

Extension council's budget is cut

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met in special session on Thursday to discuss the county's 2004 budget, specifically, what to do with the Extension Council's appropriation. After discussing the matter for an hour and making phone call, they

decided to cut the Extension Council's appropriation from last year's appropriation of \$72,520 to \$56,520; a \$16,000 total cut.

The decision to call a special meeting came after the Aug. 15 meeting when Dale Weeks, representing the Extension Council, reported that Casey Johnson, county

agent, had resigned following the fair. The commissioners had a week to think about what to do with the appropriation for the Council and had a great deal to discuss at the meeting.

The first suggestion discussed was sharing an agent with another county or hiring a

coordinator. If an agent was hired, the county's share of the salary would be \$16,000 and K-State University would come up with the rest of the salary. However, if a coordinator was hired, even part time, it would cost at least \$16,000. Commissioner Tim Raile was in favor of calling

on volunteers to fill the agent's responsibilities.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker pointed out that K-State had quit paying benefits and the county board was now coming up with a portion of the benefits. The employee could

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Ballfield funding discussed

By Sandy Barnhart

Jolene Dodd and A.J. Marin, representing the St. Francis Recreation Commission, met with the St. Francis City Council on Aug. 19 to discuss funding of the ballfield at the fairgrounds.

Since the 2004 budget had already been completed, Mrs. Dodd wanted to know when they needed to come before the council in order to have funds budgeted for the ballfield? The council said that budget discussions usually began in June and if the Commission wanted to get the ballfield on the budget, they needed to come in May to discuss the needs. This would give the council ample time to include the field in the budget.

Mrs. Dodd commended Eric Fiala and city crew on the job they had done with the field, and felt like some type of watering system with a timer was still needed. Before this can be done, the fence, along with some trees, needed to be moved out and the field leveled.

Mrs. Marin asked that, now the city owned the ballfield, would the Recreation Committee have a say in the renovation of the field. Mrs. Dodd asked if a committee similar to the one that the city was considering setting up for the swimming pool could also be established for the ballfield? She noted that the Commission had a plan for the field but not enough funds to execute the plan. Between fund raisers and money received from the New Generation funds, the ballfield now has around \$2,000.

Originally the Recreation Committee was established to set up programs for the community and was more geared to holding camps, baseball and flag football programs plus purchasing equipment for these activities. The city acquired the ballfield when the Recreation Committee had come to them with concerns of overuse of the allotted water from the well. The county had

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BREANNA CHARNOFF'S mother showed her where her cubby was. Breanna is a kindergarten student to the St. Francis Elementary School. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Surveys needed; return to clerk by Aug. 28

By Karen Krien

At the Thursday meeting, the Cheyenne County Hospital Board was concerned about the number of Community Development Block Grant surveys that had been returned to the county clerk's office. They knew that the surveys were to be returned by Aug. 11 and the surveys were a key to applying and receiving the grant.

The hospital board, through the county commissioners, have applied for a Community Development Block Grant to move the county health office from its present location near U.S. 36 to the basement of the clinic in St. Francis. The surveys were sent to county residents living outside city limits and those living in Bird City (a survey was completed within St. Francis several years ago).

It is necessary that the surveys be completed correctly and that at least 80 percent of the surveys sent are returned. From those returned, the income level of the county will be determined. To receive the Community Development Block Grant, county residents must show low to moderately-low income levels.

Clerk Terry Miller reported that on Tuesday, 351 of the surveys were in but to hit the 80 percent mark, 190

more need to be returned. He also said that it appeared that the county will qualify for the low to moderately low income requirements but at least 190 surveys still need to come in. "These grants will be given to some city or county for whatever projects but, they will be given out and Cheyenne County might as well benefit if we can qualify," said Terry Miller, county clerk, reminding everyone who has not returned their survey to please fill it out and send it back.

"You know, if we can qualify and get this grant, it will help keep our taxes down because we need funds for several different projects now and in the future," Clerk Miller said, noting that the survey data base is stored in the clerk's office under the confidentiality. On Friday, those who had not returned their surveys or there was an error in filling them out would receive a second survey. This survey would be identical to the first survey and the date to have them returned would be Aug. 28.

Public hearing set

A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday in the commissioners' room of the courthouse in St. Francis. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application to be

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Weather remains hot; in high 90s

It's been hot!! Fall is less than a month away but it feels like the middle of July. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported highs of 90 and one day that was a 100 degree every day in the past week. Unfortunately, she reported no rain or, for that matter, not even a trace of moisture.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Aug. 19	91	64	
Aug. 20	93	63	
Aug. 21	98	66	
Aug. 22	100	70	
Aug. 23	99	67	
Aug. 24	99	65	
Aug. 25	97	61	

Hospital showing positive figures

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital was showing some positive figures when the board met on Thursday. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that the number of those using the hospital early in August was strong and the outpatient numbers also seemed to be fairly steady.

