



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

# Commissioners have several items needing attention

By Karen Krien

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The ambulance director, at the Cheyenne 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. Janelle 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

Gary Rogers, 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 County and Goodland, they would be using a lot of the channels. The total cost is \$2006 and it will be paid out of 911 funds.

He said that, with a \$18,000 Homeland Security Council grant, the county can be set up on the 800

megahertz system. The system will let county officials talk to anyone in the state.

Also with the grant money, 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 training on Oct. 6.

### In other business

In other business:

- The commissions accepted the resignation from Neil Zweygardt.

- A permit for Noble Energy to seismograph was approved.

- Rob Schiltz, St. Francis schools superintendent, presented the specifics on the proposed gym expansion bond.

- Wage agreements were signed for Karen Flemming and Amy Hilt. They are employed in the county appraiser's office.

- Mike Day, St. Francis city attorney, had sent a letter to the 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. Their size is becoming a hazard.

### Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

# School bond issue placed on ballot

By Karen Krien

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The general election is less than a month away. On the ballot, will be a question about adopting general obligation bonds to be used to build a gym on the south side of the St. 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 longer than the existing gym. The grade school gym, which is now being used for B- and C-team basketball and volleyball, is

11-feet short of regulation size. There will be two practice courts running across the main court when the bleachers are pushed to the side.

There will be a walking track which the public can use. 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, was recently asked why the school board didn't raise the sales tax and use that to pay for the gym?

Mr. Schiltz's answer to that

question is: "By law, schools can only raise money through property taxes."

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 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 discuss county road

By Karen Krien

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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 a copy of those rules, he said, so I can try to follow them.

"I have tried applying Kansas Statutes to the road situation in the county and have had no luck," he said.

Mr. Schoenrogge was at a prior meeting discussing the opening

and closing of county roads 15 and 16 between M. He said the roads had never been closed but it had not been maintained. If the county chose to not maintain it, then he thought the road should be closed.

He said gas and oil activity is steadily increasing in the county and he could see public and private lands becoming an economic issue. With these roads open, he could see it possibly being to his and others advantage.

He went on to say that Dave Flemming, county engineer, said there were several roads in the county, especially in the northern part of the county, that were similar status to those that Mr. Schoenrogge was referring to.

"If a public road exists in this county, then the public should be able to access these roads without worrying about causing conflict, paying damages or disrupting another's use," he said.

He said that Rodney Bracelin 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 economic pleasure that Mr. Bracelin derives from farming the taxpayer's land free of charge, I would suggest that this might not be the best way to determine public benefit, otherwise it may become quite difficult to travel in

Cheyenne County," he said.

"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, commissioner, had to leave the meeting for an appointment. Since Andy Beikman was unable to be at the meeting, that left only Ray Lee, commissioner, and not enough for a quorum. The matter was tabled until another meeting.

# Screening planned on Tuesday, Oct. 23

### It's screening time

A free screening for young children will be held Tuesday, Oct. 28, starting at 9 a.m. at the First Christian Church. The screening is sponsored by the St. Francis school system with assistance from the staff at the Northwest 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.

The screening process assesses hearing, vision, fine and gross motor skills, concepts, plus speech and language. If the screening indicates a need for

further evaluation, assistance and arrangements can be made through the screening personnel.

Parents are encouraged to accompany their children through the screening process so that parents and staff can share 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, 332-8143, at the grade school to schedule an appointment.

**The Cheyenne County Courthouse will be CLOSED Monday, October 13**  
in observance of Columbus Day.

**James E. Reeves, DPM**  
Podiatrist/Foot Specialist  
Reconstructive Surgery  
Foot & Ankle Injuries  
For appointments call:  
Rawlins County  
Health Center  
785-626-3211  
Wed., Oct. 22  
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

**United Methodist Women's Annual Soup Supper**  
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

**Be Involved!**  
Plan now to attend an informational forum on USD 297 Gym Proposal October 16, 7:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium

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**Coming October 19 Haigler's 1st Annual Fall Tumbleweed Festival and Old Country School Celebration**  
(Watch for details next week)

**AUCTION Sat., Oct. 11, 2008 @ 10 am CT**  
Auction Site: From Bird City, Ks: 4.5 mi. East on HWY 36 to Rd 33, South 3.5 mi. to Rd L, then East 3/4 mi. From McDonald, Ks: 2 mi. West to Rd 35, 3.5 mi. to Rd L, 1-1/4 mi. West  
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Brett Petersen, KS Sales Agent & Auctioneer  
Gary L. Wickwar, Ks Sales Agent  
W. Hwy. 36 - P.O. Box 928  
St. Francis, Kansas 67756 ~ 785.332.8990  
Betty L. Petersen, Broker & Appraiser

**Wray Community Health Fair**  
Weekdays, Oct. 3 - 17, 6 - 9:30 a.m. MT  
Wray Hospital  
Idalia Visions Oct. 1 & 2, 7-9 a.m. MT  
Flu shots available at Idalia Blood Draws  
May take normal medications prior to test  
Fast for 12 hours (but DRINK plenty of water!)  
\$25 - Chem Panel (glucose, blood count, electrolytes, thyroid & more)  
\$15 - PSA (prostate blood test for men)  
Oct. 22 at the WRAC 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
Call for a Blood draw appointment: 970-332-4811 (Appointments Highly Encouraged!)  
Call for any questions 970-332-2245  
Jennifer Kramer -RN, Lynn Clapper-RN, Mary Gelvin-LPN