

# Calling coyotes



The annual Coyote Calling contest was held Feb. 6 with 42 teams participating. Johnny Howard and Doug Wagoner received first place, Jason Breiner and T R Richardson received second place and Kevin and Rob Holiday received third place. Erica Woodside and Trevor Tien won the prize for biggest dog, and Brandon McChesney and Keith Ward won the prize for most crows. In total, contestants netted 19 coyotes, two bobcats and four crows. The contest benefited youth hunting.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

# Meeting

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Stiles hopes to put the business incubator in the building the chamber currently occupies.

- The board discussed Stiles' new contract which was signed several months ago. It had given both economic development employees a 3 percent raise.

Stiles told the board she did not turn in her paperwork for the raise in January because she wanted to save money for the department.

"You should be commended," Eveleigh said.

- A motion was passed to approve the KCAMP bylaws and agreement. KCAMP is the insurance provider for Norton County. Vote taken, motion passed.

- A motion was made to approve the job descriptions for the economic development director and assistant.

The county is doing new job descriptions for all county employees. Vote taken, motion passed.

- The board also discussed the census meeting. The 2010 census will determine how much money

will be distributed to counties over the next ten years. Stiles said there was a great turnout at the meeting.

- Stiles updated the board on several bills in the house and senate which would have an impact for Norton County and for economic development.

The next Norton City/County Economic Development Board meeting will be held March 9 at 5:30 p.m. at 113 N. Norton.

The meeting is open to the public.

# Theatre

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"We did run into a little snag though. The proposal ad was programmed to play at 4:55 p.m. The couple made it to the theatre at 4:53. So, I stalled the ads and the movie a bit to accomplish the overall goal of the night," he said

At the theatre, Tim and Kate came to the concession stand for some refreshments. Tim ordered a drink and a dozen roses. Kate turned and gave Tim a really fun-

ny look like, "You can get roses at the theatre?" After the order, the couple entered the theatre and sat down in their favorite seats.

After a couple of minutes of advertisements, the Titanic theme began to play and then a photo of the couple appeared on the screen.

"My heart was beating really quickly. I knew something was up," Kate said.

The ads continued and as the screen displayed "Katelyn Autry

Will You Marry Me?" Tim knelt down and presented a ring to her. Moments later, they kissed to seal the deal and Tim shouted, "She said Yes!"

All of the other movie patrons cheered for the young, happy couple.

"I'm sure this will be a Valentine's Day to remember for a long time to come. I wish Tim and Kate all the best in their future endeavors," Wetter said.

# Hall

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said.

**Deficit**  
Faber said the state is looking at a \$34 million deficit this year and a \$400 million hole in the 2011 budget.

Neither Faber nor Ostmeyer were sure what the solution was other than making more cuts in 2010. Both said raising sales taxes would be the quick solution, but said they weren't sure if they would vote for that bill.

"We could probably solve our budget crisis by putting a half cent tax on everything across the board," Faber said.

Ostmeyer said they don't know how far in debt they are.

**Erosion of the tax base**  
Norton County Appraiser Alan Hale asked the representatives about tax exemptions.

There are currently 96 exemptions. Several people in attendance asked what requirements there are for being granted an exemption.

"If you're a charitable organization, you're probably going to get it," Faber said.

"We've narrowed our tax base too much, but I don't see it going back," Ostmeyer said.

Hale said allowing exemptions to continue is a mistake.

He talked about agriculture land value, which has decreased dramatically in recent years. He said it used to be 50-60 percent of county funding and it is now 20 percent.

"You have fewer and fewer people footing the bill, but those who can pay aren't. At this point, it's serious beyond serious," Hale said.

**Jobs**  
One resident was concerned about jobs going out of state, specifically the Department of Wildlife and Parks contracting to have hunting licenses made out of state. Faber said that decision was made by the Department of Wildlife and Parks secretary.

Faber said the Legislature does not micro-manage state departments.

Ostmeyer discussed getting more jobs into rural areas. He said

he introduced a bill last year to get more state jobs in western Kansas. He said the bill got some votes but did not pass.

"We had a good discussion about it," he said.

**Veterans Services**  
Representatives from a Norton veterans organization said veterans should have more representatives. Currently there is one representative for every 11,000 Kansas veterans.

Ostmeyer agreed, saying he voted for the special Kansas

Veterans Instant Scratch tickets because the money funded veterans programs. He said many in the Legislature are in favor of cutting veterans funds because they receive funds from the lottery.

"That's unfair, that's wrong," he said.

Faber and Ostmeyer both thanked Norton County Farm Bureau for hosting the program.

"We appreciate farm bureau hosting this program and for everyone coming out," Faber said.

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