

School district plans more security measures

SECURITY, from Page 1

Zone Assurance Bond money for the system.

In other business:

- Jackson Daise, student of Joy Boyington's third grade at Central Elementary School, showed his book report that he did on the iPad to the board. Daise's parents are Melanie and Dr. Travis Daise. He used an iPad app that allowed the student to take pictures of the pages of the book and to put a character in the book. The student also recorded his own narrative.
- Ben Coumerilh gave a technology update. He said that the teachers were getting comfortable with their Ipads. He has set up a help desk for district personnel. Coumerilh said the planning on having training on the Ipads

this summer.

He said that he had talked to S&T and that they were giving the district 15 megabytes more bandwidth to use for the state assessment tests for the district for the next couple of months. The district now has 15 megabytes of bandwidth.

- Biermann told the board that the budget for the district is being republished because the district is receiving more money. The increased funds were due to at-risk numbers and students at the Goodland Learning Center. At-risk money can not be used like general funds. Money from the Goodland Learning Center is funneled through the district.
- The next meeting of the board will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 12, at the Administration Building, 1312 Main.

Board suggests cost share for Brewster

BREWSTER, from Page 1

contract 60 percent of last year's reporting period fuel usage with Frontier Ag. The reporting period is from April 1 to Oct. 31.

During that period, the Road and Bridge Department used 5,436 gallons of gasoline, 8,119 gallons of highway diesel and 33,839 gallons of farm diesel. The sheriff's department used 3,366 gallons of unleaded and 2,675 gallons of gasohol. The Weed Department used 117 gallons of gasoline, 709 gallons of highway diesel and 116 gallons of farm diesel. The landfill used 134 gallons of gasoline, 1,092 gallons of highway diesel and 2,617 gallons of farm diesel.

The commissioners voted to contract 60 percent of the gasoline, highway diesel and farm diesel for road and

bridge, 60 percent of the unleaded for the sheriff's department and 60 percent of the diesel for the landfill.

Tim Douglas with Frontier Ag said the contract price can sometime be 20 or 30 cents higher or lower than the daily price of fuel, since those prices change so much. Douglas said he expects prices will soon be going up.

"The big talk is it could really go crazy this summer," he said. "I agree."

Later in the meeting, the commissioners asked County Engineer Ken Campbell if he could look into the costs of setting up a fuel tank for the departments.

- Campbell and Ken Griffith were at the meeting to present the commissioners with a bid for a Cat scraper for \$90,675 from Foley Equipment. The county currently has two scrapers.

Griffith said the county would trade in the older one for about \$13,000. The department also got a bid from Wagner Equipment out of Colorado for about \$138,000.

Strnad asked why the department needs two scrapers. Griffith said there is enough work to keep two scrapers busy - such as scalping on a new gravel pit, fill work and work on the new landfill cell - plus when one is in use, the other could be used for training.

The commissioners did not approve the bid at the meeting. Strnad said she knows someone at Wagner who could get the county a better deal and provided Griffith with the contact information.

Campbell also informed the commissioners that he had terminated Doug Hall in the weed department.

Legislature working on oil trust fund, career training as half-way point passes

The Legislature reached the half-way point of the 2012 session this week, known as turnaround. By the time we adjourned on Thursday evening, the House had debated and voted on approximately 90 pieces of legislation this week alone. Considering we'll usually only consider around 15 pieces in an average week. These were long days on the floor.

Oil & Gas Valuation Depletion Trust Fund (HB 2624)

This is an important bill for Western Kansas. HB 2624 allows counties who receive money from the State Oil and Gas Valuation Depletion Trust Fund to establish a County Oil and Gas Valuation Depletion Trust Fund in their individual counties, thus protecting it from state "sweeps" to fund other measures. Counties would be able to spend 20 percent of the funds in the account and could not spend the remaining 80 percent unless specific conditions are met. During last year's session there was an attempt to sweep millions of dollars from this fund. As a result, last summer, a group of western Kansas legislators, including myself, began to work on this legislation.

