

# City and county agree on contract for utilities

**By Peggy Horinek**  
 phorinek@nwkansan.com  
 At the Dec. 2 meeting of the St. Francis City Council, one of the matters they agreed on was a contract between the city and the county concerning the utilities in the new Emergency Building. After coming out of executive session, a new contract was approved. The mutual cooperation agreement will be for a term of 1 year and may be renewed and/or revised for succeeding years. The council believes that 75 percent of the building will be utilized by departments providing a county funded service with the remaining space to be utilized by the St. Francis volunteer fire department. The county will pay \$750 a month, and the city, \$250.

\$1,000, will be deposited in a separate account and used by the city clerk to pay the electric and gas bills and insurance premiums. The council agreed that, at this time, to provide electricity to the building at city cost and not to charge for water, sewer or trash service. Money in excess of the bills, will be utilized by the clerk for future maintenance, repair and capital improvements. With the proceeds from the grant and the contributions of community volunteer labor, the multi purpose St. Francis Emergency building houses the administrative offices and equipment for the county emergency preparedness and the county and city volunteer fire department.

**Police report**  
 Two new police officers were introduced to the council. Antonio Rodriguez formerly worked for the Parks County Sheriff's office. He was also a school teacher for six years. He said he was happy

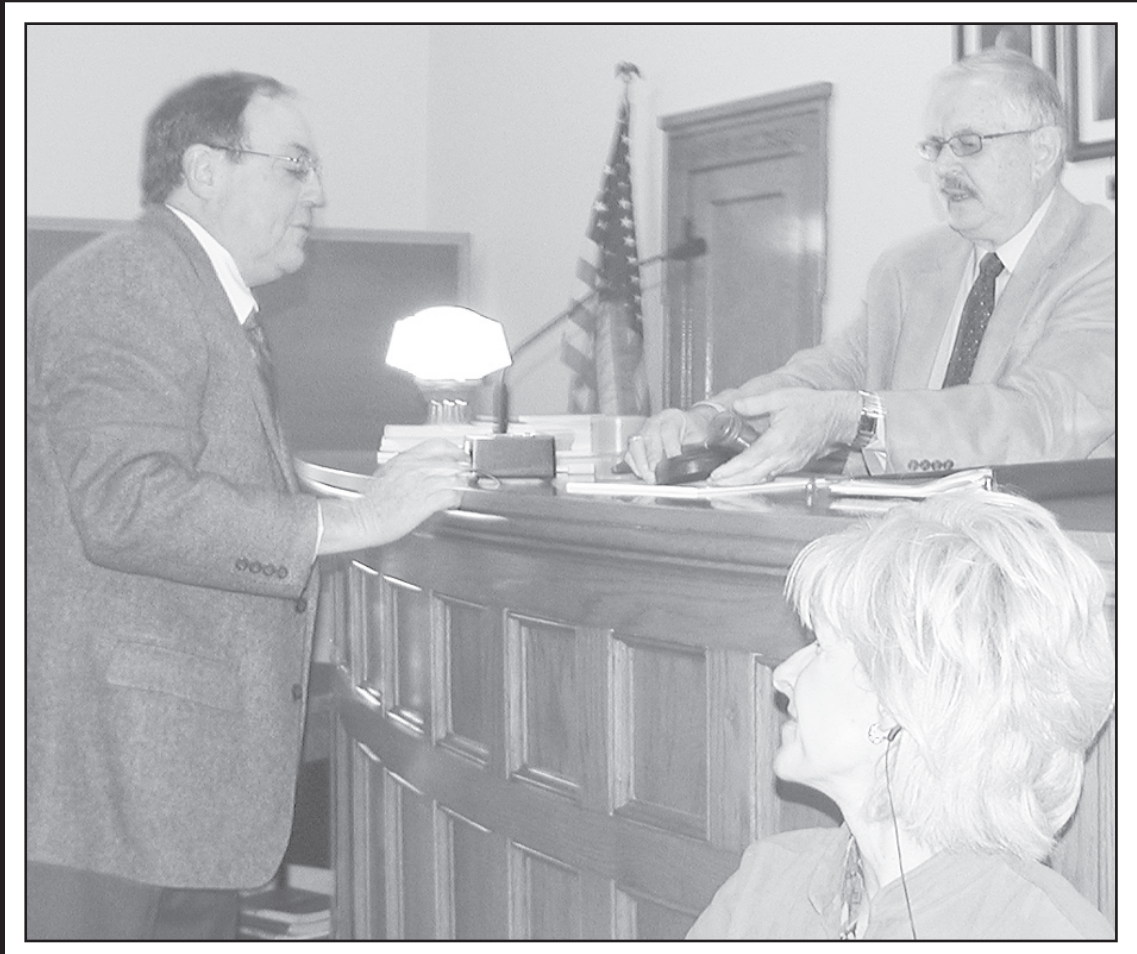
to be in St. Francis. Jamie Patton was a former case worker and has taken on various jobs in the Police Department. The new police uniforms have been ordered. The high school kids are working on designing a new patch for the officers.

