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agencies. He said that all calls, when officers go out and emergency runs need to be documented. The dispatcher will need to be able to multi-task.

Sheriff Gardner said several inquiries about the dispatcher duties had been received. Some wanted only part-time work. He said that the part-time workers should be considered as it would cut down in the salary expenses as part-time workers would not be paid benefits. They could also be used to work the different schedules and fill in when there is sickness and other emergencies. However, all would need to be trained.

He said he would like to send present dispatcher Carol Gamblin to training in April. Sheriff Gardner said that Mrs. Gamblin already knows a lot because of her training in the sheriff's office and was still recommending that she be the dispatch supervisor.

It had been suggested that the dispatch system be under a separate board and not under the sheriff's office. The sheriff said that, to begin with, it wouldn't cost any more for it to be under the sheriff's office but in the future, the commissioners might consider having it be a separate department and would answer to a voluntary board.

**Handicapped driveway**

Three bids for the proposed lengthening and widening of the handicapped driveway were opened. They included: Ben Jerry's Construction, Benkelman, \$13,460; Jensen Construction, St. Francis, \$15,215; and Troy Porter, St. Francis, \$11,043.

Action on the bids was tabled until the commissioners know more about the cost of replacing the front steps of the courthouse.

**Courthouse steps**

Troy Porter, who had put in the courthouse steps, talked about collecting some of the money for the steps construction. Commissioner Beikman said that right now, they needed to see if the county would receive a grant for steps to match the original steps. As far as he was con-

cerned, part of the work was satisfactory but, if the company putting in the steps had to tear out that work, then the county would be paying for it two times.

They talked about the original blue prints of the courthouse that had been found but Greg Kite, who is writing the grant, took the prints with him. Mr. Porter questioned whether or not the steps had been granite because of the way the stone was put in and the brick veneer was placed on top of the step caps.

Because of all the uncertainties, the commissioners decided not to pay Mr. Porter at that time. They noted that if the cost of the steps is more than the grant, then they will need to go another route in replacing the steps.

**Ambulance report**

Janelle Bowers, ambulance director, presented an ambulance adjustment (write offs) for \$1,087. They was approved.

She reported that Nancy Semler would be writing a grant for a new Bird City ambulance but she was requesting pay for writing it. The commissioners asked that Mrs. Semler attend the next commissioners' meeting to further discuss the matter.

Mrs. Bowers called an executive session to discuss personnel. Returning to regular session, the commissioners agreed to let two people attend a Training Officer One course in Salina.

The commissioners briefly discussed the ambulance which had not been starting every time. Mrs. Bowers said that it has been working.

**Road and bridge report**

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said that he had offered Martin Tractor \$90,000 for a dozer for the landfill. However, the offer had not been accepted. The company did offer \$94,000 plus and would pick up half of the costs of a \$3,000 repair. The commissioners said to go ahead with the purchase.

Mr. Flemming had sent a letter to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment concerning the county's intent to use the papier-mache cover at the landfill. The com-

missioners agreed that this is the best way to keep the trash from blowing as it takes less space than the dirt which is now being used. They were surprised that the Department of Health and Environment had not made the papier-mache covering mandatory to all landfills in the state.

The supervisor said the River Road project south of St. Francis will start on July 9.

The commissioners received a copy of a letter which had been sent to the fair board president concerning executive (closed) sessions and a copy of the open meetings laws. Commissioner Beikman asked that the county attorney write a letter to all members of the board explaining the law. Commissioner Ernie Ketzner said that he didn't think the fair board was doing anything illegal but a matter of not knowing the law. It was suggested that fair board needs to follow the law.

Mr. Ketzner asked if the school board was video taped? The editor of The Saint Francis Herald said that, at this time, no, it was not being taped but neither was the Cheylin Board of Education. Mr. Beikman said he thought video taping meetings was a good thing.

**In other business**

In other business:

- Justin Barrett, county attorney, was appointed to a two-year term to the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections governing board.

- A letter had been received from Rachel Huffman suggesting that the new emergency building be named after astronaut Ron Evans, who was born in St. Francis. She also suggested that the old space capsule be renovated.

- Mary Morrow, register of deeds, was given permission to attend a meeting in Colby.

- Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, presented the Maternal and Child Health Care Grant to be signed. She also presented the Crisis Risk Management Standard Operation Guide to be signed. She said all 105 Kansas counties will be following the same guide.

- The commissioners talked about getting rid of prairie dogs with the supervisor. Also discussed was the purchase of a new pickup for that department. See related article for more information.

- Attendance at the Airport Authority meetings was discussed as were several other pressing issues at the airport. See related article for more information.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room in the courthouse on Friday, March 30.

**BAITING**

Continued from Page 1

that the person who was called at that time is no longer in the same position. He said he could call but thought it would be a "miracle" if an extension was granted.

Farmers can do their own baiting with chemicals but they need to be certified. There is also a treated grain that farmers can spread but Mr. Schlittenhardt said that if the prairie dog eats some and does not die, he will never eat it again. The grain is only about 75-percent effective and there is also a matter that birds might pick up the treated grain.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he had heard that there was another bait used in Colorado but Mr. Schlittenhardt said the label on that product read the same as Rozol, it was not labeled as prairie dog bait. He also said the bait stations some farmers use are considered illegal.

This year, Mr. Schlittenhardt said the snow had hampered the progress of baiting the dogs. Commissioner Beikman said that even with the

snow, he thought the work could have started earlier. Hopefully, Mr. Schlittenhardt can be out as soon as he can in the fall.

