New steps on the west side of Phillips County Courthouse are finished except for the handrail, reported commissioners at their Sept. 28 meeting.

County forces, led by Mike Salyards and Garold Roberts, removed the existing steps, and former county employee Jason John was contracted to install the new steps.

Commissioners said the project is expected to be done in October. Crews were letting the concrete cure a little bit longer before installing the handrail.

A new railroad crossing will be put in Monday, Oct. 15 a couple miles west of Holyoke on Highway 6 and County Road 35 at the site of the new Seaboard Foods feed mill. The county has been working with NKC Railnet for the upgrade.

Oct. 1-7 is officially “Celebrate 4-H Week in Phillips County” according to a proclamation signed by the county commissioners. Local youth, volunteers and CSU Extension staff in Phillips County have been celebrating 4-H this week to coincide with National 4-H Week.

Commissioners reported Dustin Schneller was appointed to the county weed and pest board to fill a vacant position. Martin Olofson volunteered to continue for another three years on the board.

Rick Bogan is the newest fair board member, replacing Mike “Woody” Woodhead who resigned due to his new role on the local hospital board. Jim Helfer also volunteered to continue with another term on the fair board. Commissioners said they are still looking for people to fill some of the vacancies right now.

Also in the month of September, commissioners:

—completed interviews for the social services director position.

—met with county department heads and elected officials Sept. 21 for 2013 budget requests.

—approved three road occupancy agreements with Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission to place a three-inch natural gas line under County Roads 23, 25 and 27 as they continue to bury the existing above-ground line all the way into Paoli.

—approved two subdivision exemption applications, as recommended by the planning commission, for Donna Oliver. They were for the sale of approximately 10 acres in the S 1/2 of Section 10, T8N, R45W and 9.99 acres in the SE 1/4 of Section 9, T8N, R45W, both existing farmsteads.

—noted Phillips County Fairgrounds will again be used for the CJRA rodeo May 31-June 2, 2013.

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