

West playground to get equipment

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The new playground will replace the current Topsis Territory. The construction will probably start after school is out but could be moved up to March. Community volunteers will help build the playground.

The other proposal considered from Miracle Recreation of Lee Summit, Mo., for \$57,000. Three more companies also submitted proposals.

The board gave its approval for Goodland High School teacher Don Raymer and Johnny Mercer to make arrangements for a Science and Math Spring Break Trip next year 2014 to Chicago. The trip would be for current students from eighth to juniors and would cost about \$760. That does not include transportation. Raymer said with the amount of time they had before the trip they could get a better airfare rate than the tour company, Explorica, was offering. The company would provide a tour guide, lodging, meals and transportation in Chicago. The rate is based on taking a total of 20 students and adults.

Biermann said that after visiting with some of the students at the high school they have decided to offer after school tutoring. He said

the librarian Dr. Nancy McFarlin along with some student tutors will be there to help those who need it. Tutoring will be available from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

It was suggested to the school board that if they want to move the junior high to the high school next year that a formal decision should be made in November. He thought it would be at the Monday, Nov. 26, meeting. That would give everyone some time for planning. For example both schools will need their bell schedule to match.

The move of the junior high to the high school has been discussed frequently by the school board. The board has wanted to make the district more cost efficient and having fewer buildings is one of those ways. Grant Junior High would probably take the most money to update and remodel studies have said and there is room in the high school for seventh and eighth grade. Historically, the high school building has had the seventh and eighth grade in it.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, at the administration building.

Cell company opens new site in Kanorado

Verizon Wireless has activated a new cell site in Kanorado to provide additional network coverage.

The company says the new cell site will enable more Verizon customers to use their phones to make calls; send and receive email and text, picture and video messages; access the Internet; view high-quality videos; and download music, games and ringtones, while enjoying clearer reception and fewer dropped calls. The new site will provide enhanced voice and data coverage in the town of Kanorado and along I-70 between Goodland

and Burlington.

"Network reliability is the No. 1 reason that customers choose and stay with Verizon Wireless," said Brendan Fallis, president of Verizon's Kansas-Missouri Region. "Getting through on the first try and maintaining a connection are important to our customers. We continue to optimize our network so that it remains the most reliable in the nation."

This network improvement is part of the company's plan to stay ahead of the increasing need for voice and data services.

State senators square off at debate

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Schmidt said farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of the land, and he applauded any voluntary cutbacks.

Ostmeyer countered that because of the drought some farmers have been over-pumping for the past two years and they will get penalized with less water available at the end of the five-year plan. He said that although farmers knew that going in, he has also had a lot of phone calls about it, and it would have to be discussed at the Legislature next year.

The candidates were asked about education, and the talk turned to state requirements that cost districts money.

"When we look at these mandates, we have to look at the cost along with it," Schmidt said.

Ostmeyer said several of his school districts were forced to spend more than a million dollars getting new fire doors because of a requirement by the Kansas State Fire Marshal.

"Those doors were good for 40 years, why did we need new ones?" he said. "We have to use common sense."

Schmidt said that example made his case, since there are a number of costs out here that have to be figured in with any new mandate from the state.

"In our districts, we deal with what we have," he said.

Another question covered Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. Schmidt said there has been a lot of discussion, but the first things the state Legislature needs to do is assure

people who payed in that the system is going to be there.

"Whats going in and coming out needs to balance," he said. "There needs some reform and we have done some. We changed it from a defined contribution to a defined benefit."

Ostmeyer said the situation will turn out all right for state employees. He said many people tell him the state ought to be run like a business, that it should offer a 401k retirement plan and nothing else.

The original intent of the system was for teacher retention, he said.

"Many teachers were retiring with nothing," he said.

Rackaway asked about the redistricting process, which was the reason there are two incumbents in the 40th District this year.

Ostmeyer said he and Schmidt were on the same side in the redistricting debate. He said that during the final days of the process he reached out to the Democratic leadership to try to get cooperation.

"I bet there's some folks out there who wish they had," he said.

Schmidt said the whole process was very unfortunate.

"What can you say when the leg fails in one of its duties," he said. "I led a fight to save the 36th. It was about keeping the district alive."

Even though the 36th was moved further east and Schmidt suddenly found himself in the 40th, he said, the 36th was able to stay in western Kansas, rather than being removed and put elsewhere.

Another question covered jobs growth and population decline. Schmidt said wage appropriate housing is one of the top job related issues in northwest Kansas, since without it, it can be difficult to recruit new workers.

Ostmeyer said some communities have stepped up and built housing. He also praised the Rural Opportunity Zone, which gives tax and student loan repayment incentives to people moving into low-population areas. Even though some counties have been reluctant to set aside the funding, he said, the program has been popular.

The candidates were then asked about the governor's tax plan. Ostmeyer said people have not given governor a chance.

"Every day there's a press release out there saying the governor is failing," he said. "Give it a chance."

Schmidt said that if the if governor had a plan that's working for all of Kansas, he'd be willing to give it a chance. Now, he said, the administration is saying there will be an 18 month delay in getting revenue.

The final question was about support for senior citizens. Schmidt said there is a higher percentage of senior citizens in northwest Kansas than in many other places in the state.

"Senior centers and programs absolutely essential," he said. "We need to keep them funded."

"I would never make fun of senior citizens since I am one," Ostmeyer said. "It's that Greatest Generation, the World War II generation that needs our help."

Hearing to decide fate of restriction plan

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if it is rejected.

"All I can tell you is we have every hope and we're working to make it effective by 2013," the engineer said.

