

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, January 5, 2012

# City approves McDonald's project

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission, during a short meeting Wednesday night, gave its approval for a new McDonald's to be built. By approving the McDonald's final plat, it gives the go-ahead for the current restaurant to be demolished and a new one to be built in its place. In addition, according to Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein, a new parking lot will be constructed on land to the north of the current structure.

Rehbein said Shane Spurlock, franchise owner of the local McDonald's, purchased the land to the north and west of his

building. The plan calls for the current entrance to the restaurant to be closed, and an access road built between McDonald's and Super 8. The road will service both McDonald's, and the possibly developable land to the west. The current entrance will be an expanded parking lot.

Spurlock said the additional land needed to be acquired to get the building further from Highway 81.

"It was too close, it's too small, and we couldn't get any of the automated equipment in there," Spurlock said. "The building doesn't fit today's market."

By purchasing the land,

Spurlock said he will be able to keep down the rent he pays the McDonald's corporation.

"Nine cents out of every dollar goes to rent," he said. "I bought the land, but McDonald's has to own the land that's being developed. So my rent doesn't go up, they buy the property from me at 10-percent of market value."

Spurlock estimated that he had purchased the land for \$45,000 and then sold it to McDonald's for \$4,500 so his rent would not increase one percent.

"That doesn't sound like a lot, but it's forever," he said. "That's why I own all the land."

Building the access road to

quo." Borrowing dirt from that area, Uri said, should give the City enough dirt to construct the dam and complete the commercial grading.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the commercial lots along Highway 81 were also going to be completed. If not, he said, the City wouldn't need to get dirt from the college property. He said he would rather not spend the \$10,000 on engineering until he knew that for sure.

Uri said it was his recommendation that the Commission move forward with the contract in an effort to gather all information needed to make informed decisions on how to proceed with the entire project.

Uri said by meeting with the landowners of the lots and engineers, they could have a better idea of the value of the land, and whether it would be feasible to prepare those lots.

The Commission approved the contract 4-1, with Johnson casting the dissenting vote.

The only other item of business was to reappoint members to the Concordia Recreation Advisory Board. Kenny Allen will serve a one-year term, and John Hernandez, Ragna Belden and Derrick Hittle will serve two-year terms.

After a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Uri, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss the purchase of a police motorcycle.

## McDonald's

(continued from page 1)

In other business, the Commission also approved on a 4-1 vote a supplemental contract with Campbell and Johnson Engineers for the flood control project engineering. Commissioner Charles Johnson voted against the contract.

There are several aspects of the \$14,520 contract, which will enable the City to get started on preparing the commercial lots in the south development. For \$1,275, Campbell and Johnson engineers will prepare the additional land acquisition and temporary construction easement documents for construction of the dam. Engineers will also investigate options for flooding easements, with a price tag of \$2,040. For \$510, engineers will also investigate earthwork costs to determine the feasibility of completing the commercial lot grading.

The highest priced item in the contract - \$10,695 - is the preparation of earthwork and grading plans for an area north of College Drive. City Manager Larry Uri said he intends to approach the administration at Cloud County Community College with the possibility of leveling out a section of College land to acquire enough dirt to prepare the commercial lots for sale.

Uri said the plan is to level a portion of land north of College Drive in cooperation with a future college development as a "quid pro

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## CITY ELECTION

January 24, 2012, at noon, is the filing deadline for one (1) City Commission seat to be contested in the April 3, 2012, City General Election. To file for the City Commission, the signatures of at least twelve (12) qualified electors are required on a petition or the candidate may pay a filing fee of \$10.00. The filing will be for the position now held by Charles Johnson. If more than three (3) candidates file for the position, there will be a primary election held on February, 28, 2012. For questions, or to file, please visit the City Clerk's office at City Hall.

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Police provide identity theft information

On Jan. 3 the Concordia Police Department issued a press release about a female suspect posing as a pharmacy employee, soliciting personal private information.

The suspect calls pharmacy clients stating the pharmacy computer crashed and she needs to update client data. The press release generated several more reports to the Police Department from various victims in our community who had received calls from this impostor.

Identifying information was solicited and/or obtained from citizens who obtain prescriptions from more than one of our Concordia area pharmacies. "We want to assure our community that our local pharmacies take important steps to protect your personal information through various implemented security measures," said Chris Edin, Concordia police chief.

Concordia Police Department determined it necessary to provide additional information about identity theft.

Suspects can obtain limited personal data published in certain public directories that are free and readily available. These resources provide enough information about a person to facilitate gathering more specific data using various Internet searches.

Within a few minutes an identity thief can purchase your date of birth, Social security number, previous addresses, cell phone numbers and other specific information.

Although you might expect this kind of data to be confidential and secure, the opposite is true. Changing jobs, moving to a new address, getting a new phone number or applying for a credit card, are just a few of the innumerable ways to create public record data.

This data does not just come from records maintained by government agencies. Instead, a lot of the data is made available to "the public" because there are no state or federal regulations that protect the information from public release.

Numerous record systems used by public and private entities gather personal data from property tax records, recent home purchases, utility bills (as well as other kinds of bills), warranty registration cards, news media subscription cards and many other forms of information sources.

Sometimes personal information collected by private businesses gets released to information clearing houses. The clearing houses then publish the information to other public record sources. Particular records such as property taxes and appraised property values are required to be public information.

While certain states restrict some specific personal information that government agencies are required to post, no state can publish any less information than what is required by federal law.

Clearing house information and the other content that is maintained by these many individual entities, is collected and consolidated by several major suppliers of personal information.

Suppliers like Ancestry.com, Publicrecords.com, Peoplesmart.com, Lexus Nexus and People Finder, put all the information into one easily managed package using Social Security numbers and birth dates as legends used to locate and organize an individual's personal information.

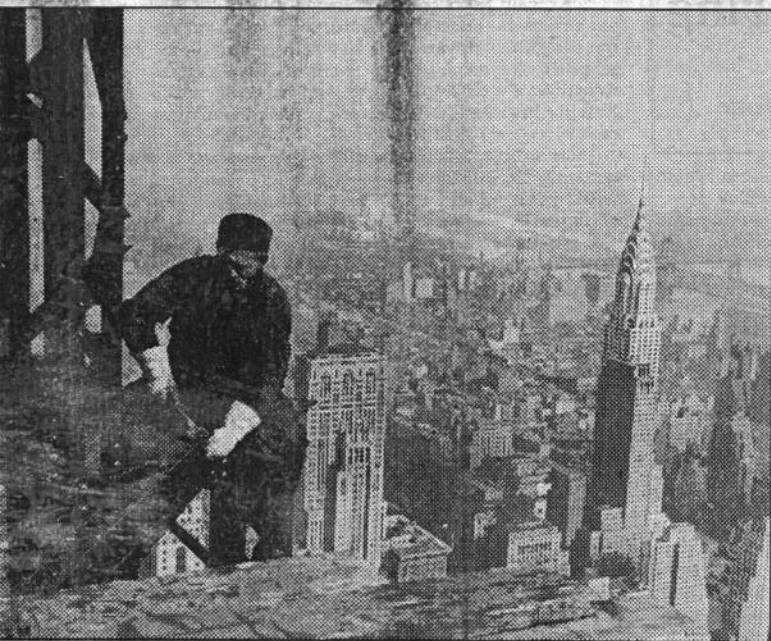
Popular social media sites like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, also provide these suppliers with available public data. Although it is a crime to use someone's personal identifying information to commit any other crime, there are no laws that prohibit the collecting, organizing and selling of your personal information to anyone willing to pay for it.

Any person in America with a Social Security Number and a birth date has some kind of public record available on the Internet. Concordia Police suggest that every person periodically type his or her own name into a popular Internet search engine and see what information is available about you.

Remember, never share personal information with any caller unless you initiated the contact or you verified the solicitor as a legitimate person or organization. If you believe you are the victim of identity theft, call the Concordia Police Department at 785.243.3131 to report the incident.

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012





**"The Way We Worked"**

The National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia will host the Smithsonian Institute's "The Way We Worked" traveling exhibit starting Feb. 2.

Jan. 16th 2012

## Orphan Train Complex to host Smithsonian exhibit

The National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia has been selected as one of six sites to be host to the Smithsonian Institute's "The Way We Worked" traveling exhibit. Concordia was selected by the Kansas Humanities Council to be host to the exhibit, which will open February 2, 2013 and run through March 17 in the National Orphan Train Museum, 300 Washington.

"This exhibit is seriously amazing," said Tracy Quillin, director of communications at the Kansas Humanities Council. "The Way We Worked" explores stories of American workers using audio and video clips, hands-on components, and photographs from the National Archives and asks visitors to internalize the accomplishments of America's workers over time."

The traveling exhibit was adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives, and explores how work became a central element in American culture. "The Way We Worked" traces the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years.

The exhibit will offer multiple interpretive opportunities for visitors through large graphics, along with relevant objects and work clothing. Through audio components, visitors will be able to hear from workers their own stories about changes in industries and confronting workplace challenges. Interactive components will introduce visitors to the experiences of multiple generations of families involved in the same work.

National Orphan Train Museum curator Muriel Anderson said being host to the exhibit will offer a wide range of opportunities for the community, not just the Museum.

"When I attended the exhibit orientation in Topeka, I realized the vast potential of having

tions know what the exhibit will mean in terms of tourism. We want anyone and everyone to play a role in making this a success for the entire community."

To be considered for the Smithsonian tour, communities were required to have smaller populations, as well as security, floor space and hours of operation.

"When I read the initial application, what stood out was the tourism possibilities that came with being selected," said Susan Sutton, NOTC board president.

Previous attendance records show the affect the Smithsonian had on its hosting communities. According to the Kansas Humanities Council, the small town of Kaplan, La., with a population of 5,000, had 8,192 visitors in a five-week period.

"As the local Destination Marketing Organization, we would offer our marketing skills and some financial support in promoting the exhibit, as well as the companion programs, presentations and activities," said Tammy Britt, co-director of Cloud County Convention and Tourism.

The Concordia Area Chamber of Commerce is also prepared to assist with the hosting of the exhibit.

"Through the Chamber's social media presence and extensive database, several thousand businesses and people will get word of the NOTC hosting this prestigious exhibit," said Roberta Lowrey, president of the Chamber.

A requirement of the KHC was that hosting organizations create a companion exhibit to accompany "The Way We Worked." The NOTC committee partnered with the POW Camp Concordia Society to tell the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp 788. The Camp was built in 1939, and nothing remains of it today. It was located at the current site of Con-

# Exhibit

Jan. 6th,  
2012

(continued from page 1)

The primary activity of the local camp was soil conservation. In the spring of 1940, projects included tree planting, shelter belt installation, terracing, and pond dam building. The work done by the CCC benefited not only local farmers, but the economy as well. According to a newspaper published at the local camp, \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month was injected into the local economy.

The onset of World War II closed the local camp, as young men were drafted into military service. The buildings constructed for the camp were moved to the site north of Concordia that was being developed as an internment camp for German prisoners of war. During the POW camp's existence, prisoners were allowed to work outside the camp to assist area farmers.

"The unique story Concordia has to tell is the interconnectedness forged between our town and two government-sponsored programs and how these programs impacted our community with job opportunities, the local economy, conservation and land use, education, learned job skills, and farming," said Paul Rimovsky POW Society president.

According to Anderson, the exhibit will highlight CCC Camp 788, and the transition of seven of its buildings for use at POW Camp Concordia.

"In just three years, these two camps brought jobs, people and a flurry of activity to North Central Kansas,"

Anderson said. "With support from other local organizations, this exhibit will illuminate the impact of these camps in Concordia and the surrounding areas."

"Visitors come to the exhibit, because of the Smithsonian name, but they leave talking about your local exhibit," said Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the KHC.

Anderson said even though the exhibit opening is more than a year away, there is much work to be done.

"We have the next six to 12 months to create our companion exhibit, get the area schools involved, partner with our businesses and service organizations, find volunteers, and so much more," she said.

Other Kansas sites include the Coronado Quivira Museum in Lyons, the Stevens County Library in Hugoton, the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Lumbeyard Arts Center in Baldwin, and the Miners Hall Museum in Franklin.

Anyone wanting to volunteer to assist with "The Way We Worked" exhibit can call the NOTC office at 785.243.4471.

The Kansas tour of "The Way We Worked" is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. Support for the exhibit has been provided by the Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation. Support for Museum on Main Street is provided by the United States Congress.

## For Sale 834 East 5th

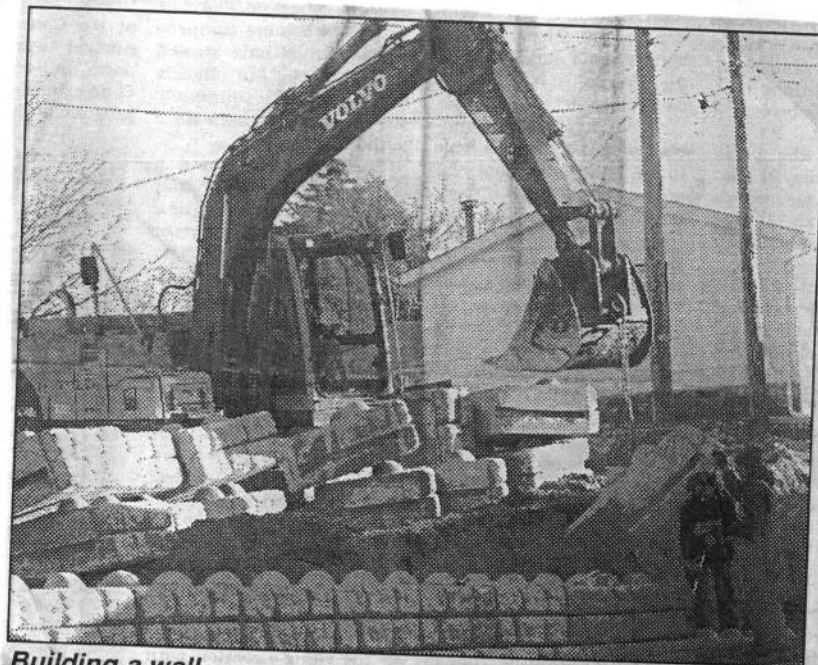


*Seller: City of Concordia*

Terms: Cash in hand. Warranty deed. Seller pays 2011 and all prior taxes. No title insurance. Immediate possession.

**Sealed bids must be delivered to Concordia City Hall, 701 Washington, by noon on Monday, January 23, 2012.**

*Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.*



### Building a wall

Large landscaping blocks are set in place Tuesday morning for a retaining wall at Casey's, 1315 Lincon St. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan. 10th, 2012

## NOTICE

The city of Concordia is accepting applications for curb and gutter replacement. The program enables persons to replace curb and gutter along their property with the city providing the labor, equipment and total cost of removal of existing curb and gutter sections.

The landowner shall pay the cost of materials for the curb and gutter; per-foot charge for saw cuts, and the out-of-pocket administrative costs. Applicable engineering plans and specifications shall be provided by the city and shall be paid for one-half by the city and one-half by the landowner.

Anyone interested in this type of construction should contact the City Clerk's office, 701 Washington, Concordia, KS 66901, or call 243-2670.

Deadline: March 2, 2012

Jan. 10, 2012

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, January 12, 2012

# Jail project faces protest petition

**JAMESTOWN** — The proposed construction of a new Cloud County Law Enforcement Center that includes an 80-bed jail was a main topic of discussion during an intergovernmental meeting Wednesday night at the Jamestown Community Room.

Johnita Crawford, chairman of the Cloud County board of commissioners informed those in attendance that a site in the North Development has been selected for the new facility.

A resolution was passed in December to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$6 million for the construction of the Center.

"It appears we are going to have a protest to not putting it on the ballot," Cloud County commissioner Gary Caspers said. "The reason it is not on the ballot is because we are not asking for a tax increase."

The protest period for issuing the bonds ends Jan. 29.

A petition has been filed with the Cloud County Attorney, and 310 certified signatures would be needed to force the construction of the jail to be put on the ballot.

Caspers said that if the petition is successful he would expect the proposed project to be on the ballot in November.

"At best it would set us back a year, and at worst it would not pass and we would have to start over," Caspers said.

Crawford said that funds generated from housing prisoners from outside the county would be used to pay for the revenue bonds, and that the projection of how much income would be generated is based on 85 percent occupancy.

"If we have 100 percent occupancy we can retire the debt quicker," Crawford said.

Responding to a question of how many mills it would cost to house local prisoners out of county, Caspers said about four mills.

"That isn't a very good way to do it," Crawford said.

Crawford also told the representatives from the governing entities that there are a lot of good contractors in Cloud County, and hopes some of

them can be used in the construction of the facility. "It will have to be put out to bid, but if we can keep these dollars locally floating around, that is always better. We are hoping that is what goes on," Crawford said.

## CONCORDIA

Concordia city manager Larry Uri said that work continues on the dam project.

"I don't know what we are going to do if we ever get that dam built," Uri said.

Uri said that Concordia is financially healthy.

"We have tightened the budget a bit. Things are a little tight, but we have been fortunate," Uri said.

## JAMESTOWN

Work continues on the fueling station in Jamestown.

John Herbin reported that all of the ground work is done, and that they are ready to pour concrete for the pads.

The tanks are still under construction.

"All we need to do is bring the rest of it together and we are ready to go," Herbin said.

Fueling stations are being installed in Jamestown, Glasco and Aurora.

Funding for the stations is coming from payments made to the county from Horizon Wind Energy.

## GLASCO

Charles Wilson, representing Glasco, said that concrete has been poured for the fueling station in Glasco.

The tanks for the station have been delivered, and Peltier's Foundry & Machine Shop, Concordia, has completed work on the canopy.

Wilson said that bids have been put out for work on the sewer plant and for the relining of the water tower.

## MILTONVALE

Miltonvale mayor Jon Puckett said that work has been completed on the emergency service building.

Puckett said the city doesn't have any other big projects going at the time.

"We haven't had a big budget crunch like some have," Puckett said.

(see Jail on page 8)



# Jail

Jan. 12, 12

(continued from page 1)  
**CLYDE**

Mayor Terry Koch reported that Clyde had been notified that it will receive its housing grant.

The grant funds will be used to rehabilitate 14 homes and demolish two. It is the third housing grant for Clyde.

Koch also said that Clyde is receiving bids for the lights at the ball fields.

## CLOUDCORP

CloudCorp executive director Kirk Lowell reported that he had received a phone call from Clean Line Energy, LLC, Houston, Texas about the possible construction of high voltage energy lines in Cloud County.

Clean Line Energy had an earlier meeting with the Cloud County commissioners and mayors of the communities in the county on Dec. 12, 2011.

Lowell said that Clean Line Energy representatives would like to set up a leadership round-table discussion, on Feb. 24, to look at where the transmission lines which would be used to carry wind energy to other states could be built.

Lowell said that the project would probably not be tax exempt.

Lowell also said that CloudCorp is continuing to work on several projects.

"We think in 2012 maybe some neat things can happen," Lowell said.

## CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cloud County president

Danette Toone president reported that the College had record enrollment this year.

Toone also said that the College has implemented a tuition and fee structure for students who live in Cloud County.

The College is talking with Sen. Jerry Moran's office about receiving help with a possible height issue with the College's wind turbines.

## USD 333

Beverly Mortimer, superintendent of Unified School District 333, discussed the school finance plan proposed by Gov. Sam Brownback.

"We are just taking hit after hit and we are about at the end of the line," Mortimer said.

Mortimer also talked about the NCK Honor Flight program the district is involved with.

The Honor Flight program takes World War II veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial.

"The district is a hub, but uses no school funds," Mortimer said.

The next Honor Flight trip is scheduled for May.

## CLOUD COUNTY HEALTH CENTER

Jim Wahlmeier, Cloud County Health Center CEO, said that representatives from the hospital had met with the Concordia city commissioners to look at engineering off of U.S. Highway 81 for the possible construction of a new facility.

# Petition seeks to get jail project on ballot

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

A petition circulating in Cloud County could put the proposed construction of a law enforcement center on hold.

Gary Caspers, chairman of the Cloud County Board of Commissioners, announced at Wednesday night's intergovernmental meeting that a petition had been filed with the Cloud County Attorney to force the construction of the jail to be put on a ballot.

A resolution was passed in December to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$6 million for the construction of the law enforcement center and 80-bed jail. By publishing the resolution, it gave citizens 30 days to file a petition of opposition to be signed by not less than five-percent of registered voters. The petition requires 310 certified signatures to force the issue to be put on a ballot. The

protest period for issuing the bonds ends on Jan. 29.

"It appears we are going to have a protest to not putting it on the ballot," Caspers said Wednesday night. "The reason it's not on the ballot is because we are not asking for a tax increase."

Gale Longenecker, along with Ron Deal, approached the County Attorney about filing the petition.

Longenecker said there was not an "official" group of people circulating the petition, but that a number of people had been visiting about it, which was why the petition was started.

"I'm not saying I'm for or against a new jail, but I just felt people ought to have a right to vote on it," Longenecker said. He said if the County Commission was considering spending \$6 million dollars, citizens should be able to have a say on it.

"There's a huge amount of the public who doesn't know why or what they're doing. It's almost like they're doing it behind closed doors," Longenecker said. "By making the public building commission, it's like they're trying to avoid having a public vote."

Longenecker said he hoped that people would become more informed about the project.

"Through this process, hopefully people will become informed and make a decision," he said. "If it does pass, then they'll (County Commission) know the people are behind this. If it doesn't pass, maybe they'll realize this isn't the right plan."

"If government is of the people, by the people and for the people, then an election shouldn't be a problem."

Deal said Thursday that he had not yet circulated the petition.

"The reason I would is to give

the voters of the county an opportunity to vote or not vote on something that's going to cost a lot of money," Deal said. "It shouldn't be decided by just the County Commission or the Sheriff."

A revenue bond is a special type of municipal bond distinguished by its guarantee of repayment solely from revenues generated, rather than from tax dollars.

County Clerk Linda Bogart explained that there are no statutory limits for placing the issuance of revenue bonds on a ballot. She said the debt limit for the county to issue general obligation bonds is three-percent of the county's assessed value. Because of the price of the project - approximately \$6 million - the County Commission does not have the authority to issue general obligation bonds in that amount, she said. (see Petition on page 10)

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66501

Friday, January 13, 2012

# Petition

Jan. 13, 12

(continued from page 1)

"Revenue bonds are not required to have an election, and we're not asking for a tax increase," Bogart said. "The project will be paid for by the revenues of housing out-of-county prisoners."

However, if the county was unable to make its bond payment, Bogart said it could lead to an increase of the mill levy.

"But the plan to make the payment is figuring the jail at 85-percent capacity," she said. "They could bring in more inmates to make up the difference."

Should the petition be successful, Caspers said Wednesday night he would expect the project to be on the ballot in November.

"At best, it would set us back a year, and at worst it would not pass and we would have to start over," he said.

Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks said the plan for the new jail is to house an average of 35 out-of-county prisoners. By charging the average of \$30 a day, he said, that would generate approximately \$383,000 per year. Bogart said the estimated bond payment would be \$339,000.

"Anything over our bond payment is gravy," Marks said. "It's a profit to the county."

Marks said having 35 out-of-county prisoners in Cloud County is a realistic estimate.

"The trend in jail capacities across the state is that they are increasing every year," he said. "The Department of Corrections is over capacity and looking for places to house prisoners."

Marks said there are no firm commitments in place to house out-of-county prisoners, because Cloud County does not yet have \$6,000 was spent to repair the boiler to heat the facility.

the facility to house them.

"I have made contact with a number of different counties that have an interest in us housing their inmates," he said. One of those counties could be Sedgwick, which has housed prisoners in Cloud County for 15 years, Marks said.

Another possibility to fill the beds is housing prisoners from Federal Marshals or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Most likely, Marks said, the jail would see more ICE prisoners than those from Federal Marshals, given the increase in the Hispanic population in the country.

"If some other county picks up illegal aliens, we would have the capacity to house them until ICE can move them," he said. "Right now, they wouldn't even consider putting someone here, but the new jail will be built to federal standards, so we would have the capability."

Not only is the current jail not up to federal standards, Marks said, but there are a number of other issues with the facility.

"The conditions of the current jail aren't up to today's standards. Today's technology is not incorporated into this facility. We're not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant," Marks said.

The current jail was built in the early 1930s, and Marks said it is outdated, unsafe and represents a risk to prisoners and staff.

"The jail is out of date and falling apart. Right now, we're just limping along," Marks said. "The cost to operate the facility is outrageous. I'm spending the majority of my jail budget on repairs and upkeep."

Last month, he said,

Among other safety concerns, Marks said inmates can reach through the bars, which could lead to serious injuries as staff completes mandatory jail checks.

"Inmates must be transported down stairs and through narrow hallways just to get in and out of the jail," he said. "There are no hand rails on stairs, great security risks, no ADA compliance, and serious risk of injury to staff members and inmates."

Should the current jail be forced to shut down, Marks and Bogart said it would cost between 3 1/2 and 4 1/2 mills for Cloud County to ship its prisoners to other jails. Marks said that estimate doesn't include medical costs for prisoners or transportation.

"The average is \$30 a day to house prisoners, but that can fluctuate," Marks said. "Other counties could charge us whatever they want, and we'd have to pay it because we don't have any other options."

Contrary to rumors he has heard, Marks said Cloud County does not pay medical costs of out-of-county prisoners.

"All we provide is the housing. Anything above that is on the county who brings them here," he said.

The biggest hurdle, Marks said, has been finding a place to locate the law enforcement center. After hearing that infrastructure costs would be too high to locate it south of the airport, the Commission finally settled on land in the north development.

The Commission purchased four acres of land just south of Union Road from CloudCorp, which is representing private

investors who purchased that property several years ago. The County paid \$12,000 per acre, or approximately \$48,000.

Kirk Lowell, CloudCorp executive director, said CloudCorp as an entity is not the owner of the land, but rather is facilitating it. The \$12,000 per acre price was settled upon to help recoup the costs of interest that has been paid on the land, as well as engineering and platting fees associated with developing it.

"If an out-of-town developer were to come in, that price (per acre) would be in the \$20,000 to \$35,000 range," Lowell said. "We tried to price it low, but still cover the costs of the land."

Lowell said CloudCorp had not pushed for the sale of the land, but rather was more in favor of the law enforcement center locating near the airport. But when it was discovered that public infrastructure to the airport location would cost approximately \$1.4 million more, he said it was agreed to sell the north development land.

"We're not doing backflips over it," Lowell said of the land sale. "We didn't insist they purchase this site. In fact we've been reluctant, but all three prospects (who are interested in property in the north development) have said they are okay with locating next to a law enforcement center."

Marks said there were pros and cons to both the north and south site, but he is pleased with the site that has been settled upon.

"I think it will be a good economic development boost to the north development," he said. "It needs to be done."

# Concordia, Clyde receive funds for housing rehabilitation

Jan. 16, 12

Concordia and Clyde are among the Kansas communities who will share more than \$1.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal funds for housing rehabilitation from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

These housing projects will rehabilitate approximately 55 properties and demolish 15 dilapidated units.

Concordia, population of 5,146, received a CDBG of \$341,800. This grant will rehabilitate 12 homes and demolish four unoc-

cupied units within a 20 block target area.

Clyde, population 740, received a CDBG of \$377,000. This grant will rehabilitate 14 homes for low-to-moderate income families and demolish two unoccupied housing units.

Housing rehabilitation grants are awarded through an annual competition. They support rehabilitation of owner and renter occupied residences with targeted areas to encourage neighborhood revitalization.

## SUMMER OPPORTUNITY POOL MANAGER/ ASSISTANT MANAGER

The City of Concordia

Is seeking responsible adults for the positions of pool manager and assistant pool manager. Experience in pool operations and maintenance along with supervisory experience preferred. Ideal candidate may be lifeguard certified. Competitive pay can be expected.

Applications should be submitted to City Hall, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901.

Application can be obtained by the city's website at [www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org), or by e-mailing

[cityclerk@concordiaks.org](mailto:cityclerk@concordiaks.org).

Applications will be accepted until 5pm, January 27, 2012.

EOE

Jan. 20, 2012



### The drive-thru is closed

The old McDonald's in Concordia, 1420 Lincoln St., is demolished so a new building can be constructed at the same location. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan. 16, 12



# County board discusses proposed jail project

Cloud County's proposed jail project was a topic of discussion when Cloud County board of commissioners met Monday.

When asked his opinion on the project, Cloud County Attorney Robert Walsh issued the following statement: "As you know I have not participated, up to this point, in any discussion regarding the need for a new county jail. My advice has been purely along the legal questions regarding funding for the project. At this time, after much deliberation, I feel it is important to express my legal guidance on this issue. I am familiar with the current jail. I know the problems associated with the jail. I am of the opinion that it is in the best interest of Cloud County to either invest in a new jail or commit to major improvements in the current jail. My opinion is based solely on legal considerations. I have considered possible lawsuits involving dangers to inmates and overcrowding issues that may necessitate housing inmates at other locations. These are very real concerns and need to be addressed now."

Commissioners discussed the protest petition that is being circulated that asks for the jail project to be placed on the ballot. After researching the election statutes, Walsh determined that according to K.S.A. 25-3602c any person who has signed a petition who wants to withdraw his or her name may do so by giving written notice to the county election officer or other designated official not later than the third day following the date upon which the petition is filed. Those with questions may contact the County Clerk's office at 785.243.8110.

A public information meeting to discuss the proposed law enforcement project will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, in the courthouse meeting room. Commissioners, representatives from Goldberg, Sullivan and McCreery, Architects, and Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks will attend to provide information and answer questions.

In other business the board

discussed the work-at-home policy for her office with Ellen Anderson, JJA/Community Corrections Director. Commissioners determined that this should be left up to the discretion of the department head and that they would not establish a county policy at this time.

Diana Gering, Health Administrator, told the board that her department is now participating in the AuthnaCare Program. This is a new mandatory state program which requires certain procedures be followed during a Home Health visit.

Gering also reported that Dana Alkire, homemaker, will be attending Home Health Aide classes.

Justin Murdock, Solid Waste director, reported Salina Scale will be inspecting and doing maintenance on the scale at the Transfer Station and discussed other routine items with the board.

Commissioners approved adopting the presented application form to be used in applying for the money received from the Cloud County Wind Farm. Applications may be picked up at the Cloud County Clerk's Office and the deadline to apply is March 30 each year.

Larry Eubanks, Emergency Preparedness director and Sheriff Brian Marks discussed the procedure for narrow banding for the emergency radios in the county. This is a required mandate and needs to be completed by Jan. 1, 2013. Eubanks said he is hoping to have all of the emergency radios in the county switched over before the upcoming severe weather season.

In other matters the board —conducted a five-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Included in the session were Asch and County Clerk Linda Bogart.

—approved accepting the proposal from GeoTechnology Inc. to begin the soil borings and testing at the site of the proposed new Law Enforcement Center.

—discussed various items with Arlene Clayton.

# Questions about plan to build new jail answered Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 12

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Questions about the new proposed law enforcement center were asked and answered for two and a half hours Thursday night at the Cloud County courthouse.

Close to 70 people packed the courtroom at the courthouse to hear details on the construction and financing of the new \$5.9 million LEC and 80-bed jail from Cloud County Commissioners and Artie Lucas, director of business development with Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreery, architects for the project.

Lucas opened the informational meeting by giving details of previous jail projects. Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreery has completed.

In Doniphan County, when Lucas was a County Commissioner, a 48-bed jail was built and opened in 2008. He said the jail was to be paid for with revenues from housing out-of-county prisoners. Through the first eight months of 2011, he said, the county has made \$235,000 after paying debt services.

He listed jails built in Cherokee, Rice, and Vernon counties as following the same funding formula for their jails, saying all were still housing out-of-county prisoners and seeing net revenues.

"This isn't a pie in the sky deal—it works," Lucas said.

A resolution was passed in December to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$6 million for the construction of the law enforcement center and jail. By publishing the resolution, it gave citizens 30 days to file a petition of opposition to be signed by not less than five-percent of registered voters.

The petition requires 310 certified signatures to force the issue to be put on a ballot. The protest period for issuing the bonds ends on January 29.

Last night, Lucas tried to answer questions that have been floating around the community about the project.

To fill the beds in the jail—and make the revenue bond payments—Lucas said the plan is to house an average of 35 out-of-county prisoners. He said the Kansas Department of Corrections estimates a shortage of 1,200 beds to house its prisoners.

"They (KDOC) are very interested in housing inmates here," Lucas said. "Surrounding counties are very interested in housing inmates here, especially females."

In response to an audience question about housing out-of-county prisoners, Lucas said there are no contracts yet in place with surrounding counties because a facility has yet to be built. He said they would make sure there is a need and commitments to house prisoners in the new jail before the project moves forward.

The new facility, Lucas said, would be more secure than the current jail, which was built in the 1930s. The current facility, he and Sheriff Brian Marks said, is not up to current standards and poses safety hazards to both inmates and employees.

"It's an accident looking for a place to happen," Lucas said as Marks showed slides of the conditions of the jail.

Eldon Wisdom said from what was shown, it didn't look like the jail had changed in the last 25 years. He asked if the Commission could provide a list of what maintenance has been done at the jail over the past several years.

"It seems like all you're looking at is new rather than fixing what we have or looking at an addition (to the current jail)," Wisdom said.

Commissioner Gail Engle said if the county were to expand the current jail, or spend money on improvements, it would raise taxes.

"I'm okay with that," Wisdom said.

Ron Deal echoed Wisdom's comment about keeping up with maintenance on the jail. He said he thought maintenance issues should have been addressed as they came up, rather than letting the jail fall into such disrepair.

The proposed LEC is to be paid through revenue bonds—a bond that is paid from revenues generated. Lucas said the issuance of the bonds was not on a ballot because Commissioners were using revenue bonds rather than tax dollars.

"Your taxes aren't going to go up," Lucas said. "That was the pledge we made and that's what the County Commission required of us."

If the County were to build a new 40-bed facility, it would cost approximately \$3.8 million, Lucas said. The infrastructure requirements of a jail that size are the same as an 80-bed jail, he said. For \$1.6 million more, he said, the County would have a facility that would meet its needs for years to come, without raising taxes.

(see Jail on page 10)

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 12

conditions of which are significant in the City's strategic plans for future development in the City, including use for future City airport expansion and for future general, commercial and economic development uses; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City determined it advisable and in the best interests of the City to acquire (a) the Real Property and to pay the acquisition costs thereof, in the amount of \$300,000, and (b) acquire an interest in the Alco Building and to pay the acquisition costs thereof, in the amount of \$72,000; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-1736 provides, in part, that the City may erect or construct, acquire a public building or buildings and procure any necessary site therefor and may alter, repair, reconstruct, remodel, replace or make additions to, furnish and equip a public building or buildings; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-1737 provides, in part, that the governing body of the City may, for the purposes hereinbefore authorized and provided, issue bonds of the City; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City hereby finds and determines it to be necessary to authorize and provide for the acquisition of a portion of the Real Property to preserve and provide the opportunity for a future addition of the Blosser Municipal Airport, a public building in the City, and to provide for the payment of the costs thereof, all as provided by said K.S.A. 12-1736 *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-1617h authorizes the City to levy a tax and expend public funds for economic development purposes, but by its terms, K.S.A. 12-1617h is not the exclusive means of providing such funds and recognizes and acknowledges that the City may, in its discretion, exercise any other lawful authority to provide funds for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, Article 12, § 5 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas (the "Home Rule Amendment") empowers cities to determine their local affairs and government and provides that such power and authority granted thereby to cities shall be liberally construed for the purpose of giving to cities the largest measure of self-government; and

WHEREAS, the City is a city within the meaning of the Home Rule Amendment; and

WHEREAS, there is no enactment of the Kansas legislature which prohibits a city from issuing general obligation bonds to provide funds to pay for acquisition of property for future general, economic and commercial development, to advance the City's general, economic and commercial development goals; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City hereby further finds and determines that it is necessary and advisable and in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, including general, economic and commercial development of the City, to authorize by ordinance the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City to provide funds to pay for a portion the costs of the Real Property and the costs of an interest in the Alco Building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

**SECTION 1. Public Building Addition and Development.** The governing body of the City hereby finds and determines that the acquisition of a portion of the Real Property is necessary to preserve and provide the opportunity for a future addition of the Blosser Municipal Airport, a public building in the City, and that the acquisition of the remaining portion of the Real Property and of the Alco Building will stimulate and foster general, economic and commercial development in the City and its environs, all in order to enhance and provide for the general, economic and commercial development and welfare of the City and its citizens.

**SECTION 2. Financing Authorization.** The Real Property and Alco Building acquisition and financing costs may be paid, in whole or in part, from the proceeds of general obligation bonds of the City (the "Bonds"), which are hereby authorized to be issued for such purposes pursuant to the authority of the K.S.A. 12-1736 *et seq.* and the Home Rule Amendment, in the amount of \$400,000. The Bonds authorized pursuant to this Ordinance are authorized to reimburse prior expenditures by the City.

**SECTION 3. Further Authority.** The officials of the City, the City Attorney, Gilmore & Bell, P.C. as Bond Counsel and other consultants are authorized and directed to take such actions, expend such funds and execute such other documents, certificates and instruments as may be necessary or desirable to carry out and comply with the intent of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective from and after final passage by the governing body and publication once in the official City newspaper.

PASSED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas on January 18, 2012, and SIGNED by the Mayor.

Marsha L. Wentz, Mayor

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now exist or will soon exist on the following citizen boards, commissions and committees:

### BOARD OF BUILDING TRADES

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of this board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointment, return a completed Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without pay – out of a concern for the public good.

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901.

*If you have questions, please call the  
City Clerk's Office at 243-2670*

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

(Published in *The Concordia Blade-Empire* on January 20, 2012)

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3027

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas (the "City") has considered the needs of the City for the acquisition of real property within or adjacent to the corporate limits of the City to provide for a public building addition and to promote the stimulation and fostering of orderly development in the City and its environs, all in order to enhance and provide for the general and economic development and welfare of the City and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City had the opportunity to acquire certain real property adjacent to the Blosser Municipal Airport and U.S. Highway 81 (the "Real Property") and an interest in the former Alco building and property on East 6th Street in the City (the "Alco Building"), the locations and

Jan 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2012

# City takes final step to issue bonds

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The final step was taken by the Concordia City Commission Wednesday night to issue a little more than \$4 million in general obligation bonds.

With interest rates continuing to fall, the city was able to refinance \$460,000 in general obligation tax-exempt bonds at two-percent interest. Also included in that issuance was \$400,000 for the purchase of new water meters.

Another general obligation bond, in the amount of \$400,000, was also issued to cover the cost of purchasing the Mosher property south of the airport and the city's share of the ALCO building and property.

The final piece of the bond issuance was \$3.1 million of Tax Increment Financing bonds - \$2 million of which was new money for the flood control project area, and \$1 million for refinancing bonds originally issued in 2002.

The refunding of the 2002 TIF bonds, according to City Finance Director Amber Farha, saved the city \$118,000.

In other business, the Commission heard details about the city receiving a 2012 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$341,800 for housing rehabilitation.

With the money, the city will renovate 20 homes in an area west of Highway 81, east of Drake

and between Fifth and Sixth streets. The plan is to also demolish at least three homes. The city's local match is \$2,000.

The Commission also approved an amended lease for farming of the land surrounding the airport. City Manager Larry Uri said Loren Swenson has farmed the land under a cash rent lease for \$78 per acre since 2007. Swenson asked that the contract be amended to put the lease into the name of the limited liability company he and his partner have created.

The Commission also lent its support to an application by Sunflower Apartments for a

grant. A housing tax credit application is to be filed for the renovation of the Sunflower Apartment housing development at 804 Russ Street. Uri said the grant application is seeking money for renovations of not more than 20 of the low-income housing units.

A proclamation was also read by Mayor Marsha Wentz recognizing the Cloud County Community College men's soccer team, which won the national championship this past fall.

During public comments, Kent Smith addressed the Commission again concerning a real estate transaction that had transpired.

In December, Smith told Commissioners that he had purchased a piece of property at 435 East 1st from Marilyn Mihm in

2008. He said he had paid cash for the land, and had the deed signed by Mihm in his possession. According to Smith, he was told by City Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein that he shouldn't do anything with the property, which had a dilapidated house on it, until it was to be sold at a sheriff's sale.

Smith said Rehbein told him he would be responsible for the cost of demolishing the house and capping utility lines, which could be as much as \$7,000. In late November, Smith said, he found out the property had been sold to another party, and all fees waived.

Smith said he met with Uri and Rehbein in early December, and was forced to sign a release before being reimbursed the money he'd paid for the land.

He approached the Commission in December to ask that he be reimbursed for the costs he incurred maintaining the property.

Last night, he said he was following up on the issue, and then said he wanted to be reimbursed for the appraised value of the land, in addition to maintenance costs.

He said he paid \$450 for the property, which the city had already paid him, but the appraised value of the land is \$890. He asked that the city pay him the difference, of \$440, as well as \$250 for the maintenance he'd performed on the property.

Mayor Marsha Wentz said when she had spoken with Smith on the phone he had indicated he would be satisfied with receiving \$250. She asked him why he changed his mind.

He said he'd talked about the issue with several people who deal in real estate, and they told him he deserved to receive the value of the land.

"I think I should get my fair share," Smith said.

Commissioner Charles Johnson made a motion to pay Smith \$690, which died for lack of a second. Lyle Pounds then made a motion to pay Smith \$250 for maintenance, which was unanimously approved.

Also during public comments, Paul Huber asked the Commission about revising an ordinance to allow chickens in the city limits.

He said he is interested in raising chickens for eggs and meat, but the current city ordinance does not allow that. Even though they are illegal, he said, there are a number of people in town who do have chickens and turkeys.

Uri said he would schedule the issue for the next meeting's study session.

After a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel, where no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss farm leases, the recreation advisory board and recreation fees.



Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 12

(continued from page 1)  
Lucas responded by saying contracts can't be executed without a facility in place.

Jeff Morgan said he thought the county needed a new jail, but wondered if the proposed facility was going to be large enough. Like Sharp, he said he felt people were scared that building a new jail wasn't the right thing to do, and that if out-of-county prisoners weren't brought in, it would raise taxes.

"The only reason I can see you having to raise taxes is if you get a sheriff or County Commission who refuse to house out-of-county prisoners," Lucas said.

Deal said there was no way Lucas could guarantee there would be no increase in taxes. Deal said he was circulating the petition to give Cloud County citizens the right to vote on the issue.

County Clerk Linda Bogart estimated that a special election for the issue could cost the county between \$9,000 and \$10,000.

"That's a small price to pay for a democracy vote," Deal said.

As an example, Lucas talked about the jail in Delaware County, Okla. He said citizens in that county voted down a new \$6 million jail four times. He said the county was then sued by the inmates for \$13.5 million - and lost. Now, he said, the county is looking at an 18-percent tax increase to pay for the lawsuit.

However, an article in the Dec. 28, 2011, Tulsa World stated that Delaware County settled a jail sexual misconduct lawsuit for \$13.5 million. The suit was actually filed by former female jail inmates who accused the sheriff of covering for jailers who allegedly sexually assaulted them.

Ima Jean Chavey asked how much the County would be paying to connect to the water/sewer line in

the north development. When the infrastructure was constructed in 2010, the city of Concordia spent \$4 million. Concordia Tractor paid \$500,000 plus five-percent interest for the water and sewer project.

CloudCorp Executive Director Kirk Lowell said the County had \$485,000 in its construction budget to pay for infrastructure and property acquisition costs.

Another audience question was how many inmates the current jail houses.

Amber Fellows, jail administrator, said the jail has a 33-inmate capacity, and averages about 28 prisoners per day. In the last two years, she said, there have not been fewer than 23 Cloud County prisoners housed at the jail on any given day.

If the current facility were to close, Lucas said, it would cost approximately \$268,000 to house an average of 25 inmates-at \$30 per day-in other facilities. That equals 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 miles, he said.

"That \$30 a day is low," Marks said. "A county can charge us whatever they want and we'd have to pay it because we wouldn't have a choice."

Lucas asked those in attendance how many thought Cloud County didn't need a new jail. Only three audience members raised their hands. In response to his question of how many had signed the petition, a handful raised their hands. Lucas then asked if the meeting had changed anyone's thoughts on signing the petition. Several said no or shook their heads.

"We still don't know why we need a new jail," Noel Hansen said.

Commissioner Engle said they had probably "fallen down" at keeping people informed on the jail. He apologized, saying, it was never their intention to keep people in the dark on the project.

## Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Monday, January 23, 2012)

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: January 23, 2012  
Expires: January 31, 2012

City of Concordia  
701 Washington St., Concordia, KS 66901  
785-243-2670

On or after February 1, 2012, Concordia will submit a request to the State of Kansas for the release of Federal Funds from the Community Development Block Grant program under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) to undertake the following project:

Project Number: Concordia RLF  
Project Name: Concordia Revolving Loan Fund - Clothing Store Project  
Project Type: Loan for Clothing Store Opening - Purchase building, operating capital, remodeling, furniture, inventory  
Project Location: 117 W. 6th Street, Concordia, KS 66901  
Estimated HUD/CDBG Funds: \$78,700  
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$284,000

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Concordia City Clerk's office at 701 Washington Street, Concordia, Kansas 66901 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 AM to 4 PM.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Concordia, City Clerk's office. All comments received by January 31, 2012 will be considered by Concordia prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

Concordia certifies to the State of Kansas that Marsha Wentz in her capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State of Kansas's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Concordia to use HUD/CDBG program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The State of Kansas will accept objections to its release of funds and the grantee's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the grantee; (b) the grantee has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State of Kansas; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant of 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Kansas Department of Commerce, CDBG Program, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612. Potential objectors should contact Commerce to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Marsha Wentz, Mayor, Concordia City Commission

Name and Title of Certifying Officer

City of Concordia, 701 Washington St.  
Concordia, KS 66901

Name and Address of Grantee

### SUMMER OPPORTUNITY POOL MANAGER/ ASSISTANT MANAGER The City of Concordia

Is seeking responsible adults for the positions of pool manager and assistant pool manager. Experience in pool operations and maintenance along with supervisory experience preferred. Ideal candidate may be lifeguard certified. Competitive pay can be expected. Applications should be submitted to City Hall, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901. Application can be obtained by the city's website at [www.concordiakg.org](http://www.concordiakg.org), or by e-mailing [cityclerk@concordiakg.org](mailto:cityclerk@concordiakg.org). Applications will be accepted until 5pm, January 27, 2012. EOE



referenced below, as amended, and other provisions of the laws of the State of Kansas applicable thereto, by proceedings duly had, the governing body of the City has authorized the following improvements to be made in the City, to-wit:

**Project Description Ord./Res. No. Authority (K.S.A.) Amount**

Real property acquisition 2011-3027 K.S.A. 12-1736 *et seq.* and Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution \$400,000 Water system improvements 2011-1913 K.S.A. 65-163u400,000 and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1770 *et seq.*, as amended (the "TIF Act"), the Issuer is authorized to establish redevelopment districts within defined areas of the Issuer which have been found by resolution adopted by the governing body of the Issuer to be "blighted areas" as said term is defined in the TIF Act; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Issuer has by Resolution No. 2000-1331 previously made findings under the TIF Act related to a "blighted area" in the Issuer and has, by Ordinance No. 2000-2775, established a redevelopment district under the TIF Act in such "blighted area" (the "Concordia Redevelopment District 2000"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the TIF Act, the Issuer is authorized to approve redevelopment plans for the completion of redevelopment projects within the Concordia Redevelopment District 2000 and to issue full faith and credit tax increment bonds of the Issuer to finance all or a portion of the costs of such redevelopment projects; and

WHEREAS, each redevelopment plan approved by the governing body of the Issuer must be prepared in consultation with the Issuer's planning commission (which must make a finding that such redevelopment plan is consistent with the comprehensive general plan for the development of the Issuer) and must include: (a) a summary of the comprehensive feasibility study prepared in conjunction with the redevelopment project; (b) a reference to the redevelopment district plan that identifies the redevelopment project area that is set forth in the comprehensive plan that is being considered; (c) a description and map of the area to be redeveloped; (d) the relocation assistance plan; (e) a detailed description of the buildings and facilities proposed to be constructed or improved in such area; and (f) any other information the governing body deems necessary to advise the public of the intent of the plan; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of any full faith and credit tax increment bonds to pay all or a portion of the costs of a redevelopment project, the comprehensive feasibility study shall demonstrate that the benefits derived from the redevelopment

(g) from ad valorem taxation within the boundaries of the Issuer, if necessary if no other funds or revenues are available.

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of any redevelopment plan, the issuance of any full faith and credit tax increment bonds, and the commencement of any redevelopment project, the governing body must conduct a public hearing on such matters after giving notice of such hearing in accordance with the provisions of the TIF Act; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Issuer has been presented a proposed redevelopment project within the Concordia Redevelopment District 2000 (the "Skyline III Project") and has prepared a redevelopment plan in conjunction therewith (the "Skyline III Redevelopment Project Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the planning commission of the Issuer has heretofore determined that the proposed redevelopment plan is consistent with the comprehensive general plan for development of the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Issuer has heretofore, pursuant to Resolution Nos. 2011-1909, called a public hearing under the provisions of the TIF Act in order to determine whether it is advisable to undertake the Skyline III Project within the Concordia Redevelopment District 2000 and to finance the same by the issuance of full faith and credit tax increment bonds of the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 7, 2011, after due published, delivered and mailed notice in accordance with the provisions of the TIF Act, specifically including delivery of copies of Resolution No. 2011-1909, and the proposed Skyline III Redevelopment Project Plan to the Board of County Commissioners of Cloud County and the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 333; and

WHEREAS, upon reviewing the proposed Skyline III Redevelopment Project Plan presented at the public hearing and considering the information and public comments received at the public hearing conducted September 7, 2011, the governing body of the Issuer passed Ordinance No. 2011-3019, respectively, adopting the Skyline III Redevelopment Project Plan and determining that the Skyline III Project described therein (such project, with the improvements described above in the second preamble paragraph, are herein jointly referred to as the "Improvements") should be financed through the issuance of full faith and credit tax increment bonds in an amount of approximately \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, all legal requirements pertaining to the Improvements have been complied with, and the governing

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1. Definitions of Words and Terms.** In addition to words and terms defined elsewhere herein, the following words and terms in this Ordinance shall have the meanings hereinafter set forth. Unless the context shall otherwise indicate, words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa, and words importing persons shall include firms, associations and corporations, including public bodies, as well as natural persons.

**"Act"** means the Constitution and statutes of the State including K.S.A. 10-101 to 10-125, inclusive, K.S.A. 10-620 *et seq.*, K.S.A. 65-163u, K.S.A. 10-427 *et seq.*, K.S.A. 12-1736 *et seq.*, Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution and K.S.A. 12-1770 *et seq.*, all as amended and supplemented from time to time.

**"Bond and Interest Fund"** means the Bond and Interest Fund of the City for its general obligation bonds.

**"Bond Resolution"** means the resolution to be adopted by the governing body of the City prescribing the terms and details of the Bonds and making covenants with respect thereto.

**"Bonds"** means, jointly, the Series 2012-A Bonds, the Series 2012-B Bonds and the Series 2012-C Bonds.

**"City"** means the City of Concordia, Kansas.

**"Clerk"** means the duly appointed and acting Clerk of the Issuer or, in the Clerk's absence, the duly appointed Deputy Clerk or Acting Clerk.

**"Code"** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the applicable regulations proposed or promulgated thereunder of the United States Department of the Treasury.

**"Debt Service Account"** means, jointly, the Debt Service Account—Series 2012-A, Debt Service Account—Series 2012-B and Debt Service Account—Series 2012-C.

**"Debt Service Account—Series 2012-A"** means the account by that name created within the Bond and Interest Fund by the Bond Resolution.

**"Debt Service Account—Series 2012-B"** means the account by that name created within the Bond and Interest Fund by the Bond Resolution.

**"Debt Service Account—Series 2012-C"** means the account by that name created within the Bond and Interest Fund by the Bond Resolution.

**"Refunded Bonds Resolution"** means each ordinance and resolution which authorized the Refunded Bonds.

**"Series 2002-A Bonds"** means the Issuer's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2002-A, dated February 1, 2002.

**"Series 2002-B Bonds"** means the Issuer's General Obligation Water and Sewer Utility System Refunding Bonds, Series 2002-B, dated February 1, 2002.

**"Series 2002-C Bonds"** means the Issuer's General Obligation Tax Increment Bonds, Series 2002-C, dated September 15, 2002.

**"Series 2012-A Bonds"** means the Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012-A, in the principal amount of \$400,000, authorized and issued by the Issuer pursuant to this Ordinance and the Bond Resolution.

**"Series 2012-B Bonds"** means the General Obligation Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2012-B, in the principal amount of \$860,000, authorized and issued by the Issuer pursuant to this Ordinance and the Bond Resolution.

**"Series 2012-C Bonds"** means the General Obligation Tax Increment Finance Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2012-C, in the principal amount of \$3,100,000, authorized and issued by the Issuer pursuant to this Ordinance and the Bond Resolution.

**"State"** means the State of Kansas.

**"Substitute Improvements"** means the substitute or additional improvements of the City authorized in the manner set forth in the Bond Resolution.

**"Tax Increment"** means the amount of Real Property Taxes levied by a Taxing Subdivision within the Concordia Redevelopment District 2000, or any payments made in lieu of Real Property Taxes, that are in excess of the amount which is produced from such property and attributable to the assessed valuation of such property as of the Property Tax Base Date, all as determined in accordance with the provisions of the K.S.A. 12-1770 *et seq.*, as amended.

**"Taxing Subdivision"** means the City and any county, unified school district or other taxing subdivision levying Real Property Taxes, the territory or jurisdiction of which includes the Concordia Redevelopment District 2000.

**Section 2. Authorization of the Bonds.** There shall be issued and hereby are authorized and directed to be issued the (a) Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012-A, of the City, in the principal amount of \$400,000, (b) General Obligation Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2012-B, of the City, in the principal amount of \$860,000 and (c)

**Section 4. Terms, Details and Conditions of the Bonds.** The Bonds shall be dated and bear interest, shall mature and be payable at such times, shall be in such forms, shall be subject to redemption and payment prior to the maturity thereof, and shall be issued and delivered in the manner prescribed and subject to the provisions, covenants and agreements set forth in the Bond Resolution hereafter adopted by the governing body of the City.

**Section 5. Levy and Collection of Annual Tax.** The governing body of the City shall annually make provision for the payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds as the same become due by levying and collecting the necessary taxes upon all of the taxable tangible property within the City in the manner provided by law.

The taxes above referred to shall be extended upon the tax rolls in each of the several years, respectively, and shall be levied and collected at the same time and in the same manner as the general ad valorem taxes of the City are levied and collected, shall be used solely for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds as and when the same become due and the fees and expenses of the Paying Agent. The proceeds derived from said taxes shall be deposited in the Bond and Interest Fund.

The proceeds received from the Tax Increment shall be deposited in a special fund of the City, as required by K.S.A. 12-1770 *et seq.*, and thereafter deposited in the Bond and Interest Fund, as necessary.

If at any time said Tax Increment or other taxes are not collected in time to pay the principal of or interest on the Series 2012-C Bonds when due, the City Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to pay said principal or interest out of the general funds of the City and to reimburse said general funds for money so expended when said taxes are collected.



CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS  
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM October 1, 2011 THROUGH December 31, 2011

Jan 30, 12

FUNDS	3rd Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	4th Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 581,475.85	\$ 703,034.44	\$ 773,330.01	\$ 511,180.28
203 Industrial Development	3,232.30	798.76	-	4,031.06
205 Special Highway	63,354.82	35,874.61	20,177.74	79,051.69
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	292.32	620.00	271.38	640.94
207 Civil Asset Forfeiture	1,298.87	-	-	1,298.87
208 Cyber Crimes	2,138.85	-	-	2,138.85
212 Emergency Telephone System	77,592.71	6,064.76	38,940.30	44,717.17
214 Animal Shelter	21,590.55	555.00	12,898.22	9,247.33
217 Special Park and Recreation	79,148.95	3,075.15	-	82,224.10
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	7,447.60	-	2,304.00	5,143.60
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	421,062.40	7,900.00	34,301.20	394,661.20
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	119.70	-	-	119.70
230 Judges Training Fund	1,429.00	1,361.00	1,623.38	1,166.62
245 911 Wireless	43,753.27	4,261.05	3,787.70	44,226.62
250 Fire Dept. Grants	2,219.17	5,110.00	2,173.06	5,156.11
251 Firefighter Donations	175.25	500.00	-	675.25
255 Police Dept Grants & Donations	-	11,750.00	5,875.00	5,875.00
260 Animal Trust Fund	32,407.94	79.43	-	32,487.37
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,191.14	-	-	40,191.14
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	7,551.20	-	-	7,551.20
301 Bond and Interest	104,329.38	4,191.56	-	108,520.94
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	27,315.45	624.28	-	27,939.73
444 TIF Projects	337,304.73	-	79,388.80	257,915.93
450 Capital Improvement Projects	(17,958.27)	72,962.60	32,112.34	22,891.99
550 Central Garage Fund	9,547.96	40,132.61	40,548.47	9,132.10
601 Water/Sewer General	407,845.37	330,346.59	612,615.22	125,576.74
607 Water/Sewer Projects	15,797.79	-	-	15,797.79
608 Water/Sewer Bond & Interest	12,846.75	-	-	12,846.75
630 Airport Fund	28,979.27	4,095.00	-	33,074.27
703 Escrow Fund	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	14,784.52	5,090.32	6,211.48	13,663.36
735 Library Fund	-	2,117.28	2,117.28	-
736 Library Employee Benefit	-	561.01	561.01	-
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	452,445.43	7,258.65	-	459,704.08
780 Cloud County Landfill	3,300.38	76,265.02	47,187.41	32,377.99
802 Water Protection Fund	1,820.26	1,600.74	1,744.93	1,676.07
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,794,840.91</b>	<b>\$ 1,326,229.86</b>	<b>\$ 1,716,168.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,402,901.84</b>

LIABILITIES:

General Obligation Bonds	3,210,000.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	1,840,000.00
Capital Leases	1,817.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,051,817.61</b>

CASH AVAILABLE:

Cash on Hand	2,338.33
Checking Accounts	700,147.03
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	1,119,012.54
Certificates of Deposit	581,403.94
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 2,402,901.84</b>

*Amber Farha*  
Amber Farha, City Treasurer

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

## Letters to the Editor

Jan 27, 12

Dear Editor,

I couldn't go to last Thursday night's public meeting on the proposed jail, so I was anxiously wanting to read about it in the Blade. Jessica's report said the meeting lasted 2 1/2 hours, and quoted Noel Hanson as saying, "We still don't know why we need a new jail."

All questions should have been asked and answered before the commissioners decided anything, and not just 10 days before \$6,000,000 in bonds would have been authorized to finance the project. If this is the way Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreary does business, the county commission got the wrong architects. They should have held public meetings in each town in the county, and more than one meeting in Concordia.

Commissioner Engle said they had probably "fallen down" at keeping people informed about the jail. According to the Blade, he said it was never their intention to keep the people in the dark on the project. Folks, I think they didn't want us to vote, and that's a shame. But it's just like that all the way from the local county commissioners to Wash-

## Hasch files for city commission seat

Jan 23, 2012



S. Christy Hasch

S. Christy Hasch has filed as a candidate for Concordia City Commission. She is employed by USD 333 as a school psychologist for the Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas and has lived in the Concordia area for nearly 27 years.

Hasch, 51, was raised in a small farming community in North Central Nebraska and graduated from Rock County High School in Bassett, Neb. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a BS in Psychology in 1982 and earned a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Fort Hays State University in 1985. Hasch began employment with USD 333 in August of 1985 and has been employed in her current position since that time.

Hasch has been married for 23 years to Les Hemphill who works as Director of Graduate and Undergraduate Psychology Programs for the University of St. Mary, Overland Park Campus. The couple have three daughters who live in Concordia: Emily and Rachel Hasch, who are students at Concordia High School, and Melina Hemphill, who is employed by the state of Kansas.

Hasch's community and professional activities include serving as president of the North Cloud Education Asso-

ciation. She was an appointee to the Board of Trustees for the Frank Carlson Library and served as its secretary several years. That appointment ended in April 2011. Hasch now serves as secretary for the Cloud County Health Center Board of Trustees.

When giving her reasons for running for Concordia City Commission, Hasch said she wants to provide input to propel the city forward in development. "I have found Concordia to be a great place to live and raise a family," she said. "We need to continue to provide services that meet citizens' needs while offering adequate protection. At the same time, it is imperative that we continue to promote job creation so that our community can retain young families and attract new ones. The greatest resource our community has is people."

# Petition to force jail vote certified

A petition to force the issue of a county-wide vote for the proposed law enforcement center was certified Tuesday.

More than enough signatures on the petition seeking a vote on the site and use of revenue bonds for the facility have been acquired to put the question on the upcoming April 3 general election ballot.

A resolution was passed in December to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$6 million

for the construction of the law enforcement center and 80-bed jail. By publishing the resolution, it gave citizens 30 days to file a petition of opposition to be signed by not less than five-percent of registered voters. The petition requires 310 certified signatures to force the issue to be put on a ballot. The protest period for issuing the bonds ended on January 30.

County Clerk Linda Bogart

said the petition received 448 qualified signatures along with 78 that were disqualified because they did not meet the guidelines for petition verification. Only 310 certified signatures were required to put the issue to a vote.

The petition read: "Shall the following ordinance, or resolution, become effective: Resolution No. 2-011 of the Cloud County, Kansas public building commission declaring it

necessary for the Cloud County, Kansas public building commission to acquire a site and construct and equip thereon a new law enforcement/detention center to be leased to Cloud County, Kansas: To issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs thereof and related reserves and financing costs, and providing for the giving of notice of said intention."

# City discusses use of grant funds

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Using downtown improvement grant money for a new building was the topic of discussion during a routine Concordia City Commission meeting Wednesday night.

Concordia City Manager Larry Uri asked the Commission to interpret the downtown improvement policy so as to allow the awarding of a \$5,000 grant to Josh Trimble for a stone façade on a new Quality Monuments building he plans to construct at the corner of 6th and Broadway.

The purpose of the policy, implemented in 2008, is to augment the redevelopment activities of the downtown area and ensure further economic development and revitalization of the area. Uri said the policy allows for matching grants for "the repair, replacement or other improvement of exteriors." He said his interpretation of the "other improvement" section would allow for a grant for the new building.

To participate in the program the property owner is required to contribute no less than 10-percent of the total project. Uri said Trimble's match would be building the new building.

When asked by Commissioner Lyle Pounds whether the policy was intended for new buildings, Uri said it was hard to say what the intent was when the program was implemented. Since its inception in 2008, he said, staff has never dealt with a new downtown building.

"We probably had old buildings in mind," Uri said. "If they had wanted to exclude new buildings it would have that language in the policy."

Kirk Lowell, CloudCorp executive director, said the grant program's review committee was not sure if the language in the policy applied to new buildings, so it referred it to the Commission for clarification.

Lowell said there is a balance of \$21,200 in the grant fund, and three applicants have

requested approximately \$13,000 for improvements, which would leave enough for Trimble's application. The mission of the policy, he said, was to revitalize the downtown area. He also said it isn't often that someone will build a new downtown building.

Commissioners Gary Fraser and Pounds said they are not in favor of using grant money for a new building.

"I don't mind fixing up the older buildings, but this doesn't seem quite right to me," Fraser said. "I don't think we should use taxpayer money to build a new building."

Each year, the Commission allocates money to the grant fund. Pounds said he also doesn't favor using tax dollars.

"It's hard for me to support a business' using taxpayer dollars in the downtown, but not along the highway," he said.

No action was taken, and the issue will be brought back to the Commission during the next meeting's study session.

A public hearing was con-

ducted for an unsafe and dangerous structure at 304 East 16th. The property, owned by Carol and Patricia Sleffel, was damaged by fire last year.

City Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein determined the structure should be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished. Rehbein said Carol Sleffel contacted him Tuesday and asked for an additional 90 days before deciding what to do with the property.

Rehbein said his recommendation was that Sleffel be given 60 days to start the process to either repair the structure or demolish it, which the Commission approved.

During new business, the Commission approved restructuring a Concordia Revolving Loan for Buy The Book.

Uri said the borrowers had requested that the monthly loan payment be lowered from \$456 a month to \$215 a month. That would extend the loan's repayment schedule from 37 months to 84 months.

(see City on page 10)

# City

Feb. 27, 2012

(continued from page 1)

The Commission had no objection to the restructuring, and approved the request.

During public comments, Lucille Blecha presented her January water bill, which was more than five times higher than her normal bill. She said city staff had told her that according to her water meter—which is new—there was a period of five days where she used 40,000 gallons of water.

"No one can use that much water in five days," she said.

Uri said the new meter can provide daily printouts, and it indicated Blecha had increased water usage for five days, and then it returned to normal. He said that is indicative of a toilet left running.

Blecha said she never noticed a running toilet, and had a plumber inspect the residence, who found no water leaks.

According to the recently revamped water leak policy, the city will only negotiate

with a customer on their water bill if a leak is unexplainable.

"We don't feel this is an instance where it's (the leak) unexplainable," Uri said.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Charles Johnson asked if the Commission was going to address Blecha's issue. He made a motion to allow her to pay her average bill, and the city would write off the rest of it. His motion died for lack of a second.

Fraser said the Commission needed to follow its policy, and couldn't make exceptions every time a customer was unhappy with a water bill.

"We just changed the policy, and if we do this, we'll have to change it again," he said.

No action was taken.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss housing chickens in the city limits, water billing policy and a maintenance contract with Hood Heating, Air, Plumbing and Electric.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2012-1924

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1750 et seq., as provided by Section 7-47 (c) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia, Kansas, has informed the governing body that in his opinion the following structure is unsafe and dangerous:

The residential structure on the premises located at 304 East 16th, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

The West 36 feet of lot 8 and all of lot 9, block 37, Concordia Original Town Site, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer has determined that the structure should be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1752.

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of December, 2011, the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, adopted Resolution No. 2011-1918 resolving that on February 1, 2012, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., the owner, the owner's agent, any lien holders of record and any occupant of such structure may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, and that notice shall be given by the City Clerk as required by K.S.A. 12-1752.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2011-1918 of the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, was published in the Concordia Blade Empire on December 23 and December 30, 2011, in accordance with K.S.A. 12-1752.

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2011 in accordance with K. S. A. 12-1752, a copy of Resolution No. 2011-1918 of the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, was mailed, within three days after its first publication, by the City Clerk by certified mail, marked "deliver to addressee only," to each of the following:

Carrol & Patricia Steffel  
1516 Archer  
Concordia, KS 66901

The same being all of the owners, the owners' agents, any lien holders of record and any occupants of such structure whose names and addresses the City Clerk has been able to determine after diligent inquiry.

WHEREAS, at least 30 days have elapsed between the last publication of Resolution No. 2011-1918 and the date set for hearing.

WHEREAS, on the date and time set for hearing or any adjournment thereof, the Governing Body heard all evidence submitted by the owners, the owners' agents, any lien holders of record and any occupants of such structure as well as evidence submitted by the enforcing officer who filed the statement finding that the structure is unsafe and dangerous.

AND WHEREAS, the Governing Body thereupon determined that the structure is unsafe or dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS that the residential structure on the premises located at 304 East 16th, Concordia, Kansas, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

The West 36 feet of lot 8 and all of lot 9, block 37, Concordia Original Town Site, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

shall be repaired or removed, with repairs or removal to commence within 60 days from the date of this Resolution, and with the premises to be made safe and secure within a reasonable time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS that if the owner of such structure fails to commence the repair or removal of such structure within the time stated or fails to diligently prosecute the same until the work is completed, the Governing Body will cause the structure to be repaired or razed and removed without further notice to any owner, the owner's agent, any lien holders of record and any occupant of such structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS that in accordance with K. S. A. 12-1752, a copy of this Resolution shall be mailed, within three days after its publication, by the City Clerk by certified mail, marked "deliver to addressee only," to each of the owners, the owners' agents, any lien holders of record and any occupants of such structure.

PASSED by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 1st day of February, 2012.

Marsha L. Wentz, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Stacey Crum  
City Clerk





# Peltiers' Foundry brings new life to 105-year-old Brown Grand

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

The Brown Grand Theatre is in Phase I of making the backstage/technical area of the Theatre safer for future generations. Part of this project involves replacing a rickety catwalk across the back of the Theatre and replacing a 105-year-old ladder that goes to the top of the Theatre.

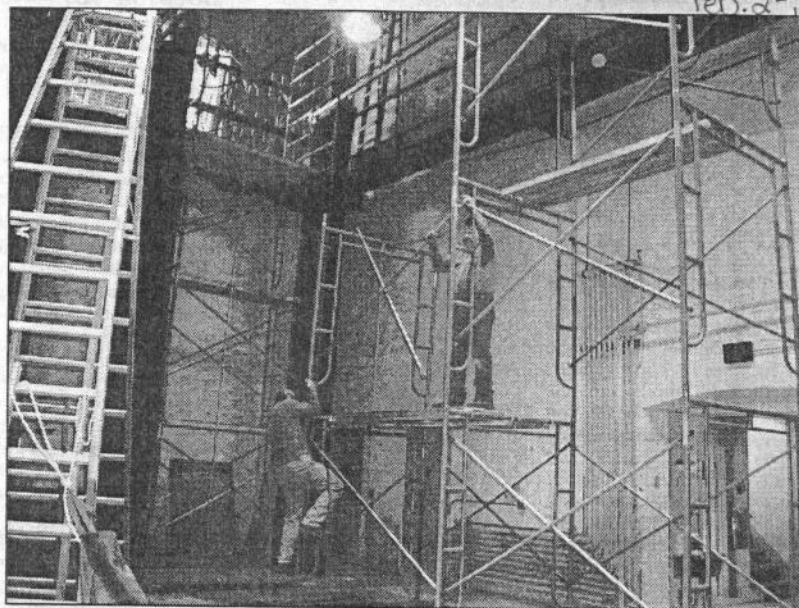
Peltiers' Foundry and Machine Shop of Concordia has been instrumental in making that phase happen at the Theatre. Peltiers is a family business which has operated in Concordia since 1937.

Brothers Jim, Max and David are now the elders of the group with the next generation of Greg and Terry carrying on the tradition. In addition to the Peltier clan, Pete Breault, a father-in-law, and Ethan Cory have been assisting with the creation and installation of the metal catwalk.

The Peltier family tradition of creating innovative ideas to fit unusual problems is not new. Jim said his grandfather was the first in the family to start inventing to meet the needs of the family farm in the 1920s, creating a unique plumbing and heating system for the family farmhouse. From there, he and his brothers began making items like road graders and hay balers.

Now, the Peltiers combine many years of expertise to solve each new challenge. For the particular job at the Brown Grand, Greg said that it would be easier to do a job that is outside because they would not have to work around so many obstacles that the backstage of the Theatre presents.

When first presented with the problems of how to cre-



## Replacing scaffolding

Peltiers' Foundry workers work to replace scaffolding in the backstage/technical area of the Brown Grand Theatre.

ate a safer catwalk yet preserve the dignity of the historic structure, the Peltiers put their collective expertise together and began brainstorming about the project.

Peltiers' Foundry has created a metal catwalk which will be placed immediately above the 105-year-old catwalk so that the historical piece will still be maintained, while creating a much safer and sturdier catwalk for those who need to walk on the catwalk to do several technical jobs at the Theatre. In addition to the catwalk, they have fashioned a caged 30-foot metal ladder which will go from the catwalk to the top of the ceiling over the stage.

Brown Grand board member Ray Hamel worked as

the liaison between Peltiers and the Brown Grand, coordinating the work schedule and pitching in to take pictures and to help wherever he could.

Executive director of the Brown Grand Susan Cantine-Maxson said the Brown Grand is fortunate to have the resource of the Peltier Foundry in Concordia. "We would have had to pay thousands of dollars more to hire someone outside of Concordia to come do this job," she said. "Peltiers have been great about troubleshooting the problems we have and coming up with unique solutions which can work in a 105-year-old structure."

Pictures of the installation are on the Brown Grand's Facebook page.

Fundraising efforts over the past two years have helped to raise the necessary money for this project. In addition, the city of Concordia pledged \$20,000 in matching funds two years ago to assist with the improvements needed for backstage.

Phase II will involve checking pulleys and ropes to the various scenic drops and replacing those that are stretched or frayed, replacing lightweight chain with heavier steel cable and eventually replacing the 30-plus-year-old stage curtains. The front Napoleon curtain rigging is in need of repair as well, but the first job was to secure the catwalk and ladder before that job can be tackled.

# County sets date for election on jail issue

In answer to a protest petition, asking for a vote on the proposed Law Enforcement Project presented to the County Clerk/Election Officer Jan. 26, Cloud County board of commissioners approved April 3 as the date for the election.

The petition had 448 qualified signatures meeting more than the guideline requirement of 310 to have the question placed on the ballot. Seventy-eight signatures were disqualified because of not meeting the guidelines for petition verification.

Artie Lucas and Larry Goldberg, Goldberg, Sullivan and McCrery Architects, attended Monday's meeting and discussed various ways of promot-

ing the proposed Law Enforcement Project.

In other business, the board considered classification changes for employees in the appraiser's office. Beginning Feb. 1 the appraiser's office became the new contact office for the Countywide Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, the Flood Insurance Program and other permitting issues for the county.

The board approved classification changes for: Nancy Owen, deputy-personal property clerk from \$13.75 per hour to \$14.50 per hour; Heather Whitesell, Office manager/cartographer from \$13.25 per hour to \$14 per hour; Steve Williams, field appraiser from

\$13.35 per hour to \$14.10 per hour; Barry Porter, county appraiser from \$32,000 per year to \$35,000 per year, with Porter being designated as the manager for the Flood Insurance Program. All changes are because of employees accepting new and increased duties.

In other matters the board —approved sending letters of congratulations to Norman and Lois Johnston and Mike and Linda Richard for receiving the Soil Conservation Bankers Awards.

—conducted interviews for the maintenance manager position.

—approved allowing the chairman to sign the cereal malt beverage license for the Rock

Quarry, LLC.

—signed monthly expense checks.

—approved department payroll totaling \$121,059.50.

—visited with Darren Bates, Millonvale City Council member, about the use of the wind farm money and the application process.

—discussed the proposed Law Enforcement Project with Sheriff Brian Marks.

—approved the 2013 Noxious Weed Management Plan for signature.

—approved the 2011 annual Noxious Weed Progress Report to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Adjournment was at 4:50 p.m.



## Road destruction

City of Concordia employee Jim Metro uses a backhoe to tear up part of Washington Street Thursday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

# Commission reaches fowl conclusion

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Concordia City Commissioners didn't agree on it, but came to the conclusion Wednesday night to not allow chickens in the city limits.

On a 3-2 vote, Commissioners voted not to change the city's animal ordinance, which would have permitted female chickens and other domesticated fowl within the city limits.

In January, Paul Huber asked the Commission to revise the existing ordinance to allow chickens in the city limits, because he wanted to raise them for their eggs and meat.

After a study session concerning the issue, Commissioners had a revised ordinance in front of them at last night's meeting.

Huber told Commissioners that he had been approached by several people asking that roosters be allowed in addition to female chickens. He said instead of purchasing chicks at a farm store, some individuals were interested in having their own.

He said that it did not make him any difference if roosters were allowed.

"I do know when roosters get older they can get mean and loud," he said.

He suggested roosters be treated like a dog who is creating a nuisance by barking too much.

"If it's causing problems, then you need to make supper out of it," Huber said.

Commissioner Lyle Pounds made a motion to approve the ordinance as it was presented, but it died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Gary Fraser said he had talked to a number of people, and 90 percent of them said they did not favor chickens in the city limits.

"A lot of people were surprised that we were even considering it," he said.

Commissioner Charles Johnson said he was in favor of the ordinance, but wanted to add that only female domesticated fowl be allowed. He made a motion, which was seconded by Pounds to that effect. It failed on a 3-2 vote, with Fraser, Tim Parker and Marsha Wentz all voting against it.

During his city manager report, Larry Uri told Commissioners about several grant opportunities.

He asked the Commission to consider applying for another Community Development Block Grant, this time for the flood control structure at Plum Road.

The City has been fortunate to receive a CDBG for the last three years, Uri said, the most recent being for housing rehabilitation. He said the current thought is to apply for a \$500,000 grant—with a 50-percent match from the city—for the Plum Road dam.

He explained that one of the categories for application is health and safety, which he said he thought would be a good match for the dam project.

Uri also encouraged the Commission to consider applying for Cloud County wind farm funds to begin replacing the city's playground equipment.

The funds are distributed by the Cloud County Commission and come from Horizon Wind Farm's payment in lieu of taxes agreement. Applications are due by March 30.

Uri said \$200,000 could easily be spent on replacing the aging playground equipment. If the City were to receive funds, he said, the equipment on the west side of the City Park would be replaced first, followed by the Second Street Park.

Any request for the wind farm funds must meet requirements supporting innovative projects that enhance quality of life, prosperity and safety of cit-

izens of Cloud County by creating additional educational, recreational, social, health, community development, and economic opportunities.

During Commission comments, Pounds asked how his fellow commissioners felt about naming the tennis courts in the City Park after the late Jack Mitchell. Mitchell was the tennis coach at Concordia High School for many years, as well as the supervisor for Summer Recreation's tennis program.

All Commissioners were supportive of the idea, and Uri said he would put together an ordinance for the next meeting.

In other business, the Commission appointed Mike Linden to the general contractor position on the Board of Building Trades. Linden will fill the unexpired term of Dennis Fleming, who resigned in January. His term will expire on May 31, 2013.

The Commission also accepted an application from Shawn Starr to have the house at 912 East Seventh placed on the city's demolition program.

After a 10-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, where no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss the water billing policy.



## New type of scam reported in area

By the Salina Journal

A Gypsum man reported to the Saline County Sheriff's Office what Sheriff Glen Kochanowski said is a new type of scam of which people should be made aware.

The man received a letter Tuesday informing him that a warrant would be issued for his arrest unless he paid an outstanding ticket. Provided were forms that could be used to settle the obligation without a warrant being issued, Kochanowski said.

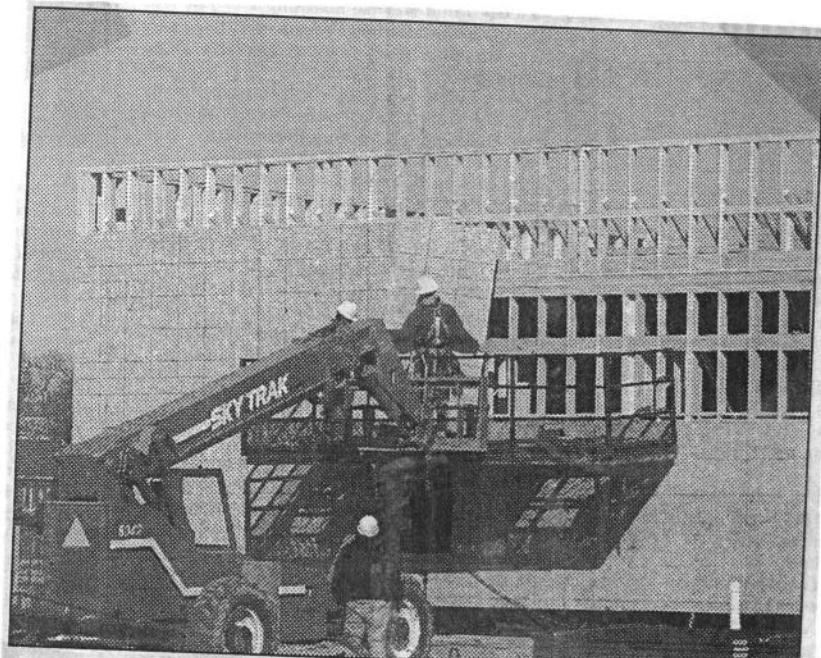
The man was instructed to enclose payment of \$496.76 to settle his court commitments to the city of Concordia, but the documents showed the payment would go to a post office box in Carrollton, Texas.

Kochanowski said the man told him he had been issued a ticket in Concordia in 1998, but the case had been settled.

Kochanowski said anyone who receives a similar letter should contact local law enforcement and do some research to see if the fees are legitimate before paying them.

ontague@salina.com.

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012



### Restoring the arches

Work continues Friday morning on the new McDonald's Restaurant building, under construction at the site of the old building, 1420 Lincoln St. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### SUMMER MONEY MAKER! YOU CONTROL YOUR EARNING POTENTIAL The City of Concordia

is seeking an individual or organization to run the concession stand at the Municipal Pool for the summer of 2012. The swimming pool opens May 26, 2012. The City provides the building, electricity and equipment. Letters of interest will be accepted through February 29, 2012.

If more information is needed regarding the operation of the concession stand, please contact the City Clerk at [cityclerk@concordiaaks.org](mailto:cityclerk@concordiaaks.org), or call 785-243-2670.



Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

### CONCORDIA SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

The City of Concordia is now accepting applications for summer employment for the Public Works Department, Swimming Pool and Summer Playground.

#### Applications will be accepted for the following positions:

- Public Works (Streets, Parks, Cemetery, Sports Complex) 18 and older
- Tennis Coach, 18 & older
- Tennis Assistant 14 & older
- Head Lifeguards 16 and older
- Lifeguards 15 and older
- Playground Leaders 15 and older
- Umpires 14 and older

Lifeguards require CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Certification with WSI certification preferred. Must turn appropriate age no later than the start of the season.

**Deadline:** City of Concordia temporary/seasonal application form must be completed and received at City Hall no later than 5:00pm on March 2, 2012. We will no accept late applications.

Interviews will be held during spring break ONLY.

**Apply at:** City Hall, 701 Washington, visit the website at [www.concordiaaks.org](http://www.concordiaaks.org) or email [cityclerk@concordiaaks.org](mailto:cityclerk@concordiaaks.org) for

# Hill to speak at CloudCorp dinner

Jeremy Hill, Wichita, will be the keynote speaker at CloudCorp's 2012 annual dinner and program Saturday, Feb. 25, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Parish Hall, 307 East 5th, Concordia.

Hill will speak on "Creating an Impact: Rethinking Rural Economic Development." The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker joined the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) at Wichita State University in May 2009 as director. He leads the CEDBR's objective economic research and analysis for private businesses, non-profits and government organizations in Wichita, the state and the surrounding region.

Hill has nine years of experience working with two applied research centers at Georgia Southern University: the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development and Coastal Rivers Water Planning and Policy Center. He successfully developed key



Jeremy Hill

relationships for those Centers during his tenure there.

Hill now looks forward to networking and partnering with the Kansas business and economic development communities served by the CEDBR and the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

Hill's research focus has been on business analysis, community development, education, workforce, tourism, housing and retirement dynamics. This variety of

research required economic impact modeling, cost-benefit analysis, forecasting, data analysis, and survey development and design.

Hill has been involved in a number of national and regional organizations like the Association of University Business and Economic Research, the National Association of Home Builders, and the University Economic Development Association.

Kirk Lowell, CloudCorp executive director, will welcome those attending, introduce CloudCorp's Administrative Assistant Donna Barrett and give brief comments concerning economic and community development in Cloud County. Ben Retter, CloudCorp president, will introduce guests and CloudCorp directors serving during the year 2011.

CloudCorp's 2012 president elect will comment on CloudCorp's vision of the future and planned activities and projects for year 2012. The president elect also will give recognition

of new private donors making financial contributions to CloudCorp in 2011. Retiring CloudCorp directors and officers also will be honored.

Bob Steimel, CloudCorp treasurer, will give the blessing. The Altar Society will cater the dinner. Max and Me (Max Pruitt and Jessica Pruitt of Miltonvale) will sing the National Anthem and provide musical entertainment during dinner.

The CloudCorp Stockholder Annual Business Meeting with election of 2012 directors will be from 5:00-6:00. The CloudCorp Board of Directors organizational meeting with election of 2012 officers will be from 6:00-6:15.

Tickets for the dinner and program are available at CloudCorp, 606 Washington Street in Concordia as long as seating is available or until 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24. Tickets also are available from all CloudCorp directors. Reservations are open to the general public and cost \$20 per person.

## CHARLES "BUD" LYLE YOUNG

Charles "Bud" Lyle Young, 78 years of age, of Clyde, passed away Saturday, Feb. 26, 2012, at his home in Clyde.

The son of Charles Monroe and Miona Lucille (Harrison) Young, he was born Oct. 17, 1933, in Manhattan. Charles was united in marriage to Shirley Hileman. To this union eight children were born. They divorced in 1974 and he later married Jacqueline M. Hubert 34 years ago on Feb. 4, 1978.

Survivors include his wife of the home in Clyde; eight children, sons Robert (Wen Jing) of Greenleaf, Lance (Terri) of Yelm, Wash., Cliff of Palm Springs, Calif., Charles of Clifton, Kan.; daughters, Chloe of Niagara, N.Y., Regena Johnson of Topeka,

Elizabeth (Billy) Squires of Grandfield, Okla., Sherry (Lester) Rogge of Greenleaf; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; brother, Herman (Linda) Young; sisters, Rose Dettmer, Lenora (Frank) Sweet, Faye Ellis; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother; and one great-grandson.

Bud's family will hold a celebration of life Thursday, March 1, 2012, at the Clyde Apartments Community Room from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The family has chosen cremation. Memorials are suggested to the family's choice in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be left online at [www.chaputbuoy.com](http://www.chaputbuoy.com). Chaput Mortuary in Clyde is in charge of arrangements.



Concrete removal

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012

## City of Concordia

### Consumer Confidence Report 2012 Covering Calendar Year — 2011

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Kansas  
Equal Opportunity

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are made continually to improve their water systems.

For more information please contact, Chad Buckley at 785-243-2670.

Your water comes from 3 Ground Water Wells.

Your water is treated to remove several contaminants and a disinfectant is added to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the assessment, please contact us or view on-line at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/inps/swap/SWreports.html>

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPNCDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in sources water before we treat it include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

**Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA

prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 6 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

#### Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2011. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.

#### Terms & Abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Non-Detects (ND):** lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Parts per Million (ppm)** or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**Parts per Billion (ppb)** or micrograms per liter (pg/l)

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per Year (mrem/yr):** measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.



During the 2011 calendar year, we had no violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

# Testing Results for: City of Concordia

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2/22/2011	3.4	1.1 - 3.4	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits
ATRAZINE	12/14/2011	0.11	0.11	ppb	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BARIUM	2/22/2011	0.29	0.11 - 0.29	ppm	2	2	Discharge from metal refineries
CHROMIUM	2/22/2011	2.7	1.9 - 2.7	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
FLUORIDE	2/22/2011	0.35	0.21 - 0.35	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
NITRATE	2/22/2011	6.4	1.1 - 6.4	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use
SELENIUM	2/22/2011	7.4	3.8 - 7.4	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90th Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Site Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2011 - 2013	1.3	0.033 - 2.6	ppm	1.3	2	Corrosion of household plumbing
LEAD	2011 - 2013	2.3	1.2 - 6.6	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	5/3/2011	3.8	1.4 - 3.8	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM	5/3/2011	12	12	µg/l	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	5/3/2011	11	11	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, TOTAL	2/22/2011	345	292 - 345	MG/L	300
CALCIUM	2/22/2011	160	110 - 160	MG/L	200
CHLORIDE	2/22/2011	72	27 - 72	MG/L	250
CONDUCTIVITY • 25 C UMHS/CM	2/22/2011	980	750 - 980	UMHO/CM	1500
CORROSIVITY	2/22/2011	0.31	.075 - .31	LANG	0
GROSS URANIUM BY ACTIVITY	5/3/2011	8.7	8.7	PCI/L	400
HARDNESS, TOTAL AS CaCO3	2/22/2011	440	330 - 440	MG/L	0.3
IRON	2/22/2011	0.07	.019 - .07	MG/L	150
MAGNESIUM	2/22/2011	12	11 - 12	MG/L	0.05
MANGANESE	2/22/2011	0.014	.0027 - .014	MG/L	8.5
PH	2/22/2011	7.4	7 - 7.4	PH	5
PHOSPHORUS, TOTAL	2/22/2011	0.44	.26 - .44	MG/L	100
POTASSIUM	2/22/2011	5.7	4.3 - 5.7	MG/L	50
SILICA	2/22/2011	41	28 - 41	MG/L	100
SODIUM	2/22/2011	50	27 - 50	MG/L	250
SULFATE	2/22/2011	160	470 - 640	MG/L	5
TDS	2/22/2011	640	.014 - .015	MG/L	
ZINC	2/22/2011	0.015			

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



### **Manning the griddle**

Larry Eubanks pours pancake batter onto the griddle at Cloud County Community College Wednesday night. The pancakes were being sold during the basketball games as a fundraiser for breast cancer research. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012



### **Water works**

City of Concordia employees work to fix a water line problem in the 500 block of Washington Street Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
Re: New Jail

Upon being asked if I had a better idea about a new jail, my initial reply was no. With reflection and wondering why the jail topic seems so emotional, I proceeded to file thru the information gleaned from discussions with local experienced judicial and enforcement people.

Two of the experts were adamant about building the jail near the courthouse for ease of supervision and communication between the Sheriff's office and the Court. The issue and use of habeus corpus in regard to non-county inmates.

Am I opposed to a new jail? No!

Do I have question about the current plan and process? Yes!

A private corporation is calling the shots, pun intended, on the jail. After the project is complete, Cloud County will be responsible for the next 80 years to maintain it.

Do we need jobs in Cloud County? Of course!

In my opinion, the petition was successful because a lot of questions have not been answered.

Questions:

1. At the public meeting, no "satisfactory" answer was given as to the number of Cloud County/Concordia inmates versus Outsiders/non-Cloud County housed in the jail.

2. Will annual county costs increase to maintain the facility? How much?

3. How many new jobs will be created?

4. Will the new facility be a "green" (energy efficient) one?

5. Will costs be added to upgrade the new sewer system north of town?

6. Do we have assurance that this will not be a second ALCO or Ethanol debacle?

We need good facilities in our county. We need job creation. We also need a long range plan.

As a senior citizen, the choices we make now probably won't have a lot of impact for me. We do owe it to our younger generations to create viable and sustainable options.

Our assets are many. Concordia is a great place, good people. A friend of mine said that the jail issue is on a lot of people's minds. Please inform yourself. The outcome is with us for a long time.

Ted Collins

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire  
on Thursday, March 1, 2012)

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: **March 1, 2012**  
Expires: **March 8, 2012**

**Name of Grantee:** City of Concordia  
**Address:** 701 Washington St.,  
Concordia, KS 66901  
**Grantee's Telephone Number:**  
785-243-2670

On or after **March 9, 2012**, the City of Concordia will submit a request to the State of Kansas for the release of Federal Funds from the Community Development Block Grant program under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) to undertake the following project:

**Project Number:** 12-HR-002  
**Project Name:** City of Concordia  
**Project Type:** Housing Rehabilitation  
and Demolition of residential  
structures  
**Project Location:** Target area described  
as "homes within the area west of  
Drake Street, east of Lincoln, south of  
5th Street and north of Sixth Street"  
in Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas  
**Estimated HUD/CDBG Funds:** \$341,800  
**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$343,800

The activities proposed are categorically  
The State of Kansas's approval of the  
certification satisfies its responsibilities  
under NEPA and related laws and  
authorities and allows the City of  
Concordia to use HUD/CDBG program  
funds.

## OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The State of Kansas will accept objections  
to its release of funds and the grantee's  
certification for a period of fifteen days  
following the anticipated submission date  
or its actual receipt of the request  
(whichever is later) only if they are on one  
of the following bases: (a) the certification  
was not executed by the Certifying Officer  
of the grantee; (b) the grantee has  
omitted a step or failed to make a  
decision or finding required by HUD  
regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the  
grant recipient or other participants in the  
development process have committed  
funds, incurred costs or undertaken  
activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part  
58 before approval of a release of funds  
by the State of Kansas; or (d) another  
Federal agency acting pursuant of 40  
CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written  
finding that the project is unsatisfactory  
from the standpoint of environmental  
quality. Objections must be prepared and  
submitted in accordance with the required  
procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76)  
and shall be addressed to the Kansas  
Department of Commerce, CDBG  
Program, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street,  
Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612. Potential  
objectors should contact Commerce to  
verify the actual last day of the objection  
period.

Mar. 19 2012  
Marsha L. Wentz, Mayor  
Name and Title of Certifying Officer

City Hall, 701 Washington St.  
Concordia, KS 66901  
Name and Address of Grantee

# Jail

March 16, 2012

(continued from page 1)

Commissioner Gary Caspers said most court appearances by inmates will be via video. The only time an inmate will be transported to the courthouse will be for a trial.

