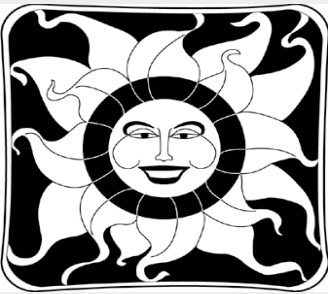




Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday...Sunny. Highs around 80. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Thursday...Much cooler. Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s. Thursday night...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of light rain. Lows in the upper 30s.

Friday...Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Friday night through Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Warmer... Windy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday's low, high: 29, 63.

Saturday's low, high: 25, 54.

Friday's low, high: 29, 59.

Goodland considers legalizing utility vehicles

By Tom Betz
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Imported work-site utility vehicles, a small two-seat minipickup, are not legal on state highways, but the Goodland City Commission heard April 14 they could be legal on city streets if the city passes an ordinance setting equipment and insurance requirements.

Commissioner John Garcia said a man approached him about the vehicles and gave him a copy of some sample ordinances, including one passed in Colby to allow them.

Garcia said he felt it was something the city should look at with the cost of fuel. He said he gone for a demonstration ride.

Police Chief Ray Smee said he told Jerry Oharah, a retired state highway employee, the vehicles are not legal, and had a state trooper look up the laws to show him.

"The trooper found that a judge in eastern Kansas had ruled the vehicle in question was not legal on state highways, but said he would leave it up the state Department of Transportation and to cities, if they wanted to pass an ordinance to make them legal in their location.

"There are a lot of hoops to make them legal on the city streets. They would be legal on the city streets only, and cannot cross a state highway, so technically they could not go to Walmart."

He said the vehicle would have to have a title inspection by a state trooper, and the Division of Motor Vehicles would issue a special non-highway title.

"Under state law, these are not considered motorized vehicles," he said.

He said the minimum safety requirements would include tires, windshield wipers, turn signals, headlights and height required by state law.

He said an operator would need a driver's license, but it would be up to the city to decide if insurance is required.

"Who is going to enforce the equipment part?" Smee asked.

"When they come in from China or Japan, they are not legal.

"If you want to do this, we

should work closely with (City Attorney) Jeff Mason to draft something that does not come back to bite us. The Colby ordinance does not require insurance."

Garcia asked if motorcycles and things like that have to have insurance. Smee said that motorcycles are required to have insurance because they have a license tag.

"These are not plated because they are not considered a motor vehicle," he said.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Garcia how many calls he had had on this.

"I saw one down at Shores and Greg Shores took me for a ride," Garcia replied.

Dechant asked how much the vehicle was being sold for.

Garcia said he was told the one he took a ride in was about \$6,100.

Smee said Shores had been at the meeting earlier, but left.

"He is not driving it legally," Smee added. "He has a slow-moving-vehicle sign and says he's using it for farming, but he is not a farmer."

"If the state inspects it, they are

saying it is OK?" Commissioner Dave Daniels asked.

"No, all they are doing is checking the import papers and bill of sale," Smee replied. "It will be up to the owner to make sure they are legal and meet the height and equipment requirements."

"I think we ought to let the people use these because of the cost of gas," Daniels said.

"Do they make them with automatic drive?" Garcia asked.

"No, they are all right-hand drive and standard transmissions," Smee said.

"I agree. If we get insurance on them and some way to identify them and a title," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "I think it would be OK."

Dechant said one of the sample ordinances was from Dodge City and it appeared to say the vehicles would be legal on all the city streets and state highways within the city.

Smee said the wording could be a problem, and that it why he wants to work with Mason. He said by state definition, all city streets are public highways, but that K-27 and Business U.S. 24

are state highways that would not be covered under a city ordinance.

Smee said he had asked the state about allowing the work-site utility vehicles to cross the state highways, and was told that if a trooper spotted one he could issue a ticket.

The state law (KSA 8-15, 105) dealing with work-site utility vehicles says the "vehicles are not to be operated on an Interstate highway, federal highway or state highway or within the corporate limits of any city unless authorized by such city. Work-site utility vehicles may be operated incidentally upon a federal highway or state highway."

Smee said the state defines incidental operation as "being associated with implements of husbandry (farm equipment)."

Dechant said he did not think the city could do anything quickly, as it will take some time to research and write the ordinance. Daniels disagreed, saying he did not think it would take too long.

"I think we should do it if it is saving people some on gas," Billinger said.

Town familiar with problem

By Tom Dreiling
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An Associated Press report appearing in Thursday papers and on radio and television newscasts had some Norton residents concerned.

The report dealt with naturally occurring uranium in water in nine Kansas communities, including Norton. Rob Lawson, Norton city administrator, said in a telephone interview Thursday that The Associated Press report was nothing new to the people out here. He said "we've been dealing with this matter for several years," and said the city distributes a letter quarterly to water users as a caution and to update them as to what the uranium levels show.

Mr. Lawson said the new water plant construction is 90 percent complete and the next phase of the project will deal with water wells. "It's just a matter of time (for solving this issue)," he said.

