

Fairgrounds expanded 2.93 acres to the northwest

Written by Darci Tomky

Phillips County extended the fairgrounds a few acres after purchasing a piece of land from James and Julie Krogmeier for \$13,185, reported county commissioners at their May 30 meeting.

The 2.93 acres are adjacent to the northwest corner of the fairgrounds. It will accommodate the new extended bike/pedestrian path as it loops around the north side of the fairgrounds.

County crews have already planted eastern red cedar trees on the west side of this property, in addition to a number of other trees they recently planted at the fairgrounds.

Phillips County has been busy preparing for new parking and storage facilities on property to the east of the courthouse in the 200 block of South Campbell Avenue. The former bowling alley structure has been torn down, and the board of commissioners has received proposals from five companies to erect the new parking/storage structure.

Commissioners said they are evaluating the bids and hope to make a decision in the near future.

Last week, county road and bridge crews also helped remove the existing concrete curbing at the Holyoke High School track as the school district anticipates a Great Outdoors Colorado grant award for their track project. The labor was the county's in-kind assistance for the project.

Commissioners reported the county is currently reviewing a draft junk and weed regulation. They said additional discussions will be held with the planning commission and county sheriff before they arrive at a draft to consider for adoption.

Commissioners will soon be attending a board training session in Denver for an explanation of the duties of the Board of Equalization. In the month of July, commissioners serve on this board to hear protests from property valuations set by the county assessor.

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They explained the protests must first be filed with the assessor and then would only proceed to the Board of Equalization if the issues cannot be resolved between the property owner and the assessor.

The board approved Star 92.3's request to host the Taste of Home event at Phillips County Event Center on Oct. 29, 2013.

Commissioners noted a number of new Phillips County employees recently hired.

Olga Baeza has been contracted to clean the two primary public bathrooms at the Event Center, replacing Debbie Bennett who did not continue her contract. Jerry Lauer and Baeza were hired for part-time maintenance at the fairgrounds and Event Center.

Mollie Peck, who worked part-time for the county weed spraying program last year, has returned for another summer.

Road District 1 in the Amherst area hired Walter Juarez and Brad Haake to begin duties in June.

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