

Bridges and band shell discussed at county commissioners meeting

By Karen Krien

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County bridges to be replaced and the damage to another bridge were talked about when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Monday. Four bridges will be put on the five-year plan but the damaged bridge will be replaced this summer.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said that 10 days ago, the stringers on a bridge northwest of St. Francis on Road W, were broken when a gas drilling truck attempted to cross it. The bridge is an 18-foot span. Mr. Flemming had talked to Tom Roelfs, gas company representative, who said the company would be willing to pay for part of the costs. Mr. Flemming said that there is a lot of oil and gas activity in the area and a better bridge will be put in place.

The new bridge will be 18-feet wide and 24-feet long.

The commissioners agreed to raise the price for taking the big farm tractor tires at the landfill from \$10 to \$15 each. It is also costing more to have the concrete pieces crushed so the price for concrete will go up.

Mr. Flemming had found a 1990 excavator for \$30,000 which will be used for pumping gravel. He said it sounded like it was a good deal but would do some testing and have an inspection report made. The excavator is at a gravel pit north of St. Francis.

Prairie Land Electric was given permission to set 1.5 miles of poles on the county right-of-way west of the Rawlins-Cheyenne county line on Road Q.

Park/band shell

The city of St. Francis planned to put Sawhill Park on the Kansas and National Historic Register but found out that the county owned the property. J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, asked that the county sign the forms so the paperwork could be sent in.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, pointed out that when places are put on the register, the repairs and construction are limited.

Terry Miller, clerk, said that this is true but the structures are publicized and draw tourists to town. The commissioners signed the papers.

Bird City Fire House

Gary Rogers, emergency man-

ager, had two bids for a mobile radio for the Bird City fire department. Prairie States, Imperial, bid \$850 while Nex-Tech, Hays, bid \$791. After consideration of the bids, the commissioners decided to go with Prairie States as the company handles the majority of the county's radio business. The purchase money will be taken out of the 911 Fund.

The radio has an antenna which is similar to those on vehicles. If this antenna does not work, a bigger antenna can be put up. The radio allows calls to be made through it.

In other business

• Representatives with High Plains Mental Health asked that the commissioners fund the organization by paying \$4 per person living in the county and it would come to approximately \$10,000.

• Troy Porter, contractor, had told the county clerk that his bill for the sidewalk and curb work in front of the steps had amounted to \$9,200.

• Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical director, had a mutual aid agreement between Dundy and Rawlins counties for the commissioners to sign. She said that Michael Hansen is attending school

to become a training officer. When completed, he will be able to re-certify emergency medical technicians.

• Ben Leibbrandt, St. Francis, was representing his son and wife, Chris and Heather Leibbrandt. He asked that the county maintain his drive so their foster children will be able to attend St. Francis schools. The county road and bridge supervisor, will look into the matter and bring more information back to the commissioners.

Adam Jones, St. Francis, recently purchased land southwest of Wheeler. They have access to the land but Mr. Jones would like to have a different road. The commissioners agreed to keep it as it was.

• Thirteen people representing the Cheyenne Initiative Association talked about what the organization is doing and what it stands for. David Butler, new coordinator for the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, discussed what the commissioners expected from this organization. See related article.

• The sheriff talked about grants for 911, relocation of the 911 department and the hiring of Cody Beeson as the deputy to cover the Bird City area. See related article.

Businesses needed in county

By Karen Krien

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The new coordinator of Cheyenne County Development Corporation, David Butler, met with the commissioners. He said he was new in the county, only being a resident for around a year.

He asked if there were projects that the commissioners would like to see.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt that former coordinator, Carol Redding, had done a good job but they both felt that, the problem with bringing businesses to the county was that none were willing to take that first step to come.

Mr. Butler said the goal of small-town America is to develop more businesses. With the county's organization, most people don't know that the coordinator will work 12 to 18 months bring in a business, and then it falls through. Ms. Redding had tried to connect with the Ogallala Commons which the Cheyenne Incentive Association recently joined but few people were aware of her efforts.

Mr. Butler said he felt that it was very important to take care of the

businesses the county already has.

