

# Commissioners hear about emergency medical services

By Karen Krien

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When the county commissioners met on July 15, they were told that there will be two town meetings to increase public awareness of the emergency medical service.

Reid Raile, emergency medical service director, said he had scheduled two town meetings, one on Aug. 17 at the emergency building in St. Francis from 7 to 8 p.m. and, on Aug. 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the emergency building in Bird City.

Among the topics discussed will be: recruitment; the tax savings of a volunteer emergency medical service organization; Emergency Services Auxiliary organization; supporting the emergency medical service in the future and a time for questions and answers.

Mr. Raile discussed the work plan for the Total Notify program. If Sherman, Rawlins and Cheyenne counties go together in using the program, it will cost \$2,229. If Cheyenne County is on its own, the cost is \$3,750. Mr. Raile said the cost will be covered by 911 funds but a commitment needs to be made before Aug. 7 if county wants to participate. The matter was tabled until the next meeting on July 31.

Stacy Kaup discussed the grant for a backup generator at the emergency medical service building. This grant is from the United States Department of Agriculture for small rural communities. She reported that the paperwork would need to be done by Aug. 17. The commissioners said they would like time to consider this request and asked that she come to the next meeting.

### Audit

The county's former auditor has been ill and the audit has not been completed. A conference call was made to auditor, Jack Eldridge, who said he had enlisted the help of a colleague and would have a workable draft of the audit within a few days. The new audit company will be working on the budget on Aug. 15.

Deb Lindsten, county clerk,

said several of the county department heads had turned in their budgets. Those who do not get their budgets in on time, said Dale Patton, commissioner, are at the mercy of the commissioners when we set budgets.

### Health insurance

The county's health insurance plan is still a concern for the commissioners as well as county employees. At the last meeting, Tim Carson, representative for Corporate Plan, the county's insurance, estimated that there would be a raise of only 10 percent, if not lower. The commissioners had received information that there will be a 23 percent increase. The commissioners said they would not approve the increase.

Alejandra Juarez, group consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield, met with the commissioners. She reported that the state of Kansas will be offering three options in the next calendar year. If Cheyenne County would like Blue Cross Blue Shield to look into their health care needs, the commissioners need to be making that request known around mid-August. No decision was made at this time.

### District court computers

Natalie Stahlecker, clerk of the district court, said in the near future, they will no longer have paper fields in the court. She will need to be installing two new computers: one will be for a new e-filing system in the courtroom for the judge and the other will be a public access computer. Nex-Tech has the new server and will be installing it.

She has learned that, even after all the information has been removed from the old server, it will need to be destroyed. The emergency medical service director had asked for the server for his department but it will not be available.

Judge Robert Van Allen gave the old computer from his office for the public access computer. He estimated that the cost for the other computer and system will be around \$10,000 or less. Districts 23 and 17 will have the same criteria and rules, he said. Mrs. Stahlecker said she would

be back with more information.

### Nursing home

Jeff Paulsen, administrator for the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis had a brief report. The financials for June had not arrived from the head office so he didn't have that report. Since Mr. Paulsen will be gone for a period of time, the commissioners said they would contact Randy Fitzgerald, operation manager, for a copy of the financials. Mr. Paulsen reported that the nursing home had been completely full for 10 days.

There had been some minor work projects competed. Work on the sprinkling system would start the following Monday. He noted that the grounds still needed asphalt repair. Mr. Patton said that it would be done.

### In other business

In other business:

- Keary Carmen attended the meeting to introduce Staff Sargent Folleh Tamba. They thanked the Board for their support in the community. Staff Sargent is a combat veteran making art. A Grunt's War Diary Exhibit is on display for the public in the Calvert Evins Memorial, 500 South Benton. The art will soon go on tour and will promote Cheyenne County.

- Heidi Tice and Shawna Blanka, representing the Cheyenne County Hospital, reviewed the volume for June, staffing, capital updates. The "Swing Fore Your Health" golf tournament will be held on July 19. The proceeds will go toward purchasing a neonatal CPAP machine.

- Scott Houtman, deputy clerk, told the commissioners that he would be resigning his employment with Cheyenne County effective immediately. The commissioners approved the clerk to advertise for the open position.

### Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 31.

*Editor's note: Some of the commissioner's July 15 meeting was taken from the unapproved minutes.*



TOM KELLER AND ROD KLEPPER leadership team members of Northwest Kansas HCI deliver to Frieda Barber of Bird City. Frieda exclaimed, "This is a wonderful program!"

## Senior farmers market begin deliveries of fruits and vegetables

Bud and Marge Fossett of Atwood and Frieda Barber of Bird City received the first Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program fresh and healthy food bundles from local High Plains Food Co-op farms.

The Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is providing \$30 bundles of fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey from High Plains Food Co-op farms to Cheyenne and Rawlins seniors at NO COST who meet age and income requirements. Bundles will be distributed at Senior Centers in Atwood, Bird City and Saint Francis on August 1st and 22nd, September 5th and 19th and October 3rd, 17th and 31st.

To be eligible seniors must meet the following criteria:

- 60 years old or older
- Individual annual gross income must be at or below \$21,257

Applications will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and available for sign-up at the Atwood, Bird City and Saint Francis Senior Citizen Centers during hours of operation. Seniors may also apply or get more information by calling Northwest Kansas Healthy Communities Initiative members Tiffany Poet at 719-350-0001 or Chris Sramek at 785-626-6082. Friends and family are encouraged to apply on behalf of eligible seniors.

Eligible foods from High Plains Food Co-op farms are defined as "fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits,

vegetables, locally produced honey and herbs for human consumption that are produced in Kansas and neighboring States under normal growing conditions."

The Kansas Senior Farmer's Market Program is a project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is coordinated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which is collaborating with the High Plains Food Co-op and the Northwest Kansas Healthy Communities Initiative to identify and distribute the food bundles to eligible seniors.

Next delivery day is Friday Aug. 1!

## Local woman going to compete in 2015 Miss Kansas Pageant

Whitney Churchwell from Bird City, daughter of Eric and Janice Churchwell, has been selected to participate in the 2015 Miss Kansas USA Pageant. The pageant will take place Nov. 28-30, 2014 in Wichita.

She will be competing as Miss Cheyenne County and will compete in swimsuit, evening gown, and personal interview competitions. The pageant has two age divisions, and the winners will go on to represent our state in the 2015 Miss USA and Miss Teen USA Pageant. Miss USA goes on to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant. The Miss USA Pageant

system stresses good morals, physical fitness, communication skills, social awareness and community involvement.

Interesting facts about Whitney are she has been on several mission trips, managed a daycare for a year, and will be continuing studies in journalism and business this fall.

She is being sponsored by Bird City Diner, Hometown Market, The Bank, Neitzel Insurance, Krien Pharmacy as well as friends and family.

For more information about Whitney, you may contact her at 785-734-7137.



Whitney Churchwell



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### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas  
Special District  
2015

The governing body of  
**Sunflower Extension District #6**  
Sherman

will meet on August 14, 2014 at 4:00 pm MDT at Sherman County Commissioners Room for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied.

Detailed budget information is available at Sunflower Extension District #6 Offices and will be available at this hearing.

### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2015 Expenditures and Amount of 2014 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2015 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2013		Current Year Estimate for 2014		Proposed Budget Year for 2015	
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2014 Ad Valorem Tax
General	404,431	2.160	417,200	2.161	526,200	329,664
Debt Service						
Totals	404,431	2.160	417,200	2.161	526,200	329,664
Less: Transfers	0		0		0	
Net Expenditures	404,431		417,200		526,200	
Total Tax Levied	300,737		320,476		XXXXXXXXXXXX	
Assessed Valuation:	139,467,389		148,334,385		162,034,931	

Outstanding Indebtedness,			
	2013	2014	2015
Jan 1,			
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

## Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Tim Burr at:



The Saint Francis Herald

Bird City Times

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

## Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Show

July 31 - Aug. 2

Featuring stories about the demonstrations, buildings, history, shows and Queens.



## Cheyenne County Fair

Aug. 6 - Aug. 9

Featuring 4-H'ers, fair and carnival activities, schedule of events and other interesting happenings at fair time.

