

# Commissioners vote to improve airport runway

By Karen Krien

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The ground work is being done at the Cheyenne County Airport and the commissioners received an update at the Tuesday, Nov. 15, meeting.

Dave Yost, airport commission chairman, and Robert Grace, airport manager, talked about the runway and other projects that will need to be done in the future. However, the focus now is the completion of the airport runway in July.

The county, with a matching grant where the federal government pays 95 percent of the costs and the county, 5 percent. It has had the airport runway widened and replaced with cement and gained a number of other improvements. Mr.

Grace pointed out that the grant money comes from aviation fuel taxes and air seat taxes.

Several years ago when the Aviation Weather Observing System (AWOS) was installed, the airport commission had looked into upgrading the equipment so St. Francis weather would be available to pilots as well as the National Weather Service. At this time, when St. Francis weather is reported it is an estimate, taking information from the Goodland and McCook equipment.

When they first looked into updating the system, it was expensive, costing \$3,500 down and \$300 a month. However, the cost has gone down to \$2,000 down and \$75 month.

The airport commission's

budget can handle the cost so the men were told to go ahead with the upgrade.

The discussion turned to construction in the flight zone. The commission has a master plan which designates where construction would hinder those flying into or out of the airport. However, a resolution is needed to make sure there is no construction in the zone.

Karan Thadani, assistant county attorney, and Mr. Grace will work on the resolution.

**Road and bridge department**  
Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said Jan. 1, 2013, was the deadline for changing radios to narrowband. He said he will be using radios that he can reprogram. The cost will be around \$7,000 for 24

radios.

Mr. Flemming asked for 15 minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. An additional 10 minutes was spent in session. Upon coming out, Ernie Ketzner, chairman, said no decision would be made.

Mr. Flemming left the meeting but came back and asked that he be able to discuss an issue of check distribution. Clerk Terry Miller said if Dave was going to discuss this issue, Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, be in on the discussion.

The commissioners asked Mr. Flemming to have his secretary, Kelly Doyle, sit in on the discussion which centered around the road and bridge department continuing to send their department checks from their department.

After discussion, it was decided to have the road and bridge department continue sending their department's checks out.

**County attorney**  
Kari Gilliland, county attorney, had talked with the commissioners at the Oct. 31 meeting concerning closing her office in the courthouse. The commissioners agreed that if there were little or no complaints about closing the office, they would approve of the closing.

There had been no complaints so the county attorney's office

will be moved to Milliken Law Office. The county attorney's budget will be used to pay the assistant county attorney's salary.

The equipment in the courthouse office will be inventoried and moved to the law office.

**Sheriff department**  
Sheriff Craig Van Allen asked that he be allowed to hire a full-time secretary. The commissioners agree to allowing a part-time person, but didn't feel he needed a full-time person.

Sheriff Van Allen will advertise for a 32 hour/week position as sheriff secretary. The commissioners told the sheriff the county attorney office will soon be vacant and they felt it would be a good idea for the sheriff office to move to that room. Sheriff Van Allen agreed.

**Maintenance department**  
Shelley Christensen, maintenance person, talked about updating the Christmas decorations. The commissioners asked her to get a price and they would look at the costs.

She said Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, had helped her pull the vines off the fence around the basketball court. With the vines off, the fence, where an automobile had hit it, could be repaired.

She said the only bid she

had received was from Roger Jensen, St. Francis. The vehicle insurance will pay for the cost of the repair.

**In other business**

• Mrs. Gilliland called for an executive session to discuss personnel.

• An employment wage agreement was signed for Janice DeGood, dispatcher.

• Gloria Bracelin asked if the county was going to be giving bonuses. With the disbanding of the Chamber, she wondered if she should order more scrip money checks. After discussion the commissioners agreed to give full-time employees \$100, part time employees would receive \$50 and a prorated amount would be given to those who had not worked a full year.

• Jennifer Padgett, communication director, talked about scheduling. Discussion centered on how to pay overtime and monthly hours worked. After discussion, it was decided to pay anything over 40 hours per week as overtime or comp time.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the commissioners has been scheduled for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, in the commissioner's room in the courthouse.



