County may face paying for court reporter

By Tom Betz
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A new district judge will be sworn into office in January, and Friday, Nov. 14, Sherman County commissioners heard the change could bring more expenses to the county budget.

Scott Showalter, who won the district judge position being vacated with the retirement of Judge Jack Burr told the commissioners the cost of another person retiring could end up being paid partially by the county.

Showalter said Paula Keller, who has been the court recorder for many years plans to retire when Burr does.

He said replacing Keller could be a problem. He said if the state can find a person to fill the vacancy they will pay the salary, but if they cannot then the county has to pay to find someone to be the recorder.

"I wanted to give you a heads up about the district court employees," Showalter said.

He said the court employees are state employees, but it would be up to the county to fill the position if a state employee cannot be found to come to Goodland.

"It is hard to find someone to come out here," Showalter said.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said if the state finds one they pay, but if not the county has to pay.

"Yes," Showalter said. "If the state can find one they pay, but if not the county pays."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the state would send a person out, or if the county has to find one.

Showalter said if the state does not have one the county has to find one, and he said the district court has started the process to advertise the position.

He said Keller is going to retire about the middle of January.

He said the local bar association has talked to him about the need to update some of the equipment in the courtroom.

"If we don't have a good court recorder we will need a good recording system," he said. We do have a recording system, but not sure how good it is. We are ahead because Wallace and Cheyenne Counties do not have any recording system."

Thomas asked about how much money the court recorder would cost.

Showalter said Keller is retiring because she has been at it for years.

He said it was not a question of money on her part, but she wanted to spend more time with her family.

"If we have to bring in a freelance person it would be $200 a day," he said.

Incoming commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked about the possibility of the state legislature changing the law to exempt the county from paying the recorder cost.

"I don't think so," Showalter said. "The state budget is going to be $1.1 billion short, and I don't think they will be willing to let the county off the hook."

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. on Wednesday.

Winter difficult for strawberries

dana belshe
• ag notebook

Winter can be a difficult time for strawberries in Kansas. Plants need time to become adjusted to cold weather and will gradually become more cold resistant as fall progresses.

Strawberry plants are more able to withstand colder temperatures in the middle of the winter than in the fall before they have gone through much cold weather.

For example, if temperatures suddenly plummet below 20 degrees before the plants harden to the cold, they can be severely damaged. A drop to 15 degrees may kill them.

Hardened plants can withstand such temperatures with ease. This lack of hardening off may be a concern this year because of the unseasonably warm fall.

If a sudden drop in temperature to below 20 degrees is forecast, it may be wise to mulch the plants as you would for the winter. After the cold snap is over, uncover the plants so they may continue to harden off.

Normally strawberries should be mulched for the winter around Thanksgiving. However, if temperatures stay abnormally warm, give plants another couple of weeks to become cold hardy before mulching. Mulching plants helps protect strawberries not only from low temperatures but also from heaving damage.

Heaving damage occurs when the alternate freezing and thawing common in Kansas winters heave plants out of the ground where they can die.

Wheat straw makes good mulch and is widely available. The straw should be spread over the plants to a depth of 3 inches. Shake the slabs of straw apart so that there are no large compressed chunks. This straw mulch not only helps protect the plants over winter but can also help avoid damage from late spring frosts by delaying blooming a few days in the spring.

Mulch should be removed gradually in the spring as the plants begin new growth. Remove enough so that the leaves can be seen. Leaving some mulch in place keeps the berries off the ground and conserves moisture.

Also, mulch left in the aisles helps protect pickers from muddy conditions.

Stripes may cause drivers to slow down

If you are going to be driving about six miles south of Sharon Springs you may notice white painted stripes. The Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas State University are working together on the K-Tran research study.

The state painted white stripes or bars on the north and south approaches on K-27. The purpose is to see whether or not drivers reduce their speed of travel in response to the bars. The bars are spaced at gradually decreasing distances with the intent of enhancing the driver's perception of speed - resulting in speed reduction. The markings will give the illusion of accelerating leading driver's to slow down from 65 down to 30 mph while traveling through the curves at that location.

For questions call Kristen Brands, Kansas Department of Transportation Public Affairs Manager at (785) 877-3315.

ruleton eager beavers 4-h

President Sydney Winston called the November meeting of the Ruleton Eager Beavers to order by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then saying the 4-H pledge. The meeting was held at the 4-H building at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The roll call for the month was things we are thankful for. Seventeen members and four leaders answered roll call.

Holly Wilkening read minutes. Minutes were approved as read. Communications was a letter from the Salvation Army needing people to ring the bell at the Wal-Mart and asking for donations. There was also a thank you from Kayler Reitcheck for the gift he received while in the Hays hospital.