With the increased technology of the new jail, Reedy asked if an information technology director will be included in the new jail's budget. Commissioner Johnita Crawford said the county has an IT director, who would be used at the jail should any technical issues arise.

Eldon Wisdom said there has been a "total absence of maintenance" at the jail over the years. He said the 80-year-old building should be in the same condition as when it was built if it had been taken care of.

"You've provided no answer as to what you're going to do to make sure this building doesn't deteriorate, too," Wisdom said.

He said it appeared the Commission hadn't done much investigation into how much it would cost to run the new facility.

Crawford responded by saying the Commission was doing the best it could to build a facility to suit the county's needs.

Former Cloud County Sheriff Larry Bergstrom said a jail is only as secure as the employees working there.

Artie Lucas, with Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreery, said he didn't agree with that statement, saying it also depended on the facility and how it was designed.

"But nobody's ever escaped out of there in 80 years," Bergstrom said. "The jail has never failed. People have failed."

On Nov. 15, 1999, three inmates escaped from the Cloud County Jail. According to The Blade-Empire, the inmates escaped by overpowering two jail employees and then exiting through a window of the jail. The escapees also got into

clothing lockers and changed out of their orange uniforms before leaving the building.

Bergstrom did say that he is in favor of building a new jail, but one that is less expensive.

"I'm glad you guys put it on, but I proposed a jail about 16 years ago and it was a lot less money," he said. "I would encourage you to build something smaller."

Engle said this is an opportune time to build, given that interest rates are low, as are construction costs.

Mike McEuen said the jail currently houses 24 local inmates. If the jail were to be shut down, the cost to house those prisoners out of county would be approximately \$262,800 at \$30 per day. That does not include any transportation or medical costs for the inmates.

If the new jail is built, the plan is to house 35 out-of-county inmates. At \$30 a day, that would be \$1,050 per day, or \$283,250 per year. That would be enough to make the revenue bond payment, with money left over.

He said if the county builds a jail just to house local prisoners, it would have to be paid for by tax dollars. If prisoners are sent out of county, tax dollars will have to pay for it.

Even if the revenue bonds don't end up paying for the entire project, he said, at least the revenue brought in will reduce that tax burden.

"I'd rather pay a little in the end than pay for it all in a short amount of time," he said.

The next public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight in Clyde at the Grade School Apartments. The final two meetings are March 12 at the Glasco Senior Citizens Center and March 13 at the Jamestown Downtown Community Center. Both meetings will start at 7 p.m.



# 35 people turn out for jail meeting

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade staff writer

The second of five public meetings regarding the proposed Law Enforcement Center drew 35 people to Concordia City Hall Monday evening.

The construction of the \$5.9 million Law Enforcement Center and 80-bed jail will be on the April 3 general election ballot after a protest petition was filed with the County Clerk on January 26. The petition had 448 qualified signatures, meeting more than the required 310 signatures to place the question of using revenue bonds to fund the construction of the Center on the ballot.

The county plans to use revenue from housing an average of 35 out-of-county prisoners to pay for the project, to be located in the north development. By charging the average of \$30 per day, according to Sheriff Brian Marks, the county would generate approximately \$383,000. The yearly payment for the bond is expected to be \$339,654.

County Commissioner Gail Engle opened the meeting by saying the Commission had been working on the project for the past year. He said if Cloud County voters vote no on the question on the ballot, the Commission won't be able to fund the project with revenue bonds. Instead, he said, general obligation bonds will have to be used, which would result in an increase of taxes.

A video was shown featuring the Doniphan County Jail in Troy, Kan., which constructed a jail in 2008, and is receiving revenues by housing out-of-county inmates. The 44-bed facility has between 10 and 15 local inmates, and currently houses four inmates from the Kansas Department of Corrections at \$40 per day. In 2011, the county received \$270,040 from housing out-of-county inmates, lowering the mill levy by 2.7 mills.

Amber Lindberg, jail administrator, showed a Powerpoint highlighting the current issues the jail faces. In two cell blocks, she said, the inmates are in very close proximity to staff, and they can reach through the bars to touch them. The narrow stairs and hallways are not ADA compliant, and pose a serious risk to both inmates and staff, Lindberg said.

"Our number one goal is to keep our staff safe, our inmates safe and the community safe," she said.

Because of water leaks throughout the years, the 80-year-old facility is crumbling, Lindberg said. The water issues have also led to black mold growing, which also poses a health hazard.

In the west block of the jail, which was converted from a garage to dormitory-type cells in 1994, the insulation is so poor in extremely cold weather, frost appears on the inside walls. To keep the area warm, space heaters are used, posing another safety hazard.

She said the Sheriff's Department constantly



## Pointing out the flaws

Amber Lindberg, Cloud County Jail administrator, gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting issues that need to be addressed with the current jail at a public meeting concerning the proposed new Law Enforcement Center Monday night at Concordia City Hall. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

inmates in addition to those already in the jail. Lindberg pointed out that Cloud County is not responsible for medical costs for out-of-county inmates. She said the department also can refuse prisoners, or have them sent back if they are unruly.

"It's becoming very costly to continue putting band aids on the facility," she said in wrapping up her presentation.

Tom Raleigh, rural Clyde, was one of seven in attendance who asked questions of the Commissioners. He asked if the county had bid the architecture services of the project.

Engle said the Commission hadn't bid

ber of firms, settled on Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreery out of St. Joseph, Mo.

"They were the best one we could come up with to do the job," Engle said. "They are experts in every aspect of building a jail. They are with us from start to finish to guide us through the whole process. These guys are the complete package."

Engle also said the Commission is not required by law to bid services such as these, but when construction begins, that work will be up for bid.

Judy Reedy asked what the cost of transporting inmates from the proposed location in the north development into town for court appearances.

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on March 9, 2012)

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3031

**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING UTILITY DEPOSITS AND DELINQUENCY FEES; repealing sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34 of the Concordia Code; and amending the Concordia Code, by adding new sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

**SECTION 1.** Sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia are hereby repealed as of the effective date set forth below.

**SECTION 2.** The Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia is hereby amended, by adding a new sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34, which shall read as follows:

**Sec. 20-1. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

**Consumer** means any person or entity whose premises is connected to the system, and any person or entity who is applying to have a premises connected or reconnected to the system. The term customer when used in this chapter, also refers to a consumer.

**Delinquency** means failure to pay for water and sewer service by the due date.

**Premises** means any separately leased or separately owned part of a structure.

**System** means the water and sewer system of the city.

**Residential tenant** means a consumer who is leasing a premises for residential occupancy.

**Sec. 20-2. Water and sewer connection fee.**

(a) Connection fee. Any consumer who applies for and is allowed to connect a premises to the system shall pay a fee of \$20.00. Any consumer who discontinues service at a premises and applies for and is allowed to connect to the system shall pay a fee of \$20.00. All connection fees shall be added to the first utility bill for the account.

(b) Deposit. When a residential tenant requests connection of water service to a premises, the residential tenant shall pay a deposit in the amount of \$100.00. The deposit must be paid in full before service is provided. The deposit shall be held and accounted for as required by K.S.A. 12-

charged a delinquency fee of \$30.00. Service shall be disconnected, and shall not be reconnected until all unpaid charges, penalties, and fees have been paid in full. If a consumer requests that reconnection occur at any time other than the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, the consumer shall be charged an additional fee of \$30.00.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the official city newspaper. The provisions hereof are severable, and in the event of invalidity, for any reason, of any portion of this ordinance, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, with the invalid provisions deemed excised.

**PASSED** by the governing body and signed by the mayor this 7th day of March, 2012.

Marsha L. Wentz, Mayor

**ATTEST:**  
Suey Cunn  
City Clerk



11

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on March 9, 2012)

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3030

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A HOUSING REHABILITATION AND CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD TO SERVE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND ESTABLISHING SAID BOARD'S FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND AUTHORITY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:**

**SECTION 1.** Housing Rehabilitation and Citizens Advisory Board Created.

There is hereby created and established a Housing Rehabilitation and Citizens Advisory Board (hereinafter called the Board) to serve the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, which Board shall have the functions, duties, and authority as provided herein.

**SECTION 2.** Membership and

The Board shall consist of three (3) members to be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Governing Body. All members shall be residents in the City, and shall serve for the duration of the

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, March 8, 2012

# City changes utility ordinance

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

After a 4-1 vote Wednesday night, the Concordia City Commission changed the city's utility deposit ordinance to require deposits from rental tenants only.

The ordinance originally required any customer requesting city water service to pay an \$80 deposit, as well as a \$20 connection fee. The amended ordinance changed the wording to require deposits from residential tenants only, and also raised that deposit fee to \$100. A connection fee of \$20 will be required every time water service is turned on, but that fee will be added to the customer's first utility bill.

City Manager Larry Uri said as a result of the change, no deposits will be required for owner-occupied or nonresidential accounts. Landlords will continue to not be liable for unpaid utility bills of their tenants.

Commissioner Gary Fraser, who voted against the change, said he had a problem with the \$100 deposit.

"That's going to be a burden on a lot of renters," he said. "It

He suggested changing the billing system so the meter is charged, rather than the occupant. If a person leaves a bill unpaid, he said, it would be the responsibility of the property owner. Water service could not be turned on at that location until the bill is paid.

"Let the property owners decide what the deposit is, and make them responsible if the tenant takes off," he said. "I have a problem with the rest of the residents picking up the bill if they skip out."

Mayor Marsha Wentz said the \$100 deposit is in place for that reason. It can be used by the city to take care of unpaid bills should a customer leave without paying.

In response to a question by Commissioner Charles Johnson, Uri said the city loses approximately \$5,000 per year in unpaid water bills. But, he said, water service is shut off if a customer does not pay within 26 days of a bill being issued. There were approximately 800 service shut-offs last year, he said.

"We're not going to ever get 100 percent of the revenue back," Commissioner Tim Park-

Despite a request from Fraser to hold off on a vote, the Commission passed the ordinance change on a 4-1 vote.

In other business, the Commission approved the creation of a housing rehabilitation and citizen advisory board. The three-member board, to be appointed by the Commission, will serve as an advisory group for the city's Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation.

Uri said the board will decide how the money is spent, and then bring its recommendations to the Commission for final approval.

In January, the city received word it had received a 2012 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$341,800 for housing rehabilitation.

With the money, the city will renovate 20 homes in an area west of Highway 81, east of Drake and between Fifth and Sixth streets. The plan is to also demolish at least three homes. The city's local match is \$2,000.

The Commission also approved the submission of a grant application for KDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Unit. Public Works Direc-

crosswalk light on Highway 9 at the Concordia Middle School. Grant monies will be awarded at the end of the month, and are for projects in 2014.

Utilities Director Chad Buckley received approval to purchase 1,040 feet of pipe, which will eventually be used to replace the water line on 17th Street from Broadway to State. Cost of the pipe will be \$7,332, and Buckley recommended purchasing it now, so it would be cheaper.

During the manager report, Uri said he had recently met with John Grothaus with the Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City. He said the Corps and KLA Environmental Services are both currently working on engineering for the south flood control project.

Uri said he hoped that Grothaus would be able to meet with the Commission in May to lay out costs of the new dam. Uri said he hoped to have numbers to compare in May as to whether it would be cheaper for the city to continue working with the Corps, or build the dam privately.

"I think we are now much closer to the day when we can



# Jail

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

(continued from page 1)

Goldberg said he had run several different scenarios for the LEC budget to preserve that 1.3 debt service ratio, which is where it came in that the city would pay to house prisoners, and the county would take on its own dispatch.

"What you saw was us exploring a number of financial scenarios," he said. "The budget is a work in progress."

At Monday morning's regular County Commission meeting, Caspers told Concordia City Manager Larry Uri that the County never had intentions of charging the city to house its prisoners.

One audience member asked if the County had any guarantee that it would be receiving out-of-county prisoners.

Commissioner Johnita Crawford said they cannot have any contracts in place until after the facility is built. She said the Department of Corrections facility in Norton - which is 300 beds short - has already contacted the County about housing some of its prisoners.

"We can't go out and solicit (for prisoners) until we know we have a facility to put them in," she said.

Another audience member asked who decided the jail would include 80 beds.

Goldberg said the plan was to keep growth in mind in the event the jail needed to be expanded in the future.

"The jail could be smaller - 50 or 60 beds - if you're going to pay for it with tax dollars," he said. "If you're going to pay for it with revenue, you have to have more beds."

Goldberg said to break even on the project - to only make the annual bond payment, and cover the sheriff's normal costs - the County

would need to house 29-32 out-of-county prisoners.

Concordian Eldon Wisdom said according to his figures, the jail would have to be 100-percent full, while charging \$35.13 a day to house out-of-county prisoners to meet the budget. Nowhere in the budget, he said, could he find any allowances for maintenance or lawn care.

Goldberg said that work would be completed by trustees, which is an inmate work program.

Wisdom, who has attended all the previous jail meetings, asked Commissioners why they did not look into locating the jail at the former ALCO building, or in Concordia's industrial park east of the Sports Complex. Commissioner Gail Engle said they looked at both sites, and neither were feasible.

"Eldon, if you have better plans, I welcome you to submit them and we can look over it and see if any of them can be implemented," Engle said.

Former Cloud County Sheriff Larry Bergstrom said a new jail is necessary, but he was still suggesting it be smaller. He then asked, what happens if the County can't make its bond payment?

"It cannot go back to the taxpayers in the event of a default," Goldberg explained. "It cannot."

Engle said the County could build the jail and not house out-of-county prisoners, but would need tax dollars to do that. But, he said, using the revenue from housing out-of-county prisoners made more sense to him.

"We would like to do it without raising Cloud County tax dollars," he said. "But if it gets defeated, then we'll go back to the drawing board and see what we can figure out."

March 12, 2012

## GET INVOLVED

### IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the commission announces that vacancies now exist on the following board:

### HOUSING REHABILITATION AND CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

This is a new board, created to assist with the administration of a grant obtained for the purpose of rehabilitating housing in an area of the city. The functions, duties, and authorities of the board are as follows:

1. Serve as a citizens' advisory group for the CDBG housing grant.
2. Assist in the development of the City's housing demolition plan.
3. Recommend changes in program guidelines to the Governing body.
4. Review and accept the work write-up for each individual dwelling.
5. Analyze contractor bids for conformance and cost.
6. Recommend bid awards to the Governing body.
7. Act as a complaint and appeal resolution panel in accordance with the complaint procedure documented in the Concordia Housing/Demolition Plan.

The board will have three members. All positions currently vacant. Members of the board will serve without pay.

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of this board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest form on or before March 19, 2012.

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 301 Washington Street P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901.

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

## Questions on proposed jail addressed

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Temper flared at times during an informational meeting regarding the proposed Law Enforcement Center at the Glasco Senior Citizens Center Monday night.

More than 30 people - from both Glasco and Concordia - attended the fourth of five countywide meetings regarding the question of financing the new LEC, which will appear on the April 3 general election ballot.

The construction of the \$5.9 million Law Enforcement Center and 80-bed jail will be on the ballot after a protest petition was filed with the County Clerk on January 26. The petition had 448 qualified signatures, meeting more than the required 310 signatures to place the question of using revenue bonds to fund the construction of the Center on the ballot.

County Commissioners took the opportunity last night to address several questions that had been raised at previous meetings. One question brought up previously was why the Commission hadn't bid for

St. Louis, Mo., has been contracted to plan the proposed LEC.

"You all remember what happened at the College a few years ago?" Gary Caspers asked the crowd. "We had a college board of trustees who wanted to go cheap to build the new addition. Shortly after it was opened, it got shut down because it wasn't safe structurally for students to be in it."

Caspers said it was later discovered that the architect who planned the building wasn't bonded, and wasn't qualified to complete the project.

"We paid thousands and thousands of dollars in lawsuits because they didn't hire the right person to do it," he said. "We don't want to do that. We want someone who knows how to build a jail, because we've never built a jail before."

Caspers said the Commissioners had talked with several architectural firms, and Goldberg, Sullivan and McCreery was the one they chose. He said they also talked with other counties where the firm had built jails, and visited several as

are the people to do it because we want it done right," Caspers said. "If we're going to build a Holiday Inn Express, maybe we can get someone else, but we want to build a jail, and we want an expert who can do it right so we don't get hung with one of those things like up at the College."

Larry Goldberg, architect with Goldberg, Sullivan, McCreery, addressed questions on the financing of the project that have been raised at recent meetings.

At last week's Concordia City Commission meeting, Ima Jean Chavey asked the Commissioners if they were aware the jail's budget, which she had obtained from the County Clerk, included charging the city \$20 a day to house city prisoners. She also asked if the County had approached the City about doing its own dispatch, at a savings to the County of \$80,000, which was also in the draft budget.

Goldberg said the budget currently circulating - draft 12 - is a working draft, and he is currently working on the 14th

refine it," Goldberg said.

He said one of the ways to finance a project like Cloud County's is through the sale of bonds - where an entity invests money that the County can then spend.

The bonds are repaid with an annual appropriation, he said, and any Commission in years to come can decide to do away with that appropriation. But, he said, should that happen, that appropriation cannot fall back on the taxpayers.

In working on the budget, Goldberg said, he tried to paint a picture to show potential investors Cloud County's project is a good investment. He likened it to going into a bank to ask for a \$1,000 loan. If a person can only show they make \$1,010 each month, he said, the bank will not loan them the money.

"That's called debt service coverage," he said, pointing out that he was trying to achieve a 1.3 or 1.35 debt service ratio for Cloud County.

"It's a story you tell investors," he said. "There's no smoke and mirrors to this. It's



# County board, city manager

## discuss budget issues

March 13<sup>th</sup>  
2012

Concordia city manager Larry Uri met with Cloud County commissioners at their weekly meeting Monday to discuss matters concerning the city and county. Uri asked about the draft of a budget for the proposed Law Enforcement Project which includes an amount the city would be charged to house its inmates and also recapturing the amount now paid for dispatch services.

Commissioners said they had never discussed charging the city to house its inmates and in the future there may be a potential for them to do their own dispatching but not at this time. In the draft budget all potential sources of income were included to get a better interest rate and debt service ratio for the issuance of bonds. However, nothing has been finalized.

Uri also discussed the request for an island annexation of 1.99 Acres, located in the Concordia North Development, for the Prairie Land substation. By unanimous vote, the Board approved Resolution #8-2012 to approve the island annexation of 1.99A in the Concordia North Development, for the Prairie Land substation.

In other business, members of the Clyde Beautification Committee—Wendy Genereux, Jamie Kagle, Dawn Seifert, LeeAnn Brady, Brenda Koch, Mari Detrixhe, Terry Koch, Loretta Thompson—presented information regarding their project to rejuvenate downtown Clyde with the installation of new streetlights. They gave an overview of the project, its benefits and how they are funding it. The group presented its application for wind farm funds.

Sheriff Brian Marks, Amber Lindberg, jail administrator, CloudCorp execu-

and related infrastructure budgets for the proposed Law Enforcement Project.

The Board has been conducting public meetings in the county to discuss the proposed Law Enforcement project with the last one scheduled for this evening at 7:00 at the Downtown Activity Center in Jamestown.

At the monthly meeting with department heads these officials gave reports:

IT director Jerry Collins discussed the county server and software and the new anti-virus program the county is using.

EXTENSION agent Pat Gerhardt reported she attended a Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in Wichita last week for teachers and extension agents.

HEALTH administrator Diana Gering discussed possible dates for CPR and AED training classes for county employees.

SOLID WASTE director Justin Murdock reported reminder notices have been sent for those having unpaid Solid Waste fees and that summer hours will begin at the Transfer Station this week.

SHERIFF Marks reported that since his department has contracted with the Health Department for medical setups for inmates the number of doctor visits has decreased. He also asked for everyone's support for the law enforcement project.

CLERK LINDA BOGART reported her office is preparing for the April 3 election. Registration books for the election closed at the end of the business day today, March 13. Advance voting will begin Wednesday, March 14.

MAINTENANCE manager Troy Shepard reported his department is reviewing the report concerning the safety

## County

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

(continued from page 1)

During regular session, Shepard introduced Brice Berk and presented a classification change to move Berk from part-time Custodian to full-time custodian, effective March 19 at a rate of \$10.30 per hour. The board approved the classification change.

Shepard and Dan Wheatley, assistant maintenance manager discussed the results of the safety inspection conducted recently by the Department of Labor and other general maintenance projects being considered in the future.

Murdock reported the Solid Waste Department will be purchasing a new lawnmower to be used at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Bid sheets have been sent to Krier Mower and Electric, CTI and Budreau Muffler Automotive. Bids are due in the County Clerk's office by the end of the day on March 23 and will be opened on March 26 at 10 a.m.

Gering discussed a new program offered through the Area Agency on Aging for Home Health clients who do not qualify for any of the Health Department programs. The Health Department will help with medical setup and medication instructions.

Gering reported Susan Hoard had attended the regional WIC meeting and they are not anticipating any major changes to the

ADMINISTRATOR reported we have received all of our funds from FEMA, which totaled approx. \$164,000, for a portion of the damages caused last year from the flooding.

Asch, Ken Blair, Cook Platt and Stroebel, and Donald Dean, Campbell and Johnson Engineers discussed the inspection that was conducted on the UP bridge. Blair will be sending a letter with their findings and recommendations on the inspection of the bridge.

In other matters the Board

—approved the hire of Nicholas Clanin, as a part-time corrections officer, effective March 12 at a rate of \$10 per hour.

—approved and signed the 2013 JJA grant application in the amount of \$249,204 presented by Ellen Anderson, JJA/Community Corrections director.

—approved signing a letter to North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging in support of the statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center.

—discussed the land acquisition and related infrastructure budgets for the proposed Law Enforcement Project with Marks, Lindberg, Lowell and Goldberg.

—approved a correction to minutes of last week's meeting changing Brice Berk's salary listed as \$6 per hour to \$8 per hour.

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday, March 13, 2012)

### NOTICE OF HEARING BY

#### THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider rezoning of property as follows:

Applicant, CloudCorp in cooperation with Prairie Land Electric Corporation and Kansas Department of Transportation, seeks to rezone tracts of land in the proposed plat of the Concordia North Development Business and Industrial Park as follows:

*Prairie Land Electric Cooperative Tract: Lot A, Block 1; from "A-L" (Agricultural District) to "I-1" (Light Industrial District).*

*CloudCorp Tracts: Lots B, C & D, Block 1 and Lots D & E, Block 2; from "A-L" (Agricultural District) to "I-1" (Light Industrial District).*

*Kansas Department of Transportation Tract: Lot A, Block 3; from "R-1" (Low Density Residential District) to "I-1" (Light Industrial District).*

Said tracts of land lie generally East of U.S. Highway 81 and South of Union Road in Concordia and are proposed to be platted as the Concordia North Development Business and Industrial Park.

The public hearing on the above described tracts will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas on April 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

All persons desiring to be heard on this request regarding the above-described properties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this time.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development (785-243-2670) (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2006.

Bruno Rehbein  
Secretary

1tu

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday, March 13, 2012)

### NOTICE OF HEARING BY

#### THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider a Preliminary Plat of the Concordia North Development Business and Industrial Park:

CloudCorp in cooperation with Kansas Department of Transportation and Prairie

33 Degrees 51 Minutes 45 Seconds East for a distance of 73.74 feet; thence South 42 Degrees 26 Minutes 13 Seconds East for a distance of 54.17 feet; thence South 32 Degrees 58 Minutes 52 Seconds East for a distance of 83.57 feet; thence South 19 Degrees 59 Minutes 56 Seconds East for a distance of 58.13 feet; thence South 04 Degrees 40 Minutes 47 Seconds West for a distance of 44.92 feet; thence South 09 Degrees 08 Minutes 43 Seconds East for a distance of 50.30 feet; thence South 05 Degrees 52 Minutes 16 Seconds East for a distance of 26.03 feet to the South line of the North Sixty (60) acres of the East One hundred ten (110) acres of the NE/4 as determined by Mr. Ralph E. Campbell, PE #902 in a survey filed for record in the Cloud County Register of Deeds Office in Misc. Book 38, Page 591; thence South 87 degrees 55 minutes 36 seconds West along said South line for a distance of 1502.68 feet; thence North 01 degrees 00 minutes 53 seconds West for a distance of 148.35 feet; thence South 87 degrees 43 minutes 12 seconds West for a distance of 735.31 feet to a point on the East Right of Way line of U.S. Highway 81 that is 99.70 feet East and 1348.22 feet North of the Southwest corner of the NE/4 of Section 21-5-3; thence North 01 degrees 28 minutes 50 seconds West along the East Right of Way line for a distance of 1161.21 feet; thence North 64 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds East along East Right of Way line for a distance of 206.05 feet; thence North 87 degrees 44 minutes 01 seconds East along the East Right of Way line for a distance of 227.39 feet; thence North 02 degrees 15 minutes 59 seconds West along the East Right of Way line a distance of 20.00 feet to the South right of way line of a public road going East; thence North 87 degrees 44 minutes 34 seconds East along said South right of way line for a distance of 991.99 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING;

Containing an area of 62.25 acres, more or less, and subject to easements, reservations and restrictions of record.

The public hearing on the above-described tract will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Ks. on the 3rd day of April, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

All persons desiring to be heard on this request regarding the above described properties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this time.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the Director of Community Development (785-243-2670) (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 30, 2012.

Bruno Rehbein  
Secretary

1tu

# Concerns raised over location of proposed jail

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Concerns over the proposed Law Enforcement Center's location, financing, and costs were all topics of discussion at the County Commission's final informational meeting Tuesday evening in Jamestown.

The final meeting drew 35 people from both Jamestown and Concordia regarding the question of financing the new LEC, which will appear on the April 3 general election ballot.

The construction of the \$5.9 million Law Enforcement Center and 80-bed jail will be on the ballot after a protest petition was filed with the County Clerk on January 26. The petition had 448 qualified signatures, placing the question of using revenue bonds to fund the construction of the Center on the ballot.

As at previous meetings, Commissioner Gail Engle gave an overview of the project, as well as the conditions of the current 80-year-old jail. Given the current condition of the jail, he said, if the measure does not pass at election, money will need to be spent for extensive maintenance.

"If you vote no, I'll guarantee you your taxes will go up," Engle said. "If we do nothing and close the jail down, we'd have to pay another county (to house prisoners), and it would cost a fortune."

Engle said the jail currently houses an average of 20 prisoners per day. If they were to be housed out of county, at a cost of \$30 per day, it would cost Cloud County \$219,000 a year.

plies; and \$1.14 for water usage.

Eldon Wisdom disagreed with those numbers, saying it cost \$35.13 a day at 100-percent occupancy to house prisoners.

"The cost of that building and everything in it has to be divided out to the prisoners who are in it," Wisdom said. "There are 80 beds there. It costs to have that room there whether it's occupied or not."

Undersheriff Mason Johnson said the jail already has a yearly operating budget. He said the jail's basic costs are the same whether there are out-of-county prisoners there or not.

Dave Clemons said he had a concern about locating the LEC in the north development.

"The north development was designated as prime commercial real estate," Clemons said. "Are we going to drive potential businesses off?"

Engle said the Commission has discussed the issue of the jail's location with three business prospects who are looking to locate in the area. None of them, he said, have expressed any concerns over it.

Clemons also said he has concerns with response time, since most of the county's population is south of the Republican River.

Undersheriff Johnson said that deputies are out patrolling the county, not sitting at the jail waiting for a call to come in.

"That won't be an issue. We're not a hive of bees all hanging out together and when trouble strikes we all swarm out," Johnson said jokingly.

## Concerns March 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

(continued from page 1)

Engle said the plan is to have a 30-year revenue bond for the project, but that Commissioners hope to pay it off much sooner.

Ron Elniff said he agrees with the proposed jail and Law Enforcement Center. After walking around the current jail location, he said he didn't think it made sense to build a new jail there.

"We don't want to turn the courthouse square into a prison square," he said. "It would be better to have it out there (in the north development) on its own."

Former Sheriff Larry Bergstrom said he had overseen the jail for 16 years, and at one time it housed both Sedgwick and Saline County inmates. He said the Saline County Commissioners had gotten upset, and taken all their prisoners out of Cloud County's jail.

Undersheriff Johnson, who worked for the Saline County Sheriff's Department, said those prisoners left Cloud County because Saline County opened a satellite jail on North Ninth Street to house their own prisoners.

Bergstrom said he is in favor of a new jail, but not one as large as that currently being planned. In 1995, he said, he proposed a 90-bed facility for

what do you think we need now?" Engle asked.

Joe Gerard questioned Commissioner Gary Caspers on comments he had made at the informational meeting in Glasco Monday night. Caspers had said the Cloud County Community College board of trustees had elected to cheaply build a student addition, which led to legal problems.

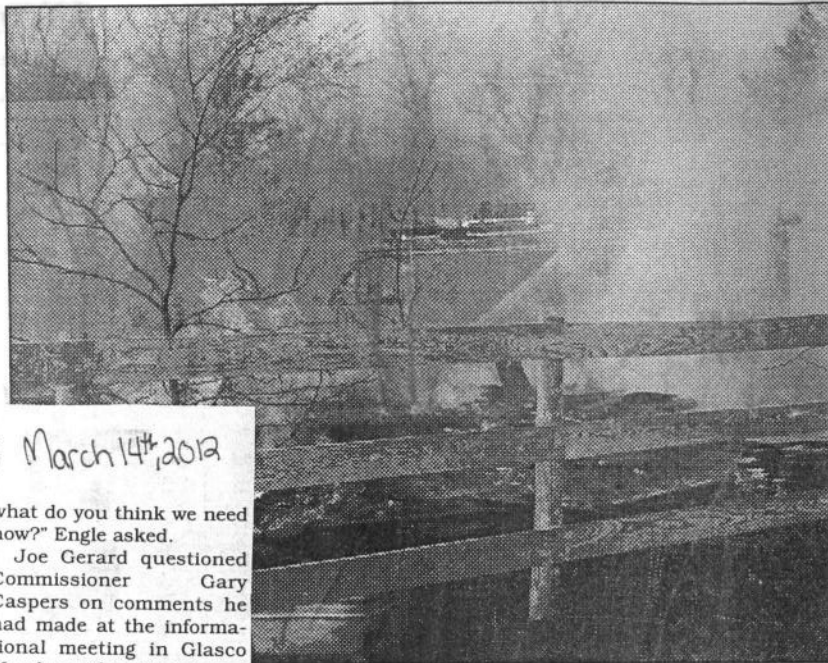
"I think you owe the college board of trustees an apology for the statement you made because I don't think you had the right information," Gerard said. "That was not built on the cheap. That got to be a political fiasco and there were never any students in danger in that building. It was a very sound building."

Caspers said he had gotten his information from news reports at the time, but apologized to Gerard for his comments.

Larry LeDuc praised the Commission and Sheriff's Department for being open and providing information about the project.

"Of any project we've ever had - county, city, college, or school district - this is the most open I've ever seen," he said.

One audience member asked if the current jail had cells to house female prisoners. The Commissioners said there was one cell designated for females.



## Crum elected CCMFOA treasurer

Stacey Crum, City Clerk of Concordia, was elected treasurer of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas (CCMFOA) during the Association's annual spring conference held March 14-16 at the Wichita Marriott Hotel. She will serve during the 2012-2013 year.

CCMFOA provides a comprehensive support network of professional development resources and educational opportunities for the benefit of its members and the communities they serve encouraging competency, integrity, efficiency and accountability in the delivery of local government services.



# City : Program not for new buildings

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission decided Wednesday night that its downtown improvement grant program is not for new buildings.

The issue first came before the Commission in February with Josh Trimble's request for a \$5,000 matching grant for a stone façade on a new Quality Monuments building he plans to construct at the corner of 6th and Broadway.

The purpose of the policy, implemented in 2008, is to augment the redevelopment activities of the downtown area and ensure further economic development and revitalization of the area. Last month, City Manager Larry Uri said the policy allows for matching grants for "the repair, replacement or other improvement of exteriors." He said his interpretation of the "other improvement" section would allow for a grant for the new building.

To participate in the program the property owner is required to contribute no less than 10-percent of the total

project. Trimble's match would be building the new building.

Uri asked the Commission again Wednesday night to interpret the policy, because new buildings have never been considered in the program in the past.

Mayor Marsha Wentz said she had mixed feelings about the request.

"I don't want an ugly building downtown, but I have trouble using taxpayer's dollars," she said.

Uri said the final design of the building would first be considered by the grant program's review committee, and then come before the Commission for final approval.

"We'd have more to say about the project if we approved this, because the state has already approved his plan," Wentz said.

Because Trimble's proposed building is within the environs of the Harris Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Kansas State Historical Society must approve the design of the building.

Commissioner Lyle Pounds

said he wanted to be on record as opposing using grant funds for a new building.

On a 3-1 vote, with Wentz voting against it, the Commission agreed that new buildings not be included in the grant program. Commissioner Tim Parker was not in attendance.

In other business, the Commission approved the refinancing of a revolving loan for Rod's Food Store.

The original loan was issued in 2002 for a remodel of the store. Uri said Rod and Kathy Imhoff had requested that financing on the loan remain the same, and the payments continue at the same rate of \$1,633 per month.

The Commission also approved an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for a KLINK project to resurface Highway 9 from the east city limits to Cloud Street.

The city will be responsible for 25 percent of the \$203,000 project, plus the design, while KDOT will pay the remaining 75 percent.

Public Works Director Ron

Copple said the city's share will be \$50,761, plus \$10,000 in design fees. He said he hopes to do the project in May 2013.

The Commission also appointed Tammy Britt, Joe Jindra and Gerald Gallagher to the newly formed housing rehabilitation board. The three will be responsible for making recommendations to the Commission to distribute a Community Development Block grant for housing rehabilitation.

During Uri's manager report, he presented a report from KLA Environmental Services on Concordia's south flood control project. KLA is working cooperatively with the Army Corps of Engineers to design a dam for the area.

Uri showed Commissioners several maps that showed the high-water marks of five possible dam designs. He said the Corps is studying which of the five alternatives would be most feasible in regard to its policies. The city has designated one of the designs as its preferred alternative, and Uri said the Corps may take that into account in making its decision.

## Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Friday, March 23, 2012)

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3032

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, ANNEXING PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 12-519 ET SEQ.

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

Section 1. Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., as owner, has petitioned for the annexation into the City of Concordia of the real estate described below.

Section 2. The governing body finds that the property described in Section 3 of this ordinance qualifies for annexation pursuant to state law. The governing body further finds that Resolution No. 2012-1925 requested that the Board of County Commissioners of Cloud County, Kansas, find and determine that the requested annexation will not hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area or that of any incorporated city located in Cloud County, follows: COMMENCING at the Northwest corner of said Quarter Section; thence on an assumed bearing of North 87 degrees 44 minutes 01 seconds East, 513.20 feet along the North line of said Quarter Section; thence South 02 degrees 15 minutes 59 seconds East, 50.00 feet to the Easterly right of way line of highway US-81 as depicted on Kansas Department Transportation plans for project 81-15 K-4956-03 Pt II, dated 1997, and the POINT OF BEGINNING; FIRST COURSE, thence continuing South 02 degrees 15 minutes 59 seconds East, 25.00 feet along said right of way line; SECOND COURSE, thence Westerly along said right of way on a curve of 499.67 feet radius to the left, an arc distance of 562.83 feet with a chord which bears South 49 degrees 39 minutes 16 seconds West, 533.55 feet; THIRD COURSE, thence North 01 degree 28 minutes 50 seconds West, 271.72 feet; FOURTH COURSE, thence North 64 degrees 10 minutes 17 seconds East, 206.05 feet; FIFTH COURSE, thence North 87 degrees 44 minutes 01 seconds East, 227.39 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. The above described tract contains 0.99 acres, more or less.

Section 4. The City Clerk shall file a certified copy of this ordinance with the County Clerk, and the Register of Deeds of Cloud County, Kansas.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the official city newspaper.

Passed by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, this 21st day of March, 2012.

Marsha L. Wentz, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Stacey Crum  
City Clerk

## DOG TAGS

Section 4, City Code: All dogs five months of age and older must be licensed. All dogs must have a certificate of Rabies Vaccination. License fees are five dollars (\$5.00) for each male dog and spayed female dog, and eight dollars (\$8.00) for each unspayed female dog, each dog over four (4) in a family, ten dollars (\$10.00). All persons, firms or corporations owning or harboring a dog or dogs within the city limits must provide a license for their dog before the 1st day of April, or a fifty percent (50%) fee will be added to regular tags herein specified.

## - ATTENTION -

Beginning in 2012, Concordia Recreation will have

a registration fee of **\$10.00**

to play in any youth sports leagues.

This includes: Soccer, T-Ball, Girl's Softball, Peewee Baseball, and K-18 Baseball.

You must register your child at City Hall **EVERY YEAR.**

K-18, Peewee & Softball Deadline:

Friday, April 6th

T-Ball Deadline: Friday, April 20th

Additional \$10.00 late fee will be charged after deadline.

For more information, contact Tom Gennette @ 243.2670

March 16, 2012



# Jail

(continued from page 1)  
**Why not consider the former ALCO building for the facility?**

A popular question brought up at all the county meetings was why the Commission wasn't using the ALCO building, which it jointly purchased with the City of Concordia. The two entities purchased the building in August 2011 for \$150,000.

Goldberg said his company did a survey of the ALCO building, and one of the main reasons for not using it was its size. He said the jail would need approximately 18,000 square feet, which would only use about one-fifth of the building. It would cost between \$24 and \$26 per foot to modify the building, Goldberg said.

Goldberg also cited the ALCO building's close proximity to two schools.

"If you had a choice, why would you knowingly or willingly place a jail within a half mile of schools?" he asked.

**Why not build a smaller jail?**

Artie Lucas, with Goldberg, Sullivan and McCrery said if the county were to build a new 40-bed facility - similar in size to the current jail - it would cost approximately \$3.8 million. If it were to be built on the courthouse square, he said, it would have to be more than one level, which would also raise the price.

Lucas said the infrastructure requirements of a 40-bed jail are the same as an 80-bed jail. For an additional \$1.6 million, he said, the county would have a facility that would meet its needs for years to come.

Goldberg said the plan to build the jail was to keep growth in mind in the event the jail needed to be expanded in the future.

"The jail could be smaller - 50 or 60 beds - if you're going to pay for it with tax dollars," Goldberg said. "If you're going to pay for it with revenue, you have to

new jails or added on to them and can't get prisoners. He also said on KNCK's "Talk of the Town" that the Kansas Department of Corrections has no need for outside jails to house prisoners.

Meade County Sheriff Mark Miller, who has a contract to house Sedgwick County prisoners, said the inmate population in Kansas is at an historic low, and he was having trouble meeting his budget obligation.

"My personal opinion is that I think it's a bad idea (to expand)," Miller said. "Sedgwick County and other counties I'm in contact with, they're just not housing that many out because of the historic low count and it's going to be tough to justify if you don't need the 80 beds because that puts a heck of a burden on the sheriff when he has to talk to the Commissioners about why it isn't full."

Meade County is two hours and 45 minutes from Wichita, and charges Sedgwick County \$30 a day to house its prisoners. Cloud County has housed inmates from Sedgwick for 15 years.

Prior to this year, Miller said he has met his bond obligation for the jail, and made money. However, for the past four months, he said, he has lost money every month.

"It's just kind of a tough road right now to find inmates," Miller said.

According to Kansas Secretary of Corrections Ray Roberts, in a report to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight, prison populations have continued to increase, resulting in overcrowding for the male population. The KDOC has contracted with the Cowley County Jail to house inmates.

Scott Schultz, director of the Kansas Sentencing Commission said that 2011 saw significant increases in state jail populations with

March 30



## VOTE Christy Hasch

Concordia City Commission  
 Tuesday, April 3

I will be a positive influence for growth that supports existing business & fosters new development.

(Paid for by Hasch for City Commissioner, Steve Champlin, Treas.)

## ELECT Charles JOHNSON

CONCORDIA CITY COMMISSION

(Paid for by Committee to Elect Charles Johnson, Ross Doyen, treasurer)

March 26

## Jail Project

March 30, 2016

You will have a choice to vote on the proposed jail project at the next election. It has been stated that the jail will be built regardless of your vote. That is incorrect.

If the voters don't approve the current resolution, the Commission will have to pass another resolution regarding the size, cost and funding of the jail, which will again be subject to a protest petition (K.S.A. 19-15.116).

If the Commission decided to build a jail through the raising of taxes, they will have to make that provision in their budget, which will be subject to a public hearing before interested taxpayers (K.S.A. 79-2929).

At the very least, the Commission must consider the concerns of its taxpayers when deciding the scope, size and cost of their jail.

Why is the Cloud County Commission trying to bully the taxpayers of Cloud County?

Cloud County Deserves Better.

(Paid for by Citizens for Responsible Government, Rheta Waite, treasurer)

April 20, 2016

## Notice

Airport Advisory Board regular quarterly meeting  
 Thurs., April 12,  
 7 p.m.,  
 City Commission meeting room.  
 Public welcome

## Notice

Airport Advisory Board regular quarterly meeting  
 Thurs., March 29,  
 7 p.m.,  
 City Commission meeting room.  
 Public welcome

March 26, 2016

# Letters to the Editor

## Dear Editor,

Since January of 2010, the Health Department has had in place an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to visit the jail once a week, and as needed, to monitor medication dailies, answer questions regarding action of medication, dosages and possible side effects and to provide assessments of inmates who have a possible medical problem. This service is provided by our Home Health Staff under the direction of our medical director. If a medical problem is detected, the inmate is then referred to the Cloud County Health Center for treatment such as we would our Home Health clients. This agreement was put into place to help cut down on the number of emergency room visits, paid for by the county, for situations that could be handled by other means. Often, all that is needed is a call to a physician and the situation is handled. By doing this a costly emergency room visit, paid for by the county, is not necessary. Since this has been started Sheriff Marks states that "visits to ER have been drastically cut, which in turn has saved the county money spent on ER visits."

January of 2010 was the first time that I or any of our staff had been in the Cloud County Jail. At that time we were familiar with working in an old building in need of lots of repair that leaked and was cold and drafty. This did not prepare us for the actual state of disrepair and antiquated conditions that exist at the jail. Our first impression of the jail was an old, cold, damp, musty smelling building that reminded us of something you might see in an old black and white TV show. When asked to remove stitches from an inmate's forehead, one day, I was asked to use a small room next to the office. This I have since learned is called the booking room. This room is very small, with basically room for two people. This meant that the jailer stood in the doorway while the inmate and I were in this small confined area. The inmate, I must admit, was very courteous and stitches were removed without incident. I am not ashamed to say I felt somewhat uneasy being placed in this small area. Fact is, they simply do not have an adequate place to put us when we make our visits. The staff is extremely courteous and willing to help out when we need to examine an inmate and we place our trust in the jail staff. We have never had any problems and we attribute this to the knowledge and dependability of the jail staff. Our visits are in what I would term a somewhat "controlled situation" as the inmate is having some kind of a medical problem and is usually wanting to see us. Still, our staff would like to see a bigger more secure area to have these visits. We certainly would not want to work in the conditions day after day as the jail staff does. Inmates in all areas of the jail are only an arm's length away from being able to reach a staff member. Safety of the jail staff has to be a worry of Sheriff Marks with the cramped conditions and antiquated locking mechanisms. Safety of the inmates also has to be addressed as a gurney cannot be taken into the cell block due to space.

If a medical emergency arises, a backboard is used to transport the inmate down to the gurney. It hasn't been that many years ago that a prisoner escaped and ended up shooting a Clay County Sheriff's officer in Morganville. There is a reason these individuals are in jail.

The basement of the jail is another story. Shortly after our agency started working with the jail we were asked to give a presentation on documentation and management of medications. We were told we could give it in the basement of the jail. Upon following a narrow hallway and going down dark stairs we entered what we refer to as the dungeon!!! We thought the old basement of our old building was in bad shape. This space is small, dilapidated, and cold, musty and very depressing. We cannot believe anyone would enjoy

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia, and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of this notice and pay the removal, storage and publication charges.

**Vehicle 1:** Maker: Ford; Model: 1988 Truck; VIN: 2FTDF15N9JCA39626, Color: Red & white two-tone.

The following vehicles have been impounded by the City of Concordia, and will be sold at public auction by Purple Wave Auction. The vehicles can be viewed and/or purchased at [www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com).

The last day to bid through Purple Wave is May 8, 2012.

**Vehicle 1:** Maker: Jeep; Model: 1976 truck; VIN: J6F25MA066399, Color: Blue & white two-tone

**Vehicle 2:** Maker: Saab; Model: 900S convertible (soft top); VIN: Y53AK76E3R70000212; Color: Red w/tan top

## Voters to decide jail issue

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Friday, March 30, 2012

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

On Tues., April 3, Cloud County voters will head to the polls to vote on the question of funding a new Law Enforcement Center.

In January, a petition was circulated and subsequently filed with the Cloud County Clerk to put the issue of constructing a \$5.9 million LEC and 80-bed jail to a public vote. The petition had 448 qualified signatures, more than meeting the required 310 signatures to place the question of using revenue bonds to fund the construction on the ballot.

On Tuesday, voters will see the following question on the ballot:

"Resolution No. 2-2011 of the Cloud County, Kansas Public Building Commission declaring it necessary for the Cloud County, Kansas Public Building Commission to acquire a site and construct and equip thereon a new Law Enforcement/Detention Center to be leased to Cloud County, Kansas. To issue Revenue Bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs thereof and related reserves and financing costs; and providing for the giving of notice of said intention."

Voting yes on the question will give the County Commission the go-ahead to use revenue bonds to finance the construction of the

new jail. Voting no will mean revenue bonds cannot be used to build the jail.

Over the last month, meetings in Concordia, Milmore, Clyde, Glasco, and Jamestown have raised various questions about the construction, financing and costs of the proposed jail.

**Does Cloud County need a new jail?**

Cloud County Sheriff, in an interview in January, laid out several reasons why Cloud County needs to replace its current 80-year-old facility.

"The conditions of the current jail aren't up to today's standards. Today's technology is not incorporated into this facility. We're not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant," Marks said.

**How will the new jail be funded?**

The County Commissioners have proposed using revenue bonds to finance the construction of the new jail. Revenue generated from housing out-of-county inmates is projected to produce the money to pay for the \$6 million bond.

