

Norton County joins e-waste coalition

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County has joined a coalition of ten counties to provide a spot for dead televisions and computers.

At their meeting on Monday, the commissioners signed an agreement with the Solomon Valley E-Waste Coalition to send dead electronic equipment and accessories to Osborne County for disposal.

While the county is officially in the coalition it won't start gathering old electronics for a while yet, said Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald.

The coalition has ordered 10 trailers, Mr. Archibald told the commissioners; one for each county in the group. Each trailer will be 16-feet-by-17-feet.

However, he said, he won't start taking in the cast off televisions and computers until a trailer is available to hold them and he said he didn't know how long it might

take to get it. He said he would make a public announcement and notify the newspaper as soon as he could start collections.

Mr. Archibald told the commissioners that he didn't have a full list of what would be considered e-waste. Certainly, all computer equipment and accessories, televisions and electronic games and music devices, he said. However, other electrical devices might be added to the list.

One of the biggest concerns in the electronic waste is lead in television sets, he said, adding that the new digital and flat screen models are getting popular and lots of people won't want older models any more. "People will dump their TVs because they're getting old enough," he said. "They'll just replace them. They don't have to, the cable companies will take care of them, unless they have rabbit ears or an antenna."

People bringing computers to the landfill for disposal should

wipe their hard drive, Commissioner John Miller said. However, it would be best if they requested that the computer be recycled and the hard drive be destroyed.

They should do this, he said, because even when a hard drive is wiped, financial information like bank account numbers and social security numbers can remain on it.

Mr. Archibald said that each county on the coalition will have a voting member and an alternate on its board. The commissioners decided that he should be Norton County's board member and that Mr. Miller should be the alternate, since he has been to most of the meetings to set up the coalition.

Mr. Archibald noted that the county e-waste from homes will be free but those businesses will cost the owner 25 cents per pound for disposal. The coalition will get 15 cents of that, he said, and the county can keep 10.

Commissioner Leroy Lang not

with a wry grin, that everything will be from someone's home.

However, he added, this will be better than people dumping their old televisions in a ditch as has been done in the past.

Mr. Archibald said that farmers are not considered business people by the coalition but that the hospital, a county-owned facility, will have to pay, even though he and Mr. Miller tried to get it exempted.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Told Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan that the county will not pay for employee's commercial driver's licenses.

- The county pays the employee for the time it takes to take the test, Mr. Brannan said, but he didn't believe that the license was included.

- Commissioner John Miller said that the state requires the commercial license for some of its employees but doesn't pay

for it and Norton County follows that rule.

- Learned that the road and bridge crew had repaired two wheelchair ramps at the courthouse.

- Held two 15-minute closed sessions with County Health Nurse Gina Frack and County Clerk Robert Wyatt to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Suggested that Richard Meyers petition to have a township road into his mother's farm property nine miles north of Reager. Mr. Meyers had asked if the county could gate the road, which ends on the property due to a dilapidated bridge. Since the road is open, it can't be gated, the commissioners said but it would probably be a good candidate for closure.

- Discussed the repair of several machines and replacement of two tires on a loader at the landfill with Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald.

The tires were being repaired

when they caught fire and will have to be replaced, Mr. Archibald said.

- Learned that cleanup is mostly done except for one more load from Lenora. The cleanup went well, Mr. Archibald said, and there seemed to be less than in the past. However, Almerna didn't bring anything in.

- Heard from Economic Development Director Dianne Becker that she has spent a lot of time working on a grant for the Andbe Home for renovations including some asbestos removal.

- Were told that Edmond has decided to join the Economic Development group and will pay the \$100 fee. The town is really happy about the neighborhood revitalization program, Ms. Becker said.

- Heard from Noxious Weed Director Reggie Beckman that his crew is ready to spray bare ground as soon as the weather clears up and that he has had to order some chemicals but, he thought, the price was good.

Gawkin' geese



A gaggle of geese took a break to gawk at the Harlan County Reservoir near Alma, Neb., during their flight north for the spring. While the weather was more favorable when this photo was taken, the geese would probably have pulled up their hoodies if they stopped this week.

— Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

Walk Kansas progress report given

By TRANDA WATTS
Multi-County Specialist

The 2008 Walk Kansas fitness program, sponsored by individual county Extension Offices in Kansas and by Kansas State Research and Extension, has just passed the half-way point. Because of this, a short summary of the results as they have been turned in follows:

The latest information which has been turned in statewide is that the Walk Kansas program has grown again. Approximately 20,500 people are participating in Walk Kansas this year. This is several hundred more than last year and numbers are still being turned into the main office at Kansas State University.

In Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan and Trego Counties 80 teams consisting of six individuals are participating for a total of approximately 480 participants.