Commissioner Lee asked that the supervisor call Mr. Faylor. Commissioner Beikman said that someone needed to follow-up on the letters previously sent to those having prairie dog problems.

**Pickup**

Supervisor Schlittenhardt had another bid for a 2008 Ford pickup from Yost Ford-Mercury. He had a bid for a four-door pickup at the last meeting and this bid was for a two-door pickup. He noted that the difference was only \$2,200. The pickup he

wants to trade in is 10-years-old and, if divided by the number of years, that would only amount to \$220 difference a year.

He told the commissioners that he would like a pickup with a back seat where he could put his brief case and other equipment instead of putting in on the front seat beside him. When he has to make a quick stop, the stuff slides on the floor.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked if the old pickup could be used in the road and bridge department. Mr. Schlittenhardt said that one of the doors doesn't shut and it will need a new clutch and other repairs. No decision was made.

**AUCTION**

Continued from Page 1

the Methodist Church educational building. Children, 3- to 4-years-old, can go to preschool two days a week.

Lately, some of the parents have expressed the desire for the school to offer an additional weekly session for the 4-year-olds who are preparing for kindergarten. Others have suggested that the morning session be extended while it has also been suggested that there be three days of classes with an extended half-hour class.

The school director this year is JaNan Cooper. Helpers are Sharon Feikert and Jacque Butler.

To offer more to the students, the tuition may need to be raised from \$40 to \$50 per month; or from \$25 to \$30 for those students going one day a week.

Some of the costs associated with the school are salaries for teachers, teaching supplies, snacks and insurance. Tracy Neitzel, who is one of the members of the board, said the insurance runs between \$800 and \$1,000 a year but also noted that the preschool is fortunate to have the room in the Methodist Church educational building for no charge.

"Needless to point out, tuition revenues are not close to being sufficient to pay the operating expenses of the preschool," said Mrs. Neitzel. "We continue to seek community support with the silent auction (of baskets) and other fund raising activities."

Every other year, the ABC Preschool Auction is held. Parents, community members and businesses donate items which, in turn, are auctioned off.

The school was started with a large bequest from the Wilhelmina Neitzel Memorial. Mrs. Neitzel gave the money to the preschool because it was held in the Methodist building which was across the street from her home.

Today, the school seldom re-

ceives a memorial donation but Traci Neitzel said it would help if even a little money were sent their way.

If any organization or individual is wanting to have a money-making project for the ABC Preschool, call Mrs. Neitzel, 785-332-2217 or any other member of the board: Penny Krien, Shriley Swihart, Robin Burr, Roger Jensen, Mike Day and Toni Landenberger.

"We just want the best for our kids," Mrs. Neitzel concluded.

**HONORED**

Continued from Page 1A

- Americans today consume 17.3 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year! The average American eats about 68 quarts!

- While the first breakfast cereal was made by adding sugar and milk to popped popcorn, a shortage of baking flours after World War II forced breadmakers to substitute up to 25 percent of wheat flour with ground popped popcorn. Over the years, popcorn also has been used as an ingredient in pudding, candy, soup, salad and entrees.

- Popcorn's nutritional value comes from the fact that, like other cereal grains, its primary function is to provide the body with heat and energy.

- The bright orange color of carrots tell you they're an excellent source of Vitamin A which is important for good eyesight, especially at night. Vitamin A helps your body fight infection, and keeps your skin and hair healthy!

- Michigan and New Jersey produce 66 percent of all the blueberries in the United States, followed by North Carolina, Oregon and Washington.

**DECISION**

Continued from Page 1A

let the commissioners know so another appointment could be made. No responses to the letters had been received.

They discussed several people who might be interested and some calls will be made.

**Grant received**

Mr. Yost said the airport had received a grant for \$35,000 to fill the cracks on the runway and other maintenance. He said that it is a 90-10 grant and the county is responsible for 10 percent or \$3,500. The Authority has the money to pay the 10 percent.

He pointed out that the airport is a tremendous community asset and it is important that this work is done. He asked that the board continue to set aside \$22,000 each year because by the time the airport grants are received and the county has paid for its share, it will be needed.

The commissioners reminded Mr. Yost that they will be working on next year's budget in June.

**Hanger roof**

The discussion then turned to the roof of the hanger at the airport. Mr. Yost said the tar paper on the top of the curved cement roof is going bad. They had two bids for repairing the roof but wanted to see if there was a less expensive way of fixing it.

He said that they might have enough money right now to go with one of the bids they have but he thought they would run short before the runway updates are done.

**New apron condition**

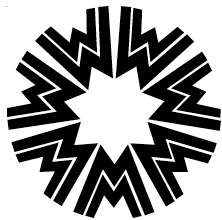
The new apron (airport parking for visiting planes) has some problems. There was an official inspection of the apron on Tuesday and he asked that the county attorney be present.

There had been some test samples pulled from the asphalt but there was a question as to who had taken the samples. If the samples were to be sent to different places for testing, Mr. Yost thought that the samples should have, been split so equal comparisons could be made.

**Power Lineman Position**

Midwest Energy has an opening for a Lineman in Bird City. Duties include the operation, construction, maintenance and troubleshooting of electric distribution and transmission facilities. Applicants must have the ability to learn and perform lineman job duties, customer service and public relations.

Are you interested in this position? Midwest Energy will have a representative available in Bird City at City Hall, Wednesday, April 4 from 1pm to 4pm. Please stop by and visit with us to learn more about the position.



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