The restrictions are set up to keep wells in the area from pumping more than 114,000 acre feet of water over the next five years. These restrictions, Bossert said, would limit farmers to no more than 55 acre inches of water for irrigation for five years. That's a 20 percent reduction from the past ten years during which time, he said, farmers in this area used an average of about 13.7 acre inches per year.

The area being considered is all of it in Sheridan County except for

nine square miles in Thomas County near Menlo. The area ends about six miles west of Hoxie and does not include any towns, Bossert said.

It is one of six "high-priority areas" inside the Groundwater Management District, which covers all or part of 10 northwest Kansas counties. These areas either saw at least a 9 percent decline in the water table level between 1996 and 2002, or had 275 acre feet of water pumped within a two-mile radius from 1990 to 2000, during studies by the Kansas Geological Survey.

"They see the decline is continuing," Bossert said of the water right owners, "and it's going to get worse, they're near the end."

The district first looked into regulating groundwater use to slow the

depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer in 2001. The boundaries of the six high-priority areas were drawn in 2006, and water-right owners met to consider restrictions in 2008 and 2009. Only the "Sheridan 6" area pursued an enhanced management area, Bossert said, holding a total of 13 meetings from 2008 to May 9 of this year to hash out the proposal.

Two other high-priority areas lie in Thomas County, Bossert said. One in the northwest part of the county is just nine square miles, but area of 243 square miles surrounds Colby on three sides and stretches down to the Logan County line.

The creation of Local Enhanced Management Areas was established by Senate Bill 310, which passed the 2012 Legislature. This plan allows

groundwater districts to decide what water restriction to impose. Earlier forms of regulation put that power in the hands of the chief engineer.

"In the end, they just couldn't trust me. I hate to say it," said Barfield, adding that he supports the law.

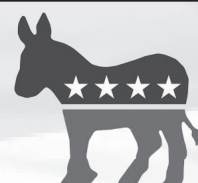
When the engineer said he could not give the district a guarantee that he would only put in the regulations landowners wanted, he said, he help work on the bill to let them do it on their own.

Barfield said that he has not received any other proposals for Local Enhanced Management Areas.

Written comments for the hearing should be postmarked on or before Nov. 28, he said. They should be sent to Leslie Garner, 109 SW Ninth St., fourth floor, Topeka.



REPUBLICAN VS. DEMOCRAT



NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

Republicans say: "In a free society, the primary role of government is to protect the God-given, inalienable, inherent rights of its people." (GOP Platform)

"Freedom is never more that one generation away from extinction."

Ronald Reagan

Democrats say: "We know that global climate change (*i.e. global warming*) is one of the biggest threats of this generation --- an economic, environmental, and national security catastrophe in the making. The national security threat is real, urgent, and severe." (DNC Platform)

Ask yourself this question: Do you believe that global climate change is really a national security threat on par with terrorist attacks at home and abroad as well as nuclear, chemical and biological attacks?

DEFENSE

Republicans say: "Sequestration -- which is severe, automatic, across-the-board cuts in defense spending over the next decade of the nation's military budget, would be a disaster for national security." (GOP Platform)

"Peace through strength", Mitt Romney.

Democrats say: "President Obama has made significant steps to restore America's image around the world by rebuilding strategic alliances with countries that share our values and face common threats." (DNC Platform)

Ask yourself this question: Do you think President Obama has really restored our national image abroad by bowing to world leaders and performing a world-wide apology tour? Do those that hate and want to kill us now like us or have they decided that we have projected weakness and now is the time to burn our embassies and kill Americans abroad? What did President Obama mean when he secretly told the Russians that he would have "more flexibility after the election"?

MARRIAGE

Republicans say: "The institution of marriage is the foundation of a civil society. Its success as an institution will determine our success as a nation. We reaffirm our support for a Constitutional Amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman." (GOP Platform)

Democrats say: "We support marriage equally and support the movement to secure equal treatment under law for same-sex couples." (DNC Platform)

Ask yourself this question: Is it really a good idea to tamper with one of the pillars of western civilization -- the family, especially when history shows that prior civilizations that went this route decayed and self-destructed? Is it wise that the Democrats are using our military as a social Petri dish for their homosexual policies?

ABORTION

Republicans say: "...we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." (GOP Platform)

Democrats say: "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade..." (DNC Platform)

Consider this: Democratic Convention participants forcefully spoke of wanting ZERO state restrictions on abortions, including no parental notification for minors, no licensing for safety requirements of clinics and no restrictions on when an abortion can be performed -- including up to the time of birth! What type of nation does not protect life and those too weak to fend for themselves?

TAXES

Republicans say: "Tax only to raise money for essential functions and constrain government to its legitimate constitutional functions." (GOP Platform)

"Lower tax rates increase the number of jobs available, more workers pay taxes and revenues go up." Mitt Romney

Obama's father -- a Communist (Barack Hussein Obama Sr.)

wrote: "Theoretically, there is nothing that can stop the government from taxing 100% of income, so long as the people get benefits from the government commensurate with their income which is taxed."

Ask yourself this question: Is the money you earn yours, or does it really belong to our rulers to divvy up as they see fit and leave you with what they deem sufficient for your needs? Mr. Obama has publicly stated that he is doing all he can to bring to fruition the "Dreams From My Father" and he is well known for his desire to "spread the wealth". If a government has the power to take such as this, then no one is safe, no matter how little or how much you make.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE-
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PRODUCED AND PAID FOR BY THE SHERMAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE.
PRODUCED BY JEANNIE SCHIELDS, CHAIRMAN; KAREN S. HOOKER, TREASURER.

Editorial remarks are italicized.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.