This fund was created as a mechanism for many rural counties who rely on oil and gas revenues to sustain consistent economic growth when these resources begin to deplete. Each county pays into this



rick billinger

state rep.

account based on their counties oil and gas production

Improving Kansas Water Policy (HB 2517)

HB 2517 makes the Water Transition Assistance Program, a five-year pilot program, permanent. The program is designed to permanently retire all or portions of irrigation water rights and was originally set to expire on June 30, 2012.

Impacting many communities in the western half of the state, Kansas water policy has become a key initiative of the 2012 session. The House has passed and will continue to work on a number of changes to help sustain the Ogallala Aquifer and other water resources in Kansas.

Career Technical Workforce Grant (HB 2435)

HB 2435 creates the Career Technical Workforce Grant for students who have been accepted or who attend Regents postsecondary institutions. Under the bill, the Board of Regents may award grants to applicants who exhibit financial need. The \$1,000 grant for full-time students could not exceed the

cost of tuition and fees. This new grant would replace the existing vocational education scholarship.

Improving career and technical education in Kansas has been a growing focus of the legislature in the past few years. We need to continue looking at better ways to education students for jobs that actually exists in an increasingly complex job market. This alternative education path provides students with valuable opportunities to become trained and/or certified in many high demand, well-paying positions across the state while pursuing a career they're truly interested in.

Local Taxing Authority (HB 2212)

In its original form the bill requires the governing body of any local government with the authority to levy property taxes to adjust the jurisdiction's mill levy rate on an annual basis in order to ensure the local government collects the same amount of total property tax revenue from existing properties as the previous year. The bill prevents local governments from automatically increasing property taxes each year through continual increases in the assessed valuations of properties. They would be required to show additional revenues over and

above existing property taxes with a resolution showing the increase in the mill levy.

This is an important step forward in lowering our local tax burden. The bill provides Local Ad Valorem Tax Relief, not available to our cities and counties, for the first time since 2003. Kansas are being crushed by an ever-increasing property tax burden, which only suppresses economic growth and prosperity.

The House has been attentive to the cost of all tax proposals and has worked to make certain our tax reform package is one that is affordable and insures statutory ending balance is met while also lowering the tax liability of Kansans. Some legislatures are wanting tax relief while still others are wanting income tax relief. However, we must be careful until we control our spending problem, we will not make substantial progress in repairing the long term viability of the Kansas economy. We will continue to work on these issues until we find a happy medium and can agree on which taxes to reduce first.

Repealer Update

On Thursday the House took up 22 bills all designed to do away with senseless government rules and regulations. This was another positive step forward in reducing government in Kansas and I was thrilled to support the "repealer" bills.

Caylee's Law (HB 2534)

One of our first caucus priorities this session was the introduction and passage of Caylee's law. House Bill 2534 implements Caylee's law, named after Florida 2-year-old Caylee Anthony who disappeared in 2008. Anthony's mother, Casey, failed to notify authorities of her daughter's disappearance for a month. Unfortunately, current law does not view this sort of negligence as a crime in many states. This bill passed 124 to 0.

Interstate Health Care Compact (HB 2520)

HB 2520 enacts the Interstate Health Care Compact in Kansas. The Compact would take effect upon adoption by at least two members states and with the approval of Congress. The fundamental purpose of the Compact is to secure the right of member states to regulate health care in their respective states, suspend conflicting federal laws, rules, regulation and orders within their states; and to secure federal funding for state health programs, like Medicaid.

This bill is based on the belief the power to regulate Health Care lies at the state level, the Compact is another way to protest the over-reach of the federal government into healthcare. The Compact is an agreement between participating states to join together to restore their authority and responsibility

Safe and Fair Elections Act (HB 2437)

The House voted to amend the Safe and Fair Elections Act (SAFE), to require all persons registering to vote for the first time in Kansas to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship. All current registered Kansas voters are exempt from providing the proof of their citizenship. The original bill, passed during the 2011 session, had the provision go into effect on Jan. 1, 2013, and the bill amends the effective date to June 15, 2012.

This week I had the privilege of hosting pages from Hill City and Goodland. I would like to thank Hill City teacher Brad Eckols for bringing Katie Ingle, Lacey Radcliffe, Staci Morford and Chantelle Simon and Goodland teacher John Mercer for bringing Jeffrey House, Josh Whisnant and Drew Dautel to the Capitol.