Officer's reports given were the treasurer's report and also the reporter. Leader Colleen Duell gave a 4-H Council report. She reported the outcome of the election results. Also reported that our club will do the radio talks in January and July. Our club's model meeting will be Monday, March 16 at 6:15 p.m. This year our club will help with the 4-H talent night and be in charge of the 4-H appreciation barbecue held during the fair.

There was no unfinished business. Our new business included helping our local Genesis. Devin Mangus made a motion to give $100 to help with food for Genesis. The motion carried. The club also challenged other clubs and non-profit organizations to match the funds. Dani Mangus made a motion to purchase Christmas candy to send in the treat sacks her and her mother were going to make for the troops. The motion carried. The club also decided to have their Christmas Party on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The Christmas committee will be meeting to make plans.

There was a very interesting demonstration given by Sydney Winston and her dog Dakota. She gave demos on obedience. Dakota did very well to the commands given to her by Sydney. She then gave a project talk on dog grooming. All the members enjoyed watching her work with her dog. She said it takes a lot of hard work but she loves it.

The club had guests Mel and Linda Pfau present to give the $100 check to. They were grateful for the money, as there is not much food in the Genesis food bank right now. It made the club members feel good about helping with our local organization.

Announcement were made. Leader Colleen Duell said the December meeting would be meeting on the Saturday they pick up food for Genesis. There would be cards mailed as reminders. She also had sign up sheets that members needed to fill out for next year.

Dani Mangus made a motion to adjourn by saying the club motto. Motion carried.

The club members then went to work on writing letters to the troops. Most of the letters will be going to the wounded soldiers unit at Fort Riley. The members wanted to let them know they were thinking about them during the holiday season.

Dani Mangus, reporter

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County register of deeds:

Jack J. Thrasher to Tri-State Properties Lot 5, Block 8, Rosewood Addition to Goodland, 102 N. Main, and a tract beginning at a point 1,332.45 feet east of the SW corner of the NE/4 of Sec. 18, T8S, R39W.

Harvest Evangelical Free Church to Ryan A. Studer a tract in the NW/4 of Sec. 30, T8S, R39W.

Sherman County Sheriff to Household Finance Corporation III All of Lots 8 and 9 and the S/2 of Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 38, First Addition to Goodland, foreclosed property of Rick L. Coates and Michele R. Coates.

Jeffrey Lynn Dinkel and Amber Jeanne Dinkel quit claims to Jeffrey Lynn Dinkel and Amber Jeanne Dinkel as joint tenants with rights of survivorship the S 50' of Lot 4, Block 2, Koehler First Addition to Goodland.

Glenn Burk Farms Company conveys and warrants to Glenn O. Burk a tract in the NE/4 of the NE/4 of the NW/4 of Sec. 29, T8S, R39W.

Glen O. Burk and Evelyn Burk quit claim to the restatement of the Glenn O. Burk Revocable Trust a tract in the NE/4 of the NE/4 of the NW/4 of Sec. 29, T8S, R39W.

Lyn J. Morgan and First National Bank, trustees of the Isabel L. Morgan Revocable Trust to Kan Sun Feeders LLC Sec. 9, T10S, R39W and Sec. 17, T10S, R39W.

Lyn J. Morgan and First National Bank, trustees of the L.D. Morgan Revocable Trust, to Kan Sun Feeders LLC Sec. 16, T10S, R39W and Sec. 21, T10S, R39W.

Jonathan M. Denton and Nila L. Denton, husband and wife, David S. Denton and Janey M. Denton, husband and wife, and C. Stewart Denton and Donna Denton, husband and wife, convey and warrant to Kan Sun Feeders LLC the SE/4 of Sec. 20, T10S, R39W, minus oil and gas leases, declarations of consolidations, easements and rights-of-way.

Darrel D. Owens quit claims to Darrell D. Owens, trustee of the Darrel D. Owens Revocable Trust, the S/2 of Sec. 34, T9S, R38W; the S/2 of Sec. 15, T9S, R38W; the E/2 of Sec. 7, T9S, R37W; the S/2 of Sec. 23, T9S, R38W; and the NE/4 of Sec. 27, T9S, R38W.

Walter Bradley, U.S. marshal for the district of Kansas, to the United State of America Lots 18 and 19, Block 15, Second Addition to Goodland, foreclosed property of Tamara J. Randall.

John Hollister Golden and Marcia L. Golden, trustees of the John Hollister Golden Trust, to Frontier Ag the E/2 of the SW/4 of Sec. 24, T8S, R40W.