**Building Permits**  
 Two building permits were approved by the council. Fleda Raile to build a fence, and Lyle Knebel for constructing a metal garage.

**Land Lease**  
 Noble Energy has requested a lease on 25.7 acres of land that encompasses the sewer pond and 15 acres around the old city dump for a total of 40.7 acres. This was approved by the council for a primary term of 5 years at \$35 an acre.

**Tax Abatement Policy**  
 The council has approved a new Tax Abatement Policy. The first step is to have a policy and procedure in effect before applying. A cost analysis needs to be done and this study is done free of charge by the Department of Commerce. The purpose of this is to establish policy and procedures for the city of St. Francis for the granting of property tax exemptions and tax incentives for real and personal property use for economic development purposes. It will help in economic growth and development of new jobs within the community and long term objectives of the city.

In other business  
 • A letter was sent to the commissioners regarding reimbursement for the training expense of Kent Allard after he left city employment for county employment.  
 • The city clerk reported that the tax money taken in on alcohol sales helps in two ways. One half of the money goes to help with alcohol programs and the other half goes to the parks program.  
 • Natalie Knodel, city council member, informed the council that the Theater Board feels that they may have local funding to help in the upgrading of the theater. The upgrade is needed for the new digital movies which will have to be changed over to in the near future.  
 • Roger Jensen told the council that the new E Waste system is up and running in Colby.



**DISTRICT JUDGE JACK BURR, after 30 years, held court in Cheyenne County for the last time on Tuesday. He was presented a gavel by Mike Day, attorney. Paula Keller, court reporter looked on. Also present was Jim Milliken, attorney.**  
 Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# Notill program at Hill City Dec. 19

The Kansas Black Farmers Association (KBFA) along with the Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area are hosting a Notill Informational Session Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. in Hill City. The event should last about two hours and will be held at the Frontier Stage Theater at 305 East Main. There is no charge for the event and the public is welcome to attend. Dr. Maysoon Mikha and Dr. Merle Vigil, both research soil

scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Akron, Colo., will present information regarding soil organic matter and residue and tillage management. Conservation Innovation Grant and Teff Project Coordinator, Josh Coltrain will share information on the growth and harvest of teff in the area this year. For more information contact the Resource Conservation and Development office at 785-425-6647.

## Student News

**Sterling College**  
 On Dec. 15, while fellow classmates are setting out for family Christmas celebrations, Addie Swihart of St. Francis will travel to the Middle East on a medical missions trip. Swihart is a sophomore at Sterling College and is the son of Bruce and Shirley Swihart. Upon their arrival, team members will train for two days, receiving instruction in adapting to the Islamic culture of the Middle East and learning how to perform medical procedures, such as measuring blood pressures and body temperatures, administering medicines, and even giving tuberculosis injections. The team will then visit six landfill slum villages (make-

shift homes built on local trash heaps) and set up mobile medical missions, providing free diagnosis and treatment to the poorest residents in this major Middle Eastern metropolis. This will be the first of seven missions trips Sterling College

has planned for the 2008-2009 academic year. It is also the second trip carried out in conjunction with Global Infusion, an international, foreign-missions organization based in Louisville, Tenn.

