

Road closing postponed

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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A road closure hearing was recessed for two weeks after a landowner had some questions about the process.

At Monday's Norton County Commissioner meeting, landowner Les Ward had some questions about a proposal to close Road W15 from roads C to D.

Mr. Ward asked about easements for the area.

"We don't do easements," County Attorney Doug Sebelius clarified. "We (the county) either open a road or close it."

The commissioners decided that they would like more in-

formation, be able to check the legal ramifications and perhaps a look at the road in question before making a decision on the closing request.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that Commissioner R.A. Peterson has completed his CPR certification and wondered if the sheriff's department personnel are certified.

- Decided to send a letter to the attorney general asking for a six-month exemption to the state's concealed carry law for the courthouse, county health department, EMS building and hospital.

- Heard from County Clerk Robert Wyatt that the county valuations are less than he had hoped.

"Budgets are not going to be fun," he told the commissioners.

- Learned from Road and Bridge Foreman Floyd Richard that Economic Development Director Scott Sproul has found some grant help for outside electrical work at the county shop but nothing for inside yet.

- Was told by Mr. Wyatt that he has several applicants for two open county jobs - courthouse maintenance and road and bridge administrator.

Drinking and boating don't mix

Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) law enforcement officers will be on the lookout for boaters under the influence during Operation Dry Water June 28-30. Operation Dry Water is part of a national effort to reduce accidents and fatalities related to boating under the influence (BUI) of drugs and alcohol and educate recreational boaters about the dangers of BUI.

KDWPT officers are responsible for patrolling the waters of Kansas and conducting boat accident investigations, boat safety inspections, BUI checks, safety programs, education classes and other boating related activities. During Operation Dry Water, officers will be out in force looking for boaters whose blood alcohol content exceeds the state limit of 0.08. The weekend will include increased patrols, breathalyzer tests, life

jacket checks and boater education. Impaired boaters can expect to be arrested or face other serious penalties. In Kansas, the consequences for BUI include fines, jail and loss of boating privileges. During the 2012 Operation Dry Water, eight arrests were made for BUI offenses.

"We are dedicated to keeping boaters safe on our waters. Boating is a safe and enjoyable pastime when people stay alert and follow the rules," said Kansas Boating Law Administrator Maj. Dan Hesket. "Many factors contribute to the way alcohol affects a person on the water, such as the sun, wind, glare, dehydration and wave motion, causing a person to become intoxicated three times faster than on shore."

BUI is a major problem across the nation. According to U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics 2012, alco-

hol is the primary contributing factor in recreational boating fatalities. Intoxicated boaters run a significantly increased risk of being involved in a fatal boating accident. During calendar year 2012, Kansas recorded 27 boat accidents, of which two resulted in a fatality, 12 resulted in injuries, and 13 involved only property damage. Two people were killed, 13 were injured and there was an estimated \$112,321 in property damages.

Operation Dry Water 2013 is a joint program of KDWPT, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, visit www.operationdrywater.org. Information about Kansas boating regulations, registration, education, and requirements is at www.ksoutdoors.com - click on Boating.

Senator introduces mobility act

U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Angus King (I-Maine) recently introduced the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act. The bipartisan legislation will allow veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances to protect the health and welfare of the nation's animals, ensure public safety, and safeguard the nation's food supply. Companion legislation, H.R. 1528, was also introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Veterinarians play a crucial role in public safety and making certain animals in Kansas and across the country are cared for properly," Sen. Moran said. "The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act allows licensed practitioners to legally transport and dispense the controlled substances necessary to practice veterinary medicine.

This legislation is particularly important for veterinarians who work in rural areas, conduct research or respond to emergency situations."

"It is essential that veterinarians be able to transport the drugs they need to appropriately treat their patients," said Kansas State University Department of Clinical Sciences Professor Mike Apley, DVM, Ph.D. "This includes the transport and use of controlled substances to treat multiple species in situations that may not be anticipated prior to examining the patient. These situations include restraint, anesthesia, and humane euthanasia. It is apparent that legislation is urgently needed to enable creating the regulations which will allow this transport, and to avoid needless pain and suffering of veterinary patients as well as safety concerns for the

people handling these patients."

The 1970 Controlled Substances Act (CSA) stipulates that controlled substances must be stored and dispensed at the specific address veterinarians have on file with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The DEA enforces the CSA and has informed organized veterinary medicine that without a statutory change, veterinarians are in violation and cannot legally provide complete veterinary care.

The practice of veterinary medicine requires veterinarians to treat patients in a variety of settings, including rural areas, "house calls" or mobile clinics, research and disease control activities, emergency response situations, and removal or transfer of dangerous wildlife.

Dream

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Joe continued as an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP), an FAA ranking necessary for Captain status. His flights included a jungle oil rig contract in Peru, a World Health Organization contract in West Africa and a US Navy contract in the Bahamas until 1989.

