

Health Department update

By Cynthia Haynes
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The Norton County Health Department will be receiving a new used 2012 Chevy Impala.

Department head Gina Frack brought the county commissioners two bids for vehicles during the Monday meeting.

Mrs. Frack said that she wanted a simple car without anything that would make it stand out as a health department vehicle and, when she asked for bids, she looked for a car that the dealers could sell if the county didn't take that one.

She gave the commissioners two bids for the vehicle. She said she had asked all three used car dealers in town - Walter, Engel's and Jacobs - for bids. Both Walter and Engel's submitted bids, she said.

The winning bid was for a vehicle with 20,600 miles from Engel's for \$17,500.

Mrs. Frack also discussed how the Emergency Medical Services could share information with other health agencies,

such as the hospital, in order to better serve their patients.

She told the commissioners that she is on a governor's steering committee with 29 other health-related agencies from across the state. She said from this committee she has learned that there will be changes in how the state handles health agencies and patients populations. She said she doesn't know what the changes will be, but they are coming.

"I'll be interested to see what changes come," she said. "No matter what, changes will come by Jan. 1. Although some people hope it won't happen."

Commissioner John Miller said that he was glad she is on the committee so that Northwest Kansas doesn't get forgotten in the process.

"We don't want people out here in the frontier counties, as they call us, to drop through the cracks," he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to set up a safety meeting before the end of the

year to make sure the county gets the best rates on its insurance.

- Decided to continue the burn ban in the county. Commissioner John Miller noted that nothing has changed. It's still dry. In fact, he said, he was surprised that there were no fires last week when the wind was blowing so hard.

- Heard a report from Mr. Miller on the landfill. He said that the county still has a bad plastic problem with stuff blowing all over. He said he took photos of the problem. New screens will have to be put up along the construction and demolition pit.

- Learned that money will have to be moved around because reimbursements for the sheriff's office were put in economic development's capital development fund.

- Left the meeting early to attend the funeral of Lyman Rowh.

Dr. R.A. Peterson, who defeated commissioner Carolyn Applegate, attended the meeting.

Up in smoke



There was a garage fire at 3:35 a.m. Tuesday morning at 512 North Jones Street in Norton. The property is owned by Steve Jultz who rents to Chris Davis. Three units and 14 firefighters worked the scene which took a little bit over an hour to contain. Fire damage was at the southeast corner of the garage but the heat and smoke damage was throughout, creating a total loss of the contents. Norton City Fire Chief Mitch Jones stated. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. - Photo by Trevor Burns

Football championships decided

By Dick Boyd
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State high school football championships were decided in the two 8-man divisions and state championship matchups were determined in the other enrollment classes over the weekend.

The 8-man title games were played Saturday in Newton.

Defending 8-man II champion Thunder Ridge (Kensington-Agra-Kirwin) finished runner-up this year with a 28-6 loss to Baileyville.

Baileyville (13-0) scored on its first two possessions, then relied on a solid defensive effort to keep Thunder Ridge from ever mounting a comeback. Thunder Ridge (11-2) averaged 52.9 points a game during an 11-game winning streak after losing their opener to Rock Hills (Mankato).

Thunder Ridge defeated Baileyville 46-14 in the 2011 title game.

In the 8-man I championship game, Ness City (13-0) used their team speed on offense, defense and special teams to defeat Rock Hills (Mankato) (11-2) by a score of 40-8.

Ness City got all their points in the second and fourth quarters but it was more than enough to deny Rock Hills of what would have been their first state football title in history.

In Class 3A semi-finals on Friday night, unbeaten powers Beloit and Scott City met in Beloit.

After trailing 18-14 at half-time, Scott City put together a pair of quick third-quarter scores to take the lead and tacked on another early in the fourth to pull away for a 42-26 victory.

Beloit actually outgained

Scott City 428 yards to 415 but a pair of big second half pass interceptions and a kickoff return for a touchdown tilted the advantage to the Beavers.

In the other Class 3A semi-final contest on Friday, Silver Lake defeated Rossville 35-14.

These two wins set up the championship game between Scott City (13-0) and Silver Lake (13-0) at 1 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 24 at Gowans Stadium in Hutchinson.

In Friday's semi-finals in Class 2-1A, Meade (11-1) defeated La Crosse 34-12 and Centralia (12-0) outscored Lyndon 34-14.

Meade will play Centralia for the Class 2-1A state championship at 1 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 24 at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays.

LYLE NEWS

I missed the card game on Friday and went to son Dwight's place for an overnight visit. Teresa had a garage sale on parts of three days. She was raising money for Dwight's medical expenses. He is having dental work done - we all know how that is. We had a good visit and then came to Lyle for the Community Building fundraiser.

A good crowd turned out for the fundraiser. After a sumptuous meal, we all enjoyed the piano pieces by Shelby Lynn and Spencer Davidson, and we hope they keep playing. I believe they will, as Spencer has progressed well since we heard him two years ago; and Shelby was reluctant to stop after all the applause. It was very cute. Then, music by the Prairie Rose Harmony singers; Jim and Carolyn Plotts, (he refused to help her sing the Chicken Song); and The Prairie Dogs banjo and guitar duets made a fun evening. Thank you to everyone who came, sharing food, donations and good times. We hope to do it again next year.

