



ERIC FIALA, city employee, removes the grate and fills the empty tree hole with pea gravel.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Commissioners get a look at the new voting booths

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Thursday, June 30, was relatively short as there was little business.

Terry Miller, clerk, started off the meeting by showing one of the new voting booths. The booth has three different booths, with a lower shelf for people in wheelchairs. The booth ordinarily costs \$799 but the state is offering counties a chance to buy them at a 90-10 match.

Since the booth will cost only \$79, the commissioners agreed that the clerk purchase three of them — two for St. Francis and one for Bird City.

Noxious weed supervisor's report

Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, presented a plan regarding weed control within the county. He said farmers spraying the ditches was a problem as some sprayed with a chemical that killed grass and weeds. However, there is a problem of having enough time to spray the county right of ways and ditches as well as spraying for noxious weeds in pastures.

Farmers, he said, should treat their grass as a crop. We will never get rid of all the noxious weeds, but I would like to see there is control of the weeds.

The commissioners agreed that the county is responsible for getting rid of the weeds in ditches and also that, by spraying private pastures, they were competing with private businesses.

It may get to the point, Dale

Patton, commissioner, said, that we will need to have a resolution so farmers will be fined if they don't take care of their weeds.

Absentee landowners, Mr. Lohr added, need to visit their property to see what is going on.

The matter was tabled until a future meeting.

Mr. Lohr had been to a meeting in Alma but had also gone to Hays for a workman's comp matter. The commissioners reviewed the mileage he had, noting that the trip to Hays was unnecessary as the matter could have been handled over the phone. They agreed to pay for the mileage to Alma but not to Hays.

Mr. Lohr had two other meetings he thought important to attend. One was the annual weed director's meeting in Meade. The other meeting, held in Oakley, was for the disposal of the new plastic products being used including the huge plastic tarps covering the wheat bins.

The commissioners approved of the meetings in Meade and Oakley but cautioned Mr. Lohr that the money was tight and they will be looking closely at the necessity of meetings, especially when they include paying for the mileage. Meeting may be one

area where, toward the end of the year, the commissioners may cut.

Attorney's report

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, updated the commissioners on several cases. She said the child-in-need case had been settled and had been expensive for the county.

She had the right-of-way agreement as well as a memorandum that will be filed in the Register of Deeds office. The documents were sent by Dean Jarrett, land-man for Branch Systems, a subsidiary of Rosewood Resources.

Mr. Jarrett had the commissioners' approval for the use of the county right-of-ways. Rosewood will pay the county \$10 per rod for a total of \$8,240.

In other business

• A wage agreement was signed for Ben Killingsworth

• Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, asked for 10 minutes executive session. No decision was made upon coming out of the session.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, July 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Gravel problem discussed

At the Monday St. Francis City Council meeting, Scott Schultz, mayor, reported that the plywood with the red traffic cones had been removed from the areas where the Main Street trees had been removed.

In place of the plywood, sand and pea gravel had been placed.

While it looks better, he said, and is more safe without the plywood, it now appears that dogs and cats are using the gravel for a litter box.

Are these animals running loose or are they being walked by people who do not clean up after their animals? the council wanted to know. Whatever, the piles left are unsightly and they smell!

The council discussed several ways that this problem might be solved. The city has no leash law but dogs at large can be hauled to the pound and the owner fined. Maybe if citizens seeing owners not cleaning up after their animal could report them or possibly take a photo. Taking photos of dogs at large could also be a way of reporting these animals.

Mary Lampe, clerk, said she would contact other city clerks to see how those cities handle similar problems.

Introducing

McKenna Dawn Braz are Hailey Frewen and Cody Braz. McKenna Dawn Braz, who was born a year ago on July 16, would like to announce the birth of his sister, McKenna Dawn Braz, on June 29, 2011. She weighed 6 pounds and was 18-inches long. Her parents

Grandparents are Mike Frewen, St. Francis; Julie Bernard, Russell; and Deb and Bill Braz of Wray, Colo. Great-grandmother is Mary Lee Frewen of St. Francis.

Student News

Wichita State University Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Andrea Holzwarth was named to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean's honor roll for the spring 2011 semester.

She was a full-time student with 12 or more hours and earned an outstanding grade point average.

The family of Ruth Reynolds is requesting your participation in a card shower in celebration of her 95th birthday on Saturday, July 16. Cards may be addressed to:
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360 Canyon Ridge Drive
Wray, Co. 80758

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