

MOVING

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mer technicians who still had radios. Mrs. Bowers said that the only former technician is also a fireman so he still needs the radio.

Mrs. Bowers told about a community service they do for the football and volleyball teams in both St. Francis and Cheylin schools. They give a "concussion" test which, if a player is injured in a game, it will give the emergency medical technician and the coaches an idea of the answers they had before playing.

Mrs. Bowers was given permission to attend a meeting in Hays.

Plans for appraiser's office

The commissioners held a phone conference with Melanie Rowilson, who is with the Kansas Department of Revenue. Recently, Randy Sangster, who had been the appraiser for Cheyenne County resigned. That left the county without a qualified appraiser.

She said she had been assigned to the county and said Shirley Soellner, appraiser at Goodland, and Kathryn Kennedy, appraiser at Oakley, would probably be filling in part time.

There will also be some evaluations of the work done in the office but she said that they were not aware of compliance issues. They will maintain the same practices Mr. Sangster had.

The board maintains they would like to have one full-time person in that office. After discussion, they may consider two full-time employees while they looked for a new appraiser.

Mr. Beikman asked that he be informed of all applicants for review.

Noxious weed department

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog department, said his four wheeler used in his work has 4,600 miles and is starting to need work. He had looked at several four wheelers in Burlington which would trade in his equipment. His sprayers and attachments would still work. He said he preferred Articat four wheelers because of the ground clearance.

The commissioners suggested that he get other bids including one from Goodland Greenline in Wheeler, as the dealership also carried Articats.

Ray Lee, commissioner, had received a complaint from Dale Faylor, north of St. Francis, about prairie dogs out of control on neighboring land belonging to Gary Zuege. Mr. Schlittenhardt said he would talk with Mr. Zuege one more time before sending an enforcement letter. The chemical Rozal, cannot be used

until Oct. 1 and, with the grass still as green as it is, he questioned if the dogs would take the grain even then.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked if he had checked on the bind weed at the Gary Winter farm. He said he had, noting that there is still some there. He said the patch wasn't sprayed very well in that particular spot.

Road and bridge department

Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, said the crew had spent a lot of time digging out bridges which had been washed full of thistles and dirt in a recent rain. They did get a culvert fixed on land belonging to Marie Holzwarth, west of St. Francis.

He was concerned about the department's budget, noting that the rising fuel costs had been instrumental in using much of the budget. The commissioners talked about ways to solve the budget problem.

Mr. Flemming had a permit to allow Prairie Land Electric to place poles in the county's right-of-way. There was also a permit to allow Joe Kelcevik to place a water line in the bottom of a county ditch. Both permits were signed by the commissioners.

They talked about the new entry-way into Brett Poling's land. The county crew gets gravel from the land but the present road into the land also leads onto other private property. He had permission from Chris Bracelin to cross his land. However, he was wondering about what kind of help he could expect from the county crew.

The commissioners decided they would grade the road but they could not put in the fence.

Budget hearing

The resolution to raise county taxes had been printed in the county newspapers. A budget hearing to approve the resolution was held at 9 a.m. There were no people there to protest so the hearing was closed and the 2009 budget was signed.

In other business

In other business:
• Danielle Gardner, secretary for the county attorney, was given 40 hours out of the employee sick leave bank to use during her maternity leave.

• Terry Miller, clerk, will attend a Property Valuation Division Abstract school in Hays.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 15, in the courthouse in St. Francis.

STAFF

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came from Kansas City to fill a registered nurse position. Tim Koger, radiology technician, has been hired to fill a position in the radiology department.

Mr. Lacy said there have been more patients staying in the hospital in August. The outpatient volume has also improved over past months. He noted that on Aug. 27, there had been 11 patients in the hospital as well as nine surgeries. It was an extremely busy time, he said.

Golf tournament

The hospital-sponsored "Swing Fore Your Health" golf tournament will be held Sunday. Mr. Lacy said Heidi Tice, Shawna Blanka and Mila Bandel have been the organizers of the tournament this year but also noted that there are others who have helped.

He encouraged the board to come out to the tournament. The money earned from the tournament will go toward needed major kitchen appliances. After more than 50 years, the hospital's kitchen needs to be remodeled and updated to improve work flow and ease of sanitation.

Board member, Traci Neitzel

and Jane Young, said they would be glad to help but they didn't play golf. Other members indicated they would also be there.

Report on conference

Recently, Mr. Lacy, along with board members, Joy Anderegg and Jerry Toler, attended the 2008 Perspective in Rural Healthcare Board and Executive Educational Conference in Greeley, Colo. Mr. Toler noted that in the next couple of years, there will be challenges to keep up with Medicare. In the last 11 years, Medicare has increased its pay 23 percent but costs have risen 48 percent. He added that less than 1 percent is paid to critical access hospitals, which is what the county hospital is classified.

In other business

In other business:
• The shore power receptacle for the MRI truck had been installed.

• Kathy Hertel, director of materials management, reported on the department. (See related article.)

Next meeting

The next meeting has been set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, in the clinic basement, St. Francis. Tenille Lee, director of nurses, will talk about purchasing/leasing EKG monitors for the hospital.

PLANT

Continued from Page 1

and infecting it. The wheat will then harbor the mites all the way through to harvest. That can cut yields by as much as half, said Olson.

This is a really good time to be spraying, he said, because planting isn't too far away, with a good time around Sept. 20, just before the fall crops are harvested.

Some of the fall crops in the area look good and others were lost, he said. The crops that were alive when the rain finally came look OK, but other fields were lost during the dry spell at the end of July and beginning of August.

Lately, he said, there's been great weather for the corn and soybeans. It's rained off and on and the tem-

peratures have been down.

The cool weather, he said, has put the milo crop 2 1/2 to three weeks behind in development. Olson said he thought the milo in his test plot in Colby would flower at the beginning of August, but it's just doing it now.

There's a chance, with the late development, the milo could freeze before the grain fills out all the way. If that happens, it could mean light test weights, he said.

Some of the milo in the area that has a shorter maturity or was planted earlier, said Olson, could be fine, but they will have to wait and see.

For the corn, soybeans and sunflowers, though, he said, the weather's been great.

PLANS

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project is a 25,848 square-foot structure that will attach to the south end of the current high school gymnasium. The overall footprint of the structure will extend to the south, where it will end at approximately the second evergreen tree from the north end of the practice field; it will fall just short of the fence on the east side of the practice field (people are encouraged to drive by and put things in perspective).

A large rest room and commons area will form the attachment to the existing gym and the new gym will

attach to the east end of the commons area. The main entrance to the new complex will face the west and people will enter the commons area and proceed to either gym from there.

The new gym floor will have a collegiate-sized court for the game court and will be large enough for two practice courts running in the opposite direction when the bleachers are not in use. Three wrestling mats could be placed on the floor at the same time for a tournament if needed.

Seating for the new gym will be

approximately 1,200 people; the existing gym is approximately 800 people.

Surrounding the exterior wall of the new gymnasium will be an 8 foot-wide indoor walking track for use by the general public. The plan is to have an access control system in place on the doors to the building so cards can be issued to patrons that wish to walk in the building.

The new gymnasium will also provide a concessions area for all events, including football and track; and the commons area will provide a place for people to sit, eat and vis-

it. Again, ample rest room facilities will be available.

Three small storage rooms, a mechanical room and a referee's dressing room make up the remainder of the new project's features.

There will be presentation drawings prepared of the building that will show the public what the exterior appearance will be. The drawings will not be ready until late September and will be displayed publicly at that time.

More information and details of the project will follow in additions of *The Saint Francis Herald*.



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