In Norton County, there are 22 teams or 132 participants. These

people have been walking or doing some form of moderate physical exercise and reporting the amounts to the Extension Office since March 9. The goal is to walk 423 miles (or the equivalent of walking across Kansas) as a team during the eight week period ending May 3. Some teams report a little more regularly than others, so below you will see the results which have been reported as of April 9. Eighteen of the teams have reported walking half way across Kansas which is where they should be as of April 9. These teams and the miles walked are as follows:

1. Midnight Special — 780 miles
2. Fit to Go — 508 miles
3. Strutters — 504 miles
4. Walkabout — 474 miles
5. FSBT — 377 miles
6. www.man — 337 miles
7. Purple People Eaters — 334 miles
8. Kan-Do — 330 miles
9. C&C Walkers — 295 miles
10. Hope A-longs — 280 miles
11. Country Chicks — 271 miles
12. Green Sprouts — 268 miles
13. Book Lovers — 268 miles
14. The Brats — 260 miles
15. Pav Ponders — 232 miles
16. Blue and Bol — 231 miles
17. Willie Walkers — 229 miles
17. Street Walkers — 214 miles.

Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in also encouraged. The top five teams which are eating the most fruits and vegetables (5 cups are recommended daily) are:

1. The Brats
 2. FSBT
 3. www.man
 4. Fit to Go
 5. Midnight Special.
- Participants are encouraged to keep up the good work by continuing to take steps to improve your personal health.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

Firemen battle blaze near Jennings

A pasture fire Monday afternoon kept volunteers from Oberlin, Norcatar and Jennings busy for more than three hours.

Kerry Green, Jennings fire chief, said a call came in around 12:30 p.m. that there was a fire three miles east of Jennings and half a mile south on Chuck Griffith's

land. Mr. Griffith had a controlled burn going on the field, which is Conservation Reserve ground, and it got away from him.

In all, said Chief Green, the fire probably burned about 80 acres.

With the wind, the fact that there had been a fire in that field in the past and that one of the trucks in

Jennings was down for repair, he said, he decided to call in crews from Oberlin and Norcatar.

Chief Green said he has the parts for the truck and now needs to just get it back together.

The crews were back at the station around 4 p.m.

Opera returns to college campus

Opera returns to Fort Hays State University on April 19 and 20 when students perform in two entertaining compositions.

The performances, each of which includes both operas, will be in Felten-Start Theatre in Malloy Hall on the university campus. Saturday's showing is at 8 p.m., and Sunday's at 3 p.m.

The first opera, "A Hand of

Bridge," is a look inside the human mind and how the human exterior can mask inner desires and demons, said Dr. Joe Perniciaro, teacher of voice and director of opera at Fort Hays State.

"The second, 'The Medium,' raises the question, 'Is there an afterlife and spirits?'" he said. "This is a suspenseful piece with a shocking ending."

"These are two exciting, two wonderfully accessible operas," said Perniciaro. "These pieces are a great introduction to opera but also very engaging."

Wind energy conference planned

A conference to discuss wind energy will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 17 at the Huck Boyd Center in Phillipsburg.

Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson will be the keynote speaker. He is the chairman of the Kansas Wind Working Group and co-chair of the Kansas Energy Council. Issues to be discussed include the basics about wind energy, government policies, leasing and interconnectivity. Lunch will be catered by Bigge's Country Kitchen.

Those who register before April

11 will pay only \$10; afterwards, it will be \$20. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Sponsors for the event include Phillips County Economic Development, Phillips County Farm Bureau, Rooks County Farm Bureau, Smith County Farm Bureau, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas

Rural Center and Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy, LLC.

Registration forms are available on-line at www.solomonvalley-rcd.org. Send along with registration fee to 320 South Sixth St., Stockton, Kan. 67669.

For more information, call the Solomon Valley RC and D office at 785-425-6647.

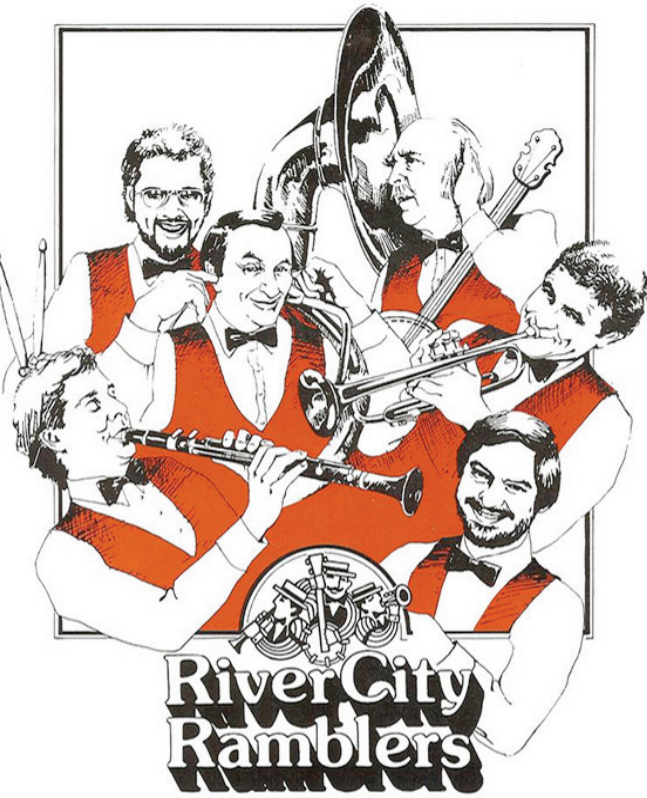
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