Town Meetings, Saturday, March 3

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and myself will be touring the district: Hill City, Schweitzer Hotel at 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Hoxie, Hoxie Elks Club at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Colby, Colby Community College, Student Union, Multi Purpose Room, 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Goodland, On The Bricks from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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March Consultant Schedule

ALLERGIST**	Jeffrey Rumblyrt, M.D.	March 19
CARDIOLOGIST	Barry Smith, M.D.	March 14 & 28
CARDIOLOGIST	Vijay Subbarao, M.D.	March 8
CARDIOLOGIST**	Christine Fisher, M.D.	March 12
COUNSELING SERVICES		Thursdays by Appointment
DIETITIAN	Sarah Linton, RD, LD, CDE	Tuesdays by Appointment
EARS, NOSE, THROAT	Alfred N. Carr, M.D.	March 9, 22 & 23
ENDOCRINOLOGIST	Gerald Poticha, M.D.	March 8, 9, 22 & 23
GASTROENTEROLOGIST	Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D.	March 6, 19 & 20
GENERAL SURGEON	David D. Beck, M.D.	March 8 & 15
GENERAL SURGEON	Jeffrey Cross, M.D.	March 22 & 29
GYNECOLOGY	Laura Rokosz, M.D.	March 7 & 21
NEUROLOGIST	Steven J. Gulevich, M.D.	March 7, 14 & 15
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY	David Forschner, M.D.	March 21
ONCOLOGY	Prakash Neupane, M.D.	March 2, 9, 23 & 30
ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY	Martin Rubinowitz, M.D.	March 6
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Brian Joondeph, M.D.	March 28
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Ronald Wise, M.D.	March 2 & 16
OPHTHALMOLOGIST**	Eric Fry, M.D.	March 1
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Robert Fante, M.D.	March 23
ORTHOPEDIST	Tim Birney, M.D.	March 12
ORTHOPEDIST	Armond Hatzidakis, M.D.	April 2
ORTHOPEDIST	James Holmes, M.D.	March 19
ORTHOPEDIST	Edward Parks, M.D.	March 26
ORTHOPEDIST	Raj Bazaz, M.D.	March 12
ORTHOPEDIST	Kevin Nagamani, M.D.	April 4
ORTHOPEDIST	Gareth Shemesh, M.D.	March 8 & 9
PATHOLOGIST	Pathology Services P.C.	Call for Availability
PODIATRIST	Erik Ouder Kirk, D.P.M.	March 14
PODIATRIST	Daniel Mallett, D.P.M.	March 28
PULMONOLOGIST	Ken Weisiger, M.D.	March 22
RADIOLOGISTS	Professional Radiology Services	WEEK DAYS
SPEECH THERAPY	Crystal Schultz	Monday - Thursday
UROLOGIST**	Kevin McDonald M.D.	March 13
UROLOGIST**	Wallace Curry, M.D.	March 27

For an appointment please call 785-890-6030

**For an appointment with the Allergist please call 1-888-849-8424

**For an appointment with Dr. Fry please call 1-800-526-3937

**For an appointment with Dr. Fisher please call 1-888-625-4699

**For an appointment with Dr. McDonald or Dr. Curry please call 1-877-312-1619

Goodland Family Health Center
106 Willow Road • (785) 890-6075
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Walk-in Clinic M-F 8:30-9:30 a.m./Saturday Clinic 9-11 a.m.
Dr. Mohamed Shafei (Out of office on Monday)
Dr. Travis Daise (Out of office on Wednesday)
Dr. David Younger (Out of office on Thursday)
Dr. Lisa M. Unruh - Pediatrician (Out of office on Tuesday)
Jackie Jorgensen, ARNP (Out of office on Friday)
Kathy Wiley, APRN (Out of office on Wednesday)

McDonald's has finished remodeling!

McDonald's, in Goodland, KS, celebrated its Grand Re-opening on Saturday, February 25.

The restaurant, owned by Scott and Shelly Angelos, was recently remodeled in January 2012. The new decor incorporated an "Agriculture theme."

Scott and Shelly purchased the restaurant in May 2001, and it currently employs 40 people.

Be sure to stop in and celebrate the new look with everyone. And don't forget to grab a bite to eat while you're there!

Business location: 2325 Enterprise Road, Goodland, KS

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