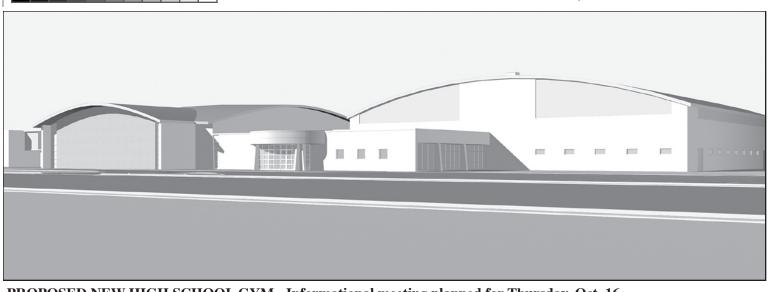
۲



PROPOSED NEW HIGH SCHOOL GYM - Informational meeting planned for Thursday, Oct. 16.

School bond issue placed on ballot

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com ballot, will be a question about to the side. adopting general obligation Francis high school.

The school board is asking that the taxpayers vote to raise \$2,500,000 for the new gym. The 25,848 square-foot facility will include a collegiate-size gym floor which is 10-feet was recently asked why the grade school gym, which is now being used for B- and C-team the gym? basketball and volleyball, is

11-feet short of regulation size. question is: "By law, schools There will be two practice courts can only raise money through The general election is less running across the main court property taxes." than a month away. On the when the bleachers are pushed

There will be a walking bonds to be used to build a track which the public can use. gym on the south side of the St. The commons room/lobby, concessions and rest rooms can easily be accessed by people in both gyms. The commons area will also be available for public use.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, longer that the existing gym. The school board didn't raise the sales tax and use that to pay for

People still worry about their taxes rocketing. However, if broken down to what it would cost per day, the following will give the taxpayer an idea of how much more they will pay:

• A house valued at \$75,000 will cost 15 cents per day.

• A commercial property valued at \$75,000 will cost 32 cents per day. • Dry crop land with a use

value of \$90 per acre will cost 17 cents per acre annually.

• Irrigated land with a use Mr. Schiltz's answer to that value of \$150 per acre will cost

28 cents per acre annually. · Grassland with a use value

of \$16 per acre will cost 3 cents

per acre annually.

Public information meeting A public information meeting has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, in the auditorium at the St. Francis Community High School. Everyone is welcome to attend. Letter to the Editor

A detailed Letter to the Editor, written by Tom Keller, St. Francis, is published on Page 4 of this issue. It contains additional facts.

commissioners, detailing the Emergency Operations Center, St. Francis Emergency Building. The commissioners agreed to pay 70-percent of the utilities as the county's share for housing the county fire trucks and ambulances.

• The commissioners signed a contract between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the county health department. The contract allows the health department to receive a \$9,165 grant.

 The commissioners signed an agreement with Allied Information Solutions which assigns the company to maintain, manage and update the Enhanced 911 system.

· Craig Van Allen, sheriff, and Cody Beeson, undersheriff, were given approval to attend an Asset Forfeiture class; Carol Gamblin and Jennifer Padgett, 911 dispatchers, were given approval to attend the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials fall conference; John Garner, landfill supervisor, was given approval to have the cement at the landfill crushed.

• The bushes on the sidewalk corners of the courthouse were discussed. If there is no public objection during the next two weeks, the bushes will be removed.

Next meeting

Commissioners discuss county road

By Karen Krien karen.k@nwkansas.com

A man wanting to know the county rules concerning roads and whether or not they should be closed or opened met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Tuesday, Sept. 31.

Craig Schoenrogge, St. Francis, had a letter for the commissioners which he read. He wanted to know just what rules the county followed in regards to county roads. I want could see it possibly being to his a copy of those rules, he said, so I and others advantage. can try to follow them.

Statutes to the road situation in there were several roads in the the county and have had no luck," he said.

meeting discussing the opening Schoenrogge was referring to.

