

City and county leaders discuss common concerns

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis City Council met with Cheyenne County Commissioners before their regular meeting on Thursday. Things discussed were the emergency building on U.S. 36, the phone tax collected for 911, and the rate the landfill is filling up.

The council was concerned about the county's share of the money paid to the city for offices and storage of part of the county's emergency equipment in the building.

The county shares the cost of wages and expenses for the emergency manager with Rawlins and Sherman counties. Dale Weeks, city councilman, asked if these counties shared the cost of the office with the county.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said they each pay \$1,100 a month. In the past five years there has been the agreement with the three counties, there has been a raise of \$100 but, when they hired Ryan Murray as the manager, the cost went down.

Each county helps the operation by providing an office in their county. The new emergency manager will be in each office a minimum of one day a week. Gary Rogers, former emergency manager, had a closet for his office in Rawlins County. Rawlins County Commissioners are talking about providing an office elsewhere, maybe in the hospital.

Mr. Beikman said that each county also gets an allotment from the state. This money helps pay for some of the things the county health nurse does and also for mock trainings.

Maybe, Mr. Weeks asked, these counties can help subsidize the costs of the emergency building? That, Mr. Beikman said, is what those counties are paying the county for.

911 funds

With the new legislation, after the first of the year, the county will no longer be allowed to use the 911 money collected from the

phone taxes for radios or pagers, this includes the new radios which the county will need to have by 2012.

The commissioners noted that in rural Kansas, this money was and is still needed for this type of purchase. Wichita, Dale Patton, commissioner, said, didn't need the money so had stockpiled that money. That is why the legislators made the decision to take the funding from radios and pagers away.

The commissioners said they were trying to get as many radios as possible before they could no longer use the funds. However, they noted that, when they start using the newer radios, they will be able to spend the money on a tower but towers cost about \$250,000.

The council said that George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had come to the city about a grant he had written and had been approved for the purchase of pagers but it would require around \$700 from the city council. Mr. Beikman was also aware of the pagers and grants. The total grant is \$2,790. If the city and county each pay half of \$1,395, the federal government will match that. No decision was made.

The 911 funds will still help the dispatch center. Mr. Beikman said he had looked into putting a tax on the phones so the county could use the money for radios but he found out that this was not possible.

The state makes mandates, then we have to pay for them, Mr. Patton said. It's frustrating!

Landfill

The talk then turned to the landfill. The commissioners said they were concerned at the rate the landfill was filling up. There are regulations made by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Mr. Patton said, that won't allow us to burn any wood that has a nail in it.

The commissioners noted that all the shingles hauled to the landfill after the hail storm last year had made an impact on how fast

it was filling. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said there had been 720 roofs with damage in the county.

They also noted that the landfill supervisor was allowed to cover the trash each night with shingles instead of dirt which helped some.

Roger Jensen, city councilman, talked about the recycling center and how much it took in. He said the tonnage taken to the center increases but it also seems like the tonnage taken to the dump by the city trash truck hasn't decreased.

We will have to charge for the next e-waste collection, he said, adding that he figured that there would be more of those items found in the dump. Mr. Patton said he had recently seen a large-screen television out at the dump. He also talked about all the newspapers that are hauled to the landfill.

Once the landfill is full, we will be hauling our trash to a transfer station and paying big bucks. The council members talked about the city refuse rates which are going up. The council said they hope the increase will encourage more recycling.

The city is paying the county \$2,400 a month to dump, Mr. Jensen said. What will it then cost the city to haul it?

Carla Lampe, council woman, said that it is important to recognize all those who are hauling iron because they are also helping the county.

The meeting ended with the group talking briefly about why the county was raising the mill levy. No matter what the mill levy is, the commissioners said, the bottom line is to make sure there is enough money to run the county.

We have cut costs down to the bare minimum, Mr. Beikman said. We had put money away to buy a new grader but we can't justify spending \$200,000 on a grader.

We are trying to be frugal, Mr. Patton said.

Unfortunately, the budget will probably be in worse shape next year.



TAKING HIS MESSAGE to Washington, Tom Weis, peddles his recumbent trike. Taking a break in St. Francis, the rider wants action from the government.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Clean energy drives rider

By Karen Krien

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Tom Weis, president of Climate Crisis Solutions, Boulder, Colo., was in St. Francis on Tuesday, Sept. 28, riding his hybrid electric-assist recumbent trike.

He said he is riding because he feels the need for good-paying jobs, good clean air for kids and a stable planet to live on. If people

feel the same way, they can log on to his web site and sign the petition.