The final budget - draft #15 - estimates that non-Cloud County inmates will generate

\$575,514 each year. That is 85 percent of \$3 beds, at \$35 a day. Cloud County averages 25 local inmates, which then leaves the remaining 53 beds available to house out-of-county prisoners.

In previous budget drafts, the amount Cloud County would charge to house out-of-county prisoners was \$30 a day. Larry Goldberg, president of Goldberg, Sullivan, McCrery, architects for the jail project, said \$35 is an average of what the county would most likely charge.

"We think that's a reasonable average," Goldberg said. "In all our records, we can't find any county who paid less than \$35 a day. It will probably be a variety of Department of Corrections at \$40 (a day), \$35 and some at \$30."

In the most recent budget, additional revenues include inmate telephone fees, commissary fund revenues, miscellaneous fees, and out-of-county inmate processing fees totaling \$127,444. With \$50,000 in wind farm money, the budget estimates revenue totals to be \$702,958.

However, County Commissioners have said they do not plan to use the wind farm gift money.

"We have no intention of using that money at this time," said County Commissioner Gall Engle. "It's an emergency fall-

back and was put in there order to get the revenue bond. Goldberg said the "bottom line" point on the project only make the annual bond payment and cover the sheriff's mail costs - is 29 to out-of-county prisoners.

**Why locate the jail in the north development?**

In November 2011, the County's original plan was to construct the Law Enforcement Center and jail south of Concordia Municipal Airport. How that plan changed after the analyzed costs to extend a sewer, gas, and electricity to a five-acre site south of the airport. The estimated utility costs were nearly \$1 million. The county's budget for utility costs was \$425,000. That number also did not include what the Kansas Department of Transportation would charge for a 1-of-way access of Highway 8.

After hearing the cost infrastructure, the Commission settled on four acres of land south of the north development just south of Union Road cost of \$48,000.

Goldberg said the local "ideally situated" because close proximity to Highway 8. "Officers bringing and taking prisoners can use Highway 8 rather than going through dental areas," he said. (see Jail on page 12)





# VOTE

## Christy Haslach

Concordia City Commission  
Tuesday, April 3

- Resident of Concordia area since 1985
- School Psychologist for USD # 333 for 27 years
- Board of Trustees member for Cloud County Health Center

*I will be a positive influence for growth that supports existing business & fosters new development.*

(Paid for by Hasch for City Commissioner, Steve Clumplin, Treas.)

April 29, 2012

## Jail, city commission seat on April ballot

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2012

Cloud County voters will vote Tuesday on whether or not to approve a resolution declaring it necessary for the county to acquire a site and construct and equip a new Law Enforcement Center and to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs thereof and related reserves and financing costs and providing for the giving of notice of said intention.

Concordia voters will vote to elect one member to the Concordia City Commission with incumbent Charles Johnson and USD 333 psychologist Christy Hasch vying for the position.

Advance voting for all precincts is available until noon, Monday, April 2, at the Cloud County Clerk's office in the courthouse.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at the following locations:

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL**—Main Street, Aurora—  
City: Aurora Township, Colfax Township, Nelson Township  
**CLYDE CITY HALL**, 412 Washington Street, Clyde—  
City: Elk Township, Shirley Township.

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH HALL**, 300 1st Street, Glasco—  
Glasco City, Lyon Township, Solomon Township, West Meredith Precinct, Jameson Township, JAMESTOWN DOWN-TOWN ACTIVITY BUILDING, 311 Walnut, Jamestown—  
Jamestown City, Grant Township, Summit Township, MILTONVALE COMMUNITY CENTER, 107 Starr, Miltonvale—  
Miltonvale City, East Meredith Precinct, Oakland Township, Starr Township, FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, 402 West 6th St., Concordia—

Arlon Township, Buffalo Township, Center Township, North Lawrence Precinct, South Lawrence Precinct, East Lincoln Precinct, West Lincoln Precinct, Sibley Township, First Ward, Concordia City, 1st Precinct, 2nd Ward, Concordia City, 2nd Precinct, 2nd Ward, Concordia City.  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**, 325 E. 8th St., Concordia—  
3rd Ward, Concordia City, 4th Ward, Concordia City.

## Public Information Revenue Bond Election

Conducted Tuesday, April 3, 2012

### New Cloud County Law Enforcement Center & Jail

County Sheriff, as your locally elected representatives, conduct public Town Hall Meetings in Concordia, Clyde, Glasco, Jamestown, and the upcoming Revenue Bond Election concerning the proposed new Cloud County Law Enforcement Center & Jail (Jail). For more information, contact the County Commission and Sheriff. We hope this information will be helpful to you as you consider how to vote on the election.

Osawatimie State Hospital for mental health reasons or at the Juvenile Detention Center at Junction City that inmate has to be transported back to Cloud County for court then back to Osawatimie or Junction City. Inmate first appearance will be done using that system without transporting the inmate to the Courthouse. The only time a Cloud County inmate would be transported to the

affairs of Cloud County much like a private business. Federal and State regulations determine that the existing County jail structure must be dealt with. The County Commission believes that can be done by building a new Jail larger than needed for local inmates then rent that extra space to other law enforcement jurisdictions for their inmates. That is a business way of doing things rather than just raising

be voted on is approximately 10 mills. That required millage is based on the current assessed valuation of Cloud County.

#### 23. How will the new jail be financed?

The Sheriff will mark available inmate space in the County to other law enforcement

customarily limits the number of jail dorm beds to 10% or less of total capacity. That design standard will help Cloud County have a better opportunity to rent unoccupied cells to other law enforcement jurisdictions at a very reasonable income to Cloud County.

In other cases, the jail design was never reviewed by the Sheriff for staffing and operational

needed for Cloud County inmates at an estimated cost of approximately 4 to 5 mills per year for 30 years. That mill levy estimate based on the current assessed valuation of Cloud County.

#### 27. What happens if a regulating agency such as the State Fire Marshal demands closure of the existing jail?

inmate healthcare costs that Cloud County has to pay for by having nurses from the Cloud County Health Department visit the existing jail and first determine if an inmate really needs a doctor or emergency room visit or hospitalization. However, those nurses are sometimes shaken at the existing jail because they do not believe they are providing their services in a safe environment.



# City Election

Hasch said she is optimistic about Concordia's future, because the community is well-located for business development.

"We can improve quality of life for all of our residents by following through on plans that are being considered at this time," she said. "Improving our hospital is one way that we can reach citizens in each age group in or community. It is essential that we continue to have a vibrant health care system in Concordia if

we want Concordia to continue to thrive."

Projects that protect Concordia citizens and property and add to the aesthetic qualities of the community will encourage population growth, Hasch said. And investing in the community will reap benefits in the future.

"We need to invest in our community for the years to come," she said. "I am confident that we can work together to ensure a bright future for Concordia."

**GET INVOLVED  
IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now exist or will soon exist on the following citizen boards, commissions and committees:

**BOARD OF BUILDING TRADES**

(1) Mechanical Position (2) Plumbing Position

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of this board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointment, return a completed Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without pay - out of a concern for the public good. Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901.

*If you have questions, please call the City Clerk's Office at 243-2670*

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Monday, April 2, 2012

## 2 seeking seats on City Commission

Two candidates will vie for a seat on the Concordia City Commission at Tuesday's general election. Charles Johnson is seeking his third term on the Commission and is being challenged by Christy Hasch.

Hasch, a psychologist with USD 333, said she decided to run for a seat on the Commission as a way to give back to the community.

"As a child, my parents impressed upon me and my brother the importance of volunteerism and giving back to the community," she said. "I have always loved living in Concordia, and have been interested in city politics for many years."

Hasch applied to fill the position vacated by Bob Baumann several years ago, but was not appointed to take over his seat. She said she considered running for election after that, but family obligations came first.

"Now, with both girls leaving for college in August, I believe that I will have the time needed to devote to this position," she said. "I really do not have an agenda that is motivating my candidacy."

Johnson said he refiled for his seat because there were

"There are programs currently functioning in the operation of the city that I want to see continued, and where possible, improved," he said.

If elected, Johnson said his most important job would be to keep the mill levy at or near its current level, while increasing carryover funds.

He also said it is important to continue working on the city's infrastructure.

"Of importance is the development of a continuing, comprehensive maintenance and replacement program for the city's infrastructure including streets, sanitary sewer system, storm water sewer system, and potable water delivery system," Johnson said.

Johnson said the relationship between city representatives and citizens has improved during his tenure on the Commission, and he hopes to continue improving that.

If elected, Hasch said she looks forward to helping make decisions regarding the city's south flood control area.

"While there will definitely be a lot for me to learn, I believe that I will be able to get up to speed quickly and be a full participant in that process," she

board of trustees for Cloud County Health Center, and said she is interested in seeing a new hospital built.

"Although that is not a city project, there will be a need for cooperation between the city and the hospital to accomplish this," she said.

In regard to the south flood control project, Hasch said she felt the city was obligated to protect its citizens and promote safety.

"I believe that the dam should be replaced, with an eye toward maximizing safety to citizens and existing property, as well as completing the project economically," Hasch said. "Beyond the safety issue, the possibilities will exist for recreational development that potentially could benefit citizens of all ages."

Johnson said since the current dam has been condemned, the development of a new flood control structure is necessary.

"If a new flood control project is to be completed in conjunction with the federal government, then I approve of the project and the associated federal funding," he said. "However, if the federal government abandons the project, then I have reservations about com-

current plans that have been presented to the City Commission and funding the project."

Johnson said the Commission has not been presented with any alternate cost projections if only the flood control structure is built and the aesthetic portions removed.

"Proposed items that could be deleted and possibly reduce the construction cost are the street on the dam, the permanent water retention pool, and the development of a commercial building site on the east side of the project," Johnson said. "These prospective deletions also could reduce annual maintenance costs."

Johnson said he feels Concordia has the future for growth given the number of business and industrial development sites the city has available.

"Concordia's economic development efforts need to focus on businesses or industries whose start-up labor requirements are within the available local labor pool," he said.

A particular business Johnson said he would like to see in Concordia is a truck stop that would feature a fueling plaza, an overnight parking area and a restaurant.

The City of Concordia seeks bids for a utility vehicle. Please see City Hall at 701 Washington for vehicle specs. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "UTILITY VEHICLE BID", no later than 2:30 p.m. April 12, 2012. Bids received after the deadline will be returned unopened. The City of Concordia reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

April 12, 2012

April 10<sup>th</sup> 2012



Area Chamber of Commerce Scissors of Success: The Flower Gallery Greenhouse owned by their daughter. Cutting the ribbon are Marguerite Townsdlin (left) and

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

# LOCKED UP

## Cloud County voters back construction of jail

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Cloud County voters overwhelmingly supported the use of revenue bonds for the construction of a new law enforcement center in Tuesday's general election.

By more than a two-to-one margin - 1,218 to 597 - Cloud County voters approved moving forward with the construction of a \$5.9 million law enforcement center and 80-bed jail. The Cloud County Commission proposed using revenue generated from housing out-of-county prisoners to pay for the \$6 million bond. The issue had been put to a public vote after a protest petition was filed with the Cloud County Clerk in January.

With 32 percent of registered voters turning out Tuesday, the issue passed with 67 percent of the vote.

"I am elated," said Cloud County Commissioner Johnita Crawford. "It did go to a vote - that's what the people wanted - and now we know overwhelmingly the answer is yes."

Last month, the Commissioners conducted public meetings in all towns in the county. Crawford said that

success because they provided information to the public.

"They were the hardest things I've done since I was a Commissioner," she said. "But evidently, we did an okay job, because we overwhelmingly won."

Commissioner Gail Engle said he is also happy with the outcome of the election.

"We put a lot of work into this, and I'm glad people saw this as a no-brainer," he said.

Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks commended the Commissioners on the work they had put into the project and said he is excited about the voting results.

"I'm just really glad to see that we're able to move forward now," Marks said. "I appreciate everyone who came out and supported it."

Marks said he hopes the construction of the new jail will be a boost to the county's economy.

"I think it's going to be a great project. It's going to be something that we can try to move forward with and be a positive for the county as far as economic development," he said. "We can hopefully make some good of the inmates that

with that."

Construction of the center and jail should begin this summer according to Artie Lucas, with Goldberg, Sullivan and McCreery, the St. Louis-based firm contracted by the county to design the project. After preliminary engineering, geotechnical work and the bond issuance, Lucas said the project should be ready to bid at the first part of June.

Construction should start in July and take six to nine months.

"In the next eight to nine months, we should be very well along in construction," Lucas said. "We expect to be fully operational by no later than this time next year."

The election results are as follows:

Jamestown - Yes: 42; No: 10  
Concordia - Yes: 697; No: 260

County Townships - Yes:  
117; No: 102  
Aurora - Yes: 32; No: 23  
Miltonvale - Yes: 75; No: 53  
Clyde - Yes: 97; No: 66  
Glasco - Yes: 42; No: 44  
Advance votes - Yes: 116;  
No: 39

In addition to the jail question, voters in the city of Con-

Concordia City Commission. Johnson defeated Christy Hasch by 35 votes - 570 to 535.

Johnson said he is pleased with the voting results.

"I'm pleased to continue serving to see what I feel is important (to the city) move forward," he said.

The breakdown of votes for City Commissioner are:

First Ward: Johnson, 69; Hasch, 76

First and Second Precincts: Johnson, 188; Hasch, 229

Third and Fourth Wards: Johnson, 233; Hasch, 169

Advance votes: Johnson, 80; Hasch, 61.

The only other race in the election was for three seats up for election on the Miltonvale City Council. In a close race, incumbent Damen Warkentin was re-elected with 62 votes, and Michael Hamel and Brian Yonally were both elected. Hamel garnered 64 votes, while Yonally came away with 57. Yonally had one more vote than challenger John Gisselbeck, who narrowly lost a seat with 56 votes.

The County Commission will canvass the votes on Monday and make a final

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, April 5, 2012

## City takes action on south flood control area

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The landscape of the south flood control area should soon be changing after action taken by the Concordia City Commission Wednesday evening.

Commissioners approved moving forward with the preparation of bid documents to grade the commercial lots in the area north of College Drive. Ken Johnson with Campbell and Johnson Engineers presented plans prepared by Davidson Architecture & Engineering, LLC, for clearing and grubbing, excavation and compaction, erosion control and seeding of the lots. The cost estimate for the work was \$264,000.

The Davidson architects estimate that it will cost \$5 per cubic yard to move the approximate 45,000 yards of dirt for the project. Johnson said he is comfortable with the price estimate, and that it could end up being less once the project is bid.

"That \$5 a yard could come down if we find a local contractor, by as much as half," Johnson said.

The price, he said, is fairly high because it is unknown what fuel prices will be once the project starts.

"We don't know what gas is going to do," Johnson said. "Each time that goes up, this number goes up."

construction of a dam at 21st Street, have no problems with the city moving forward with commercial grading. The dirt in the commercial areas is not suitable to be used for the dam, Johnson said, but is good for commercial fill.

The city's contract with Davidson does not include any construction inspection, and City Manager Larry Uri recommended a contract with Campbell and Johnson be drafted for that work. Johnson estimated it would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to have someone on site for inspection.

The grading work could be started as soon as mid-May. Barring any bad weather, Johnson said the project would take approximately 60 days to complete.

In other business, members of the Concordia Swim Team spoke to the Commission about recreation fees.

Earlier this year, the Commission implemented a \$10 charge for each participant in the city's recreation programs, which included Swim Team.

Cheryl Madden, vice president of the organization, asked the Commission if they collected the \$10 fee from each participant, if they would be able to use the city pool for practices and meets.

In years past, Madden said,

city's budget this year. She asked that the donation be considered for next year.

Mayor Marsha Wentz explained that city budget constraints necessitated the implementation of the \$10 fee. Because the city had never charged Swim Team for use of the pool, she said Commissioners thought this would be the best way for the city to recoup some of those costs.

"The easiest thing - and the cheapest for you - was to charge each swimmer \$10," Wentz said.

Annie Bergmann, Swim Team president, said they had no problem paying the \$10, but wanted to make sure they would not receive any other bills throughout the summer.

Uri said there were no plans to charge the Swim Team for anything else.

The Commission approved an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation's KLINK program for resurfacing of Highway 9 from Archer east to Cloud Street. The estimated total cost of the project is \$261,220, of which the city's match is \$65,305 and KDOT would contribute \$195,915. The application is for the 2014 fiscal year.

Also approved was the submission of another application to KDOT for a geometric

reconstruction of the street in that area would be a 90/10 split between the city and the state.

Ron Copple, public works director, said the project is estimated to cost \$947,623, with the city's match being \$147,623. The maximum amount KDOT will contribute is \$800,000. Should the city's application into the program be approved, if the work ends up costing more than the estimate, the city would pay the difference. Copple said the projects will be awarded in December, and the project would take place in 2015 or 2016.

The Commission also approved participation in the Kansas Mutual Aid Program for Utilities, a statewide program for mutual aid and assistance, and proclaimed April sexual assault awareness month.

Former Commissioner and Mayor Isadore Bombardier gave a brief presentation on the 1992 wind storm. He asked for permission to present certificates of appreciation to the entities that provided assistance in cleanup 20 years ago.

After executive sessions for attorney-client privilege and non-elected personnel, where no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss fireworks licensing fees, utility vehicle specifications, a water can-



April 19th, 2012  
City digs a hole along East 17th Street Thursday



# Wide range of topics discussed at meeting

MILTONVALE — Wind turbines, the construction of a new law enforcement center and work on the south development in Concordia were among the topics discussed during the intergovernmental meeting Wednesday night.

Representatives from several of the governing bodies in Cloud County met at the Miltonvale Emergency Services Building to discuss a variety of topics.

Cloud County Community College president Dr. Danette Toone told those in attendance that the College is in the process of having three wind turbines lowered to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) specifications.

The FAA has placed a determination of hazard on all three of the turbines.

"All are about 30 feet too tall," Toone said.

The turbines were built in three sections, and Toone said the best case scenario would be that by removing one section it would lower the towers enough.

Not lowering the towers would put the College at risk of not receiving federal grant funds.

"The determination of hazard impacts our getting federal grants for them," Toone said.

Cloud County Community College has been awarded about \$1.75 million from two separate grants.

Toone said that the top end estimate for lowering the towers is \$200,000.

"Hopefully by the end of the summer we will have the towers lowered.

Toone also said that College itself is doing very, very well.

## GLASCO

Charles Wilson reported that Glasco is in the process of getting bids for the remodeling of the sewer treatment plant.

Wilson also said that Glasco is looking at a grant for work at the cemetery.

The fueling station in Glasco is operational, and about 25,000 gallons of fuel have been sold.

## COUNTY

Johnita Crawford, chairman of the Cloud County board of commissioners, reported that the votes on the issuing of revenue bonds to build a new Cloud County Law Enforcement Center had been canvassed, and the measure had passed by a 2-1 margin.

"Now the work really, really begins," Crawford said.

Crawford said the county is hoping to break ground on the project by June.

The county has agreed to purchase the land in the North Development site.

Crawford was asked if there was a possibility of a lawsuit to prevent the construction of the facility.

"I don't know how they could stop it," Crawford said.

County commissioner Gail Engle reported that the bridge inspections had been completed.

"It is not all good news," Engle said.

The county had to reduce the load limit for the UP bridge east of town.

Engle said that the state may introduce some new guidelines for inspections and inspection costs.

Inspection costs could run from \$2,000 to \$20,000 per bridge.

"Another thing coming down from the state level that is making it harder on the local level," Engle said.

Gary Caspers, county commissioner, said that he had attended a Homeland Security meeting in Salina on how to recover from disasters.

"Cities and counties need to have a plan before it happens," Caspers said.

## CONCORDIA

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Dirt will be shaved off of the high spots and put in the low spots, and it will create two lots, which can be sold.

Uri was asked about the plans for the construction of a new facility for the Cloud County Health Center.

"The hospital would like to build north of the Airport Park," Uri said.

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Wentz said that the hospital is looking to fund the project through private funding and grants.

"The last thing they would ask for is a sales tax," Wentz said.

## CLYDE

Clyde mayor Terry Koch reported that the milling overlay in Clyde should be starting soon, and that funds have been released for the housing grant, and that work should be starting in the next month.

## JAMESTOWN

Randy Smith, Jamestown, said that the fueling station is up and running.

There will be a clean-up day in Jamestown this weekend.

Smith also reported that the city may be getting a grant for new water lines, and there is a possibility of a new business moving in that could create up

to 15 jobs.

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Beverly Mortimer, Unified School District 333 superintendent of schools, reported that the district has continued working on its career and technical education programs, and that there have been a lot of positive steps.

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### On the job training

Concordia Firefighters Jim Menard, right, and Rick Knudsen take part in pump training Wednesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

April 18<sup>th</sup> 2012



### Painting the pool

City of Concordia employee Trask Breault applies a fresh coat of paint to the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool Tuesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2012

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, April 19, 2012

# Johnson sworn in, Pounds named mayor

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Charles Johnson was sworn in to serve another three-year term on the Concordia City Commission Wednesday evening.

Johnson, who began his third term on the Commission, received 574 votes in the April 3 general election. He was challenged by Christy Hasch, who received 545.

In the annual reorganization of the Commission, Lyle Pounds was named mayor and will serve in that capacity for the next year. Tim Parker was named mayor pro tem, and will serve as mayor should Pounds be absent.

The Commission approved a \$19,775 contract with Campbell and Johnson Engineers for construction observation services of the commercial dirt work project to begin soon in the

south development.

Ken Johnson told Commissioners they will complete the bidding phase of the project, and prepare contracts to get the project under way. Typically, he said, the cost of observation services usually runs between 10 and 15 percent of the estimated construction cost. Since the company is available to work locally, Johnson said they are working to keep the cost of their services in the 7.5 percent range to move the project forward.

At the request of City Clerk Stacey Crum, the Commission approved a \$5 credit for water customers who fill out a low to moderate income survey.

Crum said the LMI survey is needed so the City can receive Community Development Block Grants. Over the past several years, she said, the City has received nearly \$1 million in

CDBG funds.

As many citizens as possible need to fill out the surveys, Crum said, and 51-percent need to fall in the low to moderate income bracket to qualify for grant money.

Citizens who fill out and return the survey will receive a \$5 credit on their water bills. Crum said surveys should be mailed out next week.

In other business, the Commission approved a cereal malt beverage license for the Cloud County Community College Foundation's annual scholarship auction. The auction will be at the Concordia National Guard Armory on April 28.

A low bid of \$5,975 from Concordia Tractor Inc. was accepted for a utility vehicle for the street department. Ron Copple, director of public works, said the John Deere Gator TS will be used by the

street crew for a variety of uses, including weed spraying and transporting equipment.

During staff comments, Fire Chief Larry Eubanks told Commissioners he conducted a test of the tornado sirens Tuesday morning. After this past weekend's severe weather outbreak, and the failure of the storm sirens in Woodward, Okla., Eubanks said he thought it best to test the battery backups on the sirens in town.

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# County begins process of issuing jail bonds

County board approves of their concerns about the starting process and issuing bonds for new L.E. Center after receiving a call from John Harris with County Club Bank. Cloud County board of commissioners Monday approved allowing Harris to start the process of issuing the bonds for the county's new Law Enforcement Center.

Sheriff Brian Marks reported to the board that he and Under-sheriff Mason Johnson and Commissioner Gail Engle had gone to St. Joseph, Mo., April 17 and 18 to meet with the architects to discuss the plumbing, electrical, kitchen equipment, furniture and fixtures needed for the new facility.

In other business, after hearing information from Solid Waste Director Justin Murdock, on the Household Hazardous Waste grant that is arduous, the board asked Murdock to invite a representative from the Bureau of Waste Management to come to next Monday's meeting to answer some questions.

County Board members also reported on a training she and Purnario attended last week for the Homeland Security Emergency

ished in the Blade-Empire on Friday, April 20, 2012)

## CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM January 1, 2012 THROUGH March 31, 2012

FUNDS	4th Quarter Ending Cash Balance	Post Closing Adjustments	Beginning Balances as Adjusted	Receipts	Disbursements
100 General Fund	\$ 511,180.28	\$ -	\$ 510,343.66	\$ 1,427,030.67	\$ 1,427,030.67
200 Industrial Development	4,031.06	4,031.06	4,031.06	31,464.64	31,464.64
205 Special Highway	79,051.69	79,051.69	79,051.69	35,356.11	35,356.11
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	640.84	640.84	640.84	535.34	535.34
207 Civil Asset Porture	1,298.87	1,298.87	1,298.87	-	-
208 Cyber Crimes	2,138.85	2,138.85	2,138.85	10,799.41	10,799.41
212 Emergency Telephone System	44,717.17	44,717.17	44,717.17	45,553.79	45,553.79
214 Animal Shelter	9,247.33	9,247.33	9,247.33	1,311.14	1,311.14
217 Special Park and Recreation	82,224.10	82,224.10	82,224.10	3,074.11	3,074.11
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	5,143.60	5,143.60	5,143.60	-	-
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct	394,661.20	394,661.20	394,661.20	-	-
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	119.70	119.70	119.70	-	-
230 Judges Training Fund	1,166.62	1,166.62	1,166.62	1,886.41	1,886.41
244 911 PSAP	44,226.62	44,226.62	44,226.62	3,083.31	3,083.31
245 911 Wireless	5,156.11	5,156.11	5,156.11	2,858.11	2,858.11
250 Fire Dept. Grants	675.25	675.25	675.25	250.1	250.1
253 Firefighter Donations	5,875.00	5,875.00	5,875.00	-	-
255 Police Dept. Grants & Donations	32,487.37	32,487.37	32,487.37	79.4	79.4
260 Animal Trust Fund	40,191.14	40,191.14	40,191.14	45.1	45.1
270 Cemetery Endowment	7,551.20	7,551.20	7,551.20	-	-
280 Recreation Endowment	106,520.94	106,520.94	106,520.94	433,523.7	433,523.7
301 Bond and Interest	27,939.73	27,939.73	27,939.73	1,142,037.4	1,142,037.4
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	257,915.93	257,915.93	257,915.93	2,013,344.4	2,013,344.4
444 TIF Projects	22,891.99	22,891.99	22,891.99	381,669.3	381,669.3
445 Capital Improvement Projects	9,132.10	9,132.10	9,132.10	36,310.67	36,310.67
550 Central Garage Fund	125,576.74	125,576.74	125,576.74	682,021.60	682,021.60
601 Water/Sewer General	15,797.79	15,797.79	15,797.79	8,280.41	8,280.41
602 Water/Sewer Projects / 41.4	12,946.75	12,946.75	12,946.75	532,686.78	532,686.78
606 Water/Sewer Bond & Interest	12,946.75	12,946.75	12,946.75	15,797.79	15,797.79
830 Airport Fund	33,074.27	33,074.27	33,074.27	144,010.91	144,010.91
725 Enow Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	32,008.77	32,008.77
735 COC Calendera Plan	13,663.36	13,663.36	13,663.36	10,000.00	10,000.00
735 Library Fund	-	-	-	13,074.84	13,074.84
736 Library Employee Benefit	-	-	-	8,136.98	8,136.98
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	459,704.08	459,704.08	459,704.08	22,761.22	22,761.22
760 Cloud County Landfill	32,377.99	32,377.99	32,377.99	53,161.46	53,161.46
802 Waste Protection Fund	1,676.07	1,676.07	1,676.07	123,978.87	123,978.87
TOTALS	\$ 2,402,901.84	\$ -	\$ 2,402,901.84	\$ 6,605,825.17	\$ 6,605,825.17

### CASH AVAILABLE:

Cash on Hand	2,338.33
Checking Accounts	711,621.53
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,144,606.31
Certificates of Deposit	2,581,942.41
Reconciling Items per Bank Rec	(4,260.04)
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 5,436,248.54

General Obligation Bonds	3,963,800.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	3,950,000.00
Capital Leases	1,336.62
TOTAL	\$ 7,915,136.62

I, Amber Farina, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Amber Farina, City Treasurer

# City approves funds for engineering study

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission agreed to spend \$28,000 on an engineering study to extend natural gas service to the north development during a routine meeting Wednesday evening.

BG Consultants, Manhattan, will prepare an estimate of construction costs to extend the natural gas line from 1st Street north to Union Road.

City Manager Larry Uri said as a municipality, the city has to build the gas line. However, the question remains as to whether the city would build the line and operate its own utility, or sell it to Kansas Gas Service.

Negotiations with KGS for operation of the line have not been successful, Uri said. At one time, the company had indicated if the city built the line, then gave it to KGS, it would manage the line and the city would receive a percentage of gas service receipts over 10 years. However, Uri said he did not know if that offer was still

on the table.

Preliminary estimates to extend gas service to the area are \$250,000. The county has offered to pay half that – \$125,000 – to provide gas to the new Law Enforcement Center and Jail that will be constructed in the area.

Uri said the city will continue to look into the option of operating the line once it is complete.

"When it's done, we'll be in a better position to know what we want to do with it," Uri said. "We'll try to give you some idea of how operating our own line would work."

In other north development business, the Commission approved the final plat for the newly named Concordia North Development Business and Industrial Park. The action divided the property into three blocks, and rezoned the land from low density residential agricultural land to light industrial and general commercial districts.

The Commission also approved an ordinance to

extend the dates fireworks can be sold and increase the licensing fee for their sale.

Fireworks can now be sold – and shot off – from July 1 through July 4. The new license fee will be \$1.50 per square foot where fireworks are sold, with a minimum of \$150. Licenses for selling fireworks can be purchased between April 1 and June 28.

An offer of \$200 from Bernie James for property at 5th and Drake was accepted by the Commission. Uri said the property had been deeded to the city in exchange for release of liens on it, and it had been advertised for sale. Since no bids were received, he recommended the Commission accept the offer for the land.

During his manager's report, Uri said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives should be at the June 6 meeting to present findings on construction of the flood control structure in the south development.

He also reported that invitations to bid on the commercial

grading of lots in the south development are scheduled to be sent out Friday. Bid opening is tentatively scheduled for May 29, and he said the Commission should be able to approve a contractor at the June 6 meeting.

Larry Eubanks, Concordia Fire Chief, reported that the tornado sirens will be tested twice on Monday. The first will be the regularly scheduled monthly test, and the second will be to test the battery backup on the system.

Last month, the battery backup system was tested, and Eubanks said he found all the batteries dead. New batteries were purchased, he said, and the second sounding of the sirens will be a test of them.

After a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege, where no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss the housing rehabilitation and demolition plan and a new vacuum truck for the Water Department.

## CONCORDIA MUNICIPAL POOL SWIM LESSONS

**\*\* With Certified Swim Instructor \*\***

*Fun, student-driven teaching styles!*

*Smaller groups for more personalized attention!*

**1st Session: June 4-June 15**

**2nd Session: June 18-June 29**

Register at City Hall or get the form online

At [www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org)

**\$25.00 per child**

\*\*\*\*\*

Waterbabies (6 mo.-2 years)

Preschoolers 2 (Ages 3-5)

Youth (Ages 6 & Up)

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Tom Gennette 243-2670

May 8<sup>th</sup> 2012



# Click It or Ticket campaign planned

May 8th, 2012

Beginning Monday, May 21, and continuing through Sunday, June 3, drivers can expect increased police presence on city streets and county roadways as the Cloud County Sheriff's Office joins more than 150 other law enforcement agencies in aggressively enforcing Kansas occupant restraint and other traffic laws as part of the 2012 Kansas Click It or Ticket traffic enforcement campaign.

This activity is supported by a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

Expect strict enforcement of the Safety Belt Use and Child Passenger Safety Acts. Briefly, these acts require that all occupants must be appropriately restrained. Occupants, ages 14 and over, are cited individually. In the event that a passenger under the age of 14 is unrestrained the driver will be cited. Children under the age of four must be secured in an approved child safety seat. Children, ages four through seven, must be securely belted into an approved booster seat unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches or heavier than 80 pounds. Children, ages eight through 13 must be safety-belted. In addition, the act prohibits persons under the age of 14 from riding in any part of a vehicle not intended for carrying passengers, such as a pickup bed.

The aim of Click It or Ticket is simple: to drastically reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries that occur when unbelted drivers and passengers are involved in traffic crashes. According to KDOT's Traffic Safety section, over two-thirds of those killed in crashes are NOT belted in. Just as striking is the fact that about 89 percent of crash survivors who suffer no injuries at all ARE belted in. In other words, an unrestrained occupant has only about an 11 percent chance of not being injured in a crash — all for simply not taking two seconds to buckle up.

Kansas' adult seat belt compliance rate is 83 percent and ranges, by county, from 66 to 89 percent with higher rates generally associated with urban counties and lower rates generally associated with rural counties. Given that unrestrained vehicle occupants are much more likely to die in crashes than are those who buckle in, it is no surprise that the lower safety restraint usage rate in rural areas is matched with a higher crash fatality rate.

In fact, in Kansas, while only about one-third of all crashes occur on rural roadways, those roads see fully two-thirds of all fatal crashes. This is frequently because of vehicles in rural areas unin-

tentionally leaving their driving lane and colliding with off-road obstacles, such as culverts, and/or rolling over and ejecting unbelted occupants.

One of the grimmest duties of a police officer is to work a crash where an unrestrained occupant is either partially ejected, or completely ejected, and then crushed by the rolling vehicle. Urban motorists are more likely to be belted and less likely to leave the road. While seat belts will not always protect one from serious or fatal injury, nothing else within the vehicle is more effective.

Kansas counties children, aged 5-14, are buckled in at lower rates than are adults and this is reflected in a statewide safety belt rate of 74 percent for this age group. In some counties only slightly more than half of those 5-14 years are buckled in. Just as rural counties are generally associated with lower adult restraint rates, so they are also generally associated with lower child restraint rates — with some below 60 percent for this age group. However, even the urban counties show less than 80 percent seat belt compliance for these children.

Everyone knows there are seat belt laws and that seat belts and child safety seats save lives and reduce injury, as well as hold down health care costs for all of us. Too many drivers play the odds and don't buckle up, or require their passengers to buckle up because, in their experience, a crash is unlikely. But when a crash does happen, and it is generally within five miles from home, the two seconds it takes to buckle up looks like a smart investment. The Cloud County Sheriff's office wants drivers to remember that it's not only about your driving skill. It's also about the skills and habits of the drivers sharing the road with you. Disaster can strike the best driver out of nowhere.

When you don't buckle up yourself or require that your passengers buckle up, you're making the decision for everyone in your vehicle that the drivers you meet are not going to be distracted by sleepiness, cell phone conversations, texting, changing radio stations, or kids fighting in the back seat. You are assuming for everyone, that no animal, roadway or mechanical problem will cause you to suddenly brake or veer out of your lane. Cloud County Sheriff's Office wants people to know that it is committed to aggressively ticketing violators of seat belt and child safety laws, and all other traffic infractions that make our streets and highways unsafe.



## Touring the museum

May 10th, 2012

Margo Hosie's sixth grade class from Beloit came to tour the Cloud County Historical Society Museum April 25. The class study project centered around the World War II era with great interest regarding the prisoners of war and Camp Concordia. Bruno Rehbein (center) gave a presentation about his father, Carl Rehbein, who was a German prisoner of war captured in Italy. The children asked a lot of questions and also visited the National Orphan Train Museum, Brown Grand Theatre and spent time visiting with Paul Rimovsky. In thank you letters the children wrote, they said they enjoyed viewing and learning about the iron lung, the medical exhibit, the Glasco jail cell, the Martha Washington letter, the model railroad, the Blosser Lincoln Page aircraft and all of the weapons and artillery. Volunteer Aline Luecke and museum curator Cindy Reimann conducted the tour.

# County commission awards Brown Grand \$60,000

Cloud County board of commissioners Monday voted to award the Brown Grand Theatre \$60,000 from the Wind Farm monetary contributions to the county.

The money will be used to start repairs on the rigging and trusses at the theatre. It will be used to help pay for the engineer's study and beginning work on reinforcement of the truss work structure above the stage. Estimated costs for the entire project are approximately \$250,000 — \$300,000.

Brown Grand board members present for the vote were Susan Sutton, Luann Miller, Linda Houser, Everett Miller, Paul Rimovsky, and Brenton Phillips and theatre executive director

Susan Cantine Maxson.

In another decision, the board voted to approve a resolution authorizing the Cloud County, Kansas Public Building Commission (PBC) to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the cost to acquire a site and construct and equip a new Law Enforcement/Detention Center in the County; authorizing the execution of a lease agreement between Cloud County and the Cloud County, Kansas PBC relating to said facility; authorizing the execution of related documents.

At the monthly department head meeting these county officials gave reports:

(see County on page 6)



## Funds for the theatre

Brown Grand board members were present Monday when the Cloud County Commission voted to give the theatre \$60,000 from the Wind Farm monetary contributions. Back row (l-r): Susan Sutton, Luann Miller, Linda Houser, Everett Miller, Paul Rimovsky, Susan Cantine Maxson, Brent Phillips; front row: commissioners Gail Engle, Gary Caspers, Johnita Crawford.

May 15th, 2012

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Thursday, May 17, 2012

## Commission hears report on Rasure Field

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

During a routine meeting Wednesday, the Concordia City Commission heard that Rasure Field is nearly ready for use.

Lowell Thoman, representing the Optimist Club, told Commissioners that once a few small revisions are made to the newly installed fence surrounding the fields at 1400 East 6th Street, they will be ready for community use. The land for the new baseball diamond and soccer fields was donated to the City by the Bob Rasure family in 2010.

The Optimist Club identified the project as one its members would like to tackle and met with city staff to formulate a plan for the area. Thoman said the Club could only fund the first phase of the project — dirtwork, grass seeding and a fence. By working with local contractors and businesses, members were able to complete the work.

"Hopefully, the field is

ready for all the summertime activities," Thoman said. "Hopefully, it will augment the already great ballfields that you have out there and be used by the Parks and Recreation Commission for building young minds and bodies."

Thoman said the community has long supported the Optimist Club, and members saw Rasure Field as a way to give back.

"We always keep a reserve, and that money wasn't really helping young people, so this project came up and we thought if we could partner with the City and get it to the point where it could be used, then let's get it done and we did," Thoman said. "It's just part of what makes Concordia a great place to live."

Mayor Lyle Pounds asked Thoman to pass along the City's thanks to the Optimist Club members.

"We, as a city, would not have been able to do that without your volunteerism as a club, or the financing,"

Pounds said.

In dealing with business items, the Commission approved the housing and demolition plans as part of the Community Development Block Grant the City received. Upon Commission approval, the plan will be sent to the Kansas Department of Commerce for approval, and the City will then begin accepting applications.

The Commission also accepted two projects into its demolition program — 422 West 8th and 304 East 16th.

Carroll Sleffel applied for the program to demolish the house at 304 East 16th, which had been damaged by fire late last year. The low bid for the project came from Snively Excavating and Septic Systems for \$7,335. As part of the program, the City will pay 50-percent of that cost.

Ron Elniff applied to demolish the residential structure at 422 West 8th. The lowest demolition bid came from

Waite Excavating for \$8,150.00. The City's share of the project will be the maximum of \$4,000.

Randy Greenwood and Bruce Brown were reappointed to three-year terms on the Board of Building Trades. Their terms will expire May 31, 2015.

During the city manager report, Larry Uri presented a \$500 request from the American Legion for the community fireworks display.

Pounds said he thought it would be a tough decision to allocate the money, because the Commission had turned down every other request for funds. Uri said the \$500 was included in the budget, while the previous requests were not. Commissioner Marsha Wentz said this was a community-wide event, not just for individuals, and it also brings a number of people to town.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss a new vacuum truck and the City's vicious dog ordinance.

# Brown Grand board votes to make repairs

The Brown Grand Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with repairs to the theatre when it met May 10.

Executive director Susan Cantine-Maxson presented several possible avenues that the board could pursue relating to the stage rigging safety issues that closed down the theatre to live performances in March. "The structural engineer's report states that the area above the rigging needs major reinforcement before any rigging repair work can be done," Cantine-Maxson said. "There just seem to be more added costs each time we explore more deeply into the situation. It would not surprise me if the final figures are close to \$350,000. It's vital that the trusses and roof structures are solid so that the rigging can be attached to a stable surface. First we'll need to address that issue, but what needs to be done is dependent upon which direction the board wants to move to repair the rigging.

"At last week's meeting, board members clearly said that maintaining the integrity of the historic theatre was vital, along with providing a safe and secure working environment for everyone who is on the stage. "We will be seeking solutions which will involve keeping the current 1907 example of stage rigging as a visible artifact which people can contrast with more modern methods of moving scenery, light and curtains," Cantine-Maxson said. "The board is looking creatively at ways to increase the safety and stability of the rigging with the least amount of disruption to the structural integrity of the building. Everyone seems to be in agreement that we need to 'do it right.' This is not a decision which will be made quickly."

Cantine-Maxson estimates that the theatre will be closed for live performances at least through October or until repairs are finished. It will remain open for tours from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays during the summer and for filmed events.

The board formed a committee to evaluate the various choices. The committee also will visit other theatres to see how they have handled similar situations in order to assess firsthand the pros and cons of each type of rigging system. In addition, it will be seeking grants and donations.

The fundraising campaign titled "Save Our Stage at the BGT" will begin immediately. If anyone has suggestions for fundraising activities, they may call Cantine-Maxson at 785.243.2553. Those who wish to donate to this 501.c.3 nonprofit organization may send funds to: Brown Grand Theatre, Box 347, Concordia, KS 66901. All donated funds should be tax deductible.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## MUNICIPAL SERVICE WORKER Public Utilities Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Utilities is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements:

Responsible for routine operation and maintenance of the Water Production, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems within the City of Concordia. Equivalent of a high school diploma; possess, or be able to obtain a valid Commercial Driver's License within one (1) year; and have an established personal driving history that is acceptable for coverage by the City's insurance carrier. Physical examination and drug screening tests will follow all conditional offers of employment.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until 5:00pm on May 22, 2012. A resumé may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's office, 701 Washington, on the website at [www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org), or email [cityclerk@concordiaks.org](mailto:cityclerk@concordiaks.org).

Requests for accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.



# County

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

(continued from page 1)

COUNTY CLERK Linda Bogart reported that she and Marylu Fellows, deputy election officer, attended the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association Spring Conference in Dodge City May 1-4, which included mandatory election training. Leah Hill, a student at Cloud County Community College, was the recipient of one of the twelve \$500 scholarships awarded each year by the KCC&EOA and the filing deadline for the August primary is noon, June 1 for county offices, township officers and precinct committee people.

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT Leadawn Throckmorton discussed the judicial budget and the possible furloughs for May 24, 25 and June 7 and 8 and reported the video conferencing is now up and running.

SHERIFF Brian Marks reported his department will be participating in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign beginning Memorial Day weekend. The Sheriff's

Department participated in the program last year and received \$4,500 to be used for purchase of equipment.

EXTENSION agent Pat Gerhardt reported her office has been getting ready for 4-H camp. Employees will be providing training for Child Care providers. She gave a report on the improvements being made at the Fairgrounds and reported the Walk Kansas program was a big success this year with 44 teams participating. SOLID WASTE director Justin Murdock reported his Department has finished the 120 day cover at the County Waste Transfer Station. Warmago has been played by scores of 6-2 and 6-5.

during the regular season a Warmago team it swept Concordia will now play scored two runs. Mehl had two hits and

conversion June 11 and 12. He also reported that his department has applied for a grant to purchase AED's for their patrol vehicles.

Asch discussed the narrow band conversion for road department radios and reported his employees are beginning to spray for thistles.

Gertrude Poe, coordinator; Betty Saunders, treasurer; and Don Ramsey, president of the Cloud County Commission on Aging, presented their 2013 budget appropriation request in the amount of one mill. The board will take the request under advisement when preparing the County budget.

Commissioners approved a request from county treasurer Sheryl Williams to close her office daily at 4 p.m. until further notice to allow time to balance daily motor vehicle transactions. In other matters the board:

- approved payrolls totaling \$121,901.85.

- heard about air conditioner problems at the courthouse from Shepard.

- approved a resolution providing for the adoption of a tax exempt financing compliance procedure relating to obligations issued and to be issued by Cloud County.

- discussed the procedure for issuing and handling the bond proceeds with Joe Norton and Williams.

- approved signing the credit application from Foley Tractor for the Solid Waste Department. A discussion of the removal of trees at the Health Department with Gering.

- heard an explanation of the procedures for the sale of the Revenue Bonds for the Law Enforcement in the morning.

David Strait and Odette passed ball. Gilbert got home on a Thomas to score.

MAINTENANCE manager Troy Shepard discussed the OSHA seminar he attended last week; discussed the repairs needed for the courthouse air conditioner; and discussed taking out some trees at the Health Department.

HEALTH Department administrator Diana Gering reported the State has changed the rules and regulations for Child Care Licensing; discussed the truck traffic at the Health Department; and reported the landscaping is complete at the Health Department building. IT director Jerry Collins reported Manatron has updated the county's web page and it may create problems.

Commissioners discussed the proposed conversion of software to Computer Information Concepts (CIC).

During regular session Marks discussed the narrow banding of emergency radios and said that Pierce Electronics will be doing the

The City of Concordia is seeking a Spanish-speaking interpreter for Municipal Court.

Must be proficient in English. Pay is \$35 per hour, with a minimum of \$10.

Please direct questions and interest to Megan Murdock, Municipal Court Clerk, at 785-243-2670, or 701 Washington, Concordia.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012

## UMPIRE/COACHES CLINIC

with Kurt Zimmer

Wednesday, May 23

6:30 p.m.

Concordia Sports Complex  
(American Legion Field)

Get your questions answered.

Sponsored by Concordia Recreation

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012

## SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE!



### Pool Parties

\$60.00 per hour

1 to 50 people

\$70.00 per hour

51 to 75 people

\$80.00 per hour

76 to 100 people

THE CONCORDIA MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

OPENS SATURDAY, MAY 26TH!

Come on in,  
enjoy our  
heated pool!

**HOURS:**  
1 - 7 p.m.  
All Summer  
**BREAK TIMES:**  
3:00 & 5:00  
DAILY

**DAILY ADMISSION:**  
4 & Under.....FREE  
5- & Over.....\$2.00

**Single Pass.....\$50**  
**Family Pass.....\$100\***  
(\*up to 5 members, \$5 for each additional member)

GET YOUR PUNCH CARD NOW!  
THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS!!

