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BIRD CITY TIMES 3



COMMISSIONERS MEET - Cheyenne County Commissioners (1 to r) Andy Beikman, Dale Patton and Ernie Ketzner are working on budget matters during the recent meeting. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# **Financial matters discussed at meeting**

### **By Karen Krien**

karen.k@nwkansas.com meeting on Commissioners' Monday was spent listening to is money needed to help the Northwest Regional Recycling Center, the purchase of a new road grader, repairing the rain cap on the courthouse and increasing the hospital's appropriation. Where the additional money was going to come from when the budget is already tight was the dilemma the Mr. Lacy said, keeping the hospital commissioners found themselves in.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, talked about raising the amount of tax dollars given to the board from \$575,000 to \$650,000 - an approximate 17-percent increase. Mr. Lacy pointed out that the hospital board has not asked or received a raise for several years.

to the county," he said.

He said the cost-based reimbursement fund has to be paid up front but we don't know what our volume will look like. Medicare and Blue Cross Blue see that the hospital gets what Shield, he said, tells what they will they are asking for. Dale Patten, pay us. Charity care is increasing and last year, the hospital was felt that the hospital and the underpaid by \$350,000 from Medicare.

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The hospital also provides the county health service. The commissioners give around \$10,000 for this service but it costs the hospital board around \$70,000.

able to carry the hospital through rural America. State and federal

were used

It is important for the hospital Most of the Cheyenne County to build up the funds while taking care of projects like the kitchen. The hospital's kitchen did not pass pleas for more money. There the last Kansas Fire Marshal's inspection but, because the board was making plans to remodel, they were given an extension. However, the fire marshal will probably not make any exceptions in his next inspection if the kitchen remodel is not done.

> From a strategic point of view, keeps people in the community and makes a stronger tax base.

> With the additional money, he said, we will go back to the kitchen project and plan to start it the first of the year.

The commissioners thought it would have been much easier on everybody had there been a costof-living raise each year rather "But, we have given a stabilized than to be hit with a 17-percent health system and more providers increase. Had they gotten the costof-living raise each of the last four years, they would be at the 17-percent mark.

> Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he would do his best to commissioner, agreed. They community are benefiting from the services provided .

Mr. Lacy said he is concerned about the health care reforms. We will be, he said, facing challenges there and we will need to be flexible.

Mr. Patton pointed out that The board, he said, needs to be demographics are truly hurting

budget each year, will be in the county within the month and the commissioners will know more about what they will be able to do after talking with him.

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#### Road grader discussed

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had the figures for a used road grader. The cost of the grader was around \$240,000. There was only \$38,000 in the equipment reserve fund. He suggested borrowing the needed money but the commissioners did not want to borrow.

Martin Tractor, Colby, has an excavator for \$60,000. Mr. Flemming said there is another company which had one for \$45,000. He felt they were good prices.

If they were going to replace any equipment, the commissioners thought a grader was probably a good investment and the machine he was looking at was probably a good machine but there just wasn't the money for it right now.

Mr. Flemming talked about the five-year plan. He said the Runzel Bridge, west of St. Francis, was on the plan and was being completed. Also on the plan was the Hnizdil Bridge and asphalting a road north of St. Francis. He said the government is out of money for these projects so they are slow at making sure the projects are being done

### Rain cap repair

The courthouse steps are being finished but, after the recent rains, the contractor, Cary Stupka, again for the rehabilitation and pointed out that the rain cap around the top part of the courthouse

Jack Eldridge, who figures the directly onto the brick walls and steps. To fix this project, the cost will be about \$6,000.

Getting new steps for the front of the courthouse has been a long process. The original cost was \$97,980 several years ago. The final bid, which the commissioners accepted, was \$138,000. The original grant was for \$78,384 and, the commissioners have been told that there will be an additional \$11,800 grant to help with the cost.

The county's share will be \$47,816 (it was originally only supposed to be around \$28,000).