Mr. Weis said he is concerned that there is no leadership in Washington, D.C., and thinks the nation should be on a 100-percent renewable electricity grid by 2020.

"This not a Republican or a Democratic issue - this is an American issue," he said. "We

need to look past the party and do what is best for the country."

He felt the cause was so important that he put his business on hold to make this trip.

"We're running out of time," he said.

To follow Mr. Weis' ride or sign the petition, go to www.RideForRenewables.com or sign

American Legion Auxiliary to celebrate 90th birthday

The American Legion Auxiliary will be celebrating their 90th birthday on Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

"The community, along with all Legion and Auxiliary members, former Girls' and Boys' State participants are welcome to celebrate with Legion Auxiliary members on this our 90th anniversary," said Hulda Dorsch, president of the Auxiliary. "A special dinner and program has been planned for Saturday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. This will be your special way of celebrating with the Auxiliary for God and country, to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States."

Patriotism is a personal commitment for members of the American Legion Auxiliary. They place great importance on community involvement and responsible citizenship. More than 20 nationwide programs receive support and financial aid from their organization.

The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world, with nearly one million members. Affiliated with The American Legion and chartered by Congress in 1920, the Auxiliary is a veterans' service organization with members in nearly 10,000 American communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the national and local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

The Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace and continues to stand firmly behind America today, as it did when the organization was first founded.

Initially, the Auxiliary was organized by concerned women who took on the day-to-day responsibilities of life when their male family members went across the sea during World War I. Aware of the many fatherless families and the needs of returning veterans, Auxiliary women vowed to

continue their supportive roles when the veterans of World War I founded The American Legion in 1919. Auxiliary members today are wives, members, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of these courageous veterans. Some members are veterans themselves.

The services of the Auxiliary directly and indirectly touch the lives of all Americans. With the philosophy of "Service, not Self", the American Legion Auxiliary develops a strong spirit of volunteerism in its members, who have joined together in the fellowship of giving to others.

Student News

Colby Community College

The Colby Community College Livestock Judging Team recently returned from the first contests of the year at the Flint Hills Classic in El Dorado and the Mid-American Livestock Judging contest in Wichita.

Grady Brunk of St. Francis competed in the freshman contest.

The Flint Hills classic is the largest collegiate livestock judging contest in the country with

over 400 individuals competing from over 30 junior and senior colleges across the country.

At this event the freshmen team finished third overall in Sheep Judging.

There were 161 freshmen from 17 schools competing at the Flint Hills Classic. The Mid-America contest included 108 freshman from 12 schools.

Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.



IN MANY AREAS people met last weekend to Walk for Life. The annual event allows individuals and groups to speak out against abortion.

Photo courtesy of Elmer Kellner

Time for flu shots arrives

The Cheyenne County Health Department dispensed flu shots to individuals six months of age and older at a flu clinic on Friday at the health department.

The flu clinic was conducted to help prevent and protect against both seasonal flu and H1N1, said Shawna Blanka, public information officer for the health department.

Some people, such as older adults, young children and people with certain health conditions, are a higher risk for suffering serious complications from the flu. Influenza is an acute respiratory illness that is spread from infected people to the throat or nose of others. Signs and symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, running or stuffy nose, and muscle aches.

A point of dispensing (POD) site is a mass dispensing site that is capable of providing medications (prophylaxis) or vaccinations to protect the general population from biological threats or epidemics, said Mrs. Blanka. It should be noted that routine medical care is not provided in a point of dispensing site.

The dispensing site is an efficient way to quickly dispense medication or administer vaccine

to community people. In the event of a community disease outbreak or emergency, a point of dispensing site might be one tool used to fight the spread of disease.

Mrs. Blanka said that this flu clinic represents a practice modal of setting up a point of dispensing site in case of an emergency. The flu clinic team conducted this site through the Incident Command System.

State, regional and local public health officials, local emergency management directors and communities must work in a coordinated, organized manner when dealing with the serious issues presented by a bioterrorism attack or other significant epidemic.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Public Health will provide direction and coordination at the state level for point of dispensing planning and operations while the local health departments oversee planning and implementation of point of dispensing in their respective counties.





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Good Bye Summer ... Hello Fall!!!
... and it's "that" time again!

CITY-WIDE CLEANUP
St. Francis Citizens

Call the Power Plant 332-3031
between 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon
and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Do not leave cleanup requests on the answering machine, they will not be picked up, talk to the dispatcher. Requests can be called in Monday thru Friday.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 14

Calls received after the deadline will have to wait until next fall. Your cooperation and patience will be appreciated.