**Buy Tickets & Passes**  
at City Hall  
Punch cards can be  
purchased at the pool

RESERVE POOL PARTIES NOW - CALL 243-2670

**Adult Swim**  
Noon to 12:50  
\$2.00 Daily or  
\$15 Punch Ticket

Municipal  
Swimming Pool  
11th & Cedar  
243-1150

• Ask about our volleyball net  
for pool parties!  
• Play basketball all the time!

**Season Dates:**  
Saturday, May 26 thru Tuesday, Aug. 14, daily



### Getting a lift

Concordia city manager Larry Uri takes a ride in the lift that has been installed at the Municipal Pool (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

## Municipal Pool gets a lift to comply with ADA ruling

By Sharon Coy  
Blade Staff Writer

When Concordia Municipal Pool opens Saturday it will have new additions making it compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) ruling issued in 2010 to provide handicap access for those with special needs.

The rule states that all public pools measuring more than 300 perimeter feet must have a second means of entry: a lift, ramp or transfer wall.

Deadline for update compliance was March 15, 2012. City of Concordia director of public works Ron Copple decided lifts would be the least expensive and most practical option for the Concordia pool.

With the City Commission's approval at its Dec. 21, 2011, meeting, he ordered two Aquatram, Ne lifts and one set of stairs. Cost of each lift was \$5,515.20 plus \$300 freight for each

lift and cost of the stairs was \$3,984 plus \$200 freight.

Copple said the equipment was paid for with money left over from last year's pool fund. City workers installed the chairs last week and the steps will be installed as soon as the pool is filled. The steps are portable and can be removed when the Concordia swim team has its practices and meets, then put back for use during regular pool hours.

Pool personnel will be able to help those needing assistance using the lifts which are capable of holding up to 500 pounds.

Melanie Brown-Hansen, assistant regional manager of OCCK, sees the pool's new equipment as providing an opportunity for more people to use the facility. "With the new equipment additional people will be able to have safe and easy access to the pool," she said.



### Adding color

Tammy Britt, left, and Susie Haver plant colorful flowers Wednesday morning in pots located in Downtown Concordia. The flowers are part of "Project Flowerpot." (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

## "Project Flowerpot" gives downtown a shot of color

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The idea of three local women to give downtown Concordia a shot of color has grown into a long-term plan to beautify the city.

Tammy Britt said she, Marsha Wentz and Linda Houser envisioned an inviting, colorful downtown to inspire both walking and shopping. "The goal is to create an inviting downtown cityscape that will attract locals and visitors to pull off the highway and spend some time in downtown Concordia," said Britt.

First up was "Project Flowerpot" — the placing and planting of 12 sets of three blue flower pots up and down Sixth Street. Wentz said the pots were purchased from the Flower Gallery.

City crews filled the 36 pots with dirt and also placed them for the committee, Wentz said.

On Monday afternoon, the group, along with Susie Haver, Jane Linden, and Bruce and Tiffany Nutter, planted red geraniums, white verbena, spikes, and duster miller —

all purchased from both the Flower Gallery and Bergstrom Greenhouse and Nursery. Wentz said funds for "Project Flowerpot" came from a grant through Cloud County Convention and Tourism, as well as private donations. No city money has been used, she said, but the city is providing watering services for all the plants. Britt said the next project will be the replanting of trees in the downtown planters.

The group is working with Scott Howe, Howe Landscaping, to determine the best tree for the area. "We want a tree that will add color, warmth and shade to our downtown," she said.

Further down the line, Britt said the hope is to install additional flowerpots on each corner, and changing or painting the street lights to give them a more historic look. Long-term goals are to decorate the empty lots along Highway 81 with flowers in a stained glass pattern.

Anyone wanting to participate, or make a donation, can contact either Wentz, Britt or Houser. "We'll take anyone who wants to help or donate," said Wentz.

## BUSINESS INTEREST



### *Ribbon cutting*

Chris Edin, co-owner of Threads for Him, cuts the ribbon marking the store's grand opening Saturday morning. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012



# 2012 Summer Recreation

## PLAYGROUND

A full schedule of events will begin Tuesday, May 29, and continue for six weeks through July 6.

Summer Playground Directors:

Amanda Weber

& Carlee Baumann

9:00 - 11:45 a.m. Monday-Friday

**\$25 PER CHILD**  
(\$10 each additional child)

In case of inclement weather, listen to KNCK 1390 or 98.3 (FM)

Contact Numbers:

Playground: 243-7979

Tom Gennette: 243-2670

**Location:** East Shelterhouse at the City Park  
May 29 - July 6

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

*Children need to be dropped off no earlier than 8:45 a.m.,  
and must be picked up no later than 11:45 a.m.*

Activities will include Swimming (Mon., Wed. & Fri.),  
Arts & Crafts, Fantastic Friday Events, Movie Days,  
Kickball Tournaments, Dodge Ball, Snack Days

**Ages:** 5-12

(Must turn 5 before July 6)

**Registration:** Children can be enrolled NOW at Concordia City Hall.

## TENNIS

\$10.00 per child

Monday-Friday

2 Sessions

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Noon

Come for one session, or stay for both

**Supervisors:** Rissa McNichols  
& Romy Rohovit

## SWIM TEAM

**Practice:** Begins May 29

Mon.-Fri., 10:45 - 11:45

**Schedule:** Age 8 & under M-W-F, 10:45-Noon

Age 9 & above Mon.-Fri., 10:45-noon

**Registration Fee:** \$25

**Location:** City Pool

**Meets:** Saturdays

*Must be able to swim*

For more information, call:

Annie Bergmann • 243-3451

## SWIMMING POOL

**Manager:** Camilla Garst

**Assistant Manager:** Megan Hittle

**Opens:** Saturday, May 26

**Daily Admission:** 4 & under, Free  
4 & over, \$2.00

**10 Punch Ticket**  
\$15.00

**Pool Parties after 7 p.m.:**

\$60 per hour, 1 to 50 people

\$70 per hour, 51 to 75 people

\$80 per hour, 76 to 100 people

**Adult Swim:** Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Daily \$2.00 admission

10-Punch Ticket, \$15

## SWIMMING LESSONS

Register at City Hall

\$25.00 per child

**First Session - June 4-15**

**Second Session - June 18-29**

Water Babies - 6 months - 2 years

Preschoolers - Ages 3-5 years

Youth - Ages 6 & up

Contact Tom Gennette, 243-2670

## CONCORDIA SPORTS COMPLEX

1500 East 7th Street

(785) 243-2362 or (785) 243-2670

## BASEBALL DIVISION

**AMERICAN LEGION BLUES**

**Contact:** Derrick Hittle

**K-18**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee**

**Contact:** Tom Gennette

**Concordia Teams:** F&A Food Sales, Inc. & Citizens

National Bank

**PEE WEE BASEBALL**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee**

**Contact:** Tom Gennette

**Concordia Teams:** 16th Street Carwash, American Legion,  
Lions, Knights of Columbus, Concordia Chevy/Buick,  
Family Health Mart Pharmacy

**Days Played:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday

## SOFTBALL DIVISION

**GIRLS SOFTBALL**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee**

**Contact:** Tom Gennette

**Concordia Teams:** Amercian Legion, Subway, Funk  
Pharmacy, Cloud County Co-op

**Days Played:** Tuesday & Thursday

**MEN'S SLOW PITCH**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee**

**Contact:** Tom Gennette - Teams & Coaches please contact  
Tom at City Hall (243-2670)

**Days Played:** Tuesdays

**T-BALL**

**\$10.00 Registration Fee**

**Contact:** Tom Gennette

**Concordia Teams:** Gambino's Pizza, Schendel Pest  
Control, Fleming Construction, Shelter Insurance, Farm  
Bureau Insurance, Tom's Music House

**Days Played:** Tuesday & Thursday

## GROUNDS CREW

City of Concordia • Jared LeDuc

David Strait & Jordan Brown

**Support these sponsors who supported this page!**



### Removing the flag pole

Concordia Firefighters remove the flag pole from atop Wentz Eye Care Tuesday afternoon. A weather camera will be installed to replace the pole, and weather conditions can be checked at WeatherBug.com. (Photo by Tammy Britt)

## Brown Grand marches on <sup>June 7th</sup>

Although the Brown Grand Theatre in Concordia had to stop live performances in March because of safety issues with the rigging above the stage, the Theatre remains open for tours and filmed events that can be held without having people actually on the stage.

Events which continue to be held in the Brown Grand include the Sundays at the Grand on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, featuring HD presentations of various symphony orchestras from around the world, featuring world renowned guest artists.

In addition, the Theatre is offering independent films on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Sundays at the Grand continue at the Brown Grand on Sunday, June 10, at 2 p.m. with a filmed performance by the New York Philharmonic at Pyongyang in Korea, conducted by Lorin Maazel. His performance was previously scheduled for March but had to be postponed because of technical difficulties.

Running Time: approx. 115 minutes

Repertoire:

Richard Wagner: Lohengrin, Prelude to Act III

Antonin Dvorak: Symphony No. 9 in E minor "From the New World:

George Gershwin: An American in Paris

George Bizet: Farandole from L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2

Leonard Bernstein: Candide, Overture

Traditional: Arirang

Other concerts set up for this summer include June 24 at 2 p.m.: Schuman and Beethoven with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia with guest artist Sara Sant'Ambrosia, cellist. July 8 at 2 p.m. with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Ytaka Sado featuring the music of Takemitsu and Shostakovich and July 22 at 2 p.m., concert pianist Lang-Lang plays Mendelssohn conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

Tuesday night movies at the Brown Grand are scheduled through October with the following films being shown at 7 p.m.:

Decoy Bride, July 10; Perfect Sense, July 24; Kid with a Bike, Aug. 4; The Red Machine, Aug. 28; The Blue Butterfly, Sept. 11; Looking for Palladin, Sept. 25; Manhattan Short Film Festival, Oct. 2; Lovely Still, Oct. 9.

Tickets may be purchased at the door.

# Dam project may have hit snag, but is moving forward

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Concordia City Manager Larry Uri told City Commissioners Wednesday that the south flood control project may have hit a snag, but is still moving forward.

In February 2011, Frank Mercurio, an engineer with KLA Environmental Services, presented the Commission with five options for the design of a new dam to replace the current one at 20th Street. Since then, Uri said, the Army Corps of Engineers has been studying the configurations and cost estimates to determine which option was most financially feasible.

"The answer they had for us Tuesday is that no, none of the plans that are in that report are feasible as a Corps project," Uri said.

However, he said, that doesn't mean the project is dead.

"It seemed to us the Corps and their engineers are quite willing to see if they can adjust both their estimates and the design to come up with a configuration they can do," Uri told Commissioners.

Uri said the Corps engineers are still interested in pursuing the project, and that they have to find a way to spend less money on the project.

"They think it's worthwhile to try to

reconfigure the plans and see if they can come back with something that would fit within their estimates," he said.

As of Tuesday, Uri said, the Corps has \$2.8 million to put into the project, and is confident that money will be available. But, he said, this could be the last option as far as dealing with the Corps.

"I got the impression that we are down to the final round of their consideration," Uri said. "If they can't make it work with the kinds of things they're talking about, then they can't make it work and at that point, we're back to building the dam ourselves."

Uri said he expected to hear back from the Corps within the next 30 days.

In a related item, the Commission accepted a low bid of \$174,891 from Malm Construction Company, Lindsborg, for the mass grading and site preparation of commercial lots in the south development. In April, Ken Johnson with Campbell and Johnson Engineers, presented plans prepared by Davidson Architecture & Engineering, LLC, for clearing and grubbing, excavation ad compaction, erosion control, and seeding of the lots north of College Drive. The estimate for the project was \$281,500.

(see Dam on page 8)

June 7th

## Dam

(continued from page 1)  
Johnson told Commissioners last night that he was familiar with Malm Construction, and had no problem recommending them to do the work.

The project is scheduled to begin July 15 with a substantial completion date of Sept. 1, meaning the dirtwork will be complete by that date. The bid documents allow for a later completion date of Dec. 1, because of seeding and erosion control requirements of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Johnson said. KDHE requires that 80-percent of the ground be covered by substantial grass before the project is considered fully complete.

In other business, the Commission approved an ordinance to rezone two lots in the Concordia North Development Business and Industrial Park for the new jail. The lots were changed from C-3 to public use in anticipation of the construction of the new law enforcement center.

Nine curb and gutter projects were also approved. As part of the city's program, property owners pay for

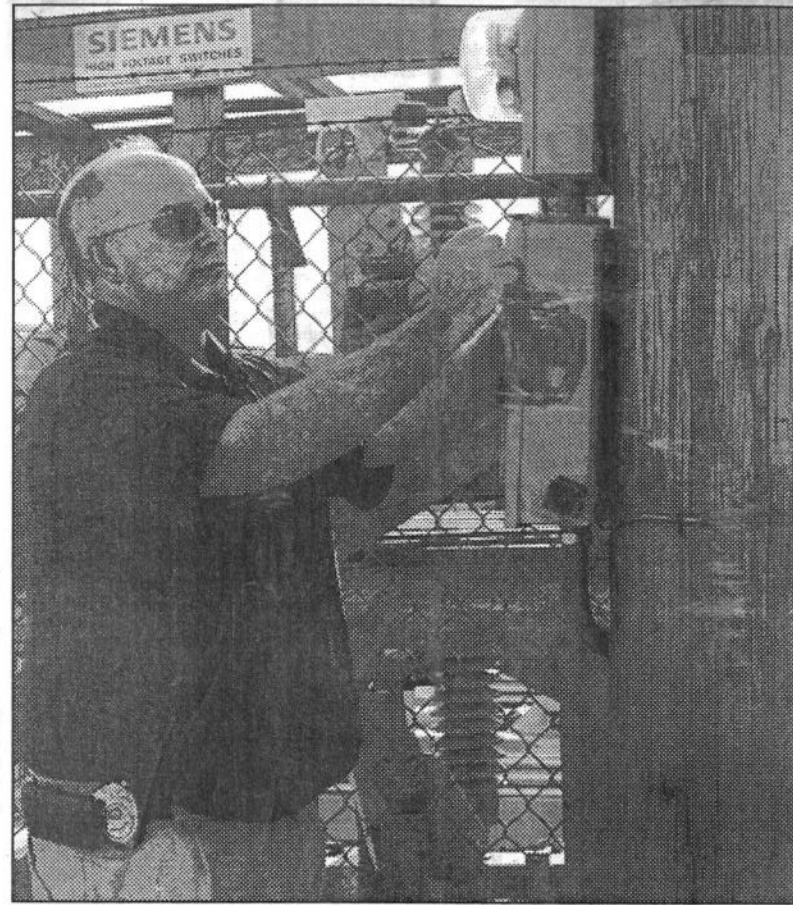
materials and half the engineering costs to replace curbs and gutters. The city is responsible for equipment, labor and half the engineering.

The projects and total costs are: 1409 Cedar, \$3,958.95; 622 West 6th, \$3,901.20; 918 Broadway, \$3,745; 333 West 7th, \$8,225.30; 609 West 7th, \$5,071.60; 910 Broadway, \$4,693.20; 806 East 13th, \$23,335.12; 627 West 5th, \$3,735.10; and 1403 Cedar, \$8,821.50.

The Commission also gave permission to the Fall Fest Committee to have a fireworks display during Fall Fest. The fireworks will be shot off from the American Legion Golf Course on Sept. 22.

Also approved was an \$18,000 engineering agreement with Campbell and Johnson for the design of the complete reconstruction of 18th Street from Lincoln to State.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss police patrol car leases, the replacement of bleachers at the Sports Complex, and a vacuum truck.



### Checking it out

Cloud County Emergency Preparedness Director Larry Eubanks checks out the tornado siren at the intersection of Fifth and State Street. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

June 8th



## Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on June 8, 2012.)

### ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3038

AN ORDINANCE changing the zoning classification of certain specifically described property in the City of Concordia, Kansas; ordering the official City Zoning District Map to be changed to reflect such amendments; and amending Section 2 of Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Concordia, Kansas.

WHEREAS, specific amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Concordia, Kansas, has been proposed by the Planning Commission of the City of Concordia, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the said Planning Commission duly published a notice of public hearing in the Concordia Blade-Empire, on May 1, 2012, fixing the hearing date as May 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., and setting out the place of said meeting, the amendment proposed, and the affected legal description; and

WHEREAS, written notice of the proposed amendment was mailed to all owners of land located within 200 feet in the city limits of the area proposed to be altered, and to all owners of land located within 1,000 feet in the unincorporated Cloud County of the area proposed to be altered; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2012 at the time and place designated, the Planning Commission, with a quorum present met, held the public hearing and voted 5-1 to recommend the adoption of said proposed

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on June 8, 2012)

### RESOLUTION NO. 2012-1929

#### A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE ADVISABILITY OF CERTAIN INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, AND AUTHORIZING SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND K.S.A. 12-6a01 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-6a02 authorizes the governing body of any city to make or cause to be made municipal works or improvements which confer a special benefit upon property within a definable area of the city and to levy and collect special assessments upon property in the area deemed by the governing body to be benefitted by such improvements for special benefits conferred upon such property by any such improvements and to provide for the payment of all or any part of the costs of the improvements with the proceeds of such special assessments; and,

WHEREAS, a petition, executed by all of the owners of certain properties property within certain proposed improvement districts, has been filed with the city clerk of the city of Concordia, Kansas (the 'City'), requesting certain improvements be made in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a01 et seq. and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a04, upon receipt of a sufficient petition, the Governing Body of the City may (a) make findings by resolution as to the advisability of the improvements requested in the petition, the nature of the improvements, the estimated cost, the boundaries of the improvement district, the

Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 8,225.30.

(5) 609 W. 7TH, OSTROM: curbing and guttering along the north edge of the improved surface of 7th Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Gaylord and Matthew's Addition Block 7, W 11.88' of S 110' of Lot 1 & S 110' of Lot 2, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 5,071.60.

(6) 910 BROADWAY, FRASER: curbing and guttering along the west edge of the improved surface of Broadway Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Original Town, Block 104, S 56' of Lot 1 & S 56' of E 33' of Lot 2, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 4,693.20.

(7) 806 E. 13TH, MEYER: curbing and guttering along the east edge of the improved surface of Hill Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Craig's Addition, Block 1, Lots 2, 4 & 6, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 23,335.12.

(8) 627 W. 5TH, MOORE: curbing and guttering along the north edge of the improved surface of 5th Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Gaylord and Matthew's Addition Block 1, Lot 6 & N 20' of Vac 5th St., in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 3,735.10.

1403 CEDAR, PARIS: curbing and guttering along the east edge of the improved surface of Cedar Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Original Town, Block 50, Lots 9 & 10 N 77', in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: 5,865.00.

b) The method of assessment is equally or front foot against all lots and pieces and in the improvement district.

The apportionment of the cost of the

ing features boundaries  
You'll be ready  
next spring.  
turn into your golf swing.  
Ingrain a true backswing  
drill all winter long to  
powerful swing. No this  
coiled, ready to unleash a  
turn, you will be properly  
e you can easily accomplish this  
s back to parallel with the club on  
d shoulders. Now attempt to turn  
or rear foot, adjacent to the target

June 8<sup>th</sup>  
for the improvement district at least once not less than 10 days prior to the public hearing, and shall mail to the owner of the property liable to pay the assessments, at its last known post office address, a notice of the hearing and a statement of the cost proposed to be assessed all in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a09.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall be published one time in the official City newspaper, and shall also be filed of record in the office of the Register of Deeds of Cloud County, Kansas.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the city of Concordia, Kansas, June 6, 2012.

Lyle L. Pounds, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Stacey Crum  
City Clerk



11

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now exist or will soon exist on the following citizen boards, commissions and committees:

### CONCORDIA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

If you are a citizen of Cloud County, and interested in serving the community by becoming a member of the Concordia Airport Advisory Board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. For consideration of a City Commission appointment to the Airport Advisory Board, return a completed Citizen Board and Commission Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

Out of concern for the public good, all members of City of Concordia boards, commissions and committees serve out of a concern for the public good and without pay.

*Expression of Interest Forms* accepted until  
**5:00 p.m., Friday, June 29, 2012.**

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas, 66901.

*If you have questions, please call the  
City Clerk's Office at 785-243-2670*

June 15<sup>th</sup>

**DURFLINGER DISPOSAL**  
Serving Concordia since 1978  
• Friendly, Reliable Service  
• Residential & Commercial  
• Carry Out Service from Yard or Garage Available  
Denny Durflinger & grandkids:  
Joey, Jake & Katie Kueker  
Phone 785-527-5219



## Orphan Train speakers

Pam Dowell (left), Belleville, tells about her Orphan Train rider connection during a discussion Saturday at Cloud County Community College. Seated on her right is Evelyn Trickle, Trenton, Mo., who also spoke. (Blade photo by Sharon Coy)

## Orphan Train Celebration features train ride, panel discussion

**By Sharon Coy**  
**Blade Staff Writer**

Thirty-eight people with representatives from six different states attended the 10th Annual Orphan Train Riders Celebration last Friday and Saturday in Concordia.

On Friday 28 people boarded a bus to Waterville for a scenic train ride over the Big Blue River Trestle and had dinner at the historic Weaver Hotel in Waterville.

One of Saturday's highlights was a panel of four Riders' descendants speaking at Cloud County Community College about their experiences in locating and learning the history of their Orphan Train rider relatives. Holly Andrews introduced

being put on exhibit. Those who were not chosen changed back into older clothes and sat on their good outfits to help keep them clean as they rode on to the next town.

Trickle said she is not an Orphan Train rider's descendant but became interested in the Orphan Train riders' stories through a friend. She shared stories she had learned of several of the riders.

Dowell's grandfather was an Orphan Train rider and she told of how her great-aunt had fought to keep the Dowell siblings together when they were adopted in Belleville.

fortune -- -- squarely in mind; you're not the kind to put your own agenda with- out a thought for others, which may be considered rare in this day and age! You have a way of bringing about change that is widely desired and sought.

The panel members answered ques- es-

12. 012. ated

12 Lamb's mother  
13 Chicken  
(Sp.)  
14 former  
15 Bright  
17 the  
18

-- You may feel as though the odds are against you to- day, but you are in an ad- vantageous position. Don't make a hasty decision. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- You don't want to be look- ing over your shoulder all day long.

learning the history of their Orphan Train Benefice.

elder relatives. Holly Andrews introduced



### Smoldering pit

Bob Gering uses a Rural Fire Department truck to spray water on the smoldering construction and demolition pit at the Cloud County Transfer Station Friday morning. Concordia Fire Chief Larry Eubanks said that the fire started when the pit was struck by lightning during the storm Thursday night. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

## Adopt a Pet Fundraiser is Saturday <sup>June 21st</sup>

Concordia Animal Shelter will have its 3rd Annual Adopt a Pet Fundraiser Saturday, June 23, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the City Park, east shelterhouse location.

Special guests will be Megan Murdock and Danny McReynolds demonstrating how to train your dog; Holly Andrews and Nestle for a story hour with the kids starting at 1 p.m.; and Kaytie Jensen of KJPhotography offering photo sessions throughout the event.

Those who would like to schedule a photo session may call the Animal Shelter, 243.2121 for photo package information and to schedule a photo session. A portion of the session fee will go to the O'Connor Animal Shelter.

Pets may be entered in one of three contests. Prizes will be awarded for the cutest pet, best owner

lookalike and best obedient dog. The contest starts at 10:30 a.m.

Adoptable pets from the O'Connor Animal Shelter will be at the fundraiser for persons considering pet adoption.

Pawd Squad Animal Rescue will attend and be available to answer questions about their mission for the newly formed rescue.

With many years of experience in dog obedience training and assisting with the 4-H Club Dog Training courses, Murdock and McReynolds will demonstrate basic obedience training techniques and give suggestions on how to correct a behavior that is unwanted. Dogs may attend and learn right along with the demonstrations. They must be current on their rabies vaccination. Information will be provided

on how to get a dog certified through the American Kennel Club for the Good Canine Citizen's Test. Demonstrations start at noon.

At 1 p.m. Andrews, accompanied by Nestle the therapy dog, will be reading age appropriate stories about animal caretaking and other topics.

NCK PAWS is sponsoring a bake sale with beads, cakes, brownies, cookies, pies and dog treats.

Pampered Pet Pillows by Lindsey Avlord will have a table set up with many sizes and designs to choose from.

For lunch, walking tacos will be sold with all proceeds going to the O'Connor Animal Shelter to help with supplies and equipment.

Everyone is welcome to the annual fundraiser, including pets, but they must be current on their rabies vaccinations.

## Brown Grand seeks volunteers for telefund drive <sup>June 21st</sup>

The Brown Grand Theatre in Concordia is seeking volunteers to participate in the Telefund Drive in July. During the first restoration process, completed 32 years ago in 1980, the community came together and put forth a team effort. Volunteers were the heart of that successful project.

To be successful at the Restoration-Act II, that team effort needs to be re-created. The Brown Grand is everyone's theatre. Every person who has ever set foot in the theatre should take part in the restoration process. This also includes people outside of Concordia. Only about a fourth of the audience members who come to events are from Concordia. The rest come from the surrounding communities.

During the Telefund Drive, 240 people will be needed to volunteer to give 1.5 hours of their time. Volunteers will undergo a short training and then be asked to call a variety of individuals, reading from a script asking for donations to the Restoration Act II efforts. Teams will be formed, so that there will be a more competitive spirit with prizes being given to the person and team raising the most money. Anyone can become part of a team.

People may join together to create teams to help phone individuals within a 50-mile radius of Concordia. The Telefund will be held from July 9-20, with two shifts each night: 6-7:30 and 7:30-9. A phone bank, donated by Verizon, will be set up at the Brown Grand.

Each team will consist of five-10 members who will call for an hour and a half. There will be a prepared

script ready, so all the volunteer has to do is make the call and ask for support for the Brown Grand Theatre. Structured groups like Rotary, Lions and Optimists may put together teams, but if individual people want to put together a team, they certainly may.

"We're hoping businesses, professions, churches, friends, co-workers will all put together teams," said Susan-Cantine-Maxson, theatre executive director. "If you have a group that you bowl with, have coffee with, go on trips with, come spend some time together for a great cause. We're going to create a fun atmosphere where you can do your part for the Brown Grand."

"If you're a group of parents whose children were on the annual fourth grade tour, whose child was a part of Youth for Music, who comes to Teens for Christ, put one or more teams together. We just need all team members to be there at the same time. The point is to get involved with the fundraising efforts. Be a part of a team who helps the Restoration Act II."

"Give me a call at the Brown Grand, 785.243.2553 if you can put five-10 people together to form a team. If you are not part of a team but you are an individual who wants to help out, call me because there probably will be groups who need a substitute person to fill in at times."

In addition, members of the Brown Grand Board of Directors will be contacting individuals in the community who have ties to various groups to ask them to form teams.

### GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT <sup>June 21st</sup>

The City of Concordia Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the City Commission announces that vacancies do now or will soon exist on the:

#### CONCORDIA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

If you are a citizen of Cloud County and interested in serving the community by becoming a member of the Concordia Airport Advisory Board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. For consideration of a City Commission appointment to the Airport Advisory Board, return a completed Citizen Board and Commission Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

Out of a concern for the public good, all members of City of Concordia boards, commissions, and committees serve out of a concern for the public good and without pay.

*Expression of Interest Forms* accepted until **5:00 p.m., Friday, June 29, 2012.**

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901. If you have questions, please call the City Clerk's Office at 785-243-2670.



# Brown Grand requests funds from city

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission heard a \$100,000 budget appropriation request from the Brown Grand Theatre Wednesday night.

The Theatre was closed to live performances earlier this year when safety issues were discovered regarding the theatre's grid and rigging system. Susan Cantine-Maxson, executive director of the theatre, said the Napoleon curtain was not working properly and an engineer's inspection led to the discovery of a number of issues.

Cantine-Maxson said the rigging above the stage – that is responsible for supporting all of the curtains, scenery, and electrical work – have deteriorated to a point where it is no longer safe to have anyone on stage. She said 20,000 pounds of weight hang from the 105-year-old grid, and trusses and pinrail all need reinforcing.

The cost of the project is estimated at between \$425,000 and \$445,000.

Cantine-Maxson said the Brown Grand board has already raised \$101,000 of the total needed, including \$60,000 received from the Meridian Way Wind Farm fund. But, she said, that still leaves \$324,000 needed to complete the work.

"The board appreciates all

the city has done and has helped with in the past including insurance, utilities, and matching funds for the air conditioner and the initial rigging issues," Cantine-Maxson said.

The Brown Grand is a city owned building, she said, and the board has spent \$245,000 on improvements at the theatre since 1995.

"The bottom line is that improvements made improve a building the city owns. You are the owner of this building," she said. "We hope you feel that giving some money toward this project is money you're investing in the city."

Receiving money from the city will help secure grant money, Cantine-Maxson said, because it shows a local commitment, and will also ensure the trusses are reinforced this winter.

She said the best-case funding scenario is that the board raises \$40,000 in private donations, receives \$100,000 from the city, \$90,000 from a Heritage Trust Fund Grant from the Kansas State Historical Society, and another \$120,000 in other grants to equal \$451,000.

The Brown Grand board can't afford to wait years to complete the project, Cantine-Maxson said. Without live performances and rentals, she said the theatre will lose

\$34,000 a year. An average of 12,000 people attend 50 to 60 events at the Brown Grand throughout the year.

Several people also spoke in support of the theatre prior to Cantine-Maxson's presentation. Kenneth Palmquist, president of the Concordia Concert Association, said the organization has 590 memberships and four concerts a year. Rather than being able to use the theatre, he said, concerts have to be at the Concordia High School.

"CCA has used the Brown Grand since it was restored as an opera house," he said. "We consider it our home and know that it is very important to our membership to hold our concerts there. We consider it a great asset to our organization."

Susie Haver, co-director of Cloud County Tourism, and a former manager of the theatre, said her memories of the theatre go back to its movie-showing days. Through the years, she has attended countless events at the theatre and also performed onstage.

"Performing on the stage of the Brown Grand Theatre is a delightful pleasure," Haver said. "Being on the other side of the footlights is equally exciting. The Brown Grand Theatre is one of a kind and deserves our continued care. It's what

June 21st  
makes Concordia positively grand."

Linda Sutton with the Small Business Development Center also made a budget appropriation request for 2013 in the amount of \$14,000. The request is the same as last year, she said, and will go toward the local match needed to receive federal funding.

Kirk Lowell, executive director of CloudCorp made his annual funding request in the amount of \$55,000. The amount is the same as last year, as well, and is also the amount requested from the Cloud County Commission.

The Commission will take the funding requests under advisement during budget discussions in the coming weeks.

The only other item on the agenda was hearing a presentation from Neil Phillips with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA, on the city's 2011 audit. Phillips said there were no deficiencies in internal controls nor any material weaknesses in the city's financial reporting.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss police car leases and an agreement with Campbell & Johnson Engineers for jail infrastructure.

The Commission will next meet on Thursday, July 5, because of the Fourth of July holiday.

## CONCORDIA HOUSING REHABILITATION PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting on housing rehabilitation will be held in the Commission Room at City Hall, 701 Washington St., Concordia, on Wednesday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform Concordia citizens about the recently awarded Concordia housing rehabilitation and demolition grant and present the Concordia Applicant Housing/Demolition Plans containing the program rules and regulations. Applications will also be available for interested homeowners/tenants at this meeting.

Due to the nature of this grant, the "target area" must receive the rehabilitation funds first. If funding remains after all eligible houses in the target area have been rehabilitated the City may seek permission to enlarge the

**The target area for the 2012  
housing rehabilitation grant is:  
West of Drake Street, East of Lincoln, South  
of Fifth Street and North of Sixth Street**

Reasonable accommodations will be made available to persons with disabilities. Requests should be submitted to the Concordia City Clerk by Tuesday, June 26th.

# Concert Association gives \$1,000 for Brown Grand Restoration

June 28<sup>th</sup>  
2013

At a recent meeting of the Brown Grand Board of Directors, members of the Concordia Concert Association board presented the Theatre with a donation of \$1,000 toward the Restoration-Act II, the stage rigging and truss renovation project.

The Concert Association has used the Brown Grand for all of its events since the Restoration in 1980. "We feel like the Brown Grand is our home," Ken Palmquist, president of the Concert Association, said. "We certainly can hold our events in other venues but nothing will ever be like performances at the Brown Grand. Performers love to entertain there and audience members love to come to events there. We want it to be back in business as soon as possible."

Palmquist said the Concert Association appreciates the school district's willingness to allow them to use their facilities but that they want to be back in the Brown Grand. "We have members who come from Fairbury and Beloit as well and one of the big draws is that they get to come to events in such a wonderful facility as the Brown Grand."

Brown Grand executive director said that many of the Theatre's testimonials on its webpage come from Concert Series performers. "These performers have entertained all over the United States and many of them say this is the best theatre there is," Maxson said. "I don't think there has been one

performer since I have been here in the last six years who hasn't remarked about what a beautiful place this is to perform in and how proud Concordia should be of the Brown Grand Theatre."

The \$1,000 donation puts the Association at the Investor Level of donations. The fundraising committee established the various levels of giving and benefits of the previous level, plus an additional benefit. They are as follows:

Friends—\$25 Benefits: newsletter

Backers—\$50 Benefits: newsletter and free tour

Contributors—\$100 Benefits: newsletter, free tour and two tickets to an event

Supporters—\$250 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, four tickets to any event and an adopt a chair plaque.

Advocates—\$500 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, six tickets and two adopt a chair plaques

Investors—\$1,000 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, eight tickets and two adopt a chair plaques; name on Restoration-Act II Lobby Plaque

Benefactors—\$2,500 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, 10 tickets, two adopt a chair plaques; name on Restoration-Act II Lobby Plaque and reproduction of a vintage playbill from the Brown Grand collection

Financiers—\$5,000 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, 12 tickets, two adopt a chair plaques; name on Restoration-Act II Lobby Plaque and reproduction of a vin-



## Check for restoration

Ken Palmquist (second from right, back row), president of the Concordia Concert Association, presents a check for \$1,000 for Restoration-Act II to Paul Rimovsky, Brown Grand board of directors member. Also pictured are Brown Grand board members and Concordia Concert Association officers. Back row (l-r): Susan Sutton, Susan Cantine Maxson, Ray Hamel, Linda Houser, Jane Linden, Betty Samuelson; front row: Wanda Davenport, Mikki Nelson, Sue Gustafson, Luann Miller.

tage playbill from the Brown Grand collection and two Season Tickets to Concordia Concert Association events

Preservationists—\$10,000 Benefits: newsletter, free tour, 14 tickets, two adopt a chair plaques; name on Restoration-Act II Lobby Plaque and reproduction of a vintage playbill from the Brown Grand collection, two Season Tickets to Concordia Concert Association events and name on the Tribute Stone which will be placed outside by the brick kiosk.

The Tribute Stone for the Preservationist level is a new addition to the type of recognition given to those who make a significant financial contribution to the Theatre. "What we envision

is a large slab of limestone to match the building which will have a plaque on it," Cantine-Maxson said. "On that plaque we will place the names of those who give \$10,000 or more to the Theatre so everyone passing by can see it."

These benefits will begin with the reopening of the Theatre. Benefits may be accrued over a two-year period so if people wish to donate in two different tax years, 2012 and 2013, they may do so and move into a higher benefit level. Donations may be sent to the Brown Grand Theatre, Box 347, Concordia, KS 66901.

The fundraising campaign will kick off in earnest on July 6 with a benefit con-

cert by Angie LeDuc and her band, Left of Center, playing at the Brown Grand at 7 p.m. The concert will be performed in front of the stage. Admission is by donation.

In the two weeks following the concert a telefund campaign will be conducted where teams of individuals will promote donations to the Brown Grand by calling area residents. Teams of individuals wishing to participate may call the Theatre, 785.243.2553 to sign up for a specific time and date.

Members of the fundraising committee are Janet Lowell, chairman; Susan Sutton, Luann Miller, Ray Hamel, Paul Rimovsky, R. Michael Owens and Holly Andrews.

# Pets, owners enjoy *June 25th* Adopt a Pet fundraiser

By Sharon Coy  
Blade Staff Writer

Organizers of the third Annual Adopt a Pet in the Park Fundraiser last Saturday in Concordia City Park report it was a successful endeavor.

Partnering for the event were the O'Connor Animal Shelter and NCK PAWS.

Because of the extreme heat the animal shelter did not bring the adoptable dogs out to the park. However, pictures of the animals were brought out for the public to see.

Animal control officer, Heather Acheson said one potential adoption is scheduled to take place later today and it is hoped that the female Cocker Spaniel will have found her forever home.

This was the first year for the pet contest with dogs taking the

honors in all three categories. Noni, six-month-old Chihuahua of Melina Hemphill's was judged the Cutest Pet. Lisa Partridge's female Cocker Spaniel Lexi took the Most Obedient title and Chauncy, Terrier mix and his owner John Partridge won in the Pet/Owner Look Alike category.

"Everyone appeared to be having a great time and the Pet Contests were such a hit, we will be doing one again next year," Acheson said.

In addition to the contests, Megan Murdock and Danny McReynolds gave a demonstration on how to train a dog and Holly Andrews and Yellow Lab Nestle conducted a storyhour for kids.

Funds for NCK PAWS and the animal shelter were raised through the sale of walking tacos and a bake sale.



## Time for a hug

Justice Anderson and her English bulldog, Pearli, take time out for a hug while attending the Adopt a Pet Fundraiser Saturday at Concordia City Park. (Blade photo by Sharon Coy)

*June 29th*

The Concordia Fire Department is urging residents to take precautions when shooting fireworks during the 4th of July holiday. Hot and dry weather conditions can increase the risk of grass and structural fires. Conditions are ideal for small fires to spread swiftly.

### Residents should follow these safety tips:

- Supervise children using fireworks and make certain they are age appropriate;
- Keep fireworks away from grassy areas or structures;
- Do not shoot fireworks, if it's windy (instead attend a local fireworks show);
- Keep garden hose and bucket of water nearby to douse fireworks;
- Do not re-light a firework (let it sit for a while and then place it in a pail of water);
- Set a good example: use fireworks the way they're designed to be used.

Fire officials also reminded residents that fireworks purchased in surrounding cities and counties may be illegal in the City of Concordia.

In Concordia, fireworks can be lawfully sold Sunday, July 1 through Wednesday July 4th. The legal shooting times for fireworks in Concordia are from 6 a.m. to midnight. The Fire Department and the Concordia Police Department will enforce local fireworks laws. That includes

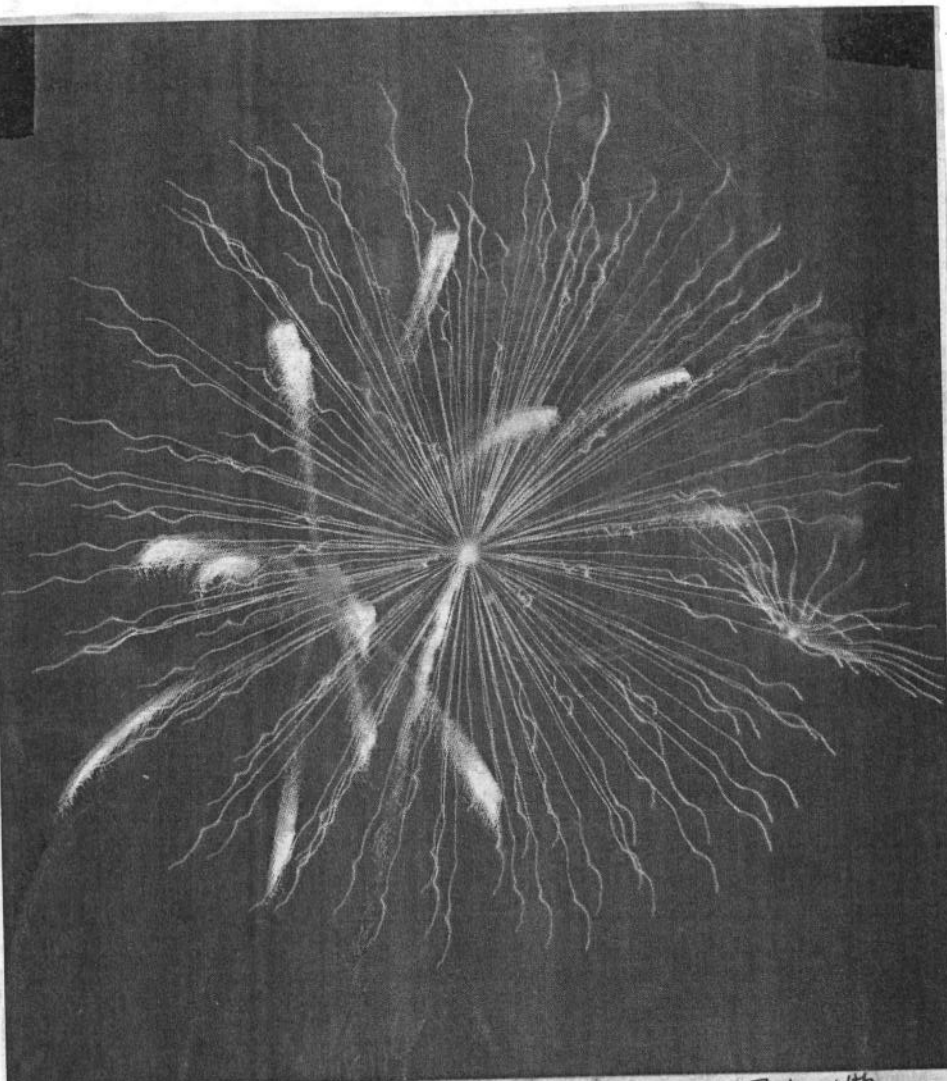
issuing citations and confiscating illegal fireworks. Citations will result in a mandatory court appearance, a fine and possible jail time. Those convicted face up to \$2,500 in

fines and one year in jail.

In 2010, there were 15 fireworks-related fires resulting in \$103,000 in damage to property. Additionally there were 33 injuries to citizens ranging in age from 2 years old to 55 years old.

For further information or questions, please call the Concordia Fire Department @ 785 243 4411.





### **Bombs bursting in air**

Fireworks light up the night sky during Concordia American Legion Family Fireworks Display Tuesday night.  
(Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

## **Legals**

(First published in the Concordia Blade-Empire, June 28, 2012.)

### **IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of Martha Ann Clay, deceased

Case No. 12-PR-26

### **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on June 26, 2012, a petition was filed in this court by George Champlin, as the executor named in the will of the above-named decedent, praying for admission to probate of the will of the above-named decedent dated June 17, 1988, which is filed with the petition, and that Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act be issued to George Champlin as executor of the will, without bond.

You are further advised that under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the estate and no further notice of any action of the executor or other proceedings of the administration will be given, except for notice of petition to sell, lease or mortgage real property and notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate.

You are further advised that if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 25, 2012, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., in this court, in the city of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, at which time this cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said petition. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the said estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

George Champlin, Petitioner

Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.

S.C. #9305

607 Broadway—P.O. Box 408

Concordia, Kansas 66901

785-243-4494; fax 785-243-4121

Attorney for Petitioner

3th

# City moving forward on dam project

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Slowly but surely, the City of Concordia seems to be continuing to move forward with the Army Corps of Engineers on its south flood control project.

City Manager Larry Uri told Commissioners Thursday evening that the Corps has now indicated it will participate in construction of the 21st Street dam, but nothing else.

"The Corps of Engineers would participate only in the lower dam and call that good as far as a Corps project, and leave it to us to make the upstream dam (at Plum Road) at our own expense," he said.

In June, Uri told Commissioners that the Corps had indicated that none of the five options KLA Environmental Services had presented for the design of a new dam was feasible as a Corps project. He said the Corps was working to find a cheaper way to construct the dam.

Last night, Uri said the Corps is looking to build a dam that would withstand a 50-year flood event, with a more substantial spillway, in the \$2 million range. However, if the Corps does build

the dam, it will pick up 60-percent of the cost, with the city responsible for 40 percent.

"Essentially, it's the same dam we've been talking about all along, but if you make that dam without the upstream dam (at Plum Road), and you have a 100-year flood, it's going to put a lot of water down the spillway," Uri said.

While the city would be responsible for constructing the dam at Plum Road, Uri said engineers have now indicated the price tag for that project would be less than originally estimated.

Uri said he will continue to stay in contact with all the dam engineers, and report back to the Commission when new information becomes available.

The Commission tabled a decision on the development agreement with the Cloud County Public Building Commission for the construction of infrastructure to serve the new law enforcement center and jail in the north development.

As per the development agreement, the city will construct a water and sewer line extension to the site, as well as a street and sidewalk. The Building Commission will pay for the improve-

ments at an estimated cost of \$353,776.

Commissioner Charles Johnson voiced concerns over a Cloud County Board of Commissioners article in the June 26 Blade-Empire. In the article, it states the County Commission approved a number of invoices on behalf of the Public Building Commission. The official minutes from the June 25 meeting say the Commission unanimously voted to approve eight invoices on behalf of the Building Commission.

Johnson asked which entity had authority to pay the costs laid out in the development agreement - the County Commission or the Building Commission. Rather than the city being billed for the work, then passing the invoices along to the Building Commission, he said the Building Commission should pay its own bills.

Uri said the agreement is in place so the City Commission can oversee the building of city infrastructure.

"We want to have control over how city infrastructure is built," Uri said.

The agreement and an engineering agreement with Camp-

bell and Johnson Engineers for the project, were both tabled until more information is available.

With 2013 budget meetings on the horizon, the Commission heard requests for funds from The Frank Carlson Library, the Cloud County Resources Council and the Concordia Senior Citizens Center.

Josh Meyer, president of the Library board, requested \$208,477.50 for 2013 operations. Meyer said that is a two and a half percent increase over 2012.

Anita Strommen, executive director of the Resource Council, requested \$14,000, which is the same amount requested in 2012.

Gary Dvorak, bookkeeper at the Senior Center requested the same amount as last year - \$4,000. The funding will help the Center supplement the wages of the nutrition staff.

After a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel, with no action being taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss a trench roller for the utilities department and ambulance refurbishment.

## Notice

Airport Advisory  
Board regular  
quarterly meeting  
has been  
postponed  
until further notice

July 9th

## Legals

(First published in the Concordia Blade-Empire, June 28, 2012.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Mar-  
tha Ann Clay, deceased

Case No. 12-PR-26

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETI-  
TION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Kansas to All Per-  
sons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on June 26, 2012, a petition was filed in this court by George Champlin, as the executor named in the will of the above-named decedent, praying for admission to probate of the will of the above-named decedent dated June 17, 1988, which is filed with the petition, and that Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act be issued to George Champlin as executor of the will, without bond.

