

## **Event Center construction progressing steadily**

Written by April Peregoy

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Going over the details of construction of the new Event Center at the fairgrounds has kept Phillips County commissioners busy during the month of May, they reported at their Friday, May 29 meeting.

Progress continues to move steadily on the building, and commissioners have been occupied with finalizing details, such as how to finish all the floors.

They also recently met with the kitchen committee and Northeast Colorado Health Dept.'s Carmen Vandenkark to go over any possible safety issues and changes that need to be made. Commissioners recently accepted a bid from Scholl's as well to provide a new sound system for the building.

Coming up with the best way to replace the courthouse heating system is another matter commissioners have been dealing with in May. They reported they have exhausted every possible resource out there to find a cost-effective replacement, but have had little luck. Still, they hope to have a decision made by next month.

### **Ness resigns; Waln hired**

Phillips County Weed and Pest director Chris Ness recently gave the county his two-week notice. His last day is Friday, June 5.

The county is looking to fill the new position as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, Beau Waln has been hired as the new county landfill operator. He replaces Bill Andrews who was promoted to landfill manager after Matt Meusborn resigned.

### **Airport meetings scheduled**

Commissioners were scheduled to attend a public hearing in Haxtun Monday, June 1 regarding Airport Road 28. Recently, the Town of Haxtun sent a request to the county, asking commissioners to close a section of County Road 28, between mileposts 7 and 9.

The reason behind the request is that the road runs too close to the airport's runway, making it harder to secure grant funding for the airport remodeling project.

Depending on public opinion, commissioners said they will then make their decision after the hearing. They added they will only close the road if the town agrees to apply for the grant.

Commissioners are also due to appear at a meeting with Holyoke City Council members and state aviation officials regarding the Holyoke Airport's layout plan. An official date has not been scheduled yet as Holyoke's city supt. Mark Brown is waiting to hear when the state aviation officials will be able to attend. However, he expects it will take place between June 10-20.

### **Other business**

In other business during the month of May, county commissioners:

- announced County Clean-up Days will be held Friday and Saturday, June 5-6.
- noted they will be out of the courthouse June 8-10 for the CCI Summer Conference in Vail.
- okayed the use of the courthouse lawn for the Relay for Life event to take place Aug. 21-22.