

RAISES

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In other business

In other business:

• A student which was not in the St. Francis district was counted on the official school enrollment on Sept. 20. When it was discovered, the head count at the schools went from 320 to 319.

• The board accepted a \$1,000 gift from the Alumni Association which has been used to purchase new folding chairs and chair racks.

• Educational leave was granted to Jeff Olofson, Julie Wolters, Jennifer Krien, Robin Burr and Judy Raile.

• The board again discussed a surveillance system and access control for the schools. They will seek another bid and the matter will be brought up at a future meeting.

Executive session

The board went into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with no action taken when they resumed the regular meeting.

Tour

Following the adjournment of the meeting, Mr. Schiltz took the board on a tour of the new tech lab at the high school. Scott Carmichael, principal, then took the board to see the new mats on the weight room floor. The weight room has been moved to the lower floor of the wrestling room and the wrestlers will be using the old weight room. They also talked more about the new mat hoist system and where it will be placed.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be moved from Thursday, Nov. 8, to Tuesday, Nov. 13. Because of the time change the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in the library at the high school.



SENIOR PARENTS were recognized Friday night at the football game with Syracuse. Those pictured (l to r) are Jana Carpenter, Josh Carpenter, Sam Crabtree, Ted Crabtree,

Paula Crabtree, Jo Frewen, Keaton Frewen, Kelly Frewen, Kristi Guthmiller and David Guthmiller.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

DOCTOR

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gram. Working out of the Smoky Hill Family Practice residency in Salina, Dr. Allard worked mostly in rural areas.

While family practice is important to her, Dr. Allard's passion is for obstetrics.

"I want to take care of the baby before it is born, bring it into the world and then watch them grow," she said.

"I love the thrill and joy of delivery."

The doctor came to the hospital having delivered over 300 babies, taking an extra internship to work with expectant mothers.

She said the modern, well-equipped hospital is one of the main reasons she chose to come to Cheyenne County. The hospital has a birthing room and good equipment including an ultrasound machine. She was very impressed that the residents are so supportive of the hospital and, when the hospital's Swing Fore Life golf tournament was held a month ago, the money raised went toward the purchase of the baby warming crib.

Dr. Allard feels that giving birth to an infant should be an experience of

a lifetime for the mother and family. She plans to make each birth special to those involved.

"We have so much to offer at the hospital and I want these new parents to tell others," she said, adding that she is flexible and will work with the patient.

The hospital will soon have a delivery room and Ms. Neuhalfen, who is also very interested in obstetrics, will be assisting. There are also trained nurses and Kim Zwegardt, anesthesiologist, who is on standby if needed.

"My goal is to increase the population by drawing in younger families and adding to the great medical community we already have here at the hospital," Dr. Allard said.

Dr. Allard grew up on a farm. She and her husband Kent have a daughter, Sidney. She said she enjoys spending time with Sidney and Kent, reading a book and hopes, in the future, to take up an old hobby of shooting skeet.

The hospital will be holding an open house for people to come meet the new doctor and physician assistants. Watch for more information in *The Herald* and *Times*.

By Tony Rayl

Yuma Pioneer editor

IDALIA — Presenting a unifying force while helping to find an alternative to forced well shutdowns was the overriding theme in the meeting hosted by the Colorado Agriculture Preservation Association Monday, Oct. 1, in the Idalia School gymnasium. Approximately 200 people attended the inaugural community meeting by the nascent Association, organized by a group of irrigators over the past several weeks.

A pipeline to meet Colorado's obligations to the Republican River Compact was the alternative most prominently addressed. Joe Newton, chairman of the Association's seven-member steering committee, first addressed the crowd.

"Our heritage and our future are being challenged here," he said, referring to the state of Colorado's proposed shutdown of 186 wells in Yuma and Kit Carson counties.

Featured speakers were Charles T. DuMars and Nate Gentry of Law and Resource Planning Associates of Albuquerque, N.M. DuMars has extensive experience in water law, including interstate compacts. Mr. Gentry recently has been in Washington, D.C., working with the Senate Committee on Energy and Water Resources.

Mr. DuMars said settling for well shutdowns before exhausting all other potential alternatives is "an unacceptable solution." He told those in the crowd they have to demand proof that there is no other alternative that will work.

A pipeline done through private funding is an exciting idea, Mr. DuMars said, adding that a pipeline has worked with great success in New Mexico in meeting compact obligations with Texas. He said the state's proposed compact rules are full of ambiguity, and explanations of why other alternatives would not work are lacking.

"I am not saying there is a conspiracy," he said. "I am saying that if this was me, I would make sure everything is explored."

He added that his law firm files lawsuits as a last resort, instead focusing on all possible solutions first. Mr. DuMars suggested the first order of business is the local residents banding together, and getting some help from the right people, such as a hydrologist, and then making sure they have all the right questions for the state engineer.

One suggested question is if shutting down the 186 wells is going to get the state in compact compliance, and how long it will take. Those in attendance voiced concerns that the initial shutdown zone will not be enough, and the zone will continue to expand.

Gentry also said a pipeline is a good alternative. He encouraged private funding because using state and federal funding results in time-consuming regulations and engineering standards that might not be necessary.

However, he did encourage campaigning the federal government for better compensation for such

programs as Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Environmental Quality Program (EQIP). He said Colorado has strong representation on the right committees in Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave and Sen. Ken Salazar.

Mr. DuMars suggested looking at a combination of alternatives, such as building a pipeline, while also continuing to retire wells through Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Environmental Quality Program, purchasing surface water rights, draining Bonny Reservoir and eliminating evasive trees and vegetation along the river and its tributaries.

Several in attendance asked questions and made comments during the meeting. Ervin Frank raised concerns about a pipeline, saying he was hesitant of taking water from a closed basin and turning it into surface water.

Mr. Newton said he agreed with the concern, but noted that timing is critical. Mr. DuMars, noting the proposed compact rules are set to go into effect on Dec. 1, 2008, said a pipeline needs to be fairly far along in the process within the next eight months.

Mr. Gentry stressed the need for the local citizens to avoid in fighting and present a unifying voice.

Mr. DuMars said the state engineer is not the enemy. The state has to do something to meet compact compliance, but the door has been left open for an alternative such as a pipeline.

Mr. Gentry noted that a pipeline plan is going to need the Republican

River Water Conservation District to raise the money to pay back any potential private funding.

Dennis Coryell, president of the Republican River Water Conservation District Board of Directors, addressed the crowd, saying what Preservation Association is doing is great, and the River Conservation District looked forward to opening dialogue with the organization.

"I think you'll find we have a lot in common in regards to trying to find solutions other than curtailment," Mr. Coryell said. "... We look forward to seeking a solution."

A crowd member said he hoped the Association would be a positive to groups such as the Republican River Water Conservation District, rather than be a splinter group.

Mr. Newton said there has been a lot of talk about that among the steering committee, with the committee hoping to be a unifying voice, rather than derailing something good.

Pipeline funding would not come through the Association, but it will need money to provide its goal of representing the people in the basin.

Besides Mr. Newton, the other steering committee members are Tony Mangus, Bethleen McCall, Greg Terrell, Mark Weber, Alan Welp and Dennis Wieser.

Colorado Agriculture Preservation Association has a web site: www.coloradoagriculturepreservationassociation.com. A link to the site can be found on the Yuma Pioneer's home



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