You are further advised that under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the estate and no further notice of any action of the executor or other proceedings of the administration will be given, except for notice of petition to sell, lease or mortgage real property and notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate.

You are further advised that if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 25, 2012, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., in this court, in the city of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, at which time this cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said petition. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the said estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

George Champlin, Petitioner  
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.

S.C. #5305

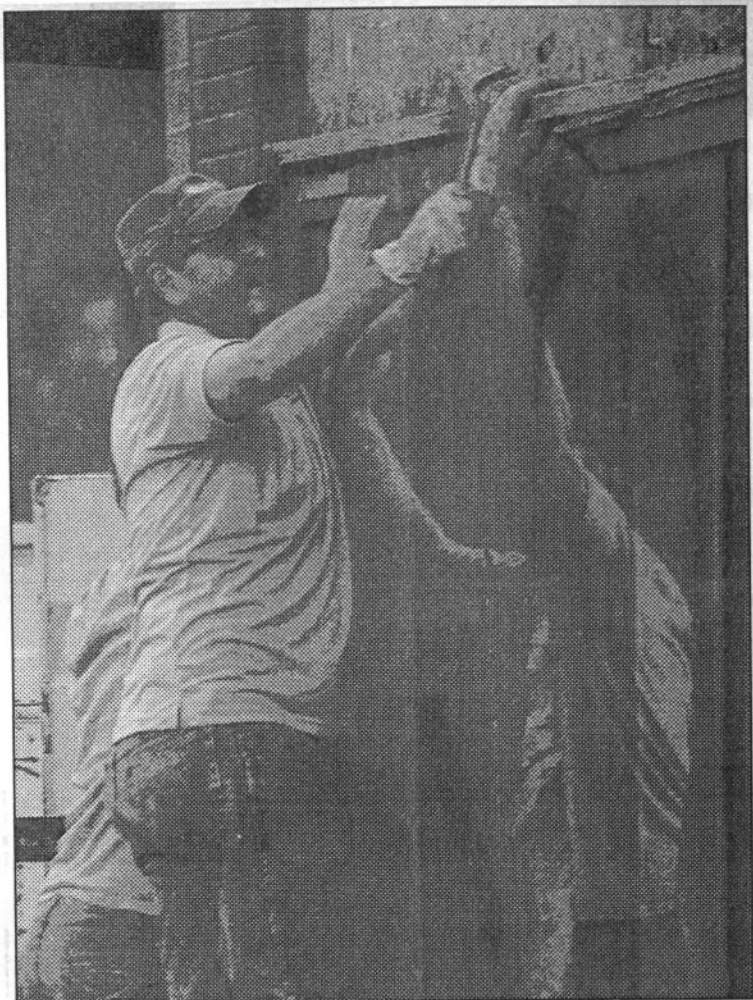
607 Broadway—P.O. Box 408

Concordia, Kansas 66901

785-243-4494; fax 785-243-4121

Attorney for Petitioner

3th  
July 12th



### Reflecting

Travis Chartier's reflection shows up in the window he and Larry Jackson, Jackson's Glass, are working on at the Cloud County Convention & Tourism Committee building, 130 E. Sixth St., Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)



### State certified

Cloud County Emergency Preparedness Director Larry Eubanks, third from left, received a certificate for becoming a Kansas Certified Emergency Manager. The certification was a five-year process, involving more than 80 hours of classroom work. Cloud County Commissioners, from left, Gail Engle, Gary Caspers and Johnita Crawford presented Eubanks the award Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Brown Grand Board of Directors, I would like to thank Angie LeDuc and Left of Center for their grand performance at the Brown Grand last Friday night. When safety issues with the overhead rigging required that the stage be closed to public access, Angie approached the board with the idea of a benefit concert with donations going toward the overwhelming cost of replacing the rigging. The result was an enjoyable evening of fine music, much of it original. They managed to make it look as though they were comfortable on the narrow front of the stage and provided a full house with an evening of music and entertainment. Their memories of performing and involvement with the Brown Grand reminded all of us of how much the Theatre has been a part of our lives, and how important it is to preserve the Theatre as a performing arts stage and not just a historic building. Following the concert, everyone milled around, visiting with one another and commenting on the performance—and, of course, purchasing t-shirts and CDs. It was truly a community event. Col. Brown would have been proud of how Concordia still supports the Theatre as a venue for culture and community.

Luann Miller, Board of Directors  
Brown Grand Theatre

July 13th



# Brown Grand to receive TIF funds

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Brown Grand Theatre received a big boost in its fundraising drive Wednesday evening after the Concordia City Commission approved giving \$100,000 from the Tax Increment Financing fund to the cause.

In June, representatives from the Brown Grand approached the Commission about appropriating \$100,000 in next year's budget to repair the Theatre's grid and rigging system. Last month, Susan Cantine-Maxson, executive director at the Theatre, told Commissioners the rigging above the stage had deteriorated to the point where it is no longer safe to have people on stage. Because of that, the Theatre was - and still is - closed

for live performances.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$425,000 and \$445,000. Cantine-Maxson said last month the Brown Grand board had already raised \$101,000 of the total.

City Manager Larry Uri said the money will come from money the City has on hand in the TIF fund. Contributing \$100,000, he said, will not hinder the city in making its annual TIF bond payments. He said the fund receives about \$100,000 more than the bond payment per year.

"We're really in pretty good shape as far as TIF funds are concerned," Uri said.

City Finance Director Amber Farha said there is currently a little more than \$300,000 in the fund that is not earmarked for

the south flood control project.

The Commission approved starting the process to make the TIF contribution to the Brown Grand's rigging process. Uri said it would be several months before process is complete and the money changes hands.

In other business, the Commission approved spending \$38,500 with Womack Sunshine Ford & Kawasaki to rebuild Medic-3. Fire Chief Larry Eubanks said he had received a quote of \$38,500 from a dealership in Oklahoma for the work. He took the specifications to the Womack dealership, who said they would meet or beat that price quote.

Mayor Lyle Pounds, who voted against the measure, said he thought the money could be saved for several years and put toward the purchase of a new

ambulance. Eubanks said he is trying to do preventative maintenance on the fleet, and a new ambulance costs in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

"I'm looking at alternatives here to try to save money," Eubanks said.

When the ambulance is fully refurbished, he said he would use it for long distance transfers, which would help keep the miles down on the newer ambulances.

JT Klaus, bond council with Triplett, Woolf and Garretson, LLC, presented the Commission with a resolution to dissolve Mount Joseph's industrial revenue bonds.

Klaus said the bonds, issued in 2002, enabled Mount Joseph to continue operations as a for-profit entity.

(see Brown Grand on page 8)

## Brown Grand

July 19th

(continued from page 1)

"The City owns the facility and leases that to them for rent that magically equals the payments on the industrial revenue bonds," Klaus said. "By paying off the bonds, that rent will be extinguished and they have the legal right to purchase the facility for \$100, which they have already paid to the City."

The Commission approved a development agreement, which had been tabled last month, with the Cloud County Public Building Commission for infrastructure construction for the new Law Enforcement Center. Cost of the project is estimated at \$353,776.

Last month, Commissioner Charles Johnson had voiced concerns over which entity would be paying the bills for the City's constructing water and sewer lines and a street and sidewalk. He referenced an article in the Blade-Empire that stated the County Commission had paid bills on behalf of the Building Commission.

Uri told Commissioners last night that the County Commission is authorized to act as agent for the Building Commission with respect to paying bills for the project.

"In plain English, the

Building Commission didn't want to have to convene once a week to sign checks," Uri said.

He said the Building Commission is legally bound by the contract to pay the bills the City presents for construction of the infrastructure.

In a related matter, the Commission approved an agreement for professional services with Campbell & Johnson Engineers for engineering on the project.

The Commission also approved the purchase of a used roller packer for the water department. Chad Buckley, utilities director, said the department normally rents the piece of equipment from Foley Tractor for \$700 a week. With the upcoming work at the new jail site, he said, having the machine would save the City money.

Purchase price will be \$26,500 from Foley Tractor, though Buckley will try to negotiate a lower price because the machine has more hours now than when it was bid.

No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege. The Commission adjourned to discuss a sprinkler system at the Sports Complex and the 2013 budget.

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

### The City of Concordia is soliciting bids for underground irrigation system

Envelopes must be marked "Irrigation Bid." Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. on 9th of August 2012, at City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia. Bids received after this date and hour will not be considered, and will be returned unopened. Only sealed bids will be considered.

Any interested bidder may obtain a copy of the plans and specifications at City of Concordia, 701 Washington.

As a condition precedent to the contract award, the Owner is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid. The bids will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disabilities, or marital status. All contractors will be responsible for full compliance with the federal and state labor laws.

July 20th

## City officials declare water watch for Concordia

July 23rd

Due to continued dry conditions, city officials have declared a water watch for Concordia. Citizens are requested to take voluntary measures to reduce water consumption.

"Groundwater levels in the city's water wells have fallen five feet below the normal seasonal level," said Concordia City Manager Larry Uri. "Our municipal water conservation plan calls for us to inform the public that a water watch is in effect

until further notice."

Uri said city officials are asking citizens to voluntarily limit water usage.

"In addition to generally being careful to avoid wasting water, we're asking that people avoid watering their lawns between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.," he said.

If the dry weather continues and the voluntary measures are not effective, the city may announce mandatory water conservation measures.

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Friday, July 27, 2012

## Water watch upgraded to warning

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The city of Concordia's water situation has gone from bad to worse.

On Monday, city officials declared a water watch for Concordia. That has now been upgraded to a warning. City Manager Larry Uri said on Monday that groundwater levels in the city's water wells had fallen five feet below the normal seasonal level. City officials asked citizens to voluntarily limit their water usage - to no avail.

"The city's water supply has operated at more than eighty-five percent capacity for more than five days," Uri said this morning. "Our municipal water conservation plan calls for us to inform the public that a water warning is now in effect."

City officials had asked citizens to avoid watering lawns between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to

"On July 23, we asked people to limit their water usage voluntarily," Uri said. "After we asked for help, the water usage in the city increased. This made the problem worse."

Uri said mandatory watering restrictions are not currently in place. Rather, he said, city officials are still asking the public to voluntarily limit water usage. The Concordia City Commission will review the city's water conservation policy at its regular meeting next week. Restrictions may be imposed at that time.

At this time last year, Uri said, the city's wells were operating at sixty-five percent capacity. Three of the city's four wells are now operating 24 hours a day, and the fourth well is operating 15 hours a day.

"Our supply has barely been able to keep up with demand in recent days," he said. "I know

might become unable to keep up with demand. If that happens, our residents could experience serious inconvenience."

Todd Whitney, with River Valley Extension District, said watering grass in the early morning hours is preferable. Watering in the heat of the day can have a negative effect on lawns.

"Watering in the middle of the day leads to a lot of evaporation of the water, and can actually have a scalding effect on the grass," Whitney said.

Loading up lawns with water, though, won't really have an effect, Whitney said.

"Even if you pour water on some grasses, it will still turn brown because of the heat," he said. "It's best to stick to an inch to an inch and a half per week as a rule of thumb."

Whitney said that as long as the crown of the grass plant - the connecting tissue between

even if the blades are brown. Cool season grasses, such as fescue and Kentucky varieties, do not handle the heat as well as warm season grasses like buffalo and bermuda.

"With the fescue and Kentucky varieties, when the temperature gets above 85, it's very difficult to keep them green," Whitney said. "They will green back up in the fall with cool temperatures and moisture."

"Buffalo and bermuda grasses may turn brown during these drought-like conditions, but they will respond when conditions turn around," he said.

With temperatures forecast to return to upper 90s and 100s in the coming days - with little chance for rain - conditions won't improve anytime soon.

"Pouring water helps a little, but it doesn't make much difference when it's so hot," Whitney said. "It may be wisest to

# Brown Grand moves closer to meeting goal

The Brown Grand Theatre Restoration-Act II has come a lot closer to meeting its goal of raising the \$425,000 necessary to renovate the stage rigging and truss work above the stage.

This is because of many generous donations and pledges to date which have reached \$242,000 with \$16,000 of that being raised in the telefund drive July 10-18.

More than 80 volunteers called individuals in the area giving them information and asking for donations to the project.

"We feel that the drive was 100 percent successful," Susan Cantine-Maxson, executive director of the Theatre, said. "We are so grateful for the many volunteers and the many donors who responded to the Brown Grand's pleas for help with this project. We raised a lot of money, plus we also got the word out to a lot of people who had not heard that the Brown Grand had shut down for live performances in March.

In addition to those who gave, we had almost 200 who requested more information or who said they were planning on giving but hadn't decided on an amount yet. We're also thankful to the many businesses who donated food to reward our callers, especially Gambino's, Taco John's and Rod's Food Store and board members, Wonda Phillips and Jane Linden, who supplied cookies. We

also appreciate those who donated prizes for the callers: Pizza Hut, Sonic, Subway, Kristy's, Dairy Queen, Jitters, Marla's Joy Tea House and Janet Schrock Massage. We're still going through the call sheets to determine who the prize winners will be for the most money raised.

Volunteers called from 6-9 p.m. on six different nights to accomplish the goals of the telefund drive.

"We were going to try to call for two more nights and we had volunteers for those nights but we really feel that there were too many people who had been called more than once and even with all our cross referencing on lists that was happening more than I wanted," Cantine-Maxson said.

If people were not called but would like to donate, they can send their donations to the Brown Grand, Box 347, Concordia, KS 66901 or they can go to our website: [www.brown-grand.org](http://www.brown-grand.org) and hit our donate button. We also have donation buckets around town which have pamphlets about the Save Our Stage project-Restoration Act II. People can pick up the brochures if they want more information and they can leave donations in the buckets. DVDs explaining the project are available at the Frank Carlson Library.

Two other factors made last week a record breaking week in

terms of fundraising at the Brown Grand. The Concordia City Commissioners agreed to grant the Theatre \$100,000 in TIF funds to be used for the repairs and Central National Bank donated \$10,000 to put them in the preservationist level, the first business to donate at this level beyond the city and county's major contributions.

At the preservationist level, the donors' names will be inscribed on a plaque on a large limestone tribute stone which will be placed by the outdoor kiosk. Benefits for each of the giving levels are posted on the Brown Grand's website. The Brown Grand is a nonprofit organization so contributions are tax-deductible. Receipts will be sent to all donors.

Volunteer callers were Marge Cruzon, Nancy Jones, Megan Frost, Carman Davis, Peg Johnson, Phyllis Ostrom, Carrie Fraser, Diane Morrisette, Lori Fakler, Connie Bentz, Amy Gerber, Phil Gilliland, Larry Henry, Steve Champlin, Ellen Anderson, Jo Cook, Beth Whisler, Mary Ann Lagemann, Claire deRocheport-Reynolds, Cheryl Holmes, Wanda Davenport, Rick Radcliffe, Mikki Nelson, Sherri Radcliffe, Marcia Pounds, Luann Miller, Chet Anson, Marc Malone, Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Kim Reynolds, Kim Krull, Lee Rott, Linda Houser, Teddy Lineberry, Ginger Thull, Danette Toone, Bob

Maxson, Elaine Bowers, Sherry Farha, Marlessa Roney, Connie Walenta, Jill Lamm, Susan Sutton, R. Michael Owens, Connor Lamm, Todd Gennette, Wendy Holt, Concordia High School Cheer Squad: Tamara Turner, Zala Malcuit, Sidney Garrett, Madison Brockman; Verna Hamel, Ray Hamel, Tammy Britt, Jennifer Sieben, Everett Ford, Everett Miller, Marlene Miller, Patrick Sieben, Denise deRocheport-Reynolds, Dr. Paul Nelson, Mary Jane Hurley, Dana Nelson, Cindy Thompson, Maria Jindra, Janet Lowell, Carol McKenna, Mary Lisa Thoman, Deanna Garlow, Art Slaughter, Susan Cantine-Maxson, Brent Phillips, Jane Linden, Mike Linden, Sherilyn Kadel, Dave Kadel and Diane Boman. Anyone who believes his or her name was omitted, should contact the Brown Grand so their names can be added to the list. Pictures of many of the groups are on the Brown Grand's Facebook page.

This work could not have been accomplished without the help of Verizon for loaning the telefund drive the phones, Holly Andrews who made arrangements for the phones, Claire deRocheport-Reynolds who worked at collating all the information from the drive and the fundraising committee of Mikki Nelson, R. Michael Owens, Janet Lowell, Susan Sutton, Ray Hamel, Luann Miller, Paul Rimovsky and Cantine-Maxson.



# City reaches agreement on water use

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Faced with the possibility of having to shut down two of the city's wells, the Concordia City Commission approved entering into an agreement during a special meeting Monday to use only a portion of the water allocated to those wells by the state.

The Commission authorized City Manager Larry Uri to enter into a consent agreement with the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources to give the city access to 32-percent of its appropriation for two wells the city uses to serve its residents. Earlier on Monday, the Division of Water Resources issued a minimum desirable streamflow administrative order on junior water rights within the Republican River basin requiring that the city shut down wells 21 and 22. Both wells are located on East 11th Street in Concordia, and Uri said produce a third of the city's water supply.

Instead of shutting both wells down completely, Uri said

the DWR gives the city the option to enter into an agreement that would allow the city to have 32-percent of its remaining yearly appropriation from the wells.

"That would be giving up about two thirds of what we'd take out of those wells through the end of the year," Uri said.

Uri said that the city can supply water to citizens with the remaining three wells should it lose wells 21 and 22. He said he and city staff members were uneasy about giving up use of the wells completely as they act as backups to the other wells.

Commissioner Gary Fraser asked Uri how long the 32 percent would last. Uri said it depended on the amount of water usage, and said it could last six to eight weeks.

"If we use up that water, though, those wells go off," Uri said. "Then we would be in a much more dire situation."

On Monday, July 23, the city issued a water watch for Concordia, asking citizens to volun-

tarily conserve water. Despite that plea last week, water consumption actually increased, prompting the issuance of a water warning on Friday.

"On July 23, we asked people to limit their water usage voluntarily," Uri said last week. "After we asked for help, the water usage in the city increased. This made the problem worse."

But now that the city has been placed in a warning, Uri said last night, consumption levels have dropped.

On July 26, he said, water consumption peaked at 1,327,000 gallons. That dropped to 919,000 gallons pumped on Saturday, and 968,000 on Sunday.

"I think it's accurate to say that 1 million gallons per day is what we need to aim for without jeopardizing our system," Uri said.

While mandatory water restrictions will likely be imposed at Wednesday's regular Commission meeting, officials are still asking citizens to avoid outdoor watering between

10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The city has had a water conservation plan in place since 1995, and Uri said it offers several options in the way of water usage restrictions. He said watering can be restricted to evenings only, the Commission can look at prohibitive rates for high water usage, or an excess water use charge. Conservation options will be presented at Wednesday's meeting.

Roger Demanette said if water levels in wells drop too low, it can lead to mechanical problems in the wells because of sediment being pulled in instead of water. After having a green lawn much of the summer, he said he'd decided to let his grass go dormant rather than waste extra water. He asked citizens to "use a little common sense" when considering outdoor watering.

"If your lawn can go dormant, let it go," he said. "I think we're headed in the right direction here. Conservation is the biggest part of it."



**Live performance**

Tim Halfhide, left, and Angie LeDuc perform on the free stage at the Cloud County Fair Friday night. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

July 30th

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday July 31, 2012)

**CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS  
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM April 1, 2012 THROUGH June 30, 2012**

FUNDS	1st Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	2nd Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 975,030.62	\$ 1,010,178.99	\$ 938,443.80	\$ 1,046,765.81
203 Industrial Development	7,995.72	14,106.96	-	22,102.68
205 Special Highway	105,256.87	33,667.62	13,787.70	125,136.79
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	381.50	10.66	-	392.16
207 Civil Asset Forfeiture	874.42	-	-	874.42
208 Cyber Crimes	1,950.91	-	-	1,950.91
212 Emergency Telephone System	4,753.45	-	4,753.45	0.00
214 Animal Shelter	5,551.20	1,075.00	931.52	5,694.68
217 Special Park and Recreation	85,298.78	2,580.45	-	87,879.23
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	1,147.60	10,000.00	925.00	10,222.60
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	393,445.44	-	41,749.77	351,695.67
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	119.70	-	-	119.70
230 Judges Training Fund	1,614.88	1,993.50	1,640.38	1,968.00
244 911 PSAP	3,093.61	16,925.55	2,399.05	17,620.11
245 911 Wireless	9,122.19	-	287.70	8,834.49
250 Fire Dept. Grants	1,846.29	8,246.00	9,664.75	427.54
251 Firefighter Donations	675.25	-	675.25	-
260 Animal Trust Fund	32,566.80	3,440.70	-	36,007.50
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,236.30	-	-	40,236.30
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	2,496.20	1,000.00	-	3,496.20
301 Bond and Interest	125,397.85	71,154.51	61,200.00	135,352.36
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	4,917.02	559,710.81	-	564,627.83
444 TIF Projects	2,227,939.71	-	18,909.37	2,209,030.34
450 Capital Improvement Projects	374,491.83	76,352.00	5,905.40	444,938.43
550 Central Garage Fund	8,280.41	46,856.32	46,399.41	8,737.32
601 Water/Sewer General	532,686.78	369,175.58	257,551.26	644,311.10
607 Water/Sewer Projects	15,797.79	-	-	15,797.79
608 Water/Sewer Bond & Interest	23,234.73	-	-	23,234.73
630 Airport Fund	32,008.77	5,055.00	-	37,063.77
703 Escrow Fund	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	13,074.84	-	5,864.87	7,209.97
735 Library Fund	-	41,563.37	-	41,563.37
736 Library Employee Benefit	-	10,320.85	-	10,320.85
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	388,888.67	6,846.02	839.40	394,895.29
780 Cloud County Landfill	4,783.52	67,890.15	69,651.04	3,022.63
802 Water Protection Fund	1,288.89	1,462.71	1,286.51	1,465.09
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,436,248.54</b>	<b>\$ 2,359,612.75</b>	<b>\$ 1,482,865.63</b>	<b>\$ 6,312,995.66</b>

**LIABILITIES:**

General Obligation Bonds	3,963,800.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	3,850,000.00
Capital Leases	844.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,814,644.73</b>

**CASH AVAILABLE:**

Cash on Hand	2,038.33
Checking Accounts	1,576,468.15
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,153,188.96
Certificates of Deposit	2,582,475.78
Reconciling Items per Bank Rec	(1,175.56)
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 6,312,995.66</b>

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

  
Amber Farha, City Treasurer

July 31<sup>st</sup>

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

After years of trying to work with the Army Corps of Engineers on Concordia's south flood control project, City Commissioners finally found out Wednesday night that there is no chance that can happen.

City Manager Larry Uri told Commissioners that he had received word from the Corps that Concordia's project is not financially feasible for them. The dam the Corps has proposed is in the \$3.5 million range, much more than the \$2 million the Corps has to spend.

"They spent some time wrestling over this," Uri said. "They can't get the cost of it down from \$3.5 million, so we're nowhere near what you can build their dam for."

Since February 2011, the Corps has been studying the feasibility of constructing the dam. In June, Uri reported to Commissioners that the Corps had indicated none of the plans the city has for the dam was financially feasible. The Corps was still willing to look at the project to try to reduce the cost, but to no avail.

One of the standards the Corps studied was the survivability of the structure in the event of a massive flood. The dam must still be standing should water go over the top of the dam.

"This then requires a much more structured back side of the dam," Uri said. "For the state (standards), the backside of the dam is sloping dirt. For the Corps, the spillway has to be much bigger and has to be in some way concrete."

The more reinforced spillway adds another \$1 million to the cost of the dam, Uri said.

The other aspect the Corps looked at, he said, was how much damage would be done downstream if the dam was overtopped or failed.

"Their feasibility study says that the loss of property downstream would be about \$2 million if the biggest event they have to plan for caused the dam to overtop," Uri said.

On the bright side, Uri said the city's engineers with KLA Environmental Services, have indicated a dam at 21st Street and another at Plum Road can be built to state standards for about \$2 million or less. Uri said he and city staff will meet with KLA engineers next week to discuss the project. He said he expects a recommendation from KLA in coming weeks, which is the dam the city will need to construct.

"The good side of this is the long question of whether the Corps can help us has finally come to a conclusion, and sadly, they can't help us," Uri said.

In other business, the Commission approved for publication the 2013 budget, which calls for a three-mill increase.

Finance Director Amber Farha said the proposed budget will raise the mill levy from 51.747 to 54.747. The 2013 budget includes the hiring of a new police officer, a one-percent increase in cost of living wages for employees, and a full-time city manager. Farha said the budget will also maintain the city's ending cash balance, which was increased in 2012.

Commissioner Charles Johnson said there were things in the proposed budget the city could do without. He said he would like to see only a one-mill increase for next year.

Gary Fraser said he thought if the Commission was going to be making cuts in the budget, it needed to set an example by not approving everything brought before it.

"All we usually ask is how it's going to affect this budget when we should be looking down to the next year and how much we'll have to make up," he said.

Marsha Wentz said the city faces the same situation as its citizens with rising costs. She said the only way a city can make money is to either increase taxes or bring in more economic development to spread out the tax base.

(see Corps on page 8)

Thursday, August 2, 2012

## Corps informs city that dam project is not feasible

8 Blade-Empire, Thursday, August 2, 2012

### Corps

(continued from page 1)

"I can remember my dad saying years ago that you have to spend money to make money," Wentz said. "I don't like spending the taxpayers' money - it's my money too - but I think we have to do it."

The public hearing on approving the budget will be Wednesday, Aug. 15.

To further address the city's water situation, the Commission approved a resolution to implement watering restrictions should the need arise.

Last week, the city went from a water watch to a warning as consumption of the city's water supply operated at more than 85-percent capacity for five consecutive days. At its worst, water consumption peaked at 1.3 million gallons per day.

At a special meeting on Monday, the Commission approved entering into an agreement with the Division of Water Resources to restrict usage on two of the city's wells. The agreement came in response to the DWR's issuance of a minimum desirable streamflow administrative order on junior water rights within the Republican River basin. Rather than shut the two wells down completely, the city agreed to accept 32-

percent of its remaining yearly appropriation from the wells.

Since the water warning was issued last Friday, Uri said the voluntary water conservation measures put into place seem to be cutting down water usage.

However, by passing the resolution, if the total gallons of water pumped by the city wells exceed an average of 1 million gallons a day for five days, the city manager can impose mandatory watering restrictions. Should that happen, Uri said he would implement an odd/even watering system - residents with odd-numbered addresses water on odd-numbered days, and even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered days.

If those restrictions are put in place, any outdoor water use for watering lawns or gardens will be prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Anyone caught violating the order could face a misdemeanor charge with a fine up to \$500.

"As long as things stay at or close to a million gallons per day, I think we can meet that demand for the next few weeks," Uri said. "If we get over the million gallons a day, we'll look at the mandatory restrictions."



## NOTICE

August 8, 2012

Due to the FCC deadline on narrow banding out current radio frequencies by January 1, 2013, the Cloud County Emergency Management and the Concordia Fire Department have changed their frequencies to the following:

**Civil Defense/Rural Fire:  
Receive 155.96250**

**Concordia Fire/EMS:  
Receive 154.81500**

*These frequencies are needed for your personal scanners for storms and fires.*

**THE OLD FREQUENCIES  
WILL NOT WORK**

## Concordia neighborhoods take part in National Night Out

August 8, 2012

Neighbors, parents, kids, and pets came out Tuesday evening as Concordia took part for the second year in National Night Out. In City Park, Patrick and Jennifer Sieben served hot dogs and neighbors brought potluck dishes to share. Patrick said nearly 40 people came for the meal and most stayed to enjoy the conversation and slight break in the week's hot weather. At 7 p.m., the temperature was about 85 with a slight breeze. At Hood Park, the gathering featured snacks contributed by the neighbors, plus games for all the kids. Last year, organizers Kevin and Holly Brown had set up an impromptu water slide as a way for the kids to beat the heat. However, because of the city's water warning that began last

week, they canceled this plan and kids enjoyed the playground and competed in a watermelon seed-spitting contest. Across town, Larry and Janet Eubanks closed off a section of Republican Street between 5th and 6th streets and filled it with picnic tables for a neighborhood barbecue. At Jeffery and Rhonda Gumm's house on West 19th Street, neighbors filled the front yard for the dessert potluck for which the Gums and Brenda Berg were hosts. Elsewhere, neighborhoods had ice cream socials, cookouts and potlucks. Officers from the Concordia Police Department, which helped sponsor National Night Out, visited the events to talk about their work and hand out free glow necklaces to the kids. Other sponsors

were the Concordia Year of Peace Committee and the Cloud County Chemical Dependency Committee. Now in its 29th year, National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. National Night Out is always the first Tuesday in August. This year more than 15,000 communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and on military bases worldwide were expected to take part. In 2011, more than 37 million people participated.

## Possible scam reported to Concordia Police Department

Concordia Police Department Monday took reports from citizens regarding a possible scam that occurred in the community earlier this year.

Between March and April, young people in their late teens to early 20s solicited Concordia residents for magazine subscriptions. These people represented an organization out of Texas called CRS, Inc.

The solicitors advise that they are working on earning enough points in selling magazine subscriptions to receive a free trip. The solicitation is promising in the appearance of helping young people with exciting opportunities and by itself, this solicitation is not against the law.

The victims issued checks to pay for magazines, but didn't receive the magazines. When goods or services are promised and compensated for, but the goods or services are never received, this results in the commission of the crime of Theft. When the solicitors provide the goods/services promised, there is no crime. However, the solicitors must obtain a solicitor's license to conduct any business within the city.

Concordia City ordinance requires that any person soliciting for any business must obtain a solicitor/canvasser license from City Hall. At the time of the application, City Hall verifies specific information to validate the solicitor's personal and business information.

Concordia Police Department advises to

take the following action when contacted by a solicitor: Ask the person to display his/her solicitor's license as issued by the City and photo identification to verify that person is in fact the person mentioned on the license. If the person cannot or will not display a solicitor's license and identification, instruct the person to leave your residence and call 911.

When reporting the solicitor, advise the dispatcher of the physical description of the solicitor that includes ethnicity, approximate height/weight, hair and eye color and a clothing description, along with a direction of travel and vehicle description if seen.

Upon locating the suspects, the officers will further investigate the solicitors for licenses, proper identification and whether any crime was committed. Although you are not required to leave your name, we must have your contact information for you to be considered as a victim of a crime.

If you want to be listed as a possible victim and/or witness, please provide the dispatcher with your name, address and telephone number so that the officers can contact you after attempting to locate the suspects.

If you believe you are the victim of a possible solicitation crime, occurring recently or sometime within this past year, contact the Concordia Police Department to file a report.

August 7, 2012

### Sign up for soccer August 7, 2012

Boys and girls ages 5-12 can sign up for Youth Soccer at City Hall or at the city website [www.concordiaaks.org](http://www.concordiaaks.org).

The deadline to sign up is Aug. 20

### Meeting scheduled August 6, 2012

An intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall.

Members of the Concordia city commission may be in attendance.

# City still in water warning

August 9, 2012

Voluntary conservation has eased the strain on the city of Concordia's water supply, but a water warning remains in effect.

"The water warning remains necessary due to continuing hot and dry weather and because state authorities have reduced the amount of water the city can pump from two of its wells," said Concordia City Manager Larry Uri.

On July 23, the city issued a water watch for Concordia, asking citizens to voluntarily conserve water. Despite that plea, city water consumption actually increased, prompting Uri to issue the water warning on July 27.

The city's wells pumped an average of 828,000 gallons per day for the five days ending August 8, Uri said. The City Commission had authorized Uri to implement mandatory water controls at any time the wells pump an average of 1 million gallons per day for a five-day period.

"The cooperation of our citizens has let us avoid mandatory controls so far," Uri said.

According to the resolution the Com-

mission adopted on Aug. 1, regulations that can be put in effect if necessary include permitting residents with odd-numbered addresses to water lawns on odd-numbered days, and those with even-numbered addresses to water on even-numbered days. In addition, Uri can also prohibit outdoor water use for the watering of lawns and gardens between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Currently, residents are asked to voluntarily refrain from watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

On July 31, the Division of Water Resources issued notices limiting the use of city wells number 21 and number 22. For the remainder of 2012, the city can only use 32-percent of the amount of water it is otherwise authorized to pump from those wells.

"We want to stretch that allocation as far as possible," Uri said. "The city needs to have a reserve available in case of a major fire.

The gallons pumped by the city wells, as well as the five-day average, are posted daily on the city's web site, [concordiaks.org](http://concordiaks.org).

August 10, 2012

The City of Concordia is soliciting bids for cash renting approximately 132.5 acres of farm ground around Blosser Municipal Airport.

Bids must be sealed and must include the bidders' name, address, phone number, and an amount per acre bid. Bids are to be delivered by mail or in person to City Clerk, City of Concordia, 701 Washington, PO Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901.

The land is located in several parcels around the airport runways and is subject to requirements concerning operation of the airport. No grazing is permitted.

Any interested bidder may obtain a copy of the lease and aerial picture at City of Concordia, 701 Washington Concordia, Kansas 66901. Call Ron Copple at 785-243-2670 for additional information. Terms of the lease are strictly in accordance with the written lease.

Bids will be received until 10:00 AM on the 21st Day of August 2012, at which time the bids will be opened in the Commission Room in the City Hall at 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas. Bids should be marked **Airport Farm Lease**. Bids received after this date and hour will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Oral, telegraphic, facsimile or telephonic proposals or modifications will NOT be accepted or considered.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid.

*The bids will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disabilities, or marital status. Lessee will be responsible for full compliance with the federal and state labor laws.*

August 10, 2012

Thanks to these sponsors, more than 400 kids played ball this summer!

## T-Ball

Fleming Construction  
Shelter Insurance  
Gambino's Pizza  
Schendel Pest Control  
Tom's Music House  
Farm Bureau Insurance

## Girls Softball

Cloud County Co-op  
Subway  
American Legion  
Funk Pharmacy

## Peewee Baseball

Concordia Chevy/Buick  
Lions Club  
American Legion  
Knights of Columbus  
Family Health Mart Pharmacy  
16th Street Carwash

## K-18 Baseball

F&A Food Sales  
Citizens National Bank

## Legion Baseball

American Legion Blues

Also, a big thank you to all coaches, umpires, Altius Awards, & The Blade-Empire!

~ Concordia Recreation

August 10, 2012

Concordia Recreation

# Fall Soccer

Ages 5-12

Begins Sept. 4

\$10 Fee

Deadline Monday, Aug. 20

Forms at City Hall or online at

[www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org)

Questions? Contact Tom Gennette at 243-2670



# City to save by changing insurance plans

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission approved changing insurance plans Wednesday night, which will result in more than \$100,000 in savings.

Mark Isley with Group Benefit Specialists, presented a plan for the city with coverage from Blue Cross Blue Shield. City employees are currently covered by the state of Kansas employee health plan, also administered through Blue Cross Blue Shield. That three-year contract comes to an end at the end of the year.

Isley said the new insurance package would represent a 22-percent savings for the city and a 27-percent savings to employees on out-of-pocket costs.

"This plan will save money and still provide a high level of coverage," he told Commissioners.

The Commission approved ter-

minating its contract for state insurance coverage and moving to the new plan effective Oct. 1.

There were no public comments during the 2013 budget hearing, and it was approved with a three-mill increase.

Finance Director Amber Farha said the budget will raise the mill levy from 51.747 to 54.747. The three-mill increase will pay for an additional police officer next year, a one-percent increase in cost of living wages for employees, and a full-time city manager. The budget also maintains the city's ending cash balance, which was increased in 2012.

The Commission accepted a \$9,195 bid from Performance Lawns to install an underground irrigation system at the Sports Complex. Ron Copple, director of public works, said Performance Lawns was the only bidder on the project. The irrigation system will

be installed on the peewee fields, and is scheduled to begin Oct. 1.

A low bid from Century Business Systems of \$5,590 was accepted for the acquisition of a new copier for City Hall. Stacey Crum, city clerk, said the bid includes trading in the old copier and a 36-month lease. The approximate monthly payment would be \$275, she said, which is \$40 less than the current copier lease payment.

A demolition program application from Frank Headrick was also approved for properties at 702 East 5th, and 509 and 511 Valley.

Bruno Rehbein, city building inspector, said there are no bids for demolition of the structures at this time because Headrick and his wife plan to remove everything but the foundations themselves. Once that work is completed, Rehbein said, Head-

rick will present bids for the removal of the foundations, and as long as the reimbursement does not exceed \$4,000 per property, they will be approved.

"These houses have been way at the top of my list for some time now, and the Headricks have taken it upon themselves to purchase and remove them," Rehbein said.

During the city manager report, Larry Uri said the tennis courts will be dedicated in memory of Jack Mitchell during Fall Fest activities. The dedication is planned for 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 22.

Uri also presented plans for the construction of new restrooms at the peewee fields of the Sports Complex. He said he intends to make an application for Horizon Wind Farm grant money to fund the \$67,000 project.

## Man pulls co-worker from burning semi

A 57-year-old Arkansas man was pulled from a burning semi after a one-vehicle crash north of Concordia Tuesday afternoon.

Cloud County Undersheriff Jonathan Strowig said Robert Stapp, Arkansas, was towing a camper northbound four miles north of Concordia on U.S. Highway 81 when the semi veered off the right shoulder of the highway. The rig then crossed the northbound lanes, median and southbound lanes, and ended up in the west ditch. The camper fell onto the highway, blocking southbound traffic.

Strowig said David O'Brien, who works with Stapp for Northwest Arkansas Events, was following in another vehicle on their way to a Fair in Nebraska. Strowig said O'Brien stopped and ran to the aid of Stapp, finding him unconscious in the cab of the semi. The truck was on fire, and O'Brien pulled Stapp out and dragged him to safety.

Cloud County Rural Fire No.



**Crash site**

A semi burns, and debris is scattered across U.S. Highway 81 following an accident Tuesday afternoon.

4 and the Concordia Fire Department both responded to the scene to battle the fire. "At one point, medics had to rush Stapp from the scene on a spine board because the quick

spreading grass fire was just a few feet from them," Strowig said in a news release.

Stapp was transported by Concordia EMS to Cloud County Health Center for treatment

of injuries. Strowig said the crash is still under investigation, but it is believed that Stapp had a medical condition that may have contributed to the accident.

August 23rd, 2012



The Concordia Fire  
Department  
Muscular Dystrophy  
Boot Drive  
Saturday, August 25 • 8 a.m. - Noon  
At 11th & Lincoln



August + 24, 2012

ATTENTION, CONTRACTORS August 31, 2012

The City of Concordia located in Cloud County, Kansas was awarded a 2012 CDBG grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce. The grant contains funding to rehabilitate approximately (12) housing units and demolish approximately (3) dilapidated residential structures in the Concordia target area.

General Contractors are needed to perform general carpentry, roofing, plumbing and heating, electrical up-grades, interior and exterior painting, siding replacement and foundation repair. Demolition contractors are also needed to remove the dilapidated structures, dispose of the demolition materials and backfill the excavated sites.

Interested contractors should call or write the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) and request the sign-up documents for the Housing Project.

The NCRPC and the City of Concordia are equal opportunity employers.

North Central Regional Planning Commission • 109 N. Mill, P.O. Box 565 • Beloit, KS 67420  
Attn: Carol Torkelson, Housing Grant Administrator • or 1-800-432-0303

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Wednesday, August 31, 2012)

CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS  
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM July 1, 2012 THROUGH September 30, 2012

FUNDS	2nd Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	3rd Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 1,046,765.81	\$ 821,576.30	\$ 1,067,534.01	\$ 800,808.10
203 Industrial Development	22,102.68	11,998.56	27,500.00	6,601.24
205 Special Highway	125,136.79	34,742.06	56,562.96	103,315.89
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	392.16	100.00	-	492.16
207 Civil Asset Forfeiture	874.42	-	-	874.42
208 Cyber Crimes	1,950.91	50.00	-	2,000.91
212 Emergency Telephone System	0.00	-	-	0.00
214 Animal Shelter	5,694.68	875.00	1,435.07	5,134.61
217 Special Park and Recreation	87,879.23	2,566.91	-	90,446.14
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	10,222.60	-	1,321.00	8,901.60
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	351,695.67	122,300.00	31,164.94	442,830.73
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	119.70	-	-	119.70
230 Judges Training Fund	1,968.00	1,798.50	2,369.00	1,397.50
244 911 PSAP	17,620.11	15,036.63	9,663.98	22,992.76
245 911 Wireless	8,834.49	-	287.70	8,546.79
250 Fire Dept. Grants	427.54	3,630.25	3,711.38	346.41
251 Firefighter Donations	-	-	-	-
255 Police Dept Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-
260 Animal Trust Fund	36,007.50	41.61	-	36,049.11
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,236.30	44.66	-	40,280.96
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	3,496.20	-	613.00	2,883.20
301 Bond and Interest	135,352.36	53,143.25	-	188,495.61
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	564,627.83	7,849.18	-	572,477.01
444 TIF Projects	2,209,030.34	-	100,625.69	2,108,404.65
450 Capital Improvement Projects	444,938.43	50,000.00	57,108.29	437,829.14
550 Central Garage Fund	8,737.32	43,483.53	43,420.47	8,800.38
601 Water/Sewer General	644,311.10	410,158.78	389,471.25	664,998.63
607 Water/Sewer Projects	15,797.79	-	15,797.79	-
608 Water/Sewer Bond & Interest	23,234.73	70,945.00	-	94,179.73
630 Airport Fund	37,063.77	-	-	37,063.77
703 Escrow Fund	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	7,209.97	10,648.92	4,116.61	13,742.28
735 Library Fund	41,563.37	12,245.60	53,808.97	-
736 Library Employee Benefit	10,320.85	2,908.42	13,229.27	-
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	394,895.29	7,661.26	225.00	402,331.55
780 Cloud County Landfill	3,022.63	79,570.67	76,143.49	6,449.81
802 Water Protection Fund	1,465.09	2,242.67	2,031.51	1,676.25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 6,312,995.66</b>	<b>\$ 1,865,617.76</b>	<b>\$ 1,968,142.38</b>	<b>\$ 6,210,471.04</b>

LIABILITIES:

General Obligation Bonds	3,963,800.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	3,850,000.00
Capital Leases	5,316.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,819,116.75</b>

CASH AVAILABLE:

Cash on Hand	2,038.33
Checking Accounts	1,548,839.53
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,082,077.56
Certificates of Deposit	2,583,009.91
Reconciling Items per Bank Rec	(5,494.29)
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 6,210,471.04</b>

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Amber Farha, City Treasurer

We Need You! Aug 28, 2012

The Concordia Fire Department is looking for a few good men and women who are interested in earning some extra money on weekends, days off, or even after work.

Are you a stay-at-home mother or father, are you a young adult 18 years or older looking for something to do, and some extra change in your pocket? Then we have the job for you.

Become a reserve firefighter or a reserve EMT. The training is given during the evenings and is free to reserves. Come see what it is like and then sign up to be a reserve. Earn some extra money and serve your community at the same time.

If you think you are one of those people and you are interested in a part-time career in Firefighting and EMS, stop by the Concordia Fire Station and fill out an application for our reserve program.

You will be required to take a written/agility test and have a good driving record. The training and experiences will last a lifetime.

Call 785-243-4411 or come by 701 Washington in Concordia, and talk to Chief Eubanks.

**It's an experience of a lifetime that you will never forget**

# WANTED Soccer Referees for 5-12-year-old youth soccer

Tuesday evenings

Call Tom Gennette at 243.2670 or 275.1092

## City approves farm lease

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade staff writer

During a routine meeting Wednesday evening, the Concordia City Commission approved the only item on the agenda – a farm lease with Swenson, Jeardoe LLC.

Swenson, Jeardoe had the high bid of \$104.25 per acre to rent the 132.5 acres surrounding the airport. The lease will begin March 1, 2013, and end Feb. 28, 2014, with a total yearly payment of \$13,813.

During the city manager's report, Larry Uri suggested using part of the \$140,000 the City will be saving by switching insurance carriers to fund a request from the Brown Grand.

In July, the Commission approved using \$100,000 in Tax Increment Financing money to help repair the Theatre's grid and rigging system. In June, theatre representatives asked the Commission to help in their fundraising drive to repair the rigging above the stage. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$425,000 and \$445,000.

Last night, Uri said there was a snag in using TIF funds for the project. He said to use TIF money, the city-owned building cannot be leased to another entity. The Brown Grand leases the building for a dollar per year. Doing away with that lease will not work either, he said, because some grants the theatre board is applying for require that they be the leaseholder.

Mayor Lyle Pounds said he thought it was important the Commission fulfill its commitment to the theatre, but no action was taken on the matter.

Uri also reported that the water warning, which has been in effect since July 27 has now been lifted. While water usage has dropped, he said city staff will still be monitoring those numbers closely. He encouraged citizens to continue trying to conserve water.

During staff comments, Ken Johnson

updated the Commission on dirtwork being done in the south development's Enterprise Park.

Malm Construction Company out of Lindsborg started the mass grading and site preparation last week. Commercial lots are being prepared for sale in the area to the south of what is planned to be a new dam at 21st Street.

Johnson said between 8,000 and 10,000 yards of topsoil have already been moved, and approximately 4,500 yards have been replaced and compacted.

"It takes about twice as long to put dirt in as it does to take it out," Johnson said.

Between eight and 10 feet of dirt has already been shaved off the hill on the west side of the project area. He said the contractor expects to be finished with the project in 20 days.

Fire Department Captain Jim Menard, who is acting as fire chief, said it is business as usual at the fire department. Larry Eubanks was removed from his position as Fire Chief for the city last Thursday. Menard, the department's senior fire captain, is currently in charge of the department during the selection process for a new chief. Because Eubanks' city position is non-elected, details on his termination cannot be released. He had been fire chief since 2006.

Menard said he has been trying to keep things going like usual.

"It's only been a few days, so it's going to be an experience, I'm sure," he said.

Menard said the department will be busy with Fire Prevention Week coming up in October, as well as hose testing over the next three days.

"Basically, we're just going to keep moving forward – one day at a time," he said.

