

Last payment made on hospital bond

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday with good news — the last payment had been made on the Cheyenne County Hospital bond. The taxpayers had voted to issue a bond for \$1.4 million in 2002. The money was used to remodel the clinic in St. Francis which also included an addition and an elevator. Later, the board was able to move the county health clinic to the basement of the clinic, using a Community Development Building Grant.

Cemetery upkeep

There has been some complaints about the upkeep or lack of upkeep in some of the smaller cemeteries in the northern part of the county. Individuals have been mowing these cemeteries but didn't think it was their responsibility — They just hated to see them not kept up.

They would like to see another cemetery board in that district set up. It was noted that Cemetery District 2 is supposed to take care of all cemeteries and is getting paid to do it. Clerk Terry Miller had found in the statutes that the county is responsible for all cemeteries in the district. The commissioners agreed that there needed to be some communication between the people serving on the cemetery boards.

Weeds and dogs

Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, said Tom Herring's wife had told him that they were going to spray for bind weed. Mr. Schlittenhardt was going to visit the farm north of Bird City on Monday to see if anything has been done. If not, he will turn the matter over to the county attorney.

The commissioners wanted to know more about prairie dogs. Mr. Schlittenhardt said Ben and Chris Leibbrandt will be taking care of their prairie dogs. He said that a farmer can poison the dogs on his land but needs a private applicator's license to apply Rozal. People can use the poison from Oct. 1 through March 15.

Mr. Schlittenhardt was encouraged to have a plan for getting rid of prairie dogs so he can start immediately on Oct. 1 and, as Mr. Beikman said, "go like heck and get as many as possible before the snow falls."

Mr. Ketzner said he talked with one of his neighbors about prairie dogs and would like to have Mr.

Schlittenhardt look at that field.

Fog seal for Wheeler road

Supervisor Flemming told the commissioners that the old Wheeler road which was oiled and used as a detour road in 1994, needed a fog seal.

The last fog seal had lasted five years and he was asking the commissioners about putting a better fog seal on. However, the difference was around \$5,000 and there was no guarantee that it would last any longer than five years.

After talking about it, the commissioners agreed to go with the less expensive seal, even though it was noted that the longevity of the seal was due to mild winters.

The road was sealed on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

In other business

In other business:

- Natalie Knodel, St. Francis City Council member, is the city's representative to the 911 board.

- Bryan Hobrock, St. Francis, was approved as a member of the Cheyenne County Fair Board. He is in Mr. Beikman's district.

- The commissioners talked to Dick Bursch, county fair board president, about spraying at the fairgrounds, especially around the holding chutes in front of the grandstands. They noted that the fairgrounds looked very good; Mr. Bursch said that was due to early spraying and rain.

- The Hazardous Household Waste Roundup will be held at the Cheyenne County Landfill from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

- Kansas Association of Counties voting delegate will be Mr. Ketzner with Mr. Beikman and Ray Lee, commissioners, as alternates.

- Members of the county's Historical Society had sent a letter to the commissioners asking about who owned the church and museum. Clerk Terry Miller went back to the minutes and found nothing that says the county owns them, however, the county gives an appropriation to the Society. The land is owned by the city and the Society leased the land for \$1. The county attorney will do some investigating before the next meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 28, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Three-week program scheduled this year

The Support Our Soldiers (SOS) program will have a three-week campaign only this year.

"We are hoping to involve more children by coloring pictures and writing a message to our soldiers," Hulda Dorsch, Cheyenne County Chairman, said.

"This war may not be popular with some of you but remember that our military has been able to keep the terrorist away from us for the past six years and they will win."

The new location for packing will be in Hays at the Army Reserve building, where Melanie Elliott is doing a great job.

People who want to see just what is happening with her work can reach her at the following website www.operationsupport-our-soldiers.org and operationsos@gmail.com.

"Let's make this the best year ever by supporting our soldiers in this way," Mrs. Dorsch said.



FIRST LOAD OF COWS moved to their new home at the Bird City Dairy on Tuesday, Sept. 13. The dairy began milking on Thursday. The dairy is located east of Bird City on U.S. 36.

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Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Dairy begins milking last week

By Karen Krien
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It's up and running!!!

The cows began arriving last Tuesday and the milking started Thursday evening at the Bird City Dairy. Located two miles east of Bird City, the dairy will be producing about 8,000 to 9,000 gallons of milk a day.

