

Commissioners to seek grant for improvements

By Karen Krien
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Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, attended the Cheyenne County Commissioners meeting with Amy Griffey, representative with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, Hill City, to discuss the possibility of applying for a Community Development Building grant for the hospital kitchen renovation.

Mr. Lacy said the hospital kitchen will not pass a Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspection, but, because the hospital showed it is in the process of renovation, the board was given time to complete the project.

Mr. Lacy estimated that the project would cost \$200,000. Mrs. Griffey recommended the county/hospital match with one-half of the cost to assure a better chance of gaining the grant.

The commissioners agreed that the administrator and Mrs. Griffey should move forward with the grant.

The administrator and commissioners then discussed the hospital's budget. They asked that any budget requests should be brought to them as soon as possible.

Prairie dog controlling

Prairie dog control was on the agenda. The deadline for taking care of the dogs with Rozal is March 15. At the previous meeting, Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog supervisor, had asked permission to attend the annual weed meeting in Garden City on March 3 through 5. However, with the county having so many prairie dogs needing to be taken care of and so little time to compete the job, the commissioners denied the request.

Airport Authority

Dave Yost, representing the Airport Authority, said PRT Consulting, the company which had been hired to oversee the

airport apron (area used for parking planes), had turned in a bill for \$12,771 because the project had taken more time. Four of the Airport Authority had responded and voted not to pay the additional price.

The reason the project had taken longer was that the company had not stopped the project when there was a problem and, later, some of the work needed repaired. Thus, the commissioners also agreed to not pay the bill.

Courthouse steps

The courthouse steps were discussed. The commissioners had agreed to rebid the project but Eric Johnson, contractor, could not be at the meeting until March. Mr. Johnson said that Fridays and Mondays were not good days to meet so, to accommodate the contractor, the meeting was moved tentatively to Tuesday, March 18. At that time, the bids will be opened.

Emergency medical service report

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had \$1,939 in ambulance write-offs.

She said she was hoping to get Mike Hanson into a training officer II class so he could begin training first responders. Mr. Hanson will be teaching

three-hour recertification classes each Wednesday night so the technicians will have opportunities to gain their recertification requirements.

Communication disputes

A great deal of time was spent with the St. Francis City Council as they discussed communication or the lack of communication in the law officials as well as the 911 dispatch. See related article for additional information.

In other business

In other business:

- A mower and snow blower bid of \$2,930 from Greenline, was approved.

- The commissioners agreed to allow the non-directional beacon be placed on the courthouse and monitored by the 911 dispatch.

- Kelly Frewen and Roxie Neitzel discussed the county's insurance plan. No decision was made.

- Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, had bids for tractors but the commissioners agreed to wait until the next meeting when Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, could give his input.

Executive session

Supervisor Flemming was granted 5 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 29, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



SOLID SOUND from the sax section. Mikaela Grace, Gavin Smull and Kim Voeller practice for the Regional Music Contest to be held in early April.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Access tops board's agenda

By Karen Krien

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Installing the access control at the grade school; revisions on the new gym plans and refinishing the gym floor were three projects discussed when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Monday, Feb. 11.

The access control has been discussed at several prior meetings. The board agreed that the safety of the students and staff was very important. Rob Schiltz, superintendent, had checked with several companies but, Access Control Systems out of Salina had been the only company which had really responded. Perry George, company representative, came to St. Francis and advised him on what he really thought was needed and had a reasonable price.

Mr. Schiltz had arranged to have the system installed in the grade school first. The first payment of \$8,750 had been paid and the other will be paid after it has been put in.

"We will see how it works in the grade school before coming up to the high school," he said.

New gym plans

There was a new drawing of the proposed gym at the junior-senior high school. The committee of Mr. Schiltz, Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Kelly Gienger agreed on some minor changes including making the concession area, officials area and commons lobby larger, as well as adding an additional 10-foot to the east side of the gym.

The plans will be drawn up by the architect and will soon be on display for people to see.

Gym floor

The gym floor at the high school needs to be sanded and refinished. When it is sanded, it will need to be repainted. Mr. Schiltz had talked to a design company about painting the lines on the floor. The company would also paint

the words "Indians" on both side as well as painting an Indian head in the middle. No decision was made.

Next year's school calendar

Next year's school calendar was approved by the board. Mr. Schiltz said the Meet-and-Confer Committee had met and a few corrections had been made. The school year will consist of 1,145 hours with nine snow days built in.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, Aug. 20, and the year will end on Thursday, May 21. Spring break will be March 18 through 20.

Industrial arts teacher

The board and administration have begun looking for a industrial arts teacher for next year. Superintendent Schiltz said Fort Hays State University would graduate six students; Wayne State University, six students, and University of Nebraska, nine or 10 students.

Mr. Schiltz showed a brochure which he had sent to students and one had applied. However, Mr. Schiltz said the student had indicated that this was not the area he wanted to be in.

"There is a shortage of industrial arts teachers," he said.

In other business

In other business:
• The school bought 20 refurbished computers for \$280

each.

- The board agreed to join the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center for another 5 years. The center provides a number of services including special education services.

- The board renewed the school's contract in the Kansas Joint Utilities Management Program. The program is a natural gas purchasing cooperative sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Boards.

- The school will raise the mileage rate to the new Internal Revenue Service-approved rate from \$.48.5 to \$.50.5 per mile.

Next meeting

The next board meeting has been set for 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, in the high school library.

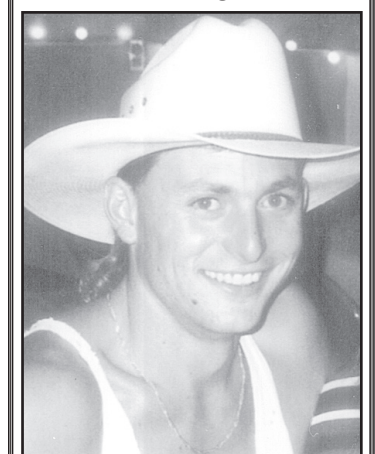


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Marian Miller
March 7th
Please join with her children Steve Miller & Janelle Walter in celebrating their mother's birthday!
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P.S. She loves Roses!

Remembering Bobby—



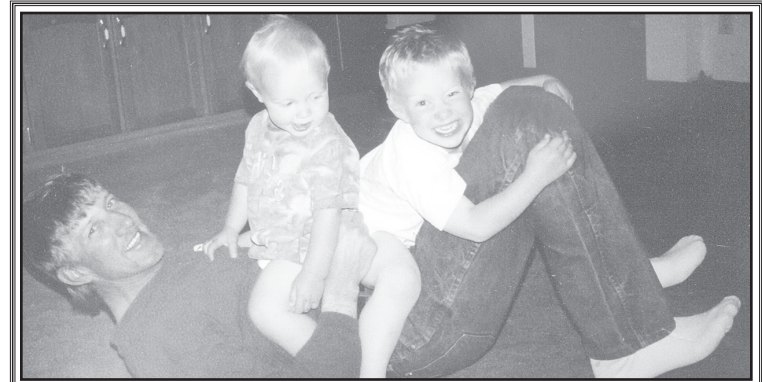
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4:30 - 6 p.m.
Intermediate Computer Class
(For those with some computer experience)
6:30 - 8 p.m.
All Classes on Thursdays
March 13 - May 1 - cost \$35
Class sign-up 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28
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