The Commission went into an executive session for non-elected personnel with Uri for 20 minutes, after which no action was taken.

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



### Doing the heavy lifting

Concordia firefighter Derek Champlin walks the water out of one of the fire department's hoses Thursday morning during hose testing at the Concordia Municipal Airport. The hoses are tested every two years. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now exist or will soon exist on the following citizen boards, commissions and committees:

### PLANNING COMMISSION

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of this commission, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointment, return a completed Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without pay – out of concern for the public good.

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas, 66901.

*If you have questions, please call the  
City Clerk's Office at 785-243-2670*

September 7, 2012

The City of Concordia is seeking bids  
for a 4-door passenger vehicle.  
Bids must be submitted by 9:00 a.m.  
on September 20, 2012.

*For bid specifications, please contact the  
office of the City Clerk, 701 Washington,  
Concordia, 785-243-2670.*

September 11, 2012

### MUNICIPAL SERVICE WORKER

#### Public Works Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service worker. Job description is available at City Hall.

**Deadline:** City of Concordia will accept applications until Friday, September 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**Apply at:** The City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at [www.concordiaaks.org](http://www.concordiaaks.org). Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request. EOE.

September 11, 2012

## Court of Appeals cases to be heard in Concordia

September 12, 2012

A three-judge panel of the Kansas Court of Appeals will hear cases in Concordia Sept. 18 as part of U.S. Constitution Observance Day. Oral arguments in two of the cases will be conducted in the Cook Theater at Cloud County Community College and two others at the Cloud County Courthouse.

Hearings at CCCC include City of Concordia, Kan., vs. Chad J. Lowell, Cloud County, to be heard at 9:30 a.m. and State of Kansas vs. Jeremiah Tush, Johnson County to be heard at 11 a.m.

Chad Lowell appeals his conviction by the district court for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). In the early morning hours of March 5, 2010, Lowell was stopped by a police officer who later arrested him for DUI. Lowell contends his constitutional rights were violated because the officer did not have reasonable suspicion to make the car stop or probable cause to arrest him. Lowell also argues the evidence was insufficient to convict him. Finally, Lowell argues his written waiver of jury trial was not effective because the district court did not advise him of the right to a jury trial before he waived it and submitted his case to the judge for a decision.

Jeremiah Tush and his girlfriend were staying in a hotel room in Overland Park when law enforcement officers contacted him. During this encounter, a disturbance occurred. Tush was arrested and the hotel room was searched. Tush appeals his convictions for identity fraud, manufacturing methamphetamine, battery on a law enforcement officer, obstruction of official duty and possession of a precursor drug. Tush contends the district court should have granted his motion to suppress the incriminating evidence seized from the hotel room because it was illegally obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Hearings at the Cloud County Courthouse will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the first being in the Matter of the Marriage of Orlando Lee and Margaret Lee, Geary County, followed by the State of Kansas vs. Kenthia Andrea Rhyne, Riley County.

Orlando Lee, the ex-husband of Margaret Lee, appeals from a decision by the district court interpreting the language of their settlement agree-

ment in a divorce action. The appeal focuses on alimony provisions in the agreement and the effect, if any, the ex-wife's remarriage had on whether the ex-husband's alimony obligations were terminated. Mr. Lee also argues that the district court's decision violates federal law (the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act), and the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

A jury convicted Kenthia Rhyne of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and unlawful use of a communication facility to facilitate a felony. This is her direct appeal, in which she argues that (1) the district court erred by failing to instruct the jury on the lesser included offenses of simple possession of cocaine and marijuana; (2) the district court erred by failing to define "use" when instructing the jury on the charge of unlawful use of a communication facility; (3) the State submitted insufficient evidence of two of the elements required for a conviction of unlawful use of a communication facility; (4) the district court erred by failing to give the jury a limiting instruction regarding text messages found on Rhyne's cell phone; (5) the district court violated Rhyne's constitutional right to be present and her constitutional right to a public trial when it conducted proceedings in chambers outside her presence; and (6) cumulative error denied Rhyne of a fair trial.

Judges Michael B. Buser, Tom Malone and Karen Arnold-Burger will hear the cases. Buser will be the presiding judge.

The four appeals demonstrate how the courts interpret and apply the law as adapted by our legislature and the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

"The constitutional rights we all share are tested daily in cases that appear on our docket throughout the year," Buser said. Attorneys for each side will have an opportunity to present argument to the judges and the judges will have a chance to ask questions. The Court will then take each of the cases under consideration and will issue a written decision at a later date, usually within 60 days.

After the hearings have been completed, the judges will be available to talk with students.





### Snapping it up

Concordia animal control officer Heather Acheson carries off a snapping turtle that had parked itself in the street at the intersection of Eighth and State on Tuesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## Funds

(continued from page 1)

COMMISSIONER Caspers reported the 12th Judicial District nominating committee will be meeting Sept. 18 in Beloit to interview nominees for the District Magistrate Judge's position vacated by Judge Bonnie Wilson's retirement on Aug. 1.

In other business the board

- conducted a conference call with the commissioners from Clay, Washington and Marshall counties to discuss the county sanitarian position.

- discussed the draft of the contract with Zahner-Hansen Construction

- approved the appointment of Lindsey Glenn, representing the Holiday Inn Express to the Tourism Board replacing Misty Monzon.

- appointed chairman Caspers as KWORCC voting delegate and commissioner Engle as KWORCC alternate voting delegate at the KWORCC annual meeting set for Nov. 14 in Topeka.

All commissioners participated in KNCK Coffeetime Sept. 7.

Adjournment was at 12:05 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the groundbreaking to be held at 10 a.m., Monday, Sept. 17, at the site of

# City, county September 11, 2012 discuss request for wind farm funds

At the Cloud County board of commissioners meeting Monday, Concordia city manager Larry Uri and Concordia Public Works director Ron Copple talked with the board about their application for Meridian Way Wind Farm funds.

The funds would be used for enhancements at the Concordia Sports Complex including construction of new restroom facilities and installation of a backstop and soccer goals at Rasure Field.

In other business the board approved the hire of Katherine Hajny as full-time office clerk for the Transfer Station and Recycling Center to fill an open position at a rate of \$11.68 per hour effective Sept. 10.

Commissioners approved a request from Stephanie Hake to change her classification from full-time home health aide to part-time home health aide, effective Sept. 10 at the same wage of \$9.50 per hour.

At the board's monthly meeting with department heads these county officials gave reports:

REGISTER OF DEEDS Judy Lambert reported her department is now using the new CIC PROGRAMS.

EXTENSION agent Pat Gerhardt reported her employees will be providing Child Care Provider training and they are working on their school programs which will be implemented beginning in October.

HIGHWAY administrator Andy Asch reported his department is working on finishing various road projects.

IT Director Jerry Collins reported he is working with the various offices during the conversion to the new CIC programs and that he will be attending a mini-conference to be conducted by Computer Solutions Wednesday at

reported he will be attending a meeting Wednesday concerning the new flood maps and that an I-pad to use for property review has been purchased.

SOLID WASTE director Justin Murdock reported the lateral drain on the scale at the Transfer Station is being replaced and that information is being gathered for the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

HEALTH administrator Diana Gering reported her department is giving flu shots and T-Dap shots on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m. A flu-shot and T-Dap clinic for county employees is being scheduled.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS director Larry Eubanks reported he is checking to see which employees need to take the NIMS training. He said the NIMS training is necessary in order to work efficiently with FEMA, if a natural disaster were to occur. This training also is a requirement to receive reimbursement from FEMA and to apply for most grants.

CLERK Linda Bogart reported her department is working on the programming for the November General Election and on Sept. 18 employees will be at Cloud County Community College to provide voter registration for students and faculty. She and Marylu Fellows will attend the North Central Kansas District County Clerks' meeting Sept. 20 in Lincoln and she will attend the Property Valuation Division (PVD) training in Salina Sept. 21.

COMMISSIONER Gail Engle reported the board is working on a contract for the sanitarian position and will be meeting Sept. 17 in Washington County to discuss the

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE  
WORKER**

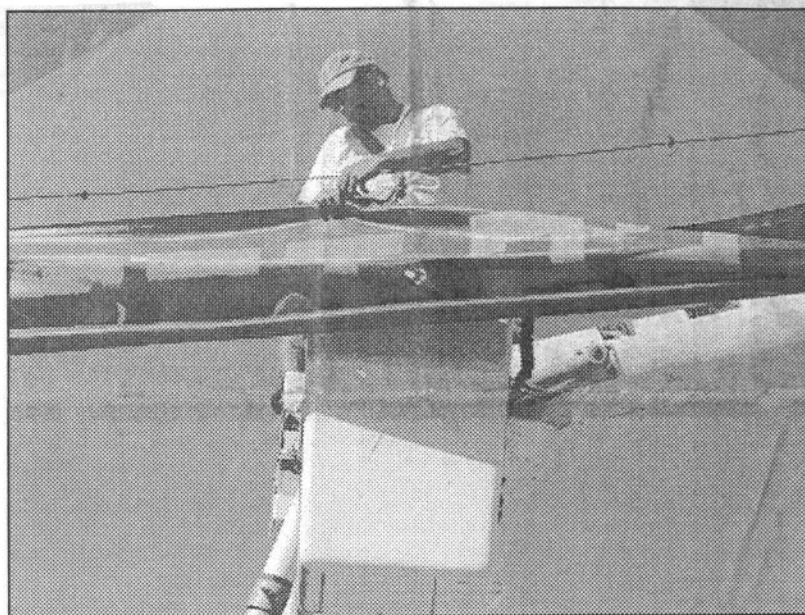
**Public Works Division**

The City of Concordia Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Job description is available at City Hall.

**Deadline:** City of Concordia will accept applications until Friday, September 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**Apply at:** The City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at [www.concordiaaks.org](http://www.concordiaaks.org). Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request. EOE.

September 18, 2012



**Hanging it up**

City of Concordia employee Roger Woodford hangs a Fall Fest banner across Sixth Street Friday morning. Fall Fest is scheduled for Sept. 22. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

September 14, 2012

## Prescription Take Back Day set

The public will have an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft on Prescription Take Back Day, Sept. 29.

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. that day residents can rid their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs by bringing them to the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 402 W. 6th, Concordia. The service is free and anonymous with no identification required and no questions asked.

Sponsors of Prescription Take Back Day are the Concordia Police Department and the Cloud County Chemical Dependency Committee. It is administered by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

In its four previous Take Back events, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration and its local law enforcement partners have taken in more than 1.5 million pounds — nearly 775 tons — of pills.

When Concordia took part in the Take Back effort in April 2011, local residents turned in 11 pounds of outdated and unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. Concordia will be among approximately 5,600

Take Back sites nationwide for the Sept. 29 event.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses because of these drugs.

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first Take Back event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them.

# Voss hired as new fire chief

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

A familiar face will soon be leading the Concordia Fire Department.

In an e-mail to Concordia City Commissioners on Friday, City Manager Larry Uri announced that he had hired Eric Voss as the new fire chief/emergency services director. Voss comes back to Concordia from Fair-

bury, Neb., where he has been chief since 2004.

Voss spent three years in Concordia, from 1998 to 2002, as a fire captain. He left his post at the fire department to become chief in Halstead, Kan., a position he held for two years before moving to Fairbury.

In Uri's e-mail to Commissioners and staff, he said Voss has extensive experience as a crash

fire rescue specialist. He was also a combat medic in the U.S. Army Reserves, serving tours of duty in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait, and Iraq. Voss is both firefighter and EMS qualified, and has a number of certifications in emergency management, rescue and law enforcement.

Uri said Voss contacted him when he learned of the vacancy in the position with the termina-

tion of former chief Larry Eubanks in August. Eubanks had been fire chief since 2006.

Uri said returning to Concordia as a fire chief is a career goal for Voss, who also has family in the area. He will take over November 1, and will receive the same salary as the police chief of \$58,749.

Voss could not be reached for comment Wednesday morning.

The City of Concordia is soliciting bids to build approximately 4600 feet of terraces. Pick up specifications at City Hall, 701 Washington.

Bids or bid inquiries shall be submitted to the office of the City Clerk, 701 Washington, PO Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901. All bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "terraces." Bids must be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. October 12, 2012. Bids received after the 9:00 a.m. deadline will be returned to the bidder unopened. Fax bids will not be accepted.

The City of Concordia reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

The City of Concordia is seeking bids for a 4 door passenger vehicle for the police department. Bids must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. on October 5, 2012. For bid specifications, please contact the office of the City Clerk, 701 Washington, Concordia, 785-243-2670.

September 21, 2012

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



**Down the drain**

City of Concordia employees Rick McWhorter, left; Roger Woodford, middle; and Michael Nelson install a new storm drain along Hill Street as part of a curb and gutter project. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

September 28, 2012

Sept. 27th



# City moves forward on dam project

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

After 16 years, the end – or the beginning – may finally be in sight for construction of a new dam in Concordia's south development.

By the end of Wednesday night's nearly four-hour City Commission meeting, the Commission had approved both an amendment to a contract with KLA Environmental Services to move forward with final design of the new dam at 21st Street, and relocating the sewer lines that run through the project area.

Kevin Shamburg with KLA told the Commission that his company is 50-60-percent complete with the final design of both the dam at 21st Street and the smaller dam at Plum Road. The two structures are designed to withstand a 100-year flood event, which would be a seven-inch rainfall in a 24-hour period.

"If that (seven inches of rain) happened, the volume of water detained in the detention pool and released through the conduits would be at a rate of 150 cubic feet per second," Shamburg said. "Without the dams, it

would be 2,500 cubic feet per second."

In working with the Army Corps of Engineers, Shamburg said they discovered that a larger dam at Plum Road, which had originally been considered, was unnecessary, as it did not provide any more flood protection. This summer, the Commission learned the Corps was not willing to participate in the city's dam project. By working solely with KLA, the city can construct two state-approved dams for just under \$2 million. In December, KLA had indicated the two dams would cost \$2.1. By reducing the size of the Plum Road dam, the total project cost dropped to an estimated \$1.9 million.

Shamburg said the estimated cost of the dam at 21st Street is \$1 million, while the Plum Road dam is projected to cost \$940,000.

Jarred Green, KLA project engineer, said the new dam's design was based on a flood in June 1967 when Concordia received five inches of rain in four hours, and 10.81 inches over an eight-day period.

During that event, some flash

flooding was reported in the city, and it was feared that the current dam at 20th Street would fail.

Green said if there had not been a dam in place in 1967, 1,280 cubic feet per second would have flowed down Broadway Street. With the old dam in place, that number was reduced to 549 cubic feet per second, and with the proposed new dam, it dropped even further to 149 cfs.

"That represents a 73-percent reduction in peak discharge from the 20th Street dam," he said.

Shamburg said design items remaining before construction can begin include environmental studies, a detailed design and analysis of both dam structures, construction drawings and specifications, as well as required state permits and reports.

He estimated it would take another two to four months before the design and environmental studies were completed, and an additional four to six months to receive the proper permits. Contract letting, following permit issuance, would take another two to three months,

putting the construction start date between June and October 2013.

Shamburg proposed an amendment to the contract between the City and KLA for an additional \$72,838 to complete that work. That amount was added to the original contract of \$243,043, which Shamburg said is approximately 50-percent completed. The contract amendment will take the project through the bid process and up to construction of the dams.

The Commission unanimously approved the contract amendment.

In other dam area business, the Commission also approved relocation of sewer lines that run along the side and through the middle of the proposed project for \$384,905.

Ken Johnson with Campbell and Johnson Engineers presented the Commission with two options to relocate the lines. The first option for \$279,525 relocated the line that runs through the middle of the area, but would mean part of the line would have to be rebuilt during dam construction.

(see Dam Project on page 7)

## Dam Project

(continued from page 1) 2012 projects. That number, Farha said, does not include any TIF revenue the fund would generate in 2013 and beyond.

"The bottom line on the 21st Street dam is that we're in pretty good shape," said City Manager Larry Uri.

But, TIF money cannot be used to pay for construction of the \$940,000 Plum Road dam, Farha said even without the Plum Road project, the debt service fund will have to go up by four mills in 2014 to cover the city's current bond payments.

A 20-year bond on the Plum Road dam, given the estimates that were presented, would result in payments of approximately \$70,000 a year, which equals about three mills, Farha said.

Uri said city staff is looking into grant opportunities to fund the construction of the Plum Road dam, which has to be finished before work can begin on the 21st Street dam.

Kirk Lowell, executive director of CloudCorp, and Tom Tuggle approached the Commission about taking advantage of the company's currently doing the earthwork in the south development area to finish filling in the lots along Highway 81.

Lowell said the city could be looking at the potential of \$300,000 in TIF revenue if those lots can be commercially developed. He asked the Commission to consider getting an engineering estimate for the work.

Uri said the problem with doing that now is it is still unknown if there is enough dirt in the project area to build the dam. In addition, the KLA engineers are unwilling to release any additional dirt in the area until after the dam is done.

"There will probably be enough dirt for those Highway 81 lots, but we need to wait," Uri said.

In other business, the Commission also accepted the audit engagement letter with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, and agreed to be sponsor of a grant for the hospital.

After two 10-minute executive sessions for attorney-client privilege and non-elected personnel, the Commission adjourned to study session to discuss vacuum truck and push chase of a police vehicle.

# "Take Back Day" nets 43 pounds of drugs

Area residents used "Take Back Day" last Saturday to rid their medicine cabinets of more than 43 pounds of outdated and unused prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

People from throughout Cloud County and as far away as Scandia and Beloit brought everything from cough syrup and cold medications to prescription painkillers and antibiotics to Concordia's First Christian Church fellowship hall as part of the nationwide event. This is the second time Concordia has taken part. In April 2011, area residents turned in 11 pounds of unused

and outdated medications.

Prescription Take Back Day, a national program designed to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs, is administered by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Locally, it was sponsored by the Concordia Police Department and the Cloud County Chemical Dependency Committee.

Cpl. Ric Fredrickson organized this year's event and staffed it along with Cpl. Devin Anderson. Dawn Snyder and Sarah Jenkins, members of the Chem-

ical Dependency Committee, also helped staff Saturday's collection.

The DEA began Take Back Day in September 2010 and now assists local agencies in offering it twice a year.

In its four previous Take Back events, the DEA and its local law enforcement partners have taken in more than 1.5 million pounds — nearly 775 tons — of pills.

For Saturday's Take Back, Concordia was among approximately 5,600 sites nationwide. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medi-

cines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses because of these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.

October 1, 2012

## Notice of Impounded Vehicle

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of the notice and pay the removal, storage, and publication charges

Vehicle: Maker: Saturn, Model: 1996 S series CP, VIN: 1G8ZG1277TZ134369, Color: Red

## ATTENTION, CONTRACTORS

The City of Clyde located in Cloud County, Kansas was awarded a 2012 CDBG grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce. The grant contains funding to rehabilitate approximately (14) housing units and demolish approximately (2) dilapidated residential structures in the Clyde target area.

General Contractors are needed to perform general carpentry, roofing, plumbing and heating, electrical up-grades, interior and exterior painting, siding replacement, and foundation repair. Demolition contractors are also needed to remove the dilapidated structures, dispose of the demolition materials and backfill the excavated sites.

Interested contractors should call or write the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) and request the sign-up documents for the Housing Project. The NCRPC and the City of Clyde are equal opportunity employers.

North Central Regional Planning Commission • 109 N. Mill, P.O. Box 565 • Beloit, KS 67420  
Attn: Connie Cyr, Housing Grant Administrator, 785-738-2218 or 1-800-432-0303

October 1, 2012

## CITY OF CONCORDIA IS SEEKING BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

FORT KEARNEY STREET CONSTRUCTION, and CLOUD COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, in Concordia, KS.

Any interested bidder may obtain a copy of the plans and specifications at a non-refundable cost of **Forty Five Dollars (\$45.00)** from the Project Engineer, Campbell & Johnson Engineers, PA, 113 W. 7th, Concordia.

Sealed bids must be submitted to City Hall, 701 Washington, by **Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 10:00 am**, at which time the bids will be publicly opened.

October 2, 2012

## Notice of Impounded Vehicle

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of the notice and pay the removal, storage, and publication charges

Vehicle: Maker: Saturn, Model: 1996 S series CP, VIN: 1G8ZG1277TZ134369, Color: Red

October 1, 2012

## Lions Club plans tree planting

The public is invited to attend a tree planting project by the Concordia Lions Club, City of Concordia and donors at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery at 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 4.

Since 1992, Pleasant Hill Cemetery has lost 200 trees because of storm damage and disease. Last year, the Concordia Lions Club started its first planting of replacement trees. With the K-State Forestry Service, River Valley Extension, City of Concordia, Performance Lawn Service and a Lions Club tree committee, the type of trees selected were recommended and planted.

The public has responded in the past for

the funding of this long-range project, along with the commitment by the Concordia Lions Club to help raise funds for the tree planting. Trees selected cost from \$150 to \$250 per tree. With the community's response last year, 24 trees were planted. This year, because of the drought and shortage of water, the Concordia Lions Club will be planting only 12 trees.

For additional information or to make a donation, contact Sue Sutton, 785.243.7861 or Dallas Nading, 785.243.4318. Checks may be mailed to Concordia Lions Club Tree Project, c/o Dallas Nading, 811 West 5th, Concordia, KS 66901.

October 3, 2012

# Commission approves sewer contract

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade staff writer

The Concordia City Commission approved a supplemental contract with Campbell and Johnson Engineers Wednesday to construct and relocate the sewer line in the south development area.

The supplemental agreement was for an additional \$10,050, adding on to the original agreement for engineering services of \$49,906 that was approved last year.

Don Dean with Campbell and Johnson Engineers said the company is currently under contract with the city to complete the sanitary sewer project, and the additional \$10,000 will cover design for extra footage and location of the new line.

At last month's meeting, Commissioners approved moving forward with a \$384,905 project to relocate the sewer lines that run through the south development, where a new dam is to be built. The plan is to run the sewer line around

the perimeter of the dam project and also allow for future expansion across College Drive and in the area south of Pawnee Mental Health.

Dean said last night the design and bid documents for the project will be completed and approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment by the end of the year. He said bid letting is expected to occur in January 2013 with work starting as soon as possible after that. The project needs to be completed before dam construction can start, which is expected to begin toward the end of 2013.

In other dam news, City Commissioner Larry Uri said he had, at Commissioner Charles Johnson's request, checked with KLA Environmental Services engineers about making modifications to the dam designs.

Last month, Johnson asked if the dam at 21st Street would be cheaper if a planned roadbed running across the top of it

were left out. In an e-mail to Uri, KLA engineer Jarred Green said removing the fill for the roadbed would result in a decrease in construction costs of approximately \$30,000. The change, Green said, would increase the total storage capacity, up to the top of the dam, by around three acre-feet, or less than one-percent of the total volume of the storage capacity. It would not provide a significant increase to any of the current design water level calculations, he said.

Johnson said he didn't think Green's numbers were accurate, and that it was a bad idea to build a road across the dam. Uri pointed out that the Commission had not approved building a road across the dam, just the roadbed. He said he would prefer the roadbed be built to plan for the future.

"If we don't do it now, we lose the opportunity to do it," said Commissioner Tim Parker.

Aside from Johnson, the other Commissioners agreed

with Parker, and Uri said he would advise the engineers to leave the roadbed in the design plan.

The Commission also approved an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for a KLINK resurfacing project for Highway 9 from Archer to Cloud. The city's portion of the project is an estimated \$65,305 with the state's share at \$195,915.

As part of the project, the Commission also approved a \$19,300 agreement with Campbell and Johnson for engineering and design. Public Works Director Ron Copple said the city will pay \$7,500 of that for field work and design engineering while KDOT will cover the \$11,800 cost of construction engineering and staking.

The Commission also approved purchasing a new Vactor combination sewer cleaner truck for \$330,643 and financing it through a loan at Peoples Exchange Bank.

(See city, page 8)



## Touch of green

River Valley Extension Agent Todd Whitney and Aaron Hake ready a tree to be planted at Pleasant Hill Cemetery Thursday morning as Lions Club members, from left, Bill Sanderson, Lions District 17-I governor, Brian Marks, Devine Montoya, and Marvin Petersen look on. This is the second phase of tree planting in the cemetery, a project sponsored by the Concordia Lions Club. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## City

(continued from page 1)

Uri said bids were solicited for a lease purchase option for the truck, and Peoples Exchange was the low bidder at 2.07 percent interest over three years. The city would make a \$100,000 down payment on the truck, and borrow the remaining \$230,643. Borrowing money from a bank, Uri said, would alleviate the need for a bond.

Also approved was a low bid from Concordia Chevrolet-Buick for a 2011 Chevy Impala for the public works department. The

Commission approved the bid of \$15,073 without trade, and Copple said he would try to sell the 1998 Pontiac Bonneville.

Mayor Lyle Pounds also proclaimed October as domestic violence awareness month.

After a 10-minute executive session for preliminary discussion for acquisition of real estate, after which no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss water rates and a delinquency fee ordinance.





### Piecing them together

Lance Newlin, Performance Lawns pieces together pipe for the underground sprinkler being installed at the Concordia Sports Complex. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## Commission makes dirt decision

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

It took almost an hour of discussion at a special meeting Wednesday morning for the Concordia City Commissioners to decide to leave a pile of dirt where it's at.

The meeting was called to make a decision on what to do with dirt that will be leftover when the grading and leveling project is completed in the south flood control area. City Manager Larry Uri told Commissioners the project – to prepare lots along College Drive for commercial development – will be basically done today. The contractor, he said, needed to know if the Commission wanted the leftover dirt moved to a different location or left where it is.

Uri presented three options for where the dirt could be relocated. The first was to use what dirt is left to partially fill in the city's developable land along Highway 81. The second option was to use the dirt to fill in the drainage ravine along College Drive on the southern portion of the area, and the third was to move it across the road from Cloud County Community College's lower parking lot.

City Engineer Ken Johnson said to move the dirt to the area along Highway 81 would cost an estimated \$45,000. He said it would probably take between 18,000 and 19,000 yards of dirt to make that piece of property fully ready to be developed. If the dirt from the current grading project were used, Johnson said, it would probably only halfway complete the project.

"It could be put there, but it won't be enough to have it ready for sale," he said.

A portion of the price tag for that option, he said, would be constructing a road through the middle of the dam project area so the earth moving equipment could access the piece of property.

The option to fill in the drainage ditch was even more expensive. Johnson estimated it would cost \$85,000 to not only fill in the

area, but also extend the storm sewer pipe that is currently in place. As with the Highway 81 option, he said, there would not be enough dirt to complete the project.

The problem that arises with stockpiling the dirt across from the college parking lot is that the city does not own that land, Johnson said. There also won't be enough dirt to fill in the area so that it's ready for a parking lot to be built.

However, Uri said staff recommendation was to put the dirt there to use as a bargaining chip with the college to get the land in exchange for a parking lot.

Mayor Lyle Pounds said the priorities with this project has always been flood control first and economic development was second. He said the college's parking lot was number three on that list. He said if something were to derail the dam project, he didn't want to see a mound of dirt collecting weeds.

"If we don't have the dirt for the parking lot, we'll need to come up with it at some point," Uri said. "This part (property) is closer to the flood control project because we're going to need to obtain rights to that land and that's (a parking lot) what they want out of this."

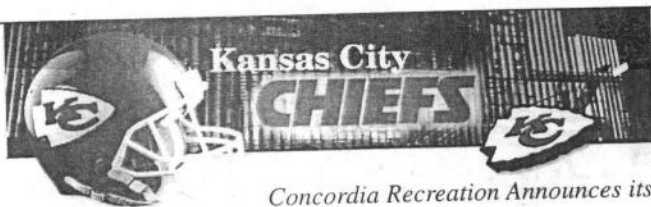
Commissioner Tim Parker said he didn't want the Commission to make a hasty decision.

"If we make the wrong decision it could be really expensive," he said. "I would be in favor of waiting until next year when we have a more definite plan."

Commissioner Charles Johnson agreed with Parker.

"There are a lot of loose ends here (with the project)," he said. "I think we stockpile the dirt and tighten up all these loose ends before we make a decision. Until you get these things figured out, any decision we make could be wrong."

On a 4-1 vote, with Pounds voting against it, the Commission approved stockpiling the dirt in its current location.



Concordia Recreation Announces its

**Kansas City Chiefs Bus Trip**

**Kansas City Chiefs**

vs.

**Denver Broncos**

**featuring future Hall of Fame Quarterback**

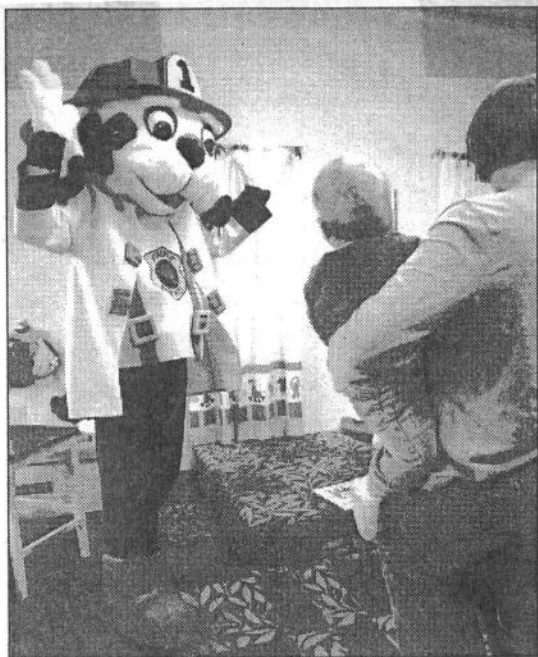
**Peyton Manning**

**Sunday, November 25**

**Price \$75 per person**

Includes ticket & bus fare (ask about a group special)

Sign up at City Hall or contact Tom Gennette for more info - 243-2670



## Peek-a-boo

Sparky the Fire Dog plays peek-a-boo to entertain one of the younger siblings who came to last Friday's Reading with Leaders preschool storytime at Neighbor to Neighbor.

# Sparky and Menard entertain at Reading with Leaders session

Sparky the Fire Dog accompanied Senior Fire Capt. Jimmy Menard last Friday when he read "The Firefighters" to children in the second storytelling session in the Reading with Leaders program at Neighbor to Neighbor.

Sparky, who is 6 foot 4 before he puts on huge red boots and the No. 1 fire helmet, traded high fives and cuddles and played a couple of quick games of peek-a-boo with the children.

After the story, each child received a copy of "The Firefighters" personalized with a picture of themselves with Sparky and Menard. The pictures were taken when the children arrived and Sister Jean Befort and Cheryl Lyn Higgins personalized the books in the office downstairs while the program was going on upstairs.

In addition to hearing the story, the children had snacks and juice and a chance to try out the upstairs playroom at the Center for women in downtown

Concordia.

Friday morning's session was the second of 12 planned in the Reading with Leaders series at Neighbor to Neighbor. The program is funded with a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation and is coordinated by Neighborhood Initiatives Inc., an office of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

Higgins and Lois Lervold, who make up the Neighborhood Initiatives staff, organized Friday's event and have lined up all the readers in the series.

"Reading with Leaders" is free and open to all children ages 3, 4 and 5. All the sessions will be at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 E. 6th St. They are all scheduled on Fridays and begin at 10 a.m.

There is a limit of 30 children per session so parents need to register in advance by calling Neighbor to Neighbor at 785.262.4215.

Dr. Bonnie Cramer will read "The Velveteen Rabbit" at the next Reading with Leaders Oct. 19.

## Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012)

### RESOLUTION NO. 2012-1933

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE ADVISABILITY OF CERTAIN INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, AND AUTHORIZING SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND K.S.A. 12-6a01 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-6a02 authorizes the governing body of any city to make or cause to be made municipal works or improvements which confer a special benefit upon property within a definable area of the city and to levy and collect special assessments upon property in the area deemed by the governing body to be benefitted by such improvements for special benefits conferred upon such property by any such improvements and to provide for the payment of all or any part of the costs of the improvements with the proceeds of such special assessments; and,

WHEREAS, a petition, executed by all of the owners of certain properties property within certain proposed improvement districts, has been filed with the city clerk of the city of Concordia, Kansas (the "City"), requesting certain improvements be made in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a01 et seq. and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a04, upon receipt of a sufficient petition, the Governing Body of the City may (a) make findings by resolution as to the advisability of the improvements requested in the petition, the nature of the improvements, the estimated cost, the boundaries of the improvement district, the method of assessment and apportionment of cost, if any, between the improvement district and the city-at-large and (b) order the improvements without notice or public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds it necessary to make its final findings by resolution as to the advisability of the proposed improvements and finds and determines it necessary to authorize the improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. The Governing Body finds and finally determines that:

(a) It is advisable to make the following improvements:  
(1) 1321 HILL STREET, REEDY: Curbing and guttering along the east edge of the improved surface of Hill Street adjacent to the following described real estate:

Craig's Addition, Block 1, Lots 7 through 10 and north 50' of lot 12, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. ESTIMATED OR PROBABLE COST OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: \$3,322.00.

(b) The method of assessment is equally per front foot against all lots and pieces of land in the improvement district.

(c) The apportionment of the cost of the improvements between the improvement district and the city-at-large is 100% to be assessed against the improvement district and 0% to be paid by the city-at-large.

SECTION 2. The approved estimated cost of the improvements as set forth in this Resolution. The Finance Director shall prepare a proposed assessment roll for the improvements which shall set forth the proposed maximum assessment against each lot, piece or parcel of land within the improvement district for the improvements in the manner set forth in this Resolution based on such estimated cost of the improvements. The proposed assessment roll shall be maintained on file with the City Clerk and be open for public inspection. Following preparation of the proposed assessment roll, the Governing Body shall hold a public hearing on the proposed maximum assessments on July 15, or the first regularly scheduled City Commission meeting thereafter after compliance with the notice provisions set forth in this paragraph. The City Clerk shall publish notice of the public hearing for the improvement district at least once not less than 10 days prior to the public hearing, and shall mail to the owner of the property liable to pay the assessments, at its last known post office address, a notice of the hearing and a statement of the cost proposed to be assessed all in accordance with K.S.A. 12-6a09.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall be published one time in the official City newspaper, and shall also be filed of record in the office of the Register of Deeds of Cloud County, Kansas.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, October 3, 2012.

Lyle L. Pounds, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Stacey Crum  
City Clerk



## Commission to meet

The Concordia city commission has scheduled a special meeting for 9 a.m. Wednesday to discuss the flood control project and related items.

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday, October 2, 2012)

### NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider a street and alley vacation. A petition has been filed in the office of the City Clerk praying for vacation of "G" Street and the alley in Block 3 of Robinson's Addition from 11th Street to the South City limits.

The public hearing will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas on **October 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

All persons desiring to be heard on the proposed vacations shall have the opportunity to be heard.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development, 785-243-2672 (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 19, 2012.

Bruno Rehbein  
Planning Commission Secretary

11u

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday, October 2, 2012)

### NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider rezoning of property as follows:

Applicant, Josh Trimble seeks to rezone the following described Tract from "R-2" (Medium Density Residential District) to "C-3" (General Commercial District).

Said tract of land is located at the south side of 5th Street between State and Cedar Streets. Addressed 322 West 5th Street, Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, and more particularly described as follows:

Lots Seven (7) through Twelve (12), inclusive, Block 150, Concordia Original Town, City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

The public hearing on the above-described tract will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, KS on **October 23, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**

All persons desiring to be heard on this request regarding the above-described properties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this time.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development (785-243-2670) (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 19, 2012.

Bruno Rehbein  
Secretary

11u



# City hikes fee to curb water shut-offs

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

In an effort to curb the number of water shut-offs each month, the Concordia City Commission approved increasing the delinquency fee for utility customers Wednesday night.

City Manager Larry Uri said the fee will be assessed to customers whose accounts have been delinquent more than once in a 12-month period. In an average month, he said, approximately 2,400 water bills are mailed to customers. Customers then have three weeks to pay their water bill. Of that number, more than 300 are sent past due notices, and approximately 40 end up having their water shut off every month.

"It's almost always the same 40 people who are in the habit of not paying," Uri said.

It takes two days of employees' time to shut water service off – and turn it back on – every month, he said.

The current ordinance calls for a \$30 fee to reconnect water service. After action Wednesday

night, as of January 1, 2013, the amount will be increased to \$100 if an account is delinquent more than once in a year.

"We really don't want their \$100, we just want to stop running all over town doing shut-offs," Uri said. "We hope the result of this fee will be to discourage them. However, if 45 people want to pay us \$100 a month for 12 months, that's two mills."

Commissioner Tim Parker pointed out that the city does offer auto bill pay. Customers can visit the city's web site at [www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org) to sign up for online bill pay.

The Commission also approved increasing the service charge for each returned check from \$20 to \$30. In addition, if any person has three returned checks within a five-year period, the city may refuse to accept any more checks for payment of any city service.

A low bid from Smoky Hill LLC, Salina, for \$236,700 was accepted for the construction of Fort Kearney Street in the north development. The street will

run adjacent to the new Law Enforcement Center and jail, which is currently under construction.

Don Dean with Campbell and Johnson Engineers said the bid was higher than the engineer's estimate, because of increased costs for earthwork and base rock. The bid includes construction of a concrete street, storm sewer and entrance to Union Road.

Even though the street bid was higher than estimated, Dean said the project would still come in at budget because the bids for sewer line installation were so low. A bid of \$13,526 from Hood Heating, Air, Plumbing, and Electric was accepted for the sewer line installation. Dean said the engineer's estimate for that portion of the project was \$42,000 to install 400 feet of pipe and two manholes.

On a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Gary Fraser voting against it, the Commission approved purchasing a 2006 Dodge Charger from Concordia Chevrolet/Butick for the police

department.

Fraser said he was not in favor of purchasing a used vehicle that already had 76,000 miles on it.

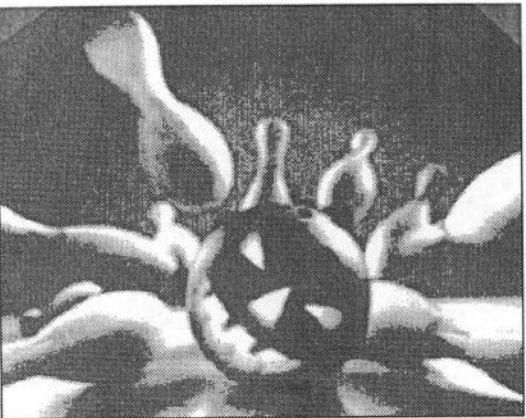
"It seems like we're defeating the purpose here," he said. "I'd rather have five newer cars than this."

Police Chief Chris Edin said he would also rather have new vehicles, but purchasing them wasn't in the budget. A brand new police car could cost as much as \$33,000, he said.

During Commissioner comments, Mayor Lyle Pounds asked Uri if the bond that will be required to construct the Plum Road dam could be brought to a vote.

Uri said he didn't think that it could be, because it was a water system improvement, but that he would consult with bond counsel on the issue.

"I just want to get that out there," Pounds said. "If people think we're doing something wrong here, and want to put it to a vote, I'd rather have it now than later so it doesn't delay the project down the line."



October 18, 2012

## Fright Night Bowling set for Oct. 27

Fright Night Cosmic Bowling 9 Pin Bowling Tournament will be at Thunderstrike Bowling Alley, 1909 Lincoln, Concordia, from 6-10 p.m. (if needed) on Saturday Oct. 27. The event will be open to four person teams with entry fee including shoes and 2-3 games.

Prizes will be awarded to the top teams. A portion of proceeds will go to the O'Connor Animal Shelter to help with vet fees, supplies and other items.

To register or for more information call 785-262-4029.





### New facility

Cloud County Health Center will seek a sales tax increase to fund the construction of a new hospital.

## CCHC to seek sales tax hike to pay for new hospital

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

After several years of planning, the Cloud County Health Center board of trustees approved Tuesday night moving forward with a plan to increase the county sales tax to pay for construction of a \$26 million hospital.

"After several years of study, and with the input of members of the community, the medical staff and a team of professionals, the Cloud County Health Center board of trustees has decided to move forward with plans to build a new hospital facility at the south end of Concordia that will not raise property taxes," said board chairman Monte Wentz.

In a resolution passed Tuesday night, the board requested the Cloud County Public Building Commission issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs to acquire a site and construct and equip a new hospital. The resolution, Wentz said, will not raise property taxes.

At an election this spring - on February 26 - voters of Cloud County will be asked to approve a limited duration .75-percent sales tax increase to help fund the bond payments for construction of a new hospital. According to the press release, CCHC will provide 50-percent of the bond payments through hospital revenues.

Wentz said that the hospital's reimbursement rate from Medicare will go up more than 50-percent of the cost of the debt service. Conservatively, Wentz said, the board is estimating that the three-quarters of a cent sale tax increase will generate a little more than \$1 million per year.

The "limited duration" of the tax increase will be no more than 23 years - the life of the revenue bond issuance.

With the increased Medicare reimbursements and the sales tax revenue, Wentz said the board is estimating there will be a \$110,000 annual excess. Each year, any amount over the bond payment will be placed in a reserve account. Wentz said that money can only be used to make bond payments.

In working with the city of Concordia, the Blosser Family Trust and the Kansas Military Board, the hospital trustees have secured a site for construction on the east side of Highway 81, between F&A Food Sales and the Kansas National Guard Armory. The site will allow for direct access to the runway of Blosser Municipal Airport to the east.

The board of trustees will pay \$500,000 for the site. Wentz said that money will go into an account to be used as matching funds for Federal Aviation Administration grants to upgrade the airport.

"It is the belief of these four entities that this location will be mutually beneficial for all," Wentz said in the press release.

Cloud County Health Center is a private not-for-profit organization, and receives no tax-based assistance. Wentz said the board believes that a new hospital is needed, and has thoroughly developed a plan to help finance the project while allowing CCHC to remain a private non-profit organization.

"By using the Public Building Commission structure, we can get tax support while still remaining a not-for-profit hospital," Wentz said. "It doesn't become a county hospital."

"After months of statistical assessment and detailed planning, the CCHC board of trustees, medical staff, administration, and employees are pleased to share their vision of the new Cloud County Health Center, the gateway to innovative health care in North Central Kansas."

# City approves bonds for AgMark

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission gave its approval Wednesday for the County Commission to issue \$26 million in industrial revenue bonds for an AgMark LLC expansion.

Because part of the AgMark property is in the city limits, the Commission must give its approval for the issuance of the bonds that will be used to acquire, construct and equip improvements to the facility. The City has no obligation to repay the bonds.

AgMark President Jeff Bechard told Commissioners that the bonds will be used to pay for the construction of 12 new storage bins on the north side of the property. He said that \$8 million of the total bond issuance will be used to pay for the first phase of the project – four new bins – which have already been built. The four new bins went online at the end of the summer, Bechard said. The rest of the \$26 million will go toward building the additional eight bins and related infrastructure.

"We would like to have those

in place over the next 10 years," Bechard said.

The remaining eight bins will be built as the need arises, he said. Bonds will be issued out of the total \$26 million in multiple series.

"That will allow the ownership to remain with AgMark or one of our partner companies to own exclusively and utilize them as part of their grain storage needs," Bechard said.

In other business, the Commission approved a zoning change for property at 322 West 5th Street. The residential area was rezoned to commercial to accommodate what will be a new business – McDaniel Memorial.

Building inspector Bruno Rehbein said the property owner, Josh Trimble, plans to relocate his monument sales business to that area. The site previously had three mobile homes and still has a single family dwelling which Rehbein said Trimble plans to convert into his sales office.

A right-of-way vacation was also approved for a planned new church between L and H streets. City Manager Larry Uri said the

Wesleyan Church is planning to build a new church across 11th Street from the Elementary School. To assemble a large enough tract of land for the project, the church asked the city to vacate a platted street and alley. Neither the street nor the alley have ever been opened, Uri said, and the ground is currently undeveloped.

As a condition of the vacation, Uri said the church has agreed to grant the city a 30-foot utility easement along the east side of the tract.

As part of the new Law Enforcement Center project in the north development, the Commission approved construction agreements for the new street and sanitary sewer extension.

At the last meeting, the Commission accepted low bids for the projects. Last night, the Commission authorized the mayor to sign contracts with Smoky Hill, LLC for the construction of Fort Kearney Street, and with Hood Heating, Air, Plumbing and Electric for the sewer work. As per the City's agreement with the county, the City will do the work

and the county will pay for it.

The Commission also authorized the mayor to sign the federal fund exchange agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation. The program is the exchange of federal dollars to KDOT, Public Works Director Ron Copple said. The exchange rate is 90 percent of every dollar the City will receive, meaning the City will receive \$25,041.

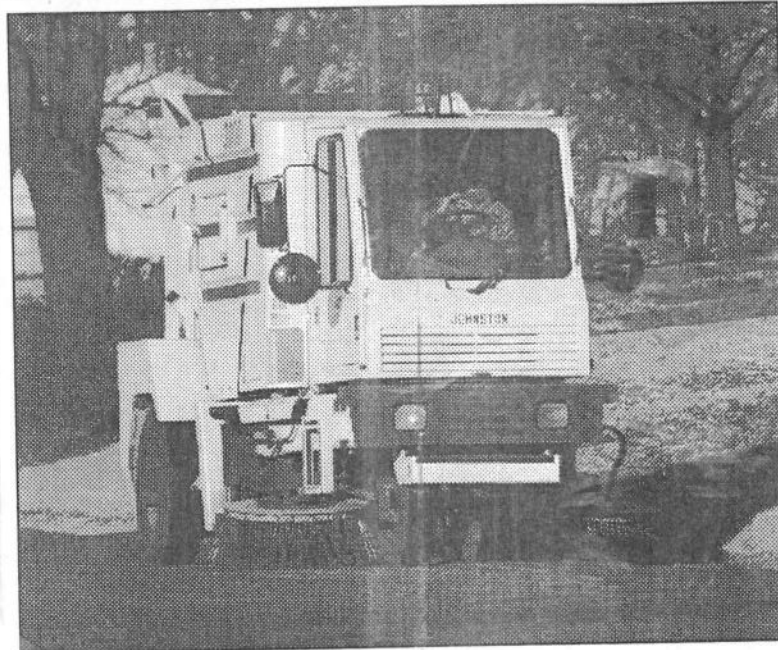
Copple said he has been planning to use the money for the construction of 18th Street from Lincoln to State, and it is currently being designed. But, he recommended that the Commission save the exchange dollars until 2015, then start construction or use it for another project. The Commission approved saving the money until 2015.

