

## **New notification system a possibility for comm center**

Written by Darci Tomky

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Phillips County Communications Center is considering a new notification system, reported county commissioners at their Nov. 22 meeting.

County administrator Randy Schafer said after three demonstrations of different products, they are looking at WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System). It is a computer-based program allowing dispatchers to inform first responders by cell phone, land line, text, e-mail or pager.

WENS can also be used as a reverse 911 call to notify county residents of emergencies like tornadoes and blizzards.

Since this product is the communication center's best recommendation for the county, they will be holding a meeting with representatives from law enforcement, fire and emergency medical providers to demonstrate WENS.

There is also the possibility the notification system can be used by other governmental entities within the county, like hospitals and schools, for their own internal notifications.

Commissioners said Taste of Agriculture is set for Monday, Jan. 23 from 4-7 p.m. at the Phillips County Event Center. Quite a few vendors have shown interest in participating in the event, which showcases agricultural products produced in the Great Plains.

Anyone interested in reserving a booth should contact the county administration office at 854-3778.

Net profits from the 2012 Taste of Ag event will be donated to the new Haxtun Child Care Center.

County residents should note a recent change-up for the Phillips County Event Center. Reservations for the building are now being handled by Phillips County Extension Office. Since they are already located at the Event Center, they can easily allow potential renters to view the rooms under consideration as they make the reservation. Extension can be contacted at

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854-3616.

Renewal contracts for 2012 were approved by the commissioners for Garold Roberts, buildings and grounds maintenance at the courthouse square; Jamie Poe, janitorial services; and Debbie Hoffner, cleaning at the Event Center restrooms.

Schafer reported the GOCO universally accessible playground project at Homesteaders Park is still planned for completion this year, if weather cooperates. The equipment has been delivered, and the contractor was scheduled to begin work this week.

In the month of November, commissioners reviewed nine more natural gas well permits for Black Raven Energy.

They also attended the annual Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) Winter Conference in Colorado Springs for three days this week.

Holyoke Enterprise December 1, 2011