Board members showed concern about the health of Dr. Mary Beth Miller, who had recently suffered a complication of her chemotherapy. Administrator Lacy said that Dr.

Miller was doing very well and was back home.

In the absence of Dr. Miller, locum tenens were being used in August. Those filling in include: Jon Becker, physician assistant; Jenny Niblock, registered nurse practitioner; Dr. Gary Morsch, Dr. Paul Wardlaw and Dr. Greg Hamel.

"The hospital has been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting," Administrator Lacy said.

He also pointed out that the Bird

City Clinic had once again made a profit and, while it was only \$72, was a profit.

Director's report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, reported that the computer system is up and running. The Cheyenne County Hospital will be one of the hospitals in the system which will cost considerably less and will be as efficient as the new computer system which Hays Medical Center is setting up.

Before, the county hospital was a part of Hays Medical Center's computer system but about the first of the year, the administrator and Great Plains Health Alliance staff learned that the Hays system would be extremely complicated and very expensive to be a part of. Since a number of the hospitals using Hays Medical Center's system were also a part of Great Plains Health Alliance, the Alliance staff began investigating the needs and costs of a

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No grants offered for composting; city council looks at compost site

By Sandy Barnhart

At the Aug. 19 meeting of the St. Francis City Council, Roger Jensen, councilman, explained that the reason there were no grants being offered to establish compost sites was because of the state's lack of money.

At a recent solid waste management seminar which he had attended in Lindsborg, he learned that the grants come from a tipping fee at landfills, giving the state the authority to use whatever needed. The state has taken 25 percent of the funds which will be put in the General Fund. He noted that the fees for his attendance at the seminar had been

paid for by the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling organization.

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger along with Councilman Dale Weeks and Councilman Jensen had visited Colby's compost site. With the county closing the dump site to grass clippings, the city has considered establishing a compost site.

The Colby site is approximately 400 feet by 100 feet, has virtually no odor, takes around 10 man-hours a week to operate and is a process of three months to complete the compost. Councilman Jensen also felt that there were some suitable sites around St. Francis to put a compost

site. The issue was tabled.

Superintendent Landenberger noted that the commissioners have agreed to extend the Oct. 1 deadline for two weeks to allowing grass clippings put in the county dump through the annual city-wide cleanup.

Property cleanup

Attorney Mike Day updated the council on the property cleanup. A petition has been filed in District Court to proceed with the cleanup of two properties. Those properties include: Linfred Oster/Jesse McWilliams at 318 E. Whittier and Marvin Miller/Bonnie Coates at 613 W. First.

The sale of the property at 218 E. First had finalized and Attorney Day noted that a work plan is in effect for the clean-up effort.

The last property cleanup discussed was the white trailer house located at 506 E. Second Street, belonging to ErvaGene DeAragon.

Correction: It should be noted that in last article of the city council and the minutes of the city council both stated this trailer house was located on College Street. Mrs. DeAragon said that the trailer (orange) on College Street is not under court order to be moved.

The city, as of July 15, has had the See COMPOST on Page 6



SHRINERS, with their Candy Wagon, earned twice as much, \$450, as last year to give to the American Cancer Society. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

COMPOST

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authority to move the white trailer house, giving Mrs. DeAragon a chance to find a suitable mover first. Mrs. DeAragon explained that after believing she had someone to move the white trailer house, the deal had fallen through. After several more phone calls the only time she could find someone to move the white trailer house was between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Attorney Day informed Mrs. DeAragon that the white trailer house needed to be moved sooner, and that with her permission, he and Superintendent Landenberger would do some calling to try to find someone to move the white trailer in the next two weeks. Attorney Day assured Mrs. DeAragon that they would consult with her on the price before finalizing any plans.

Attorney Day also stressed to Mrs. DeAragon that if no mover could be found, then the city crew would move the white trailer house and if she was unable to pay the costs the costs would be assessed to her personal property tax.

Manholes installed/tested
Representative of Miller and Associates, McCook told the council that the manholes had been installed and the crew was in the process of completing the water testing on them. Only a percentage of the manholes need to be tested and as of the meeting the first manhole had passed the test.

Superintendent report
• Superintendent Landenberger said that the main water pump motor at the swimming pool had quit and the replacement was at a cost of \$1,045.

• Dan Blair and Superintendent Landenberger attended a Mutual Aide program in Oberlin

• Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates, McCook, is scheduled to attend the next meeting to update the council on the sewer project.
• Frontier Equity in Bird City has assigned the wireless Internet contract, bringing the wireless Internet to Bird City residents.

Clerk report
• The council approved the employee prescription reimbursement plan. City clerk Mary Lampe explained that the city reimburses each employee and his/her family members up to \$600 for prescription. The employee pays the first \$10 for brand and \$5 for generic prescription. The city then reimburses the employee for the remainder of the prescription up to \$600 a year.
• A franchise check in the amount of \$1,559 was received from Clas-sic Cable Television.
• Clerk Lampe noted that Paige Gardner had approached her asking to put up Relay for Life signs at both

city limits entrances. Superintendent Landenberger noted that Mrs. Gardner would need to first check with the State.

