



**NEW TRUCK PURCHASED** — The Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization purchased a truck which will be used to transport recycled items from the different towns.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Organization one of top 10 in state

**By Patty Decker**

Recycling in Thomas County started almost 10 years ago with only a handful of volunteers to build a program that would benefit conservation efforts and add life to the landfill.

Armed with little more than a dream in Thomas County and other neighboring counties, recycling in northwest Kansas has mushroomed into one of the top 10 recycling programs in the state, said Lynette Koon, coordinator of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization, established in September 2003.

The reasons for the organization's success centers around cooperation between Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan and Thomas counties with a potential to involve more than 35,200 people in the seven counties.

Because of the membership dues and other revenue, the organization can sustain itself in exploring grant money for furthering recycling efforts, cooperatively marketing materials, reducing labor costs, equipment expense and protecting natural resources.

"Sherman and Wallace are still missing from the organization," she said, "but the regional goal is for them to consider joining sometime in the near future."

Each of the seven counties has two directors and one alternate director and money for the organization comes from cities and counties, along with grant money and money brought back into the group through the sale of recovered materials.

"The organization is a grassroots, volunteer and partnership-oriented program," Koon said, "and the regional facility is located in Colby."

According to the organization's annual meeting held in March 2005, the total income from membership dues, sale of materials, state grant and miscellaneous funds totaled \$219,445 with 456 tons of materials collected. That is a net income of \$27,581.14, Koon said.

Recycling materials collected from the six counties involved during 2005 (Sheridan County joined in 2006) included 197,080 pounds of cardboard; 23,340 pounds of steel cans; 74,490 pounds of chipboard; 75,490 pounds

of junk mail; about 26,000 pounds of various plastics; 244,080 pounds of newspaper; 184,740 pounds of magazines; 67,375 pounds of glass; and 8,680 pounds of aluminum cans.

Putting recycling efforts into perspective, Koon said that based on 2005 figures, the organization includes about 10 percent of households within the member counties.

"Our five-year goal is to have 25

percent of households involved in recycling," she said.

Considering three to four years ago, recycling efforts were from a minimal percentage of homes, the organization has made major strides, she said.

While more can be done to add life to county landfills, Koon said that in 2005 about 1,557 tons of recycled materials were either shipped to a

papermill in Hutchinson or sent to other manufacturers in Kansas.

Koon said the regional organization is in the process of setting up a web site that when completed will provide history and other information about each member county. In the near future, the organization will provide information regarding a logo contest and other highlights involving the member counties.

## FINAL

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Rural Development of Hays will be involved with investments in the dairy.

The dairy is to provide 19 jobs with 10 needing to be classed as low-to-moderate income. A family of four could earn \$39,850 and still be considered low-to-moderate income earners.

Mr. Hrabe said the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, will administer the grant. The operation manager, Mike McCarty, has purchased a house in Bird City.

He said that part of the information for the grant is public knowledge but the financial arrangements will not be available to the public. The application is due on Oct. 6.

Following the signing of two resolutions, Jane Brubaker, commissioner, said that work was already beginning at the dairy site and thought that the road and bridge crew should be working on the roads to get them in better shape. She pointed out that it would be easier to work them now than to repair them later.

### Ambulance

Jannelle Bowers, ambulance director, told the commissioners that there were two people who were very interested in taking the emergency medical technician classes in Goodland. The cost is \$750 with no college credits; or \$1,000 if college credits are earned. The commissioners agreed to pay the \$750 for each of the people taking the class. If they want the college credits, they will need to pay for the credits themselves.

Mrs. Bowers said that four of the new radios used by technicians were

not working. She had sent them in but, after a week, the radios had not been returned. The commissioners asked Mrs. Bowers to call Video Kingdom that day and tell them that it was necessary that the repaired radios be returned immediately or send new replacements — that the radios were needed for emergencies.

Mrs. Bowers also told about Ambulance 11B which had a speedometer which was not working. It was being fixed that day.

The commissioners agreed to give \$3,000 toward the purchase of a Zoll automated external defibrillator for the newer Bird City ambulance. The total cost is \$16,400. They also agreed that \$1,000 be taken out of the ambulance memorial fund.

### Enhanced 911

Sheriff Troy Gardner said Cheyenne County was among 51 counties which had applied for the Enhanced 911 grant. He felt like the grant was geared toward smaller counties and thought that the county might have a very good chance of getting it. If the county does get the grant, there will need to be some decisions made including where to move the dispatch center as there will be more equipment to work with.

Jane Brubaker, commissioner, asked about the additional cost of hiring around-the-clock help if the center is moved from the St. Francis powerplant. Sheriff Gardner said that help is already being paid by the county and city. The power plant crew would check the engines by automation.

After discussion, the commissioners agreed to see if the county received the grant before making any definite

decisions. In the meantime, they can be thinking about where to place the center.