"Survival of small towns is a cut-throat deal," he said. There have been towns and cities trying to lure our businesses away."

He talked about fund raisers to help bring in more money for the Corporation. He will also be writing grants. To keep people informed, he will be sending out a newsletter.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, talked about the Initiative Association and how, at first, he was very excited — he would like to see new businesses in empty stores. However, then he found out they were discouraged about the Development Corporation.

"Why can't we work together?" he asked.

It is crucial that the towns are working together, he said, and he worried about about motives of the Association.

He said the Association has done some things that are wise and there are key leaders in the county on the board.

"When they (leaders) speak, people listen," he said.

Why can't we do this under one heading? he asked.

"I just don't want a year to go by, see a power struggle."

Mr. Beikman said he felt that some of the local businesses really don't want the competition and Mr. Butler confirmed the statement, adding that he didn't think the county businesses should be competing with themselves.

They said that it was frustrating when there is someone who wants to put in a business such as Dollar General, then people fight to keep it out.

"It would be better if everyone (organizations) was in the same boat," he said.

They discussed ideas on how the county could be a hub for big businesses such as internet-oriented or trucking businesses. Mr. Butler said he had contacted 30 companies proposing the county for something like this.

He said he will continue to keep the commissioners informed.

Cheylin students awarded

Several area students accepted Fort Hays State University scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year at a recent Student Recognition Program in Goodland.

Cheyenne County students include:

Terrence Jensen accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award and a \$500 Award of Excellence in business and leadership.

He is involved in football, basketball, golf, band, FFA, Scholars Bowl, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Student Council, Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine, Catholic Youth Organization, National Honor Society and is on the honor roll.

Jensen, son of Robert and Susan Jensen, Bird City, and Debra Orten-Jensen, Bird City, plans to major in accounting.

Aubrey Kehlbeck accepted a \$2,000 Ralph and Lucile Hunter Scholarship and a \$500 Award of Excellence in biology.

She is involved in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, dance team, Pep Band, Marching Band, school musicals, choir, Catholic Youth Organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Teens for Christ, Student Council, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, National Honor Society and is on the honor roll.

Kehlbeck, daughter of Royce and Darci Kehlbeck, Bird City, plans to major in biology.

Danielle Flemming accepted a \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award and a \$500 Award of Excellence in allied health. She is involved in track, is her class president and is on the honor roll.

Flemming, daughter of Larry and Christie Flemming, St. Francis, plans to major in radiology.

Maclain Frewen accepted a \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. He is involved in basketball, football, track, band, music, FFA and Methodist Youth Group and is on the honor roll.

Frewen, son of Kelly and JoEllen Frewen, St. Francis, plans to major



Jensen



Kehlbeck

in communication studies.

Brennon Wilger accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award and a \$500 Award of Excellence in justice studies. He is involved in football and wrestling.

Wilger, son of Bill and Connie Wilger, St. Francis, and Megan Murray, St. Francis, plans to major in justice studies.

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South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Rita Officer attended the Awana Awards Program and picnic Sunday afternoon at the Federated Church in McDonald.

Bob and Mary Helen Bixman of Colby called on Ote and Ellen Dewey Sunday afternoon.

Debbie and Kathy Banister traveled to Wichita this weekend where Debbie received a 2 on her clarinet solo.

George and Kathy Banister attended the McDonald Equity Annual Meeting and supper Tuesday evening.

Bethel Goldt attended the Thrivent Dinner at the St. Francis High School Sunday after church.

Bethel Goldt attended the Annual Womens Spring Convention at Sa-

lem Lutheran Church Saturday.

Charlene Kramer attended a baby shower Saturday afternoon for new babies born recently in the Goodland Bible Church membership. Among the new mothers and babies were her niece, Colleen Gattschall and Linnea, and Becky Purvis and Kamie.

Joe and Charlene Kramer were Sunday supper guests at the Rodney and Kay Shay home in St. Francis. They celebrated Margret Shay's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Thomas and Alex attended The Rockie Mountain Junior Regional Freestyle and Greco Wrestling Tournament this past weekend in Laramie, Wyoming. Alex placed 1st on both styles of wrestling.

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