Marcalee Carroll conveys and warrants to Robert B. Windell and Diane Windell the NE/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R42W.

Lyle C. Clark to Goodland Economy Lodging Inc. Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 19, First Addition to Goodland.

Holiday Favorites

We are looking for more recipes for the second round of Home for the Holidays 2008!

The categories are:
Main dish
Salad
Drinks
Appetizers
Side dish
Desserts

Please send recipes to:
The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main Street
Goodland, Kan. 67735

DEADLINE IS DEC. 5!!!

American Cancer Society 2009 Relay for Life

Win a $500 & $250 Shopping Spree with a Walmart Gift Card

$2.00 donation=1 ticket
$5.00 donation=4 tickets
$10.00 donation=10 tickets
$20.00 donation=S-T-R-E-T-C-H

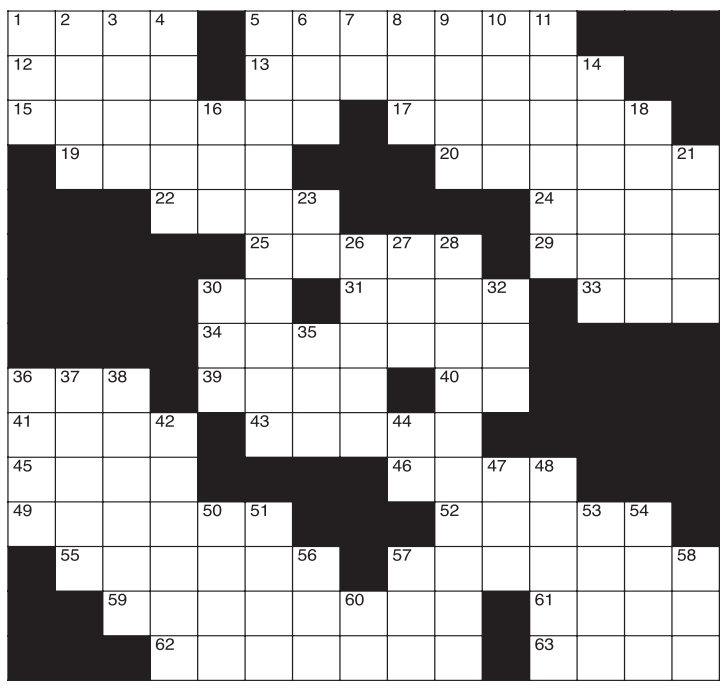
Drawing to be held at Walmart at 2 p.m. on December 13. Need not be present to win. Tickets will be sold at Walmart on November 15 and November 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and December 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Or contact a Paw Wash Relay for Life team member.

(785) 899-5927
(785) 890-3982
(785) 821-3999

RELAY FOR LIFE American Cancer Society

Classifieds work!
899-2338

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS
1. The front of the head
5. 4th C. Latin Bible
12. Seasonal yield
13. Ectoblast
15. Anterior portion of brains
17. Run off the tracks
19. '41 film "Abdul the Bulbul _____"
20. Bahamian capital
22. Formed by sewing 2 pieces
24. Popular shade trees
25. Gaming character
29. 1/100 W. Samoan tala
30. Wizard of __
31. ____igine - native
33. Father
34. Emit radiation
36. Japanese apricot
39. Children's author Blyton
40. Charlotte's Web author White
41. Clusters of sporangia
43. European blackbird
45. Employee stock ownership plan
46. Sign for adding
49. Movie complex
52. 3rd stomachs
55. Actress Kidman
57. Swaziland's capital
59. Tunneled burial place
61. Upon
62. Flue
63. Thin tin plate

CLUES DOWN
1. Licenses TV stations
2. Space on a surface
3. Gladiolus bulb
4. Fencing swords
5. Longest NYC bridge
6. Fiddler crabs
7. Lieutenant
8. The most exalted being
9. Arabian Gulf
10. Biu-Mandara
11. Rubs off
14. Informed wrongly
16. Honey producer
18. Salmon shark genus
21. Second hand
23. 24th state
26. Forays
27. Don't know when yet
28. Usual concierge location
30. Metal-bearing mineral
32. Confederate soldier
35. W. India island annexed in '62
36. Millisecond
37. Red fluorescent dye
38. Conveys a meaning obliquely
42. Induces vomiting
44. The "King's" initials
47. Actress Thurman
48. Wooden shoe
50. Lepidopteran
51. Jai __, sport
53. Capital of Yemen
54. Opposed to a policy
56. Electronic countermeasures
57. Woman (French)
58. A long division of geological time
60. Not off

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