

# Commissioners agree to help at wellness center

**By Karen Krien**  
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The organizer of the wellness center in Bird City was present at the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.

Rod Klepper, Bird City, reported on the plans for the wellness center being built near the grade school. First of all, he said thank you for the county's road and bridge crew and equipment used to move dirt. He said he was asking the county for \$1,000 from the Special Parks and Recreation Fund.

He had already had pledges including \$20,000 from the Century II Development; \$20,000 from the Cheylin Recreation Commission; \$20,000 from the Cheylin Schools; and \$5,000 from the Bird City Dairy. He has also talked to other entities which give money.

Mr. Klepper estimated that the total cost would be \$100,000 with much of the labor being done by volunteers and Cheylin construction classes.

The commissioners voted to give Mr. Klepper \$1,000 for the wellness center.

**Road and bridge department**  
Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, had prices for the new grader to replace the road grader with 17,000 hours. For a 2010 Caterpillar with trade-in was \$169,460 with Foley Equipment, Colby. The grader has a 5-year warrantee but, Mr. Flemming said, doesn't have as much power.

Three of the graders owned by the county have already had transmissions replaced. The commissioners suggested that Mr. Flemming see what it would cost to replace the grader that had not had the transmission replaced. Perhaps there would be a better price break

if the commissioners purchased two graders.

Mr. Flemming said he had enough money in his budget to purchase the new grader(s).

**Noxious weed department report**  
Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, had the figures on what it would cost to spray for weeds on the sides of the roads along Lawn Ridge road south of St. Francis.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had read in the fair board minutes that there was trouble with weeds and stickers around the exhibit building. This building is rented for large gatherings.

Mr. Lohr had suggestions, noting that even if he sprayed the area, it was also important that the area be mowed regularly. The commissioners thought that the fair board needed to hire someone to do the mowing. If Mr. Lohr did the spraying, the fair board should buy the chemicals.

They agreed that Mr. Lohr should talk to Drew Flemming, board member, and also attend a fair board meeting.

**County attorney's report**  
Kari Gilliland, county attorney, introduced Karan and Joni Thadani, the new lawyers in the Jim Milliken Law office. Mr. Thadani had been sworn in as the assistant county attorney on Friday.

Mike Callicrate, local feedyard owner, had called Mrs. Gilliland about a resolution concerning coordination, which is a way of keeping big government out of a local community. She said she had been unable to study the information and hadn't talked with Mr. Callicrate in depth about the matter. The commissioners agreed that they didn't want to rush into something that they were not fully informed of.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt that the resolution would let the county have input upfront, not at the end.

Dale Patton, commissioner, referred to Logan County where People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was dumping prairie dogs on natural grassland. The dogs travel and it wasn't long before they were on neighboring grounds which were privately owned. This county had used the coordination resolution and had worked well for them.

Mrs. Gilliland said she would have more information on coordination at the next meeting.

Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, had contacted Mrs. Gilliland and Mr. Patton to tell them that the Good Samaritan Society, owner of the nursing home, would replace the new heating and air conditioning system.

**Emergency service report**  
Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had the write-offs of \$2,752 which the commissioners approved.

She said her computer is six years old. The county's auditor said she needed to upgrade the computer which will cost \$1,473. The auditor recommended a program. She has the money in her budget to cover the costs of the upgrade and program.

**Appraiser's report**  
Bruce Webb, appraiser, reported his computer needed updated especially with the new Orion program. Clerk Terry Miller had helped him find a computer for \$850. He will continue to use the same screen and has the money in his budget to make the purchase.

Mr. Webb was given permission to hire a full-time person in the office.



ADAM ARENSDORF was unloading grain at the Wheeler Equity Elevator. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

# Harvest progressing slowly

**By Tim Burr**  
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Traveling around the county, producers can be seen in the fields, working at bringing in the fall harvest.

In discussing the harvest progress with the local grain facility managers, they said the irrigated corn seems to be drying slowly. Some of the irrigated corn has been picked, and most of the rest is getting close to being ready to pick.

Most of the dryland corn and soybeans have been harvested, although there may be a few isolated fields still standing. The milo harvest is moving along nicely.

Elevator managers reported that quality for all of the crops has been good, with good test weights and normal dockage. Yields also have been reported as good.

The ability to handle the large crop has been a concern since the beginning of harvest. The local feedlots have received quite a lot of corn. The commercial facilities are moving grain as quickly as transportation is available, both by rail and truck. Frontier

Ag, Wheeler Equity, St. Francis Equity, and Bartlett have all been utilizing trucks to move the grain to various markets. Corn and milo have been moving to both feedlot and ethanol markets outside of Cheyenne County. A great deal of on-the-farm storage is being utilized. Frontier Ag is using bunkers to store both corn and milo.

Sean Cravens at Bird City Frontier felt that maybe half of the corn harvest remained. Dale Weeks at Wheeler also thought that the harvest might be about half done, but both stated that it was really difficult to tell. They noted that the harvest had run smoothly, except for the slow dry down of the corn.

Grain markets have been quite active. Wheat and corn prices dropped dramatically from the end of August to the end of September, but since that time have recovered some of their losses. Weather had not yet been a factor in the harvest, but moisture and cold were in the forecast for this week.

"It is a good harvest, and we want to get it done," said Shirley Zwegardt, St. Francis Equity grain manager.



MATT MOBERLY at 536 E. Third Street, decorates for the holidays. These characters are scary as well as funny. Below, Hilltop General Store on U.S. 36 and Benton Streets has a colorful display. Herald staff photos by Tim Burr



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