

# Fund created to aid project

By VERONICA MONIER  
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The Norton County Economic Development Board toured the Moffet gas station property before Tuesday's meeting.

Director Diane Becker said for now, they are just working on cleaning the property up. She said what to use the space for is something they will have to look at after they complete the short term goal of making the place presentable.

The Community Foundation, she said, has created a fund under downtown development that people can donate to. It is tax deductible. She said the money they raise through that will be used for materials and supplies to fix up the property.

There are several different options that the board is looking at to use the building for, including a community information center or business incubator space.

Ms. Becker said they will be getting cost estimates on several different types of fences to put around it, so that no one gets hurt while part of it is under demolition.

Board member John Miller said it should take them about a half a day to tear down the south side of the building.

In other business, the board:  
• Discussed different options on how to help new businesses. Ms. Becker said the LuJon's building has sold, so that space is no longer available to use as a business incubator. She said the board had previously discussed offering a rent subsidy program, rather than having business incubator space. She said she is researching rent subsidy programs and other buildings that could be used as a business incubator. She said she didn't want to take a building away from someone else who was interested in it.

Board member Donna Foley, she said, also didn't want to take away opportunities for people wanting to buy buildings and liked the idea of a rent subsidy program for now.

Board member Brad Hopkins said it was a good idea, but they need to determine qualifications for the program before they put it into effect.

Ms. Becker said she would be researching those as well.

• Heard from Ms. Becker about a demolition program. She said she needed to put a few more things together before making a presentation to the board. But, as it stands now, she was thinking that each city would approve a demolition program that was approved by County Attorney Karen Griffiths, who is also the board's attorney, and then economic development would offer financial support. She said the cities have all been very receptive to a program like this,

especially the smaller cities like Clayton and Edmond. She said economic development doesn't want to get into administering the program, which is why the cities would have control of their own programs. She said they will probably offer to help pay for a certain number of demolitions in each city and the money would go directly to the cities, which will help with their cost of demolishing dilapidated buildings.

• Discussed the economic development's capital improvement fund.

• Met Hannah Mazour, the board's intern, who gave them an update on what she has been doing. She said she has been researching what has been successful in regards to managing business incubators and what would work best for Norton.

• Set the next meeting for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8 in the economic development office.

## Season at midway point

## Encouraging results for Husky forensics



Ellis and Beloit were early March engagements for the Northern Valley forensics team and results were encouraging. A plus with all of coach Ken Tharman's results are comments prior to and after the results are filed and distributed.

Twelve students were entered in the March 1 competition at Ellis. The roster included: Amanda Hopkins (Duet), Hannah Hawks (Duet & Poetry), Megan Cole (Duet), Christina Anderson (Duet & Improvised Duet Acting), Samuel Field (Poetry), Travis Redeker (Duet & Improvised Duet Acting), Jordan Herman (Humorous Solo Acting), Kayla Field (Serious Solo Acting), Skyler Harris (Prose & Improvised Duet Acting), Michael Callaway (Duet & Improvised Duet Acting), Matt Dole (Poetry), and Bryant Tharman (Prose).

The draw events started at 8 a.m. Three rounds later, the top six competitors went to the final round. With 20 schools and over 180 entries, there was plenty of competition. Those making it to the final round and their placings for Northern Valley were: Hannah Hawks, Poetry, third place,

and Travis Redeker and Christina Anderson, Duet, sixth place.

"Congratulations to all of these students for putting in so much time and effort when they have so many other things going on in their lives. These events instill confidence and many times they are fun as well," said Mr. Tharman.

He said the students departed at 5:45 a.m., and figuring in the fact the day before the basketball team was in substitute play at Colby, made for an "extremely tired" bunch of young men and women.

Mr. Tharman's driving partner/judge/sponsor, Michelle Tharman, delivered the cargo, (forensics team members, in this case), safely to Ellis.

The team's fifth competition of the season (marking the halfway point), took them to Beloit on March 4.

Those attending were: Jordan Herman (Improvised Duet Acting & Humorous Solo Acting), Brittny Braun (Informative), Stanton Nelson (Oration & Improvised Duet Acting), Travis Redeker (Humorous Solo Acting & Improvised Duet Acting), Christina Anderson (Improvised Duet Acting

& Duet), Skyler Harris (Prose), Kayla Field (Serious Solo Acting & Improvised Duet Acting), and Megan Cole (Duet & Improvised Duet Acting).

Students making it to the finals and their placings were: Jordan Herman, Humorous Solo Acting, fifth place; Travis Redeker, Humorous Solo Acting, fourth place; Stanton Nelson, Oration, third place; and Kayla Field, Serious Solo Acting, second place.

"Way to go gang!" said Mr. Tharman. He added: "After a, shall we say, 'Energetic' ride home, the kids were able to crash in their beds around 11-11:30 p.m."

Mr. Tharman thanked Bryan Shearer "for acting as sponsor (which he did not sign on for) and driver."

He also thanked the Long Island cooks for the wonderful cookies they sent along, which the students always look forward to enjoying.

The Almena cooks were also remembered for allowing the

forensic students to eat early so they could be on the road by 11:20 a.m. The destination on this day was St. John's Catholic School in Beloit.