The operation is one of two owned by Tom and Judy McCarty and their sons, Clay, Ken and Mike.

Mike will be managing the Bird City Dairy. They also own the Rexford Dairy.

The dairy brings around 20 jobs to the county and farmers will be selling the dairy about 6,000 tons of alfalfa each year. It also increases Bird City's population and helps the Cheylin Schools. However, the entire county is expected to benefit from the new dairy industry.

The dairy has close to 2,000 cows and, eventually, will have 3,200.

The huge barn is impressive. It is a 920-foot "free stall" building and will hold up to 2,000 cattle. There are also two holding pens to house the other cattle.

The operation will turn over about one-third of the herd each year because of health issues, milk production and reproduction, Mike McCarty said, but they have their own heifer replacement program.

"As we move forward, having our own replacement program gives more control and less risk for disease," he said, adding that knowing the genetics of the cattle can help improve the herd.

The milking parlor, equipped to milk 60 cows at a time, will run 24 hours a day. Two 6,400-gallon stainless steel tanks will hold milk. A special-needs building is north of the main buildings, where the McCarty will take care of their own veterinary work, a commodity barn to store corn and feed and a shop for equipment repairs and a scale.

The way the operation is set up, there should be little odor. Mr. McCarty said the liquid manure will be managed in a three-stage gravity separation system, starting with a sand separation area. From there, the waste water flows into a series of settling basins where the solids are retained. Finally, the liquid will flow into a 53-million-gallon lagoon storage area.

Mr. McCarty and his wife Amy have moved to Bird City. They have two boys, Logan, 2, and Colton, 4.

Mr. McCarty said he and his brothers are the fourth generation dairy farmers. They came to Rexford from Pennsylvania seven years ago. He said the country and milking business there are much the same as it is in Cheyenne County, except for the increasing urban development back east.

"Cheyenne County is a great area with good people," Mr. McCarty said. "We are excited to be here."

Turning lane proposal discussed at meeting

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday to discuss a proposal for a turning lane at the Bird City Dairy, east of Bird City. It may take some time but everyone appeared to be in favor of the lane.

Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II Foundation director, had originally made the appointment with the commissioners to have them sign a letter of concern for a turning lane on U.S. 36 by the new Bird City Dairy. She said the cows had arrived and they had started milking at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13.

Before the meeting, she had talked to Chris McDiffett, Kansas Department of Transportation district engineer, who had a possible solution for the problem. He realized there would be high traffic in that area and Mrs. Domsch pointed out that this is also a route that school buses travel. If it is foggy or the dust is blowing, causing a vision problem, there could be a serious accident. Mr. McDiffett said there would be an asphalt company coming to Rawlins County next year. If

the county crew could build up areas on either side of the highway where the turning lane would be located, it was possible that the work could be done much sooner. If not, it would probably be 2011 before it would be put on the state's plan.

Mrs. Domsch said what she needed was verbal support. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said he would talk to Mr. McDiffett and see what is needed. He noted that finding enough dirt to do the work could be a problem. Mr. Flemming said the highway also needs to be widened on the west as the way the highway lays, there is a sharp turn which is difficult for the trucks turning on to the highway.

They talked about erecting highway signs warning people of the truck traffic. Mr. Flemming will contact Bill Lee, supervisor for the Cheyenne County Highway Department. The commissioners also discussed having a flashing light across the highway. No decision was made but they are also wanting to prevent any accidents if possible.

Mr. Flemming will report back on the matter at the next commissioners' meeting.

Rawlins Co. Land Auction

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, 10 a.m.

480+/- Acres, Rawlins Co. Cropland & Grassland

Auction Location: American Legion Hall, Atwood, KS

Land Location: From Atwood, KS, 7 mi. N on US Hwy. 25,

then 5 mi. E, 2 mi. N, 1 1/2 mi. E to the SW corner of Tract 1.

Note: This land has been in the Wicke family since 1894.

Sellers: Archie Wicke, Rita Kay Koehn, Linda Elder, and Debra Johnson

TRACT 1: E 1/2 of 20-1-32 Rawlins Co.

TRACT 2: SW 1/4 of 21-1-32 Rawlins Co.

For a complete sale bill visit our web site at www.gladrealestate.com

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