• Clerk Lampe said that she had been approach concerning the uneven bottom step leading up to the new city hall building. Councilman Jensen noted that the first step was uneven due to the slop of the street and advised that the uneven edge be painted yellow.

Building permits
Building permits were approved for the following residents: Jerry White, raze shed; Leroy Bishop, erect fence; Rodney Neitzel, erect fence; Maurice Stramel, pour con-

crete; Glenn Raile, erect fence.

Other business
• The council approved the one-year contract with Chuck Peters, St. Francis, as technical support for the wireless Internet. The city will pay Mr. Peters \$1,000 a month for his services.

• The council approved a pay request to Kelly Morris for approximately three-fourths of the sewer project at the new addition south of town. The amount approved was \$28,746.

• The council agreed to leave the swimming pool punch card as is, any punches left over will not be honored the next season.

• Several bad corners with poor visibility were discussed. Superintendent Landenberger will check into them.

Executive session
Superintendent Landenberger requested 5 minutes in executive session for personnel.

Council woman Kay Shay requested 5 minutes in executive session for real estate. Parties interested in bidding on the old city office building.

The council discussed employee wage in executive session and approved a pay raised in the 2004 budget.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

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Both Commissioners Krien and Raile agreed that the information provided still didn't show the need and said that the Extension Council had done a lot of good for the county over the years but they need to come in and show proof.

Commissioner Raile added that he felt that if the Extension Council was truly interested in keeping the office open they would have been at

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SURVEY

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submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds.

The Block Grant will be used for the county health clinic renovation which will consist of remodeling 1,600 square feet of space into two examination rooms, laboratory, handicapped accessible rest room, waiting room, office and storage space and an egress window.

The cost of the project is \$122,488 with the grant request for \$97,488 of the project cost.

Surveys good for three years

The surveys taken this time will be good for three years and possibly used next year when the Bird City Emergency Medical Service will request funds to use in finishing the meeting room in the Bird City facility. The grant money will

be used to install a sink for cleanup, small kitchen area as well as a laundry facility for emergency medical technicians and firemen for cleaning up.

The rural fire departments in both St. Francis and Bird City are also in need of new fire trucks. The trucks have an average of being 20 years old. Because of their hard use in extinguishing fires in pastures and Conservation Reserve Program, the trucks are in need of many repairs. Replacing them would be the best option for the county.

Last year, the city of St. Francis received \$400,000 for a sewer project and, in the past, these grants have been used to purchase fire fighting equipment, cost share on bridge replacements, remodel the courthouse to meet American Disability Act requirements and improve radio needs.

Former resident joins association

Farm Credit Western of Kansas, Agricultural Credit Association (ACA) is pleased to announce the addition of Darris DeGood to its lending staff. Mr. DeGood comes to Farm Credit with nine years of banking experience. A native of Cheyenne County, he is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School, Colby Community College and Fort Hays State University.

Mr. DeGood began his tenure with Farm Credit in mid June of this

year as a field representative and loan officer. He will be working closely with the Associations farmer members as he makes visits to their farm and livestock operations.

"I am excited to be working for a lender that specializes in agricultural lending and to be a part of the outstanding staff in the Colby office," Mr. DeGood said.

Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Agricultural Credit Association is located in Colby.

Directors announce patronage payment

The board of directors of Farm Credit Western of Kansas, Agricultural Credit Association (ACA) is pleased to announce the payment of nearly \$700,000 in patronage to the members of the Association. This patronage represents the return of interest paid during calendar year 2002.

In announcing the patronage, Association President Larry Maxwell said, "I am pleased that due to the change to an Agricultural Credit Association in 2002, we are now able to pay this patronage on both

the PCA and FLCA loans. The patronage is made possible by the net interest income, crop insurance sales, and related fee income earned by the Association."

Over the past six years, Farm Credit has returned over three million dollars of cash patronage to its farmer members that have gone back into the economy of northwest Kansas.

Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Agricultural Credit Association is located in Colby.



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Thank you so much to the Wheeler Equity & Callicrate Feedyard for buying the premiums on our heifers at the fair. Thank you to Jim Milliken, Chartered, for your donation to the premium sale. Thank you High Noon Feeds - Nick Ketzner, for your support; St. Francis Equity for the horse feed and the Fair Board.

We appreciate all your hard work and support. 4-H is a great organization with opportunities, learning and fun! Thanks again, we had a great fair!

Grady & Laura Brunk

Thank you Bankwest for buying my premium. Dale Harley Northrup

Thank you Bankwest for buying my premium. Caitlin Northrup

Thank you First National Bank for buying my premium. Allyson Northrup

Thank you Donna - Stevens' KS Territorial Store for buying my picnic table at the premium sale. Caitlin Northrup

Thank you Milliken Law Office for donating to all county 4-H'ers. Dale, Caitlin & Allyson Northrup

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