There is a grant for \$78,384 plus \$11,800 to help with the steps, With the extra expenses, it will cost \$138,000. The county's share will now include the \$6,000 for the rain cap repair.

The commissioners agreed to get the rain cap fixed while there is a contractor present to do the

work. The progress of the step project can be seen on the web at www.

cheyennecounty.org **Regional recycling center** Roger Jensen, the county's

representative for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center, said there was not enough money to keep the center open in July. See related article.

In other business

In other business:

• Cathy Domsch, director for Century II, Bird City, said they were reapplying for a Community Development Block Grant demolition projects. They were not funded the first time and were

## **Club** Clip

### **American Legion Auxiliary**

The American Legion Auxiliary met on June 5, with eight members present. For roll call, members shared something about Memorial Days remembered. This was really interesting as a couple of the women remembered the Memorial Day flood, which had a great influence on their lives and impacted the whole community.

For the program, Rose Gordon shared about the History of the POW/MIA flag. She began by reading from a newspaper article about Newt Heisley, the designer of the Prison of War/Missing in Action flag, had died. He died on June 4, at his home after years of bad health. He was 88 years old.

This flag was adopted by Congress in 1990 as a symbol of the nation's concern for those missing during military actions in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Heisley's image sketched in pencil in 1971 during the Vietnam War shows the silhouette of a gaunt man, a strand of barbed wire and a watchtower in the background with the words "P.O.W./M.I.A. 'You are not forgotten.'

The flag is black, bearing in the center, in black and white, the emblem of the League. The emblem is a white disk bearing in black silhouette the bust of a man, watchtower with a guard holding a rifle, and a strand of barbed wire. Congress in 1998 mandated the flag be displayed at the White House, United States Capitol, military installations and other federal buildings on national observances that include Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day.

For another part of the program,

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Johnson and Sammie Ufford for lunch at Two Lee's on Friday. Sammie was preparing to return to her home in Utah.

Karlyne Atchison returned home on Tuesday from Grapevine, Tex. where she had been visiting in the Art Atchison home. She attended a dance recital in which her granddaughters were participating. She also accompanied her son, James, to a Texas Ranger ball game.

Nancy, Dave, and Alan Palozzi of Lakewood, Colo. are visiting Iris McIntosh and Myra Miller. They are here to help Myra celebrate her 99th birthday.

Sabatka attended the wedding

Phyllis Wilkinson met Lisa of Nathan Kacirek and Megan Wallace in Weston, Mo. Enroute to Missouri, they stopped in Manhattan and attended a baseball game in which their grandson, Teylor Wilson, was playing.

Jason and Tracy Thompson of Sedgwick, Colo., were weekend guests of Gail and Kay Miller. Other guests were Rick and Judy Erickson and Wayne Erickson of Fort Morgan, Colo., who were here to see Frances Erickson in the Rawlins County Hospital.

Lois Morelock represented the McDonald Area Development when she attended the Highway 36 meeting in Atwood on Friday. Iris McIntosh also attended On Saturday, R.J. and Susie and represented the McDonald businesses.

Wanda Dowdy shared from a diary that Mary Amaryllis Hammer, (her great great aunt) had written about the second Decoration Day that she had attended in Chicago at the Rosehill Cemetery on May 30, 1870. This was at a time when people realized what this day stood for and that it was to remember what the soldiers had fought and given up for their country's freedoms. Mary Amaryllis had lost her

husband and there were about 350 soldiers buried there at Rosehill. There were approximately 5,000 people there at the Memorial Day service that day. She, her sister, and others in the group had walked for a long time that day, before they were able to ride in a carriage and on the way back was able to find a seat on the train, while many others had to stand in the cars or on the platform.

Ms. Amaryllis also had written a piece about the Great Chicago Fire on Oct. 9, 1871. This was very descriptive and in her writing, she brings you along so you feel like you are right there.