۲

and closing of county roads 15 it had not been maintained. If the county chose to not maintain it, then he thought the road should be closed.

steadily increasing in the county and he could see public and private lands becoming an economic issue. With these roads open, he

He went on to say that Dave "I have tried applying Kansas Flemming, county engineer, said county, especially in the northern part of the county, that were Mr. Schoenrogge was at a prior similar status to those that Mr.

Screening planned on Tuesday, Oct. 23

It's screening time children will be held Tuesday. Oct the screening personnel 28, starting at 9 a.m. at the First school system with assistance Kansas Educational Service Center. This annual developmental screening is recommended for all young children who have not yet entered kindergarten. Its purpose is to help parents be informed of their child's developmental levels and needs.

further evaluation, assistance and A free screening for young arrangements can be made through Parents encouraged are Christian Church. The screening to accompany their children is sponsored by the St. Francis through the screening process so that parents and staff can share from the staff at the Northwest observations and discuss the results of the screening. A parent needs to allow 90 minutes for each child's screening. If, as a parent you cannot attend, said Robin Burr, resource teacher, you are welcome to make arrangements for your child to go through this worthwhile screening. Contact Mrs. Burr, 332-8149, for any special arrangements or assistance. Please call Teri Richard, speech and language. If the 332-8143, at the grade school to

"If a public road exists in this Cheyenne County," he said. and 16 between M. He said the county, then the public should be roads had never been closed but able to access these roads without worrying about causing conflict, paying damages or disrupting another's use," he said.

He said that Rodney Bracelin He said gas and oil activity is farms land joining his land and the commissioners had suggested at the Sept. 15 meeting that he talk to Mr. Bracelin about removing obstructions (what are the obstructions).

> He said at that meeting either the same day or a day later, Mr. Bracelin said he was not interested in having the road opened and didn't care if Craig Schoenrogge did. Consequently, Mr. Schoenrogge said he didn't care what Mr. Bracelin said or thought.

He (Mr. Bracelin) is, Mr. Schoenrogge said, farming taxpayer's land (the road) and so, of course, he is not going to want the road opened.

"While I can certainly appreciate the taxpayer's land free of charge,

"For example, if I owned land on both sides of County Road 15, I doubt that the county would want me to build a grain bin in the middle of the road. I further suspect that this would be against the law one might even suggest Kansas statute 68-545." (This statute refers to unlawful obstructions, excavations, removal of materials. dumping trash or plowing roads.) Mr. Schoenrogge pointed out

that he had tried to correlate the total miles of county roads with the figure the state uses to compute the highway fund.

"I have not been successful," he said, asserting that the County may or may not be receiving their fair share of State tax dollars.

Mr. Schoenrogge stated that according to the County Engineer it appears that the City of St. Francis has a well located in the County Right of Way for Road M.

At that point, Ernie Ketzner, the economic pleasure that Mr. commissioner, had to leave the Bracelin derives from farming meeting for an appointment. Since Andy Beikman was unable I would suggest that this might to be at the meeting, that left only not be the best way to determine Ray Lee, commissioner, and not public benefit, otherwise it may enough for a quorum. The matter become quite difficult to travel in was tabled until another meeting. **Be Involved!** Plan now to attend an informational forum

Saint Francis Herald 3 Thursday, October 9, 2008

megahertz system. The system will

let county officials talk to anyone

they will be getting Geographical

Information System equipment and

training. He said, in the future, the

system will be mandatory and will

help the 911 dispatchers, city and

county officials. He has two people

in mind who would like to take the

In other business

• The commissions accepted the

A permit for Noble Energy to

· Rob Schiltz, St. Francis

Wage agreements were signed

• Mike Day, St. Francis city

schools superintendent, presented

the specifics on the proposed gym

for Karen Flemming and Amy Hilt.

They are employed in the county

attorney, had sent a letter to the

resignation from Neil Zweygardt.

seismograph was approved.

training on Oct. 6.

expansion bond.

appraiser's office.

In other business:

Also with the grant money,

Commissioners have several items needing attention

in the state.

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com The ambulance director, at the Chevenne County Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 30, said there would be no bill coming for the shelving they needed at the new St. Francis Emergency Building.