When the US Navy contract ended, Joe intended to fly for the DEA in Central and South America. Negotiations for a Civilian Air Wing between the State Department and the US Military persisted. When the Ft. Worth company, Dynelec-

tron, finally won the contract, the budget had nearly been cut in half and risks to pilots had increased drastically.

At the age of 56, Joe had had 58 mailing addresses and spent 24 years overseas. He decided it was time to take another detour and he returned to Norton. By this time, his parents were deceased, but other extended family members remained and others have returned.

So, one might ask, why Norton? "For me," Joe said, "after a very demanding and hectic life, which I fully enjoyed, the peace and quiet of Norton allows me to

live pretty much as I wish. Plus, it is a low crime area where you can leave the house unlocked and the keys in your car!"

Joe is active in the Norton County Museum and serves on the Norton County Republican Central Committee advocating for Veteran's Affairs. In addition, he takes great pride in the "marvelous treasure of our Library," and has served on the Library Board. Joe notes the Hospital and Doctor's Clinic are important assets to the community and along with a strong educational system and sports program, help to entice people

Funds

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As part of this, he said, the county is hoping to hold a luncheon for legislators inside the Capitol sometime early in the session. Plans have not been finalized for this, however, he said.

Mr. Sproul told the commissioners that the temporary notes issued to pay for roads at the

new Ag Valley loadout facility need to be converted into bonds by October 2014. It isn't that the notes can't be reissued, he said, but right now rates are low and they are expected to go up.

The county allocated \$2 million for the project although it seems to be coming in under that figure.

The state matched the coun-

ty's \$40,000 Rural Opportunity Zone program, Mr. Sproul said and Norton County may be able to get a little more from this program next year since there are counties that aren't using this resource and there may be money left over.

Mr. Sproul said that this program is special to the governor and he doesn't think that it will

Dig into history...



As part of the Norton Public Library's "Dig into Reading" summer of events, Russ Erbert talked about Indian artifacts he's collected with the children at the library on Thursday, June 20. Events are scheduled for the kids at the library on Thursdays throughout July and August.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Being safe with fireworks this 4th

Over the next few days, many Americans will begin celebrating Independence Day - and igniting fireworks will be a major part of that celebration. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) reminds Kansans that when lighting fireworks, they are playing with a type of explosive and there is no such thing as totally safe fireworks.

"Fireworks are comprised of dangerous chemicals and combustibles that can destroy property and injure people," says Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal. "These deceptively simple objects explode, throw hot sparks through the air, and can often reach temperatures hotter than 1,200 degrees."

During the week of the July 4th celebrations in 2012, there were 197 reported fireworks-related injuries in Kansas.

Damage to personal and commercial property is another hazard of shooting fireworks. In 2011, there were 26 structure fires, 10 vehicle fires and 199 miscellaneous fires directly related to fireworks from around the state between May 1 and August 31. The total property loss from these fires was \$408,125.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), far more U.S. fires are reported on or around Independence Day than on any other day of the year. In its 2012 Fireworks Report, the NFPA outlined specific statistics regarding how the use of consumer fireworks relates to fire danger, including:

In 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 14,100 outside and other fires.

These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported deaths, 60 civilian injuries and \$36 million in direct property damage.

The report demonstrates using consumer fireworks heightens the risk of injury and even death. The study showed:

The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 5-14, with more than twice the risk for the general population.

Sparklers and novelties alone accounted for 38 percent of the 8,600 emergency room fireworks injuries in 2010.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend an outdoor public display conducted by specially trained pyrotechnic professionals.

For those who choose to shoot fireworks, the OSFM offers these suggestions for having fun with fireworks while also being safe:

- Always read and follow label instructions.

- Always purchase high quality fireworks from a reliable, legitimate source.

- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."

- Never give fireworks to small children.

- Adults should always supervise use of fireworks by older children.

- Always wear eye protection

when lighting fireworks.

- Never ignite fireworks indoors. Make sure your outdoor area is safe for firework use.

- Never point or throw fireworks at a person, building, or animal.

- Have a source of water handy, in case of fire.

- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

- Light only one firework at a time.

- Never attempt to re-light malfunctioning fireworks.

- When lighting fireworks, never position any part of your body over them.

- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

- Never experiment with homemade fireworks. They are dangerous and illegal.

- Bottle rockets and other sky-rockets that are mounted on a stick or wire are illegal.

- It is illegal to shoot fireworks on or under a vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a firework stand or where fireworks are stored, and gas stations or any place liquid gas - including propane - is stored.

- While shooting fireworks can be a fun way to celebrate Independence Day, it's not so fun if you, a family member or a friend are in the emergency room or if a fire truck has to rush to your house to put out a fire." Jorgensen says. "Our office wishes everyone a very happy - and safe - 4th of July celebration."



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