There were 13 diaries that Mary had written, beginning in 1861 and ending in 1880. Each diary contains about 180 typed pages and were written in very small, but very legible, printing. These are part of the Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum near Evergreen, Colo.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be the annual brunch meeting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the American Legion Hall. Naomi Reeh and Ana Ponce will be sharing their experiences at Girls' State.

All who are eligible to join may come and be a part of the plans that are being made for next year.

the year and, last year, it wasn't support, he said, leans toward the needs caulked and repaired as trying again. The grant application able to do that so reserve funds urban areas.

the water runs through the joints

## Moments by Mila By Mila Bandel

### Men's Health Week

The week of June 15 through June 21 is National Men's increase the life span of men is

### **Honor Roll**

and renewed Times New subscriptions: Colleen Montevilla. Elkorn, Wis.; Myra Miller, McDonald; Dennis Wright, Bird City; Mr. and Mrs. Ronn Byrd, Magnolia, Texas; Keith Sanders, Bird City; Marylin Taylor, Lubbock, Texas.; Dexter Leach, Minneola; Terrie Steele, Denver, Colo.; Winnifred Wamhoff, Bird City; Laurie Leonard, Bird City; Mabel Carstens, Bird City; Russel Starns, Andover; Terry Wilson, health problems such as mouth cravings and other challenges. Sebastopol.

to reduce tobacco usage. This is decay, bad breath and permanent one of the best changes that men tooth discoloration. According can make to improve their health Health Week. One way to help according to the Kansas Tobacco Coalition. Tobacco usage is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Kansas. Every year, approximately 2,500 Kansas men die from diseases directly linked to smoking.

2007 According to the Kansas Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System survey almost one out of every five Kansas men reported they smoke. Smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory diseases; and is a contributing factor to many other chronic diseases. Smokeless tobacco use is also a health hazard that can cause oral cancer and can lead to other oral a personalized plan to fight sores, gum recessions, tooth

to the 2006 Kansas Behavior **Risk Factor Surveillance System** survey 9.3 percent of adult males use smokeless tobacco.

According to the Kansas Tobacco Coalition, less tobacco usage will make you feel better, breathe easier and greatly reduce vour risk of disease. Quitting smoking will also improve your family's health by reducing their exposure to secondhand smoke.

When Kansas men and women are ready to quit tobacco use, the toll-free Kansas Tobacco Quit Line 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) is there to help. Experienced counselors work with callers one-on-one to set a quit date and help them create

was signed.

• Mrs. Domsch reported that the demolition of the old lumberyard in Bird City was on hold until the Department of Health and Environment could make some price comparisons. With the regulations, Mr. Patton said it was hard to clean up stuff in a costeffective way.

• Sheriff Craig Van Allen asked for executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made upon coming out of the session.

• The commissioners approved the purchase of four hand-held radios for the Bird City Fire Department. The radios cost \$828 each and the money will come from the 911 Fund.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



### **Network Administrator**

### **Cheyenne County Hospital is hiring for a full-time Network Administrator**

This position maintains computers, network, and related items in a serviceable condition to enable the hospital and clinic to meet its' mission. Ensures compliance with applicable laws and regulations to include HIPAA security standards and completion of PACE quality reporting documentation.

Previous Information Technology experience in a hospital setting preferred but not required, including computer proficiency. Experience in Microsoft 2003 Server administration and terminal server. Knowledge of desktop operating environments: Windows 2000, and Windows XP, experience with Office 2003 and Crystal reports preferred.

Manage activities including network administration, network security management, site maintenance and trouble shooting, and hardware/software installation and diagnosis and data backup and archiving.

Overall support and maintenance of servers, desktops, and applications including day-to-day troubleshooting and support, overall server administration, planning and deployment, and some project management.

Need to be a self-starter and work independently. For more information contact Tabetha Ketzner, Human Resources at 785-332-2104 or fill out an application at

www.cheyennecountyhospital.com

Come and be a team player for us as we work to be the **Shining Star of Rural Health Care!** Cheyenne County Hospital



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