Jim and Carolyn managed to make it home from Mexico in time to be with us. We especially

need Carolyn as Master of Ceremonies. The other things I missed were Sunday Church and the Norcatu bazaar. I guess a combination of excitement, flu shot, more walking, and inflammation in my ears got me down. I'm okay today.

June Jolly's sister-in-law, Jean Aller, of Chino, California passed away. You have our sympathies. June. June entertained the KT Club and played bingo. She and friends are starting a club where they will meet every other week.

Lloyd Frandsen and Kathy Van Meter attended the play "Send Me No Flowers" at the McCook High School Friday evening, and came to the Lyle party Saturday. Tim and Clinton Nejdil had supper with them Sunday evening.

Toots Magers, visitors last week were Larry Van Otterloo and sons Neal and Larry; Charles and Inez Keller on Saturday; Judy and Charlie Easton for lunch on Sunday; and Ruth Vise and Carla Clason, who had come to work at the cemetery.

Plan

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Ms. Smith said that she is just asking the departments to get the information needed together. Then she sits down with them and can get their people put into the computer in just a few minutes. She said it takes her about five minutes to enter someone whereas, a person who isn't used to the system, will take about 15 minutes a person.

Since there will be two new commissioners coming on board on Tuesday, Jan. 15, she said, they will need to go through the emergency training course. The prison is doing a course, she added, and anyone is welcome to attend so that will be a good time for the commissioners to find out what is expected of them in case of an emergency.

She said that it is vital that the commissioners take the training because the county is not eligible for any state or federal emergency money if they do not.

She also said that since commissioner Carolyn Applegate was on the Local Emergency Planning Committee and she lost the election, the commissioners will have to appoint someone to replace her.

Ms. Smith said that she has been looking at a grant from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but she hasn't found enough people with radios interested in the project. Too many people check the weather on their cell phones or computers today, she noted.

Commissioner John Miller suggested that she give it one more try putting ads in the Norton Telegram Extra and the shopper out of Phillipsburg.

Ms. Smith's county vehicle was discussed. It needs to be equipped as an emergency vehicle, she said, but she doesn't want it to look like a police car.

She said she has found that emergency lights can be placed by the headlights.

She said Kansas law requires that the vehicle be so equipped if she is to pass police blockades to get to scenes of emergencies.

She also asked the commissioners to approve her attending a training course in Alabama. The cost of the course including transportation, meals and lodging is paid for except for a one or two-night stay at a motel there between the two sessions she would need, she said.

The course is for hazardous materials training, she said. After taking the course, she could train others in hazardous materials awareness.

The course will be given on February 3 9 and 10-14 at the Center for Domestic Preparedness, she said.

When she is out of the county, she warned, the board of commissioners is responsible for any emergencies that she would normally cover. Mr. Miller sug-

gested that the sheriff's office would be better suited for the task and Ms. Smith said she had someone in mind who might be able to help.

She also told the commissioners that she had only one hand-held radio and no spares. She said that the radios are expensive but that she has some money left in her budget this year because she had planned to buy some equipment.

After discussion of where radios are most needed and whether it would be better to get the new narrow-band radios or some used ones that other counties are dumping on the market as they get newer models, the commissioners suggested that she work with the sheriff's office. The commissioners asked her to get two bids on anything she found, if that was possible but Mr. Miller said that might not be feasible if she got used equipment.

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Colby Community College is accepting applications for a **General Business Instructor** in Norton. Part-time position with flexible scheduling. Master's degree required in business or related field. To apply, send letter, resume and all postsecondary transcripts to Colby Community College, Attn.: Lisa Failla, 1255 S. Range Ave., Colby, KS 67701. Materials may be emailed to lisa.failla@colbycc.edu. Interviews will begin immediately. Position to remain open until filled. CCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to diversifying its work force.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PRAIRIE DOG CREEK
WTAP SIGN-UP OPEN
The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be accepting applications for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) from October 1 to November 15.
WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to help restore aquifers and streams in critical areas by retiring water rights. The Prairie Dog Creek Basin is significant in requirements to maintain compliance in the Republican River Compact with the State of Nebraska. The "high priority" areas of this basin in Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Sheridan and Thomas counties have been determined to be in need of stream restoration and aquifer recovery and are now closed to further water appropriations.
Applicants who are selected for WTAP grants are compensated by the department's Division of Conservation in exchange for the permanent retirement of water rights on irrigated land.
For more information, contact Steve Frost, water conservation program manager, at (785) 296-8964 or Steve.Frost@kda.ks.gov. WTAP rules and regulations, applications, maps and other details are available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation website at <http://www.ksda.gov/doc?cid=1941>.
Information and assistance is also available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources field office in Stockton at (785) 425-6787 or at the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 in Colby at (785) 462-3915.

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