

CONTROL

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going expense will be salaries for dispatchers.

Sheriff Gardner had figures that surrounding counties/cities pay for their dispatchers. Sherman County starts dispatchers at \$9.50 and, after 90 days, the pay increases to \$13 per hour. Rawlins County starts at \$9 per hour and, after 60 days, increase to \$11 with a \$1 pay differential. Colby/Thomas County pays \$9.60. Decatur County pays \$9.90 to \$11.50.

The sheriff said that the average 2007 start pay for Cheyenne County dispatchers is \$9.30 per hour. The average top end pay is \$11.44. Next year, the pay would be a little higher, approximately \$10 with an increase to \$10.50 per hour. He proposed that the department supervisor pay be a minimum of \$11.50 per hour.

The pay for dispatchers would probably be around \$110,280 plus benefits. At the present time, the county is paying the city of St. Francis \$9,000 a year and the city of Bird City is paying \$5,000.

The sheriff said that the dispatch system currently uses four full-time dispatchers and several part-time dispatchers. With the new system, the county would need a minimum of four full-time and one part-time. The supervisor could fill in for the part-time if need be.

It was suggested that several of the city crew train to be dispatchers in case there was an emergency, then they could fill in. The sheriff agreed that this would be a good idea.

The sheriff said the present dispatchers will be offered a job with the new 911 emergency system but, if they chose not to go that direction, the city council has assured them they will have a job with the city.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said the commissioners would need to look at the options for raising the money. He also thought that it was important to make a smooth transition from the present system to the new system.

Mayor Burr asked if there was another way the money needed could be collected besides taxing the landowners? He suggested a phone tax but no one was sure how and if this method would work.

The sheriff said that the 911 system could be worked in with the Goodland system but he could see some problems. He said that the county dispatchers know the area and the people. Also, the new plan creates new jobs, rather than take jobs away.

Mayor Schultz said that he felt the firemen needed some training in reading the new county maps and the sheriff said he would meet with them.

No decision was made following the lengthy discussion. However, all those involved will continue to investigate the new system.

FAIR BOOK

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said he had a written proposal ready. He stood up and read back what he had previously said in the meeting, then gave the proposal to Gary Cooper, secretary.

Mr. Douthit moved to untable the fair book. Michael Hanson, member, moved to accept Mr. Ketzner's bid and Mr. Douthit, gave the second. The board passed it with a unanimous vote.

Correction

The fair board wanted to clarify the price for the grandstand admission during the demolition derby. The tickets have been raised to \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under the age of 6 are free. The pit passes are \$15 per person regardless of age.

Fair book changes

Ms. Lehman said the committee was finished editing the fair book. There were a couple things the committee felt needed clarified including the premium sale dress code and that it should be enforced. Anyone not following the dress code will not be allowed to sell. She said the state livestock rules read that only immediate family, mother, father, legal guardian or another 4-H member may help groom the livestock. The way the Cheyenne County rules now read is that in addition to immediate family, the 4-H/FFA leaders may help. After some discussion, Mr. Douthit said, the board members all knew where this discussion was coming from, "just cut the BS and follow the state rules and not allow 4-H/FFA leaders to groom!"

Committee reports

The board moved on to committee reports. Clay Zimbelman said there was a small glitch in the lawn mower rules concerning the tire and wheel size which will need to be changed. Mr. Zimbelman said that Mr. Hanson, committee member, thought a Grand Prix-style track would be the best for the races.

Secretary Cooper reported the Ranch Rodeo Committee was having a hard time getting together with all the mud from the storms. Mr. Cooper had talked to Shawna Blanka who will be in charge of the

Kids Ranch Rodeo; Ryan McAtee is in charge of the team penning and Mr. Cooper is in charge of the Adult Ranch Rodeo. Mr. Cooper also said that Darrell Pettijohn wants to provide the catch-it-pig during one of the ranch rodeo nights.

Fair building

President Bursch said that, with the coyote calling contest and the wedding, the gas bill for the fair building was higher. Mr. Bursch wondered if they should change the contracts to say that those renting the building in the winter will have to pay the gas bill. The board decided to wait to see how they came out at the end of the year.

In other business

In other business:
• The commissioners agreed to pay for the spray to allow the fair board to spray at the fairgrounds.

• The county auditor told the board that they need to file 1099 for the premium sale participants and the derby winners. The board was a little confused if that was just for money over \$600 or everyone. They will get more information.

Next meeting

The Cheyenne County Fair Board meets the first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m. The meetings will be video taped starting in April. Tapes will be played on Channel 15 for those wanting to know what is going on in the fair board meetings. The videos will also be available to check out at the St. Francis Public Library.

HEALTH

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controlled by medication.

The prostate specific antigen, known as a "PSA," can track some prostate abnormalities.

"You probably check the oil in your car every 3,000 miles, how many miles has it been since you had your 'oil' checked?" said Kary Meyer, lab technician. "Preventative maintenance is a great key to good health."

For more accurate glucose and lipid panel, please fast after the evening meal prior to the lab work,

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After reviewing the bids, the commissioners asked that Mr. Schlittenhardt get bids for a regular cab pickup instead of a four-door pickup and bring the bids back to the next meeting.

Firemen apply for grant

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had a cooperative agreement with the Kansas State Forestry Service which the commissioners signed. The agreement will let the county borrow fire equipment from the service if the county ever needs it.

He told the commissioners that he

would like to apply for a 50-50 grant through the Kansas State Forestry Service. With the money, the firemen could get two receiver hitch wenchers for the new fire trucks. He said that they wenchers will seldom be used but would be very useful when then are needed. The commissioners agreed to move forward with the grant.