**Christmas on Us drawing Monday, 5:30 p.m.**

**Haigler Country Cafe**  
 Haigler, Neb.  
 will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and reopen on Friday, Dec. 26.  
 Will close at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will be open for breakfast 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on New Year's Day.

**Christmas Open House**  
 Tuesday, December 23  
 3 to 5 p.m.  
 Stop by for some cookies and coffee.  
**Milliken Law Office**  
 101 W. Washington, St. Francis

**It Still has Value!**  
 RECYCLE E-WASTE

**What is E-Waste?**  
 E-Waste is produced when electronic products from our Kansas homes, schools, government offices, and businesses become obsolete or no longer functional and need to be discarded.

**Why should you recycle E-Waste?**  
 • It helps to preserve our natural resources  
 • It keeps toxins out of landfills, including toxins like mercury and lead  
 • Recycling E-Waste is the socially responsible thing to do!  
 • It frees up space in your office and home

**Where can I recycle E-Waste?**  
 FREE FOR HOUSEHOLDS, SCHOOLS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES:  
 1190 South Country Club Drive, Colby, KS  
 Call: 785-460-1840 for more information

**ABC PRESCHOOL**  
**CHILI FEED & BAKE SALE**  
 Monday, Dec. 15  
 During the Christmas On Us Drawing  
 Beginning at 5 p.m.  
 in front of Jaqua Abstract

Chili & Crackers \$2.00  
 Hot Apple Cider \$1.00

Also available will be a variety of baked goods for you to purchase your last minute Christmas Goodies!

**Full Body Massage (40 minutes) \$25**  
 good December - January

**Coupon special**  
 4 full body massages \$100  
 good through January

**Raedell's Massage**  
 785-332-3105  
 709 S. Benton, St. Francis

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
 Buildings & Lots in Bird City, Kansas  
**Wed., December 17, 2008 - 11:00 a.m.**  
 Sale Location: At the property - 309 N. Bird Avenue, Bird City, Kansas  
**Sellers: Peoples State Bank**

**Pratt Real Estate**  
 In Charge of Real Estate Sale  
**Les Pratt - Broker - Auctioneer**  
 724 Main • Box 583 • Hoxie, KS 67740  
 Phone: 785-675-3011 • Cell: 785-675-8531  
 E-mail: lpratt@ruralnet.net • FAX: 785-675-3220  
 Web Site: www.midwestauction.com

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

**James E. Reeves, DPM**  
 Podiatrist/Foot Specialist  
 Reconstructive Surgery  
 Foot & Ankle Injuries  
 For appointments call:  
**Rawlins County Health Center**  
 785-626-3211  
**Wed., Jan. 7**  
 Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.  
 210 W. 1st • 332-2104  
**Thurs., Jan. 8**  
 Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211  
 Colby (p.m.)  
 CSMC, 175 S. Range  
 462-3332  
 CMC, 100 E. College Dr.  
 462-7511  
**Fri., Jan. 9**  
 Atwood - All Day

**YEAR-END BLOWOUT!**  
 Now thru end of December.

2007 Fusion SE, FWD, 2.3L, AT, #12877	\$14,250
2007 Fusion SE, 2.3L, AT, 16K, #51556	\$14,450
2005 Taurus SE, FWD, 3.0L, AT, #53870A	\$7,000
2004 Explorer XLT, 4.0L, 4x4, AT, #T0109A	\$9,000
2000 F250 S/C XLT, 7.3L, 4x4, AT, #T3568A	\$10,000
2004 F250 R/C XLT, 6.0L, 4x4, AT, #T1756A	\$16,000
2007 Expedition EL XLT, 4x4, AT, only 7K, #T2855	\$23,750
2005 Expedition Limited, 4x4, AT, 54K, #T3802A	\$16,500

**YOST FORD MERCURY**  
 800-524-9678  
 Bob - Justin - Terry  
 785-332-2188  
 yostford.com  
 E. Hwy. 36 St. Francis, KS 67756