The shelving had been ordered from Lampe Hardware for \$2,200. Jannelle Bowers, director, said an anonymous donor had paid the bill in full.

Mrs. Bowers said she had read in the newspaper that there was concern among the fair board about the emergency medical technicians getting paid \$20 to sit at the fairgrounds during the fair. Mrs. Bowers said technicians only get \$15 and this is not billed to the fair board.

Mrs. Bowers said the first responder class is going well. She said she is looking into getting the skills testing done in St. Francis rather than Wichita.

The ambulance bids had come in at the last meeting but the director and others involved were not ready to make a decision at the Tuesday meeting. The commissioners will go over the bids at the next meeting.

Emergency manager's report Rogers, Gary emergency

management director, had the new updated Cheyenne County Emergency Operation Plan. He said he thought it was a good plan and the state had approved it as had the local responders. The plan will be located in the county clerk's office, the public libraries and city clerk's offices in both St. Francis and Bird City, and in the emergency operation center at the new St. Francis Emergency Building. Anyone wanting to read it or look it over is welcome to stop at any of those places. The commissioners also signed the plan.

He told the commissioners about a small portable base radio which can be used as a backup if something were to happen to the 911 dispatch center at the courthouse. He said there is one in Goodland and it reaches Cheyenne County. He had two bids for the portable radio but one, costing \$40 more, had the capabilities of 64 channels, and the cheaper had 32 channels. He said that by the time they programmed in the county as well as Rawlins Their size is becoming a hazard. County and Goodland, they would

The screening process assesses hearing, vision, fine and gross motor skills, concepts, plus screening indicates a need for schedule an appointment.



on USD 297 Gym Proposal

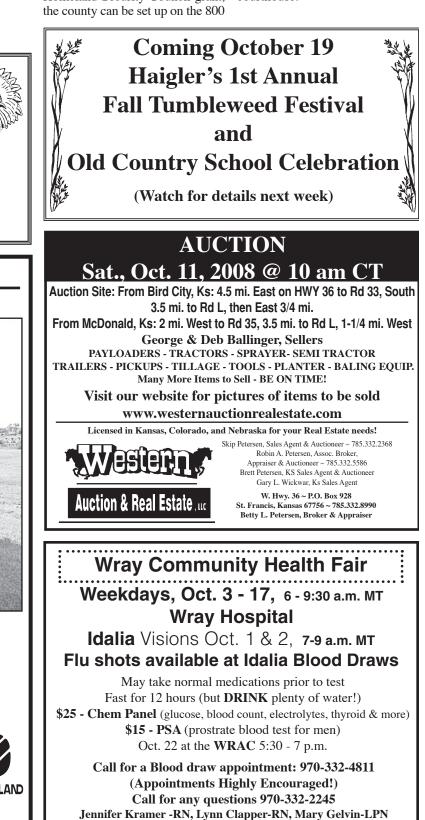
October 16, 7:30 p.m.

at the high school auditorium

be using a lot of the channels. The total cost is \$2006 and it will be meeting will be held at 8 a.m. paid out of 911 funds.

He said that, with a \$18,000 commissioners' Homeland Security Council grant, courthouse.

The next commissioners on Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the room in the



The Cheyenne County Courthouse will be **CLOSED** Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day. United James E. Reeves, DPM Podiatrist/Foot Specialist Methodist Reconstructive Surgery Women's Foot & Ankle Injuries For appointments call: Annual **Rawlins County Health Center** Soup 785-626-3211 Wed., Oct. 22 Supper **Cheyenne County**

Hospital - P.M. 210 W. 1st • 332-2104

Thurs., Oct. 23 Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211 Colby (p.m.) CSMC, 175 S. Range 462-3332 CMC, 100 E. College Dr. 462-7511 Fri., Oct. 24 Atwood - All Day

Friday, Oct. 10 • 5-7 p.m.

512 S. Scott St. Francis United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Serving: Chili or Chicken Noodle Soup, Sandwich, Pie, Coffee, Tea or Water Free Will Offering



The best bale core formation of any baler made

YOST

()

785-332-3351 ~ E. Hwy. 36 ~ St. Francis, KS