County purchases dozer

The commissioners decided to offer Martin Tractor \$90,000 for a dozer to be used at the county landfill. They will have more information at the next meeting. They again mentioned the plan to use a papier-mache type of

covering instead of dirt at the landfill.

A highway permit was signed to allow Priority Oil to place a pipeline along the county ditch. The company will pay \$10 per rod.

The supervisor asked for executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made upon returning to regular session.

Tony Vandike has accepted the equipment operation position with the county road and bridge crew.

Backup system for tower

Ambulance director Jannelle Bowers presented a bid from Prairie States Communications for a back-up system for the repeater tower. The bid was for a battery system. After discussion, it was decided to see about getting a generator versus a battery system. (It was learned after adjournment that the Road and Bridge shop has a generator for back-up purposes and the process is handled by the road department.)

Mrs. Bowers noted the ambulances were due for inspection and Yost Ford would be doing the work.

New pickup purchased for sheriff's department

The board agreed to purchase a 2007 Ford F-150 from Yost Ford-Mercury for \$15,910 plus trade-in of two department vehicles: 1999 Chevy Blazer and a 2003 Ford Explorer.

Sheriff Troy Gardner said he plans to trade-in a vehicle every year. The department has three vehicles. He figures that Equipment Reserve Fund will have sufficient money for the trade-in each year and, this way, the vehicles will be up-to-date, be covered under warranty and have a good trade-in value.

In other business

In other business:
• Roxie Neitzel, Neitzel Insurance Agency, and Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance Agency, reviewed the county's insurance plans. A few changes were made to the policy.

• The plans for the 911 emergency system were once again discussed. See related article.

• The handicap drive on the west side of the courthouse will be widened. See related article.

• The fair board had sent a letter asking the county to purchase the chemicals for spraying weeds and they would take care of the labor and equipment to get rid of the weeds.

• A wage agreement was signed for Carol Whipple to work part-time in the county appraiser's office.

VISITS

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neighbor's land. He said with the drought, they are moving east.

He was also concerned that there were Kansas children who were without health care insurance. Somehow, he said, the escalating costs for health care needs to stop.

Senator Ostmeyer said the problems with health care still remain but the Legislature is working on them.

The senator said the issue of expanding gambling will come up again but doesn't expect anything to come from it. He said he was against gambling and, it may not go anywhere this year, it "raise it's ugly head again."

Rep. Faber said revenues are up in Kansas so there will be a few extra dollars. He thinks education has been secured for a couple of years but what the schools up and down U.S. 36 need is more people. He said that economic development is so important to the rural communities.

He expressed concern about the Kansas Department of Wildlife and

Park's involvement in government. He said the Wildlife and Parks people want to do away with statutes and go with only rules and regulations, which he thought would be a mistake. He also said that the Department wants to turn all land in western Kansas back into grass because there is big money in hunting. However, he said that raising grain is important to the economy of this part of country.

There were a few other issues discussed before the Legislators finished their hour stay in Cheyenne County and were on their way for another meeting in Atwood.

COMPETES

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2007 and scholarships. The overall winner will travel with all expenses paid to Mobile, Ala., in June to take part in the 50th annual America's Junior Miss National Finals. There, she will compete for the title of America's Junior Miss and a share of more than \$100,000 in cash scholarships. The participants are also eligible for college-granted scholarships from nearly 200 colleges and universities.


Vickie Cress, Cheyenne County coordinator, said the Cheyenne County Young Miss program is not participating in the newly formed Junior Miss Program in Belleville. However, Lauren has decided to participate in their program.

"The local program (coordinators) wishes Lauren the best and will be behind her all the way," Mrs. Cress said.

Letters and flowers may be sent in to Lauren, in care of Kansas Junior Miss, Box 565, Belleville, 66935.

LOJOK WHAT'S COMING

AG DAY
Agriculture: Celebrating is Horsepower



From a team of horses in the early 1900s to tractors with the power of 40 to 300 horses today, American farmers provide consumers with more and better quality food than ever before. In fact, one farmer now supplies food for about 129 people in the United States and abroad compared with just 25.8 people in 1960.

National Agriculture Day

Smile it's Spring!



Advertise your business in the **SPRING Home & Garden Special Supplement** to be featured in April.



If you have not been contacted to participate in one of these upcoming specials and would like to, contact Casey at 785-332-3162.

The Saint Francis Herald
— and —
Bird City Times



P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

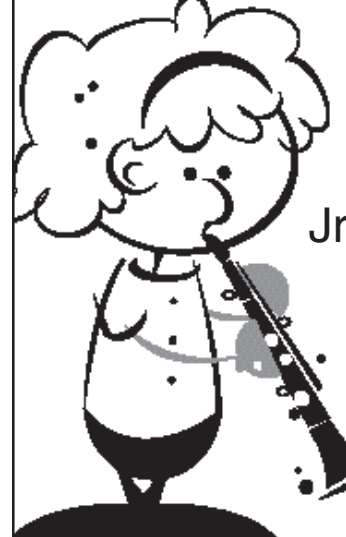
Don't Miss The Upcoming Special Section Promoting U.S. 36!



From the Kansas-Missouri border to the end of the line at Estes Park, Colo.

Casey McCormick, ad manager, will be contacting area businesses in this grand opportunity to promote St. Francis, Bird City & U.S. 36.

Spring Sports



This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Track, Golf, Band & Vocal, Honor Society and Journalism. To be inserted in your paper in April.

