they concurred in full with the contents of the document and wish to support its distribution and implementation.

The commission also met with: **Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge Department supervisor.** Mr. Brannan gave the commission his weekly report, saying he is still looking at the applications for employment. The job was offered to one applicant, but he failed to show up at the pre-testing. Mr. Brannan said he would be offering the job to another applicant.

Mr. Brannan gave the commission an update on the chip-and-seal projects. He said his department finished sealing jobs in Almena, Clayton and Lenora the previous week. But, he said, they ran short on materials in Clayton; they believe they found enough oil in Phillipsburg to finish the job. Mr. Brannan said he was very satisfied with the working order of the equipment and the way the chip-and-seal project went.

Mr. Brannan said his department would be working on applying sand and gravel to county roads, as well as elevating several roads throughout the county.

Patricia McCartney, medical director for the Norton County Emergency Medical Service. Ms. McCartney asked the commission if they would object to several of the trainees attending the state meeting. After discussion, the commission felt that attendance by the trainees was not necessary at this time, due mainly to budget concerns.

Ms. McCartney gave the commission a hand-out for a full-time training officer position. She and Director Ruth Schillig requested that the commission hire Aden Schillig to fill the position. The commission said they would like more information before making a decision.

Troy Thomson, Norton County Sheriff. Sheriff Thomson gave the commission an update on the mitigation plan. He said he has finished the grant application to

help pay for the plan. If the grant is successful, the county will receive 75 percent of the money from the federal government and 25 percent from the state to pay for its mitigation plan.

In other business, the commission:

- Held a 20-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Met with Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald and Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman, both of whom gave brief reports on the happenings in their departments.

- Approved a "Grant of Easement" for property covered with the construction of a bridge. The perpetual easement and right-of-way granted by the instrument cover a tract of land located in the north half of the southwest quarter of section six, township two south, range 21 west of the sixth P.M. in Norton County.

- Reviewed several insurance and private claims and then approved writing off the accounts. A total of \$2,953, which was seven claims, was given to the commission for write-off due to late filing. The claims would be denied because of the date of service and failure to submit in a timely manner. A total of \$536 was reviewed for bad debt, while claims for the ambulance service write-offs totaled \$3,489.40.

- Discussed the county's health insurance. Questions have been asked if the county is going to accept bids this year, or if the Blue Cross quote will be acceptable. Another health care plan from United was submitted to the commission for review, but no decision was made. The commission would like to talk with the United representative again and also look at the Blue Cross Blue Shield quote when it arrives.

- Discussed the Risk Management and Insurance bid proposals for the county. The commission will be accepting bids this year for the county's property and liability insurance and workmen's compensation. Interested bidders must complete the bid proposal on the county's bid sheet.

Woman takes club back in time

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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The Golden Glow Club had its monthly "evening out" for seniors Monday evening.

The club, which gathers once a month at the Norton Senior Center, held a pot luck supper, followed by a small business meeting and a program.

Monday night's program was presented by Kay Snodgrass and

her granddaughter, Abbie Smith. Mrs. Snodgrass told the club about the 1830s and what was needed to live the "primitive life" with some comforts. She demonstrated rope making, spinning and weaving, primitive jewelry and baskets.

The club is open to the community at-large and only asks that those attending be 60 years of age or older. However, they are allowed to bring guests that are any

age.

The Golden Glow Club participates in local, state and federal community oriented projects. Locally, they are involved in blankets for babies, the Mitten Tree, shirt savers, sunshine bags, Christmas cheer cans and God's Pantry.

The club meets every second Monday at 6 p.m. at the Norton Senior Center.

Conference focuses on aging

Wishing for a happy, healthy retirement isn't likely to make it so. For Kansans who are thinking about their own retirement — or accepting increasing responsibility for aging parents — they might consider planning to attend "Living the High Life", a one-day conference on aging successfully Sept. 28 in WaKeeney.

The educational session is cosponsored by the Kansas State University Research and Extension Northwest Area and the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

Helen Stuckey Risdon, a registered nurse and humorist, will serve as the keynote speaker. With her presentation titled, "Humor for the Health of It," Risdon will speak on using humor to promote health and manage stress.

Attendees are invited to choose two morning sessions and two afternoon sessions from the following list of topics:

- "Leasing Agricultural Land" and "Now That You Are in Charge", presented by Sarah Fogelman, K-State Research and Extension agricultural economist;
- "Coming Together — People of All Generations", presented by Charlotte Shoup Olsen, K-State Research and Extension family systems specialist;
- "Falls Prevention", presented by Debra Sellers, K-State Research and Extension specialist on adult development and aging;

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
Extension
specialist



- "The Arts are Your Good Health", presented by Sally Bailey, associate professor of theater at Kansas State University;
- "Sleeping Well, Aging Gracefully", presented by Suzanne Bollig, Sleep Center, Hays Medical Center;
- "Health Concerns with Mature Years", presented by Barbara Brown, D.O., from Osborne.

- "Living with a Plan", presented by Marie Lieker, from Clinkscales Law Offices, Hays.
- "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate", presented by Donna Krug, K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Barton County.

Registration and a resource fair will begin at 9:30 a.m. A brief welcome at 10 a.m. will set the stage for two morning sessions. Two afternoon sessions will follow the luncheon and keynote address. Sessions will conclude at 4 p.m.

The cost to attend the conference is \$25 per person and includes conference materials, lunch, and refreshment breaks. If two members from the same fam-

ily attend, a reduced rate of \$40 is available. Registration at the door is \$35, but lunch cannot be guaranteed.

The conference will be held at the First United Methodist Church in WaKeeney. Registration, directions and other information is available by contacting the Trego County Extension Office at 785-743-6361 or any NW Kansas K-State Research and Extension Office.

Early registration is encouraged as the conference is expected to fill quickly.

Man injured in motorcycle accident

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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A Norton man was taken to the hospital after wrecking his motorcycle early last Thursday afternoon.

James D. Thomson, 23, was several miles southwest of Almena on K-383, approaching a curve in the road, when his 2005 Suzuki began to skid, said a report by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Sign-up for disaster programs began Monday

Congressman Jerry Moran has announced sign-up dates for three U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster assistance programs that will provide aid to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in 2005, 2006 and through February 28, 2007. The assistance was approved by Congress in May.

"In Kansas, we have struggled through five and six years of drought followed by last year's strong winter storms in December that led to 44 of Kansas' 105 counties being declared natural disasters," Congress-

man Moran said.

"Tornadoes, hail and floods have now affected the rest of Kansas. In total, 65 of the 69 counties I represent have been declared federal disaster areas in 2007. A top priority for me this year has been to see that the producers in Kansas who have been devastated by extreme weather are given the modest support needed to stay on their feet and continue feeding our nation," he said.

The federal assistance covers crop and livestock losses that resulted from natural disasters in years 2005 and 2006, as well as for crops planted before Feb. 28, 2007, and livestock losses occurring up to that date. Eligible farmers, ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program, which compensates livestock producers for feed losses; the

Livestock Indemnity Program, which compensates producers for livestock losses; and the Crop Disaster Program, which provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops if the crop was planted or would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007.

Program sign-up for eligible ranchers and livestock producers for the LCP and LIP programs began on Sept. 10. CDP sign-up for quantity losses to crops will begin on Oct. 15 for eligible farmers. The CDP sign-up date for quality losses has not yet been announced.

Kansas farmers and ranchers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office with questions and to determine eligibility. More information is available on USDA's Farm Service Agency Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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