Mr. Tharman explained that "the good things about week day events are — we get out of school, it is daylight when traveling, and there are only two preliminary rounds."

But he said, "The bad things about week day events are — making lesson plans and getting work done ahead of time, it is dark when traveling home, and there are only two preliminary rounds."

He said students do not use as much energy in two performances; yet, if they have one bad round, that is half of the competition. "Some students like it better and others do not. Kind of like every thing else, I guess." Mr. Tharman said.

The forensics team was scheduled to be in Colby Thursday. Those results will be passed along as they are received.

## \$20 spring wheat may not bring that price in Kansas

Spring wheat prices that soared to \$20 per bushel recently have raised questions about whether this crop can be successfully grown in Kansas.

The problem with either spring or winter wheat planted in the spring is that the weather almost always turns hot and dry in Kansas by the time this wheat is filling grain, said Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist.

"That results in low test weight, shriveled grain, and low yields for any spring-planted wheat in Kansas, including hard red spring wheat. Protein quality of spring wheat grown in Kansas may also be less than the protein quality of spring wheat grown in the Northern Plains," Shroyer said.

If producers do want to grow spring wheat, they should choose a variety with early maturity, he added. Resistance to leaf diseases would also be important.

Producers should be aware that spring wheat will typically mature a week or two later than winter wheat in Kansas, he said. This may affect harvesting decisions.

"If spring wheat is used to thick-

en a poor stand of winter wheat, the winter wheat will mature first and may start to shatter before the spring wheat is ready to harvest. It is also important to keep spring wheat and winter wheat separate, unless the wheat will be used as livestock feed. If the two classes are mixed, the wheat will be discounted heavily. The best approach would be to plant spring wheat on a whole-field basis, not interspersed with winter wheat in the same field," the K-State wheat specialist advised.

Marketing spring wheat in Kansas also may be difficult. Local markets are hard to find, Shroyer added.

"If the spring wheat is shipped directly from the farm to northern locations, the normally low quality of spring wheat produced in Kansas may result in lower prices than producers expect. Low test weight and poor protein quality are two of the major concerns," he said. "To think that hard red spring wheat grown in Kansas will bring the kind of high prices currently posted on the Minneapolis Grain Exchange is not realistic," he said.

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**•PUBLIC NOTICE•**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2008-1**  
**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADOPTING A NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF CLAYTON, KANSAS, AND ALL PROVISIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR INTERLOCAL COOPERATION WITH NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS AND ALL PARTICIPATING PUBLIC AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION.**

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, March 14, 2008

(1T)  
**WHEREAS**, The Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act as set forth in K.S.A. 1996 Supp. 12-17, 114 et. seq. authorizes and empowers the Governing Body of the City of Clayton, Kansas (herein CITY) to designate any area within the CITY as a Neighborhood Revitalization area if the Governing Body finds that one or more of the conditions described in K.S.A. 1996 Supp. 12-17, 115 (b) exists thereby encouraging and facilitating the rehabilitation, conservation and redevelopment of any such designated area and also, thereby protecting and promoting the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the CITY; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the CITY, pursuant to the aforesaid statute, has found and determined that all area and land lying within the corporate limits of the CITY is eligible for designation as a Neighborhood Revitalization area; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Governing body of the CITY hereby determined it necessary and advisable to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Norton County, Kansas (the County) for the purpose of considering, adopting, and coordinating a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, and establishing a Neighborhood Revitalization Fund for the purpose of administering the redevelopment fund and to provide rebates as provided by law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CLAYTON, KANSAS:**

**SECTION 1. REVITALIZATION PLAN APPROVED AND ADOPTED.** The four (4) page document produced and present at this meeting of the Governing Board entitled "Revitalization Plan" and each and every part thereof is, in all respects, approved, authorized, confirmed and adopted by the City of Clayton as the Revitalization Plan for the City of Clayton, County of Norton, Kansas, such Plan to be in force and effect on and after March 3, 2008. A fully executed copy of such Revitalization Plan shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk and shall be available for inspection by the public at any time during regular business hours.

**SECTION 2. EXECUTION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT.** The City is hereby authorized to enter into, execute and deliver an Interlocal Agreement with Norton County, Kansas under which the City, County, and all participating public agencies shall cooperate in the consideration, adoption, and coordination of a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, and the establishment of a Neighborhood Revitalization Fund, upon the terms and condition as set forth in said agreement.

**SECTION 3. EXECUTION OF REVITALIZATION PLAN AUTHORIZED.** The City shall, and the officers, agents and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to take such action, spend such funds and execute such other documents, certificates and instruments as may be necessary and desirable to carry out and comply with the provision of this Ordinance and to carry out, comply with and perform the duties of the City with respect to the Interlocal Agreement, all as necessary to carry out and give effect to the terms of the Agreement.

**SECTION 4. AUTHORITY FOR ADOPTION.** This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, as set forth in K.S.A. 1996 Supp. 12-17, 114 et. seq.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after the date of its approval and adoption as shown below and its publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Clayton, Kansas on the 3rd day of March, 2008.

Russell Bird  
City of Clayton, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Barbara Brooks, City Clerk

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