### Meeting

Elmer Kellner, the county's representative to the Western Prairie Resource, Conservation and Development, told the commissioners about the annual meeting which will be held in St. Francis on Oct. 12. He thought it would be good if the commissioners planned to attend.

He also said that he would welcome any input the commissioners might want to give him as a representative. He said that the Resource, Conservation and Development board is considering a water conservation project. He also talked about having a household hazardous waste disposal in St. Francis and Bird City instead of just at the landfill site. These projects will be discussed and Mr. Kellner would like to bring information back to the commissioners.

### In other business

In other business:  
• A highway permit was signed for Rodney Shay to place an electric line across a county road.

• A contract for the engineering inspection on the south River Road project was signed with a maximum cost of up to \$54,170.

• The members of the Catholic Church had sent a thank you note to the commissioners for the county crew's help in cleaning up a lot.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will start at 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 16, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

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bag filled with items from the sponsors, and would have the opportunity to run for an important cause.

Seven students ran with Mr. McEvoy Saturday morning, starting at Riverside Recreation. They were Jonathan Hilty, Jacob Riedel, Cara Hunt, Zach Mills, Cody Killingsworth, B.J. Killingsworth and Brady Frewen.

Jonathan ran all the way to Wheeler. He said this was the furthest he had ever ran. Mac Frewen saw the RV parked beside the road and stopped to talk. They thought it was "pretty cool" to have someone stop by just to say "hi."

Mr. McEvoy said that when he says 3,500 miles, that makes people turn their heads.

"Once you get someone's head to turn, you can tell them that 3,500 miles is nothing compared to the 10 million Americans who live with cancer or the effects of cancer."

### Roots in Kansas

Mr. McEvoy has roots in Kansas as his great-great grandfather, John Seitz, homesteaded land in Ellis County in 1897. He said he had heard stories about Kansas and his ancestors who had settled here and was glad to finally be in the state. He still has a great uncle and aunt, Bernard and Theresa Richstatter, living in St. Marys.

Mr. McEvoy started the run on July 1 in San Francisco. In Kansas, he will run U.S. 36. The 3,500 mile journey is expected to take six months ending on Dec. 14 in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

### Documentary filming

A documentary film crew is accompanying Mr. McEvoy on his journey across the country. The documentary film will reinforce "The Coast to Coast: A Run for Survivorship" mission documenting the stories of people with differing cancers, of various ages and races.

### During their stay

Mrs. Estell, during a phone call on Tuesday, said St. Francis was great!

Many of the arrangements for lodging, food and activities including places to tell about the goal of their run were made by Rev. Morita Truman



**Christian McEvoy, runner, talks to student during the lunch hour.**

with the help of Deb Lindsten.

The group started their stay in St. Francis at the Killingsworth's bed and breakfast, Sweet Dreams. They were impressed that they had the whole house to themselves and were able to catch up on their washing. They were treated to dinner at Park Hill Restaurant and a "delicious" breakfast the next morning.

On Thursday, they ate at the school; on Friday, they ate at the St. Francis Senior Center; and that night, they were guests at the Methodist Church Soup Supper. They said they had never seen such a variety of pies!

Afterwards, they were given St. Francis football jerseys to wear and attended the St. Francis vs Hoxie game on Greene Field.

One of the highlights of the runners' stay in St. Francis was their visit to the home of Eddy and Sherry Schultz. They had lessons on farming, starting with antique equipment, then moving to the computerized combine. They were able to ride on the combine while harvesting corn.

They were off early Saturday morning with Mr. McEvoy being dropped off 5 miles west of St. Francis. The team's next stop was in Atwood.

To keep up with the runners, go to [www.coasttocoastrun.org](http://www.coasttocoastrun.org).

## TALKS

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handicap doors on the doorway access between the hospital and the new ambulance entrance. He said he would donate \$1,000 to the cause. The additional money will be taken out of the hospital's memorial fund.

The hospital received \$33,750 in memorial donations from the Alvin Hempler and Lottie Hempler estates.

Administrator Lacy said, because of low usage of the health insurance, hospital and clinic employees will receive a premium holiday. In November and December, Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, will pay the employee's health insurance premiums. This is a bonus for the employees as well as the hospital.

The administrator pointed out that there were over 90 CAT scans in August, compared to 70 in 2005 and less than 40 in 2004. There were 113 X-rays compared to 70 in 2005 and 37 in 2004. There were 496 patients using the physical therapy department, compared to 379 in 2005 and 408 in 2004.

### Hospital one of the first

Mrs. John said the Cheyenne County Hospital, along with the Rawlins County Health Center and two other systems, completed the first steps in implementing electronic medical records when they achieved the "go live" with the Siemen's Clinical Laboratory System. She said the hospitals laid the groundwork for other hospitals to follow.

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