

Event Center nears completion

Written by Darci Tomky

Phillips County Event Center is close to completion, reported Phillips County commissioners at their meeting Friday, Oct. 30.

Saturday, Nov. 14 is the first day events are scheduled for the new facility with the Extension's small ruminant program during the day and Pheasants Forever annual banquet that evening.

Three hundred stackable chairs and their carriers were ordered from Smith Hardware in Haxtun, and 40 5-foot round tables and 30 8-foot rectangular tables were ordered from Computers Etc. in Holyoke.

Commissioners noted they also purchased a big, power floor scrubber for \$6,500 for the Event Center.

Most recently, construction crews have been hauling gravel around and started working on carpet/flooring.

They are still waiting on a Colorado Department of Transportation grant for some of the exterior parts of the building, so that might not get finished until spring. Commissioners continue to research what rental fees, deposits and policies will be put in place at the Event Center.

A walk through with the fire marshal will take place Monday, Nov. 9 to see if people can occupy the building.

Snow removal policies discussed

Commissioners explained Phillips County will be affected by the Colorado Department of Transportation's snow removal policies for winter as discussed at the Eastern Transportation Planning meeting in Akron Oct. 19.

Their policy will be to limit snow removal to a maximum of 14 hours (5 a.m.-7 p.m.) on all state

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highways having an average daily traffic count of 1,000 or less. In Phillips County, this includes all of Colorado 59, Colorado 23 and U.S. 385 from Holyoke north to the county line.

These measures are implemented to save money.

U.S. 6 and U.S. 385 from the south county line to Holyoke are on the priority plowing schedule.

The snow removal policy can be varied if the highway is closed or will close if coverage is not maintained on days when school buses are operational for school or extracurricular activities. In an emergency, residents can contact the Phillips County Communications Center for assistance.

Other business

In other business in the month of October, commissioners:

—noted road districts switched to working five eight-hour days each week instead of the four 10-hour days they worked during the summer weeks.

—noted Garold Roberts, new road district employee, started Monday, Nov. 2.

—purchased a 2009 GMC Sierra crew cab pickup for \$28,665 for district two.

—worked with Star 92.3 on harvest snack sacks to deliver to the harvest crews.

—approved Ronny Farmer from Lamar for next year's audit at a max price of \$17,040.

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—noted two new boilers were installed at the Courthouse. A few things need finished up, but the boilers are working and commissioners are pleased to have heat again in the Courthouse.

—noted Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments (NECALG) approved Enterprise Zone 2010 tax credits for the Phillips County Event Center, Phillips County Economic Development, East Phillips County Hospital District and the Haxtun preschool.

—replaced windows and are working on a new door at the weed district building.

—approved Justin Grant as a new ambulance driver for East Phillips County Hospital District.