In addition to Norton, The Associated Press report named Atwood, Oberlin, Clay Center, Gaylord, Morganville, Lakin, Rooks County Rural Water District 1 and a water supply in a Garden City subdivision identified as Towns Riverview as other troubled sites.

Bike Across Kansas to take northern route

By Dick Boyd
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Biking Across Kansas, the annual bicycle tour which crosses the state of Kansas from west to east in eight days, will be held this year from June 7 to 14 and the city of Norton will be one of the overnight stops.

Biking Across Kansas is a recreational and social rally for cyclists of all ages. It is not an endurance contest, a race or a test of stamina. Each rider sets a pace agreeable to his or her own degree of expertise and all capable riders are welcome.

Each year, BAK attracts riders from all over the United States

who wish to cross what they think is a flat state but they soon discover that there are many hills in Kansas and amazing scenery from waving wheat fields to the magnificent Flint Hills.

The last time BAK stopped in Norton, there were three routes of 350 riders each. This year will be different. All riders will be on the same route with a limit of 800 riders who will be accompanied by support staff and non-riding family members.

The bikers will leave from the Colorado-Kansas state line on Saturday morning, June 7 and ride to Atwood for the first overnight stop. On Sunday they will cycle to Norton. The other overnight

stops will be Smith Center, Beloit, Washington, Sabetha and Horton. A celebration dinner will be held on Saturday in Atchison after the bikers reach the Kansas-Missouri border.

As of Monday, there were 750 registered for this year's tour. The deadline to register is May 7. Cost is \$165 per person, \$145 for those staying in tents or motels, \$130 for those 6 to 18 years of age and \$135 for seniors (65 and over). After May 7, if the tour is not filled, a \$30 late fee will be added for registration.

The fee pays for overnight accommodations in school gymnasiums and several meals along the way. Bikers will be responsible to

feed themselves most of the time. The fee also pays for a t-shirt, embroidered patch, route guide, celebration dinner at the finish, fresh fruit each day and a truck which carries your gear from town-to-town so all you have to do is bicycle.

BAK will have several support vehicles on the routes daily to provide water and fruit as well as assistance with minor medical and mechanical problems.

Each participant is responsible for transportation to the starting point at the Colorado state line and also for pickup from the finish point.

Those wishing to sign-up for this year's tour or receive more information can go to the BAK web site bak.org or call Executive Director Charlie Summers at (316) 283-7528.

County debates health insurance

From "COUNTY," Page 1

In other business, the commissioners met with Public Health Administrator Lisa Molstad. After a brief discussion period, it was decided to have the county custodians shampoo and disinfect carpet in the exam rooms and lab at the department, located at 350 S. Range Ave. in the county's office complex.

Custodian Darrin Bell also met with the commissioners and requested the commissioners look at purchasing another riding mower for county use. The topic was tabled until Bell can obtain more information about repairs for the current mower.

Randy Dick, owner of Kaw Valley Insurance of Rossville met with the commissioners asking that before they make a decision in August about the county's group health insurance policy he be given an opportunity to give the county a quote.

"I would like an opportunity to

quote on your health insurance again," Dick said.

The county previously had health insurance through Dick's company; however, it switched to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in 2005.

Other agenda items 9 a.m., Wednesday for Thomas County Commissioners include Becky Bond with the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc. for a budget request.

Emergency Medical Director Ken Gatlin will discuss the salary for the new full-time staff member from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the commissioners and Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms and County Appraiser Mary Cech and her deputy, George Overton, will visit Halford to check land owned by the county;

Selection of an energy savings company; approval of a corporate application for cereal malt beverages from Bosselman, Inc. of

May Day!! May Day!!



Fabric Sale - Quilts for Sale Machines on Sale

May 1st - 3rd • 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



1525 S. Range
462-3375



790 AM



100.3 FM



The Golden Buckle Concert Series presents Nashville Recording Artist,

Hal Ketchum

Friday, May 2, 2008

Colby Community Building in Colby

7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30)



Small Town Saturday Night

Five O'Clock World

Hearts Are Gonna Roll

Past the Point of Rescue

Listen to 790 KXXX, 100.3 the Ride, and 97.9 KWGB for ticket information.

Tickets \$25.00 at the door or \$10.00 with a discount coupon.

We are celebrating Community Bank Week April 28-May 2nd and we want you to join us!!

As a local community bank, we understand the importance and value a local bank can bring to the community, and to each valued customer. This is our way of saying thanks to all our customers for banking with us and for help making our community grow!

We have special events throughout the week!


Monday- Lemonade for everyone!

Tuesday- Popcorn for everyone!

Wednesday- A Flower for each customer that comes in!

Thursday- A candy bar with a special wrapper for each customer!

Friday- Stop in and enjoy the sounds of Karla Haggard and Monica Miller as they sing a variety of songs at the main bank at 12:00 and also at our Dillons location at 5:30.



Please come and join us for all these events!

Member FDIC 240 W. 4th • 460-3321 • fmbcolby.com