## McDonald News By Sandy Binning

Fred and Lavina Waters traveled to Burlington Saturday afternoon to see their great grandson, Roman James McLaughlin, son of Bryan and Noell McLaughlin. They were all guests at Kevin and Jeanna Penny's home.

Karlyne Atchison called on Lois Huxley at the Rawlins County Hospital Friday afternoon. Karlyne visited Aunt Marie Holzwarth in St. Francis Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Coulson and family of Larned were weekend hunting guests of Jim and Lois Morelock.

Weekend visitors of Marlene

Johnson were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Johnson and Megan of Moundridge, Mr. and Mrs. Brent Johnson, Trey, Zane, and Warner of Aurora, Colo., Denna Johnson and Dylan of Aurora, Colo., Deana Magnani and Tish Loker. Dixie and Ted Bethel were brief visitors this weekend also.

Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson visited Vera Kacirek at the Decator Good Samaritan Home Wednesday afternoon.

**Federated Church Thanksgiving Meal**

Sunday noon at the Federated Church, a bountiful Thanksgiving meal was served to approximately 60 people. The

tables were set up and decorated by the Fellowship Committee for the special occasion. Pastor Mark Adams opened with prayer. About 20 meals were delivered to the community shut-ins. A wonderful time was had by all.



HALEIGH RUCKER was one of the Teen for Christ members picking up items for Thanksgiving baskets.

## Clerk earns certificate from Wichita institute

DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk of Bird City completed the third year of the 2011 Municipal Clerks Certification Institute Nov. 7-11 in Wichita. The four-year certification program is sponsored by the Center for Urban Studies, Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Wichita State University and the City Clerks and Municipal

Finance Officers Association of Kansas.

The Certification Institute provides 120 clock hours of instruction and is accredited by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Participants receive theoretical and practical instruction in public administration, leadership, interpersonal, and technical skills. The program aids municipal clerks and finance officers in improving job performance and recognizes the professionalism of their office.

Upon graduation, participants may apply the institute training hours toward qualifying to become a "Certified Municipal Clerk" with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, a professional association of more than 10,000 members.



Louderbaugh

## Alumni receives marksman award

Hudson Louderbaugh, son of George and Dixie Louderbaugh of McDonald, graduated with honors from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. on Nov. 4.

Louderbaugh had the highest score in basic rifle marksmanship, known as a "Hawk Eye," for the battalion at Fort Jackson hitting a possible 40 out of 40 targets using an M-16 rifle. The only "Hawk Eye" at the fort for the graduating class and on that firing range for two and a half years. Upon receiving his award Hudson congratulated by Major General James M. Milano, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson. After graduating, Hudson is assigned to Fort Lee, Va., for advanced individual training where he will graduate Dec. 15.

## Farm Equipment Auction

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011-10:00CDT  
Location: Stanton County, KS  
3 1/2 Miles N. of Johnson on HWY 27

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The Canny Team, Assoc. of Swenson Real Estate & Auction Service, 303 S. Main-Johnson, KS 67855 Contact Matt Canny-620-492-3169.

Can't make it to the auction! Bid live online! powered by proxibid. [www.proxibid.com/CannyTeam](http://www.proxibid.com/CannyTeam)

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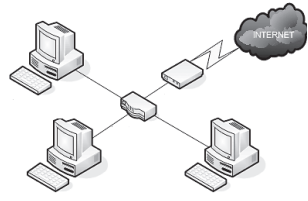


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## Herald And Times Happenings:

### Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is priceless

This year, as in the year's past, the Special Christmas and New Year's sections will be published before the holidays. The sections will feature letters from Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times staffs welcome participation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 9 in order to get them into the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to The Herald at P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 or fax 785-332-3001, or drop them off or e-mail to [sfherald@nwkansas.com](mailto:sfherald@nwkansas.com) titling the subject as "Christmas for the Paper."



**DON'T MISS**  
BRINGING IN 2012 WITH A MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS IN THE NEW YEAR'S SECTION.



## FIRST BABY CONTEST

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!  
Coming in January a bundle of businesses ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

To participate in a Special Section contact Tim at:

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —  
**Bird City Times**  
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731