After a 30-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege, after which no action was taken, the Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss flood control, a Brown Grand operating agreement and the airport master plan.

The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Meeting date changed  
November 13, 2012  
Because of the upcoming holiday, the Concordia city commission meeting scheduled for Nov. 21 has been rescheduled for Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

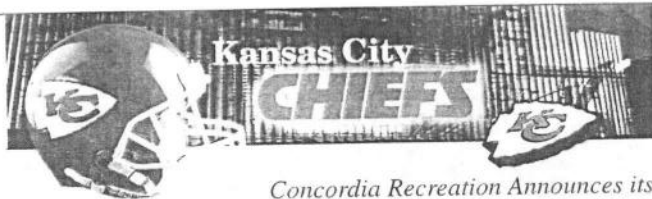
CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



### **Sweeping up**

The city of Concordia street sweeper cleans up the leaves that have fallen this fall. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell))

Nov. 14th



*Concordia Recreation Announces its*

## **Kansas City Chiefs Bus Trip**

### **Kansas City Chiefs**

vs.

### **Denver Broncos**

**featuring future Hall of Fame Quarterback  
Peyton Manning**

## **Sunday, November 25**

### **Price \$75 per person**

Includes ticket & bus fare (ask about a group special)

Nov. 2nd  
13th

Sign up at City Hall or contact Tom Gennette for more info - 243-2670



# Police continue to investigate theft of guns from museum

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Police have hit a roadblock in solving the case of a pair of antique dueling pistols that were stolen from the Cloud County Historical Society Museum in August.

Concordia Police Chief Chris Edin said there are three suspects in the case. Witnesses at the Museum described the suspects as four young men who came into the Museum at approximately 1 p.m. on August 14 and went into the section containing a re-creation of a room in Marion Ellet's house.

Museum Curator Cindy Reimann said shortly after 1 p.m. the boys left and Museum workers discovered that a locked wooden box containing two Collins Gun & Pistol Repository dueling pistols was missing.

Reimann said Museum workers saw the young men enter the Museum and go downstairs.

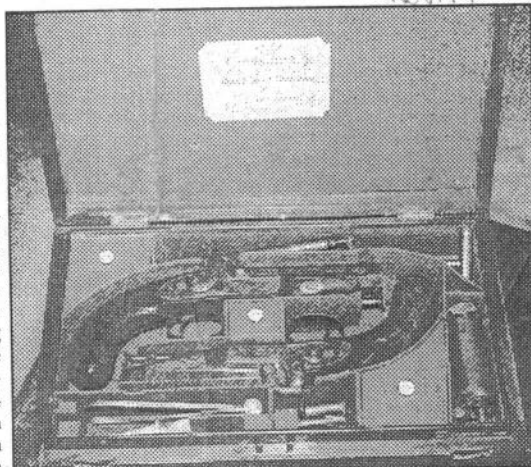
"They went through the lower level of the Museum and up into the Marion Ellet Room," she said. "They obviously knew exactly what they wanted and went right to it."

One of the suspects, Reimann said, was carrying a backpack, and she described him as tall, slender, very well tanned with short blond hair.

"His hair was cropped close and just as blond as can be," she said.

The guns, which were purchased in England by Ellet's father, Ben, are valued at \$3,500. Lee Lowell, an executor of Ellet's estate, said while the manufacturing date on the guns is unknown, they date back to pre-Civil War years.

"We are very saddened over not only



## Stolen items

Dueling pistols on display at the Cloud County Historical Society Museum were stolen in August and have yet to be recovered.

the loss of the guns, but the loss of historical value to this community," Lowell said.

Edin said the case is at a standstill because of lack of evidence.

"We have suspects, but not enough evidence to prove that they are the ones who took the pistols," he said. "We need someone to come forward who knows something about this case."

Police describe the three suspects as: White male, 16-18-years-old, 6'2" to 6'4", 175-185 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes; white male, 5'8 to 5'10", very thin build, blond hair; and white male, 5'7" to 5'8", 120-125 pounds, thin build, and looks very young.

A \$500 reward has been offered for information that leads to the recovery of the guns. If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of the guns, or who may have taken them, they are asked to call either the Concordia Police Department, 785-243-3131, or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

## WATER OPERATOR

The City of Concordia Utility Department is seeking to fill the position of Water Operator. Job description is available at City Hall.

**Deadline:** City of Concordia will accept applications until filled.

**Apply at:** City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at [www.concordiaaks.org](http://www.concordiaaks.org).

Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request. EOE

Nov. 20, 2012

## WATER OPERATOR

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Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request. EOE

Nov. 23rd

# Proposed hospital project discussed

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

A proposed new hospital dominated talks during Wednesday night's intergovernmental meeting in Clyde.

Last month, the Cloud County Health Center board passed a resolution requesting the Cloud County Public Building Commission issue revenue bonds to build and equip a new hospital at the south end of Concordia - between F&A Food Sales and the Blosser Municipal Airport.

At an election on Feb. 26, 2013, voters of Cloud County will be asked to approve a limited duration .75-percent sales tax increase to help fund the bond payments for the new hospital.

Cloud County Health Center board chairman Monte Wentz said the \$26 million project has been well received by hospital staff. The next step, he said, is to kick off a fundraising campaign and educate the public on the project prior to next year's vote.

Board member Phil Gilliland said the current hospital was built in 1950, and is an aging facility.

"The facility issues aren't going to go away," he said. "It's a sturdy building, but not efficient. Something needs to be done either way."

He explained that the hospital is a critical care facility, meaning it is reimbursed by Medicare at 101 percent. The hospital makes one-percent profit, he said, but that is not enough to fund the construction of a new facility or continue maintaining the aging facility.

"We're faced with a dilemma," Gilliland said. "Do we continue to run the facility into the ground, or do we look for a better way?"

Gilliland said the board anticipates half of the \$26 million construction costs to be paid through critical care reimbursement. Of the remaining \$13 million cost, he said the board hopes to raise \$2-3 million through local fundraising. There are also grants being pursued, such as a \$1 million grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation for connecting the hospital to Highway 81.

"The goal has always been to reduce that (amount) as far as we possibly can," Gilliland said. "If we can close that gap so that the hospital is, in essence, paying for itself through the reimbursement program, then we can cut this down and hopefully get it paid off in 15 years instead of 22."

By locating the hospital near the airport, he said, the board hopes to have doctors and specialists who can fly into Concordia and see patients.

"We've already had doctors express interest in doing that," he said.

Gilliland said there is no guarantee the new hospital will be built, and the board will see how the public responds through the vote in February.

"Our goal is to build the best hospital we can for the least amount of money and pay it off as fast as we can," he said.

## City of Clyde

Clyde City Council member Wendy Genereux reported that the streetlight project is nearly

completed. The Clyde Beautification Committee, a group of nine individuals, have worked for the last three years to raise money to replace the streetlights. All that remains for the completion of the project is placing the bricks and pavers at the base of each pole, and the removal of the old poles. The lights were turned on Sunday evening.

"A group of community members saw a need for it, and just dug in," Genereux said.

## USD 333

Beverly Mortimer, USD 333 superintendent, said the school board voted Monday evening to close the middle school in Concordia. The building will be closed in an effort to save the district money and better utilize space. The fifth and sixth grade students will be moved into the junior-senior high school building next school year.

The closing of the middle school is part of a three-phase plan. Another aspect of the plan is eventually building a new school.

"The only way we'd jump in and build a new facility is if the state continues paying state aid on new construction," Mortimer said. "The state would pay 40 percent of that cost. If that goes away, a \$10 million building would cost the taxpayers \$10 million."

## City of Concordia

Commissioner Marsha Wentz reported the city continues to move forward with its flood control project. Dirtwork in the flood control area has been completed, and the search is on for commercial developers to purchase those lots.

Concordia City Manager Larry Uri said the city has a new fire chief in the recently hired Eric Voss. Voss was a fire captain with the Concordia Fire Department in the late 90s, and was previously the fire chief in Fairbury, Neb.

"Our fire captains actually called him when we had the vacancy," Uri said. "We were gearing up for a long advertising process when he walked in the door."

## Cloud County Community College

Human Resources Director Chris Wilson said a ribbon cutting was held at the Geary County campus last week for the completion of a new science building. Gov. Sam Brownback helped cut the ribbon for the building, which will house the college's agri-biotechnology and science classes. Funds for the building will come from a TRAC-7 grant, and Geary County campus student fees.

## City of Jamestown

Mayor Randy Smith reported his city had received a \$300,000 grant for water line replacement, and bidding on the project is under way. The fueling station in Jamestown saw \$15,000 in sales last month.

## City of Miltonvale

Mayor Jon Puckett said Miltonvale's water distribution system project is two-thirds complete. He said he will find out after the first of the year if the city will receive another grant to complete it.

Glasco will be host to the next intergovernmental meeting, which will be on Feb. 13, 2013.

# Plan to build new hospital hits snag

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

In October, the Cloud County Health Center Board of Trustees approved moving forward with construction of a new \$26 million hospital. But that plan may have hit a snag after various meetings Monday.

Hospital Board Chair Monte Wentz told Concordia City Commissioners last night that he had met with Cloud County Commissioners Monday morning and was told the County's Public Building Commission (PBC) would not support issuing revenue bonds for the project.

The Hospital Board passed a resolution in October to request that the Cloud County Public Building Commission issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs to acquire a site and construct and equip a new hospital. The revenue bonds would be paid for by a .75 percent sales tax increase, which is scheduled to go to a countywide vote on Feb. 26.

Last night, Wentz said the County Commission is in favor

of putting the sales tax issue on the ballot in February, but that its Public Building Commission will not support issuing the revenue bonds. He said the hospital board will be coming back to the City Commission to ask the City to set up its own Public Building Commission to issue the bonds.

"The County Commission told us to ask the City to create a Public Building Commission to do that," Wentz said.

He said the County would issue the countywide sales tax increase – should it pass in February – then give the tax money generated to the City's Public Building Commission to make the revenue bond payments.

Cloud County Commissioner Johnita Crawford told the Health Center Board on Monday that the PBC did not want to take on another project, and they were also not in favor of adding new members to the PBC. The Hospital had proposed adding an additional four members to the PBC, all of whom they said are interested in making sure both the hospital and the Law Enforcement Center are a success.

Crawford also said she thought the Health Center would have a tough time getting their proposed project passed by Cloud County voters because it could make an entity, such as the County, liable if the hospital couldn't make the bond payments.

County Commissioner Gail Engle and the other Commissioners said they are in favor of a new hospital, but said the PBC had made it clear it did not want to be involved with the project. Crawford asked if the Health Center would be willing to ask the City Commission to install its own Concordia Public Building Commission.

At Monday night's Concordia City Commission meeting, no action was taken on Wentz's request. City Manager Larry Uri said the issue had just come to his attention that day.

"Before you're asked to take any action on this, we'll see that you are extremely well informed," Uri said.

In other business Monday night, the City Commission approved demolition bids for the Concordia Housing Reha-

bilitation project. The Commission accepted the low bid of \$21,800 from G&G Contractors for the demolition of four houses and any dilapidated accessory buildings. The houses to be demolished are located at 833 East 5th, 801 East 5th, 230 East 6th, and 512 Spruce.

The Commission also approved a new management agreement with the Brown Grand Theatre. Uri said the City could not use Tax Increment Financing funds – which had been approved earlier this year – if the building was owned by the city and leased to another entity. However, TIF funds can be used if the City-owned building is managed by another entity.

In addition, the Commission approved a resolution of intent to use TIF funds for the project. Uri said the resolution is the first step of the TIF process.

After a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client privilege, after which no action was taken, the Commission adjourned.

(Additional reporting by Toby Nosker, KNCK radio)

## Notice to Contractors

The Concordia Housing Authority is accepting bids for the replacement of the shingles and guttering of all ten buildings of Cloud Village Apartments located at 700 Cloud St., Concordia. Specs may be picked up at City Hall, 701 Washington St., Concordia. All bids must be turned in to City Hall by 9:00 a.m., December 10, 2012. Bid will be awarded at the December 11th, Housing Authority Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Comm. Room.

Nov. 26, 2012

## Notice

Airport Advisory Board Special Call meeting  
Monday, Dec. 3,  
7 p.m.,  
City Commission meeting room.  
Public welcome





### **Shoulder work**

A city of Concordia grader is used to smooth out the shoulder along East Sixth Street Trafficway Thursday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

### **DOWNTOWN GRANT**

#### **Notice**

The City of Concordia is eligible to sponsor one applicant for a Kansas Department of Commerce grant to provide funding for the rehabilitation of a privately owned commercial building in the downtown area. Application deadlines for the grant are February 1 and August 1, 2013. The applicant must be the owner of the building or must possess an option to purchase the building. A business plan must be provided for a specific private, for-profit business operation or operations that will locate in the building. The building owner must be willing to contribute a cash match of at least twenty-five percent of the requested grant amount. The maximum grant available is \$250,000.00.

Grant guidelines and a sample application are posted at [concordiaaks.org](http://concordiaaks.org) and are available at city hall.

Persons who are interested in applying for this grant are requested to submit a preliminary description of their proposed project to city hall by not later than 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2012.

For additional information, please call city hall 243-2670.

# Contract for bridge inspections approved

Cloud County board of commissioners Monday approved signing a contract with Campbell & Johnson Engineers for the Bi-Annual Bridge inspection. Total cost of the contract is \$16,431.24.

Prior to approving the contract, highway administrator Andy Asch and Donald Dean of Campbell & Johnson discussed the bi-annual inspections that need to be completed in January 2013. Cloud County has a total of 267 bridges that are required to be inspected. Dean presented a contract for the inspections at a cost of \$59.14 per bridge for 266 bridges and \$700 for one bridge that will

require in-depth inspection.

Asch also discussed a vacancy that will be occurring for one of the road supervisor positions because of retirement. The board approved a classification change for Greg Dockins from heavy equipment operator to road supervisor effective Dec. 2 at a six month introductory wage of \$15.30 per hour.

In other business, Larry Uri, Concordia city manager, discussed several matters concerning the former ALCO building. He also discussed the construction schedule for the infrastructure to the new Law Enforcement site in the Concordia North Development and the

proposed hospital project.

Sheryl Williams, county treasurer, presented information on the amount of sales tax and compensating use tax received in November 2012 (October sales) in the amount of \$64,608.74, compared to the amount received in November 2011 of \$62,753.86.

Meetings during last week which commissioners attended included: Homeland Security Council meeting, Nov. 27, in Beloit, Commissioner Gary Caspers; North Central Regional Planning Commission meeting Nov. 29 in Beloit, Commissioner Johnita Crawford.

In other matters the board

— approved sending letters to Sens. Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts about Cloud County's concerns regarding wind energy development

— received an update on the permits she has issued and closed from Marlene Stamm, county sanitarian.

Adjournment was at 11:45 a.m.

Commissioners may attend a Landowners Public Open House from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Miltonvale Senior Center. The open house is presented by ITC Great Plains to discuss their Elk Creek to Summit Transmission Line Project.

## Notice

**Airport Advisory Board will have special call meetings on Wed., Dec. 12 and Tues., Dec. 18 both at 7 p.m., City Commission meeting room. Public welcome**

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

## Crum earns CMC award

Stacey Crum, Concordia city clerk, has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMS) which is awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Inc.

IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete education requirements; and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state.

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks, founded in 1947, has 10,300 members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other

countries, and the mission of this global nonprofit corporation is to enhance the education opportunities and professional development of its diverse membership.

"In light of the speed and drastic nature of change these days, lifelong learning is not only desirable, it is necessary for all in local government to keep pace with growing demands and changing needs of the citizens we serve," said Brenda Curtin, IIMC president. "Your city can take immense pride in Stacey's educational accomplishments and achievement of this milestone."

## DOWNTOWN GRANT NOTICE

The City of Concordia is eligible to sponsor one applicant for a Kansas Department of Commerce grant to provide funding for the rehabilitation of a privately-owned commercial building in the downtown area.

Application deadlines for the grant are February 1 and August 1, 2013. The applicant must be the owner of the building or must possess an option to purchase the building. A business plan must be provided for a specific private, for-profit business operation or operations that will locate in the building. The building owner must be willing to contribute a cash match of at least twenty-five percent of the requested grant amount. The maximum grant available is \$250,000.

Grant guidelines and a sample application are posted at [concordiaks.org](http://concordiaks.org), and are available at city hall.

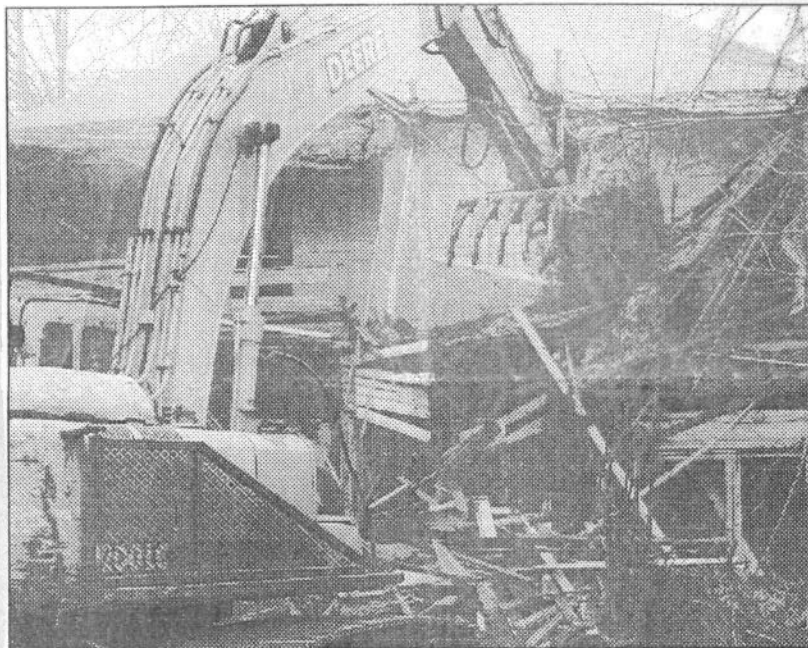
Persons who are interested in applying for this grant are requested to submit a preliminary description of their proposed project to city hall by no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 17, 2012.

For additional information, please call city hall at 243-2670.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The vehicle listed below was abandoned and left in the city of Concordia, Kansas, in Cloud County. This vehicle will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at Budreau Muffler, Automotive & Tow, 1908 Lincoln St., Concordia, KS, on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**2000 Toyota Camry Solara  
Vin # 2T1CF28P0YC286460**



### **The walls come tumbling down**

Employees of G&C Contractors tear down a house at 230 E. Sixth St. Thursday morning. The demolition is one of four being done as part of the Concordia Housing Rehabilitation Project. The city received a 2012 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant of \$341,800 in January for the project. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

### **DOWNTOWN GRANT NOTICE**

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Persons who are interested in applying for this grant are requested to submit a preliminary description of their proposed project to city hall by no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 17, 2012.

**For additional information, please call city hall at 243-2670.**

### **Legals**

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on December 7, 2012)

#### **NOTICE OF MEETING TO CONSIDER SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 19, 2012, at City Hall, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, Kansas, the governing body of the City of Concordia shall meet to consider the following proposed assessments on real estate within the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded Plat thereof:

Construction of concrete curb and gutter at 806 E 13th Street; Cost \$3548.07;

The extent of the improvement district (the "Improvement District") to be assessed for the costs of the proposed Improvement is Craig's Addition, Block 1, Lots 2, 4 & 6 - 806 E. 13th (the "Improvement").

2. Construction of concrete curb and gutter at 609 W 7th Street; Cost \$827.82; The extent of the improvement district (the "Improvement District") to be assessed for the costs of the proposed Improvement is Gaylord and Matthew's Addition Block 7, W 11.88' of S 110' of Lot 1 & S 110' of Lot 2- 609 W. 7th (the "Improvement").

3. Construction of concrete curb and gutter at 1321 Hill Street; Cost \$1682.02; The extent of the improvement district (the "Improvement District") to be assessed for the costs of the proposed Improvement is Craig's Addition, Block 1, Lots 7 through 10 and north 50' of lot 12- 1321 Hill Street (the "Improvement").

You are further notified that written or oral objections to the proposed assessments will be considered at said hearing.

You are further notified that at such meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the governing body shall hear and pass upon all such objections to each proposed assessment, if any, and may amend the proposed assessments as to any parcels, and thereupon by ordinance levy the same as the special assessments against the lands described in the assessment roll. The assessments, with accrued interest, shall be levied as a special tax upon the property included therein concurrent with general property taxes, and shall be payable in not more than 20 equal annual installments, as the governing body determines. The first installment shall be payable at the time of the first payment of general property taxes following the adoption of the assessment ordinance unless such ordinance was adopted and certified too late to permit its collection at such time. All assessments shall bear interest at such rate as the governing body determines, not to exceed the maximum rate of interest prescribed by K.S.A. 10-1009, and amendments thereto.

You are further notified that interest on the assessment between the effective date of the ordinance levying the assessment and the date the first installment is payable, but not less than the amount of interest due during the coming year on any outstanding bonds issued to finance the improvement, shall be added to the first installment. The interest for one year on all unpaid installments shall be added to each subsequent installment until paid. All of the installments, together with the interest accrued or to accrue thereon, may be certified by the city clerk to the county clerk in one instrument at the same time, and such certification shall be good for all of the installments, and the interest thereon payable as special taxes. Such assessment shall be collected and paid over to the city treasurer in the same manner as other taxes of the city are collected and paid. The owner of any property so assessed may at any time prior to a date which shall be fixed by the governing body pay the whole of the assessment against any lot or parcel with interest accrued to the date of payment to the city treasurer. The board of county commissioners and the governing body of any school district or other taxing unit, respectively, shall provide for and pay the amount assessed against property owned by them as provided by K.S.A. 79-1808, and amendments thereto, or they may pay the amounts so assessed from their general funds.



# City Commission approves pay raises

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission approved a one-percent pay raise for all employees Wednesday night.

The pay increase was included in the 2013 budget. But before approval, Commissioner Charles Johnson said he would rather see the raise be equalized by giving each classified and non-classified employee the same amount — \$327.29.

Mayor Lyle Pounds said as a teacher for 40 years, he'd grown accustomed to those with more experience receiving more of a raise when it was based on a percentage.

"Those on the lower end get less and if you have a higher degree with more experience, you got more," Pounds said. "This one-percent across the board raise, I don't have any problem with it."

Johnson disagreed, saying those who were on the lower end of the pay scale were the ones doing most of the work.

"It's very true that when you deal with percentages, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," he said.

Commissioner Tim Parker said it was important to look at the level of experience when considering pay scales.

"The higher classified employee is probably more valuable and harder to replace," he said. "That's true at my restaurant, so they should be compensated that way."

Despite his call for raises to be a set dollar amount, Johnson voted with the rest of the Commission to approve the one-percent raise for all 47 classified and eight non-classified employees.

While no action was taken, the Commission came to the consensus to put the savings from switching insurance plans toward debt payments.

In August, the Commission approved switching from the state of Kansas employee health plan to Blue Cross Blue

Shield, resulting in more than \$100,000 in savings.

Finance Director Amber Farha presented the Commission with several options to use the excess money, one being to move it to the debt service fund. In 2014, the debt service fund will require an additional four mills to cover debt payments. This trend of increasing debt payments will continue after 2014, she said.

Pounds said construction of the dam at Plum Road will require an additional three mills. Instead of having to raise taxes to pay for that, he said he would rather see the Commission find a way to absorb that cost. One way to do that, he said, would be to apply the \$128,000 in insurance savings to the city's debt.

The other Commissioners agreed, and Farha said she would prepare a rough draft of a budget amendment to present at the next meeting.

City Manager Larry Uri told Commissioners that one down-

town property owner has expressed interest in the new Community Development Block Grant commercial rehabilitation program. Because the city can only sponsor one grant applicant, Uri said he has begun advertising the program to give all eligible property owners an opportunity to apply.

Anyone interested in applying is asked to submit a preliminary description of the proposed project to City Hall by 5 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 17.

The Commission also approved an extension on a development agreement between the City and Womack Sunshine Ford.

Since 2010, Steve Womack has had an option to purchase land in Concordia's flood control area to relocate his Ford dealership. Now that the land is ready for development, Womack has asked to have until April 1, 2013, to make a decision on purchasing the three acre tract at the intersection of Highway 81 and College Drive.

## MUNICIPAL SERVICE WORKER

### Public Works Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Job description is available at City Hall.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

**Deadline:** City of Concordia will accept applications until Friday, December 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

**Apply at:** The City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at [www.concordiaks.org](http://www.concordiaks.org). Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request. EOE.

## DOWNTOWN GRANT

### NOTICE

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

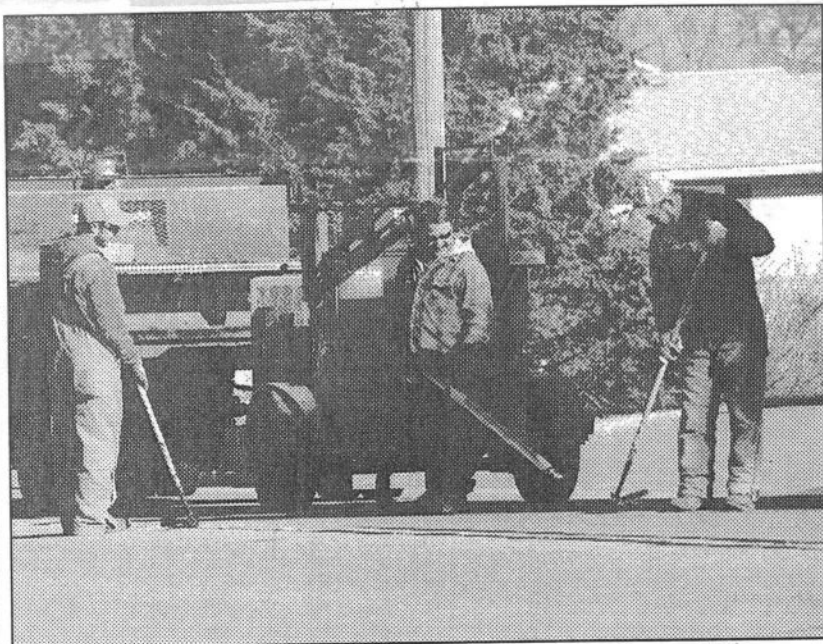
The City of Concordia is eligible to sponsor one applicant for a Kansas Department of Commerce grant to provide funding for the rehabilitation of a privately-owned commercial building in the downtown area.

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Grant guidelines and a sample application are posted at [concordiaks.org](http://concordiaks.org), and are available at city hall.

Persons who are interested in applying for this grant are requested to submit a preliminary description of their proposed project to city hall by no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 17, 2012.

**For additional information, please call city hall at 243-2670.**



### Patchwork

City of Concordia employees do street repairs on Tuesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## McMillan is named interim executive director of CloudCorp

Ashley McMillan, a Jamestown native, has been named the interim executive director of CloudCorp.

The executive committee of CloudCorp made the announcement Friday morning, after Tuesday's resignation of Kirk Lowell. McMillan will take over the daily operations of CloudCorp until the annual meeting in March. Until then, the executive committee will conduct a nationwide search for a full-time director, who will be in place after the March meeting.

"I am pleased with the decision of the executive committee," said Ben Retter, CloudCorp president. "Our placement of an interim director will allow the organization

to seamlessly transition to a full-time director after the resignation of Kirk Lowell."

McMillan is a graduate of Concordia High School, and received her bachelor's degree from Washburn University. She worked in Washington D.C. for Sen. Pat Roberts, and moved back to Kansas to work on his reelection campaign. She served as the executive director of the Kansas Republican Party before starting her own consulting firm, specializing in organizational rebranding, public relations and communications.

McMillan lives in Concordia with her husband, Brandt Hutchinson, son Henry and stepson Hobbs.

## Hospital plan discussed at board meeting

Cloud County Health Center board members Phil Gilliland, Kurt Kocher and Tom Tuggle and CCHC CEO Jim Wahlmeier attended Cloud County Commissioner's meeting Monday and talked with commissioners about the proposed hospital project.

Gilliland suggested that a study session be held by representatives of the city, county, hospital board and bond counsel to review project information.

In other business, the board reviewed the only proposal received for the employee Christmas dinner. Commissioners approved accepting the proposal submitted by Larry Doyen, Texas Red's Catering, at \$8 per plate. The dinner will be Monday, Dec. 17.

Justin Murdock, Solid Waste director reported that two loads of cardboard had been shipped from the Recycling Center last week. To date 377 tons of recyclables have been shipped in 2012.

Murdock also discussed the promotional video that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment helped produce that is now on YouTube promoting Cloud County recycling.

The board received a call from Judge Kim Cudney, District Judge 12th Judicial District concerning liability insurance coverage for JJA/DOC. The board will allow them to continue their coverage under the county's policy through the end of June 2013, which will allow them time to include the estimated premium amount in the JJA/DOC grant application and budget.

Commissioners reporting on meetings attended last week were Gail Engle, ITC meeting in Miltonvale, Dec. 4; and Johnita Crawford, Pawnee Mental Health board meeting in Clay Center, Dec. 4.

In other matters the board

— approved department payrolls totaling \$171,267.97.

— approved signing a letter of support for the Concordia Senior Citizens Center in applying to KDOT for assistance for its van. A five-minute executive session, requested by highway administrator Andy Asch with Asch, county attorney Robert Walsh and county clerk Linda Bogart.

— approved a right-of-way use permit for Rosemary Yonally for a buried waterline at 2490 Fawn Road.

— visited with Gary Reynolds about funding to CloudCorp and the services it provides Cloud County.

Adjournment was at 2:45 p.m.



# Lowell steps down as CloudCorp director

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

After 19 years as executive director of the Cloud County Development Corporation, Kirk Lowell submitted his resignation at Tuesday night's CloudCorp meeting, effective immediately.

Lowell said Wednesday morning that his desire to make a lifestyle change was one of the main factors in his decision to end his tenure with CloudCorp.

"Over all these years – almost 29, 30 years – of a life in a fish-bowl and constant projects, evening meetings and weekend, I just desire a life change," Lowell said. "I would like to be able to do more things with my family and work on our home."

With three grandchildren now in the family, he said he and his wife, Janet, would like to be able to visit them more.

"That's what's prompted my decision – it's absolutely nothing negative," Lowell said. "I have an excellent board of directors, good officers, a good support staff and technology – everything we need to be successful."

Being in the position as long

as he has, Lowell said it's time not only for a change for him, but for CloudCorp, too.

"I believe people shouldn't wrap their arms around something and always be in a position like mine," he said. "I think it would probably be good to have some fresh ideas, a younger person with the energy I had 30 years ago with some interesting and exciting ideas to carry our community forward."

Lowell said he had been contemplating leaving his position for the last year and a half, and felt now was the right time to leave.

"There's probably never a good time for the organization, but I think I'm leaving at a good time where we're very well postured for the future," he said, adding that this time of year is usually the slowest for economic development.

"This gives the executive committee a chance to start a search for a new executive director, and I'm willing to do the best I can to keep current projects moving forward."

Lowell said he will remain

available to the CloudCorp board through Dec. 31 to help accommodate the transition of executive director.

"I want to keep things moving forward almost seamlessly," he said. "It's not my intent to do any harm to the organization or the projects we're working on. I want to see things continue to move forward."

The future for Lowell includes taking six months to a year off from working, he said. With his free time, he said he plans to work on home improvement projects and spend time with his parents, who have been in failing health.

"I have not been solicited to leave CloudCorp. No other entities are after me, and I don't have my resume out there," he said. "I would just like to take six months to a year off to recharge my batteries."

"After a period of rest, then I'll start thinking about what I want to do. I probably won't go back into the field of economic development. I'd like to be in something in the private sector, but what that is, I don't know."

With the recent completion of fueling stations in Aurora, Jamestown and Glasco, Lowell said he feels the communities in the county are coming closer together. And, he said he is leaving CloudCorp, and the community, in a good position for the future.

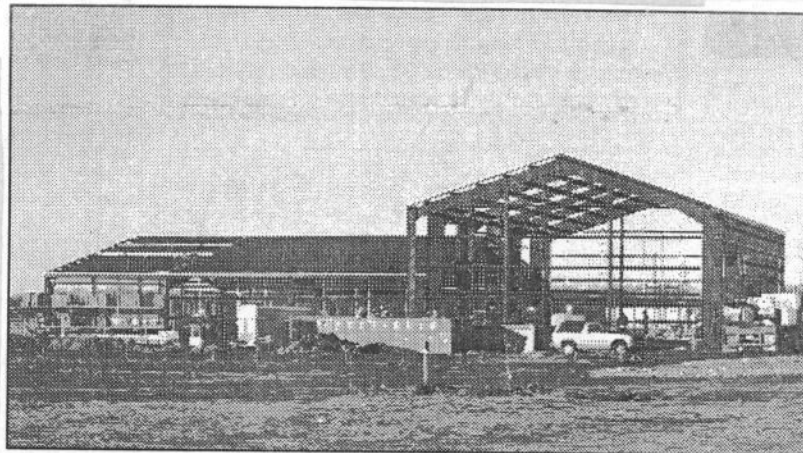
"My board of directors are kind, smart and important people located throughout the county, and I have every confidence they'll think this thing through and you probably won't see much of a blink as far as a transition goes, if we do it right."

Over the last 19 years he has served as CloudCorp's executive director, Lowell said he has had a great time in the position.

"I've really enjoyed working with the community and the businesses in our community," he said. "I've enjoyed all the projects we've worked on, both large and small. It's just been a great time. Concordia and Cloud County are very well positioned in the Northcentral Kansas region to be very successful, and I think it's about us and the decisions we make as a community."

## Notice to Contractors

The Concordia Housing Authority is accepting bids for the replacement of the shingles and guttering of all ten buildings of Cloud Village Apartments located at 700 Cloud St., Concordia. Specs may be picked up at City Hall, 701 Washington St., Concordia. All bids must be turned in to City Hall by 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 21, 2012. Bid will be awarded at a special Housing Authority Board Meeting, on December 21, 2012 at City Hall.



## Work continues

Construction of the new Cloud County Law Enforcement Center north of Concordia continues. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Dec. 18th





### Backing it up

A 1942 Chevrolet fire truck is backed off the flatbed trailer that it was delivered from Colorado on. The truck will become part of the display at POW Camp Concordia. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

## Fire truck to go on display at POW Camp Concordia

A fire truck like the ones used during World War II has been added to the POW Camp Concordia display.

The 1942 1 1/2 ton Chevrolet was delivered to Concordia on a flatbed truck on Friday.

Originally used by the Corps of Engineers, the truck was sent to West Virginia in 1943 and converted into a firetruck.

At some point, the truck was sent to the forestry service in Colorado. It was sold to a

private individual in Colorado, and purchased by Paul Rimovsky two weeks ago for the POW Camp Concordia Preservation Society.

Members of the POW Camp Concordia Preservation Society will work to restore the truck. It will be on display in the warehouse building T9 at the camp for visitors to see, and will also be used in parades.

Because the truck has been used, for the most part, as a fire truck, it has only 8,384 miles on it.

## CITY ELECTION

January 22, 2013, at noon, is the filing deadline for two (2) City Commission seats to be contested in the April 2, 2013, City General Election. To file for the City Commission, the signatures of at least eleven (11) qualified electors are required on a petition or the candidate may pay a filing fee of \$10.00. The filing will be for the positions now held by Gary Fraser and Marsha Wentz. If more than six (6) candidates file for the position, there will be a primary election held on February 26, 2013.

## Notice

There will be a Special Call Meeting of the Concordia Airport Advisory Board on Thurs., Dec. 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Concordia City Commission Meeting Room to discuss the airport master plan.

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## NOTICE OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia, and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of this notice, and pay the removal, storage and publication charges.

**Vehicle:** Maker: Life MH; Model: 1969; VIN: MD1SC4DS2096, Colors: Standard

# PBC meets with county commission

Cloud County board of commissioners Monday conducted a joint meeting with the Public Building Commission. Brad Berk, Barbara Henry and Joshua Meyer.

Cloud County Health Center board member Phil Gilliland apologized to the PBC on behalf of the hospital board for not providing them with more information about the hospital's proposed project. He also presented background information on the hospital project and discussed the hospital's choice of building site and the project in general.

County attorney Robert Walsh discussed a meeting he and commissioner Gary Caspers attended last week at the hospital concerning its project. Joe Norton, Gilmore Bell, discussed by phone the procedures for calling an election and various options concerning the project.

The PBC members said they would like to have more information concerning the project before any decision is made. Gilliland said he would get them the information they requested.

The PBC approved payment of the following vouchers for the jail project: Zahner Hansen Construction Group, \$785,303.46 and Goldberg, Sullivan and McCreery, \$10,128.13. The building commission agreed to meet Friday

in the commissioners room to review information provided on the hospital project.

In other business, the board approved signing the funding agreement with CloudCorp for 2013 in the amount of \$55,000 to be used for economic development purposes. Presenting the agreement were Ben Retter, CloudCorp president; Lowell Thoman, vice president and Ashley McMillan, CloudCorp interim director.

Judy Lambert, register of deeds, and Sheryl Williams, county treasurer, discussed procedures for year-end processing and the changes that were caused by the new computer system.

The board decided all offices located in the courthouse will be closed to the public Dec. 31 to allow for year-end processing. All business transactions must be completed by the close of business Dec. 28. The Health Department, Road and Bridge, Transfer Station and Recycling Center will be open for business as usual on Dec. 31.

At the request of Andy Asch, highway administrator, the board conducted a five-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Following the session, Asch presented a classification change for Todd LeDuc from construction laborer to truck driver to fill an open position which the board approved. With the classifica-

tion change, LeDuc's wages will be raised from \$11.32 per hour to \$12.22 per hour.

Doug McKinney, North Central Regional Planning Commission; Sen. Elect Elaine Bowers; and Barry Porter, county appraiser discussed the KDOT Towers and the possibility of KDOT imposing a user fee per subscriber radio for any non-state agency radio that is using the state's 800mhz radio system. In the information provided it was indicated the cost could range from \$100 to \$400 annually per radio on the system.

Commissioners approved sending a letter to Secretary Mike King, KDOT opposing the implementation of an annual fee for using 800 mhz radios.

The group discussed legislation that was proposed regarding exemption on fixtures and equipment for small businesses.

Caspers reported he attended the KWORCC meeting in Topeka Dec. 13 where he was appointed to fill a one year unexpired term on the KWORCC board. He and Walsh attended a meeting with the hospital board Dec. 11. Commissioner Crawford attended the CloudCorp meeting Dec. 11. Commissioner Gail Engle reported he attended the Solomon Valley E-Waste Coalition meeting Dec. 13 in Osborne and the Chemical

Dependency Committee meeting Dec. 14. Justin Murdock, Solid Waste director, also attended the E-Waste meeting.

Commissioners made appointments to the following township boards: Jack Widen, Lincoln Township trustee; David Forshee, Lyon Township trustee; Jerry Jensen, Grant Township trustee; George Larson, Oakland Township trustee; and Linda Richard, Oakland Township treasurer.

In other matters the board discussed the county website with IT director, Jerry Collins.

discussed various items with Arlene Clayton.

received an update on the jail project from Tom Wierenga, Zahner Hansen Construction Group.

approved signing a proclamation declaring December as National Drunk and Drugged Driver Awareness Month.

approved signing an engagement letter with Lindburg, Vogel, Pierce, Faris for the 2012 county audit and for services in 2013.

was host to the employee Christmas dinner from 11:30-1:30 p.m.

Adjournment was at 3 p.m.

The courthouse and county offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The board will have its end of year meeting Wednesday, Dec. 26.

## Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on December 21, 2012)

On December 19, 2012, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2012-3045, assessing parcels of land for special assessment if not paid by January 20, 2013, for curb and gutter replacement. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the web site address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

# PBC approves bonds for hospital project

Cloud County Health Center took another step toward the construction of a new \$26,825,000 facility when the Cloud County Public Building Commission approved a resolution to issue revenue bonds for the project.

The Public Building Commission (PBC) passed the resolution by a 2-1 vote on Friday morning.

Cloud County Health Center (CCHC) has proposed constructing the new critical care facility, with a maximum of 25 beds, at the northwest corner of the Concordia airport facility.

The resolution calls for the PBC to acquire an interest in a site, and construct and equip a new health care facility to be leased to Cloud County, and subsequently leased to Cloud County Health Center Inc., and to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs and related reserves and financing costs.

PBC members Josh Meyer and Barbara Henry voted for the resolution. Brad Berk voted against it.

"With this process the voters of the County will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the hospital project," Meyer said, "We understand the need for the pub-

lic funding vehicle to be used."

CCHC will seek a three-quarter percent countywide health care sales tax to help fund the construction project, and will request a special question election on Feb. 26, 2013.

The Cloud County board of commissioners are expected to act on the request for a special election during its Dec. 26 meeting.

Members of the CCHC board of trustees and CCHC CEO Jim Wahlmeier met with the PBC on Friday morning.

CCHC board member Phil Gilliland told the PBC members that the push for the February election has, in part, to do with Medicare reimbursements.

Should county voters approve the health care sales tax, the construction of the new facility could be completed by Sept. 1, 2014.

With the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2014, CCHC would receive a half a year in reimbursement from Medicare. That money could go into the reserve fund to help pay off the revenue bonds.

Gilliland talked to the PBC members about why there is a need to construct a new hospital, and the advantage of having a

new facility located at the Airport.

Dustin Avey, Piper Jaffray, talked to the PBC members, via the telephone, about the funding for the project.

The financing plan overview calls for a construction budget of approximately \$26,825,000 and the issuance of Cloud County, Kansas Public Building Commission revenue bonds, hospital contributions and Medicare reimbursement and the countywide sales tax at .75%, beginning July 1, 2013.

The plan assumes an annual growth in total sales in the County of 1%.

A reserve fund would be created with annual excess revenues. The excess revenues, projected at \$110,000 annually, could be used only to repay the bonds.

The plan assumes the bonds would be issued in April, 2013 at a conservative current market interest rate of 4.25%.

The bonds would be repaid over 23 years based on current projections, and would be available for local investors to purchase.

Gilliland said that there is a possibility that the bonds could be paid off in less than 23 years.

Public contributions and grant

opportunities could reduce the \$26.8 million project cost.

"We may be able to find some additional state and/or federal money which again could reduce the projected cost and amount of debt," Gilliland said.

Henry asked if the sales tax would sunset once the debt is paid off.

"There is only one thing the sales tax can be used for, to pay off debt," Gilliland said.

CCHC is a privately owned not-for-profit hospital. Construction of the current facility was completed in 1951. It is a 97,000 square foot, four-story building.

The new facility would be one-story and approximately 70,000 square feet.

CCHC has been working with the city of Concordia to develop a \$500,000 prepaid lease agreement for the land on the Airport.

The \$500,000 the city receives would be applied toward the local match portion of a grant that would provide \$10 million for improvements to the Airport, including a longer and wider runway that would allow larger aircraft to land.

The Blosser Trust has approved the lease agreement between the hospital and the city.



# City approves CloudCorp funding

By Jessica LeDuc  
Blade Staff Writer

Even with one commissioner asking to investigate economic development alternatives, the Concordia City Commission approved its 2013 funding agreement with CloudCorp.

CloudCorp President Ben Retter presented the funding agreement in the amount of \$55,000 for 2013. He also introduced Ashley McMillan as the interim executive director for CloudCorp. McMillan has stepped in to fill the position vacated by Kirk Lowell, who resigned last week after 19 years with the organization.

"We're quite pleased with the process and the trajectory of the organization as she (Ashley) works closely with Kirk, our former director, to make sure we cover all bases associated with economic development," Retter said. "We're strongly considering Ashley for the position, but we will be conducting a regional and nationwide search."

Commissioner Charles Johnson asked if anyone had looked into whether there were other economic development

organizations in the area who could provide services cheaper. He suggested looking into the rates of JenRus Freelance in Courtland, an internet marketing firm.

City Manager Larry Uri said a similar suggestion had been presented four or five years ago, and nothing had come of it.

"From my view, I get a lot of value out of our association with CloudCorp," Uri said. "They're there when we need them."

Johnson made a motion to table approving the CloudCorp agreement.

"I'd really like to table this until we cover that - find out what alternatives there are for our investment of \$55,000. That's two-plus mills in our budget," he said.

Johnson's motion died for lack of a second. On a vote to approve it, it passed 4-1, with Johnson casting the opposing vote.

The Commission also approved extending the professional services agreement for 2013 with Campbell and Johnson, the city's engineers. Ken

Johnson said the agreement will keep the firm's monthly fee at \$1,200 per month, the same as in 2012.

Uri told Commissioners that the assistance provided by Campbell and Johnson is invaluable to the city.

"I would severely miss their presence," Uri said. "My experience has been that we're more than getting our money worth."

In other business, the Commission also approved low bids for housing rehabilitation projects as part of the Concordia Housing Rehabilitation grant.

Bids accepted were: 433 East 6th, \$26,770, Snell Contracting; 803 East 5th, \$24,550, Snell Contracting; 409 East 6th, \$20,685, Cote Construction, Miltonvale; 703 East 6th, \$16,260, Cote Construction; and 310 East 6th, \$19,850, Kansas Sand & Construction, Salina.

Housing Inspector Bruno Rehbein said two of the houses exceeded the \$20,000 maximum. The Housing Rehabilitation Board recommended making up the difference by using funds from the Housing Preservation Grant the city

received from USDA and Rural Development.

The Commission also approved a bid from Hall Brothers, Marysville, for a Kansas Department of Transportation KLINK project. For \$194,562, the company will resurface Highway 9 from Cloud Street east to the city limits. The city will pay 25-percent of the project, or \$52,390, and KDOT will pick up the rest of the cost.

A resolution was also approved to allow the installation of railroad crossing guards on Industrial Road near East Seventh Street. Public Works Director Ron Copple said the resolution was an agreement between the BNSF Railroad, the state and the city. The railroad will install the crossing guards and maintain them at no cost to the city.

During his manager's report, Uri said the city had received a number of donations in memory of Darlene Rasure. With the funds, as well as some other donations, he said they have been able to purchase a backstop for Rasure Field. It will be installed and ready for use in the spring.

Dec. 20th, 2012

# Board approves special question election

Cloud County board of commissioners Wednesday unanimously approved two resolutions regarding the proposed construction of a new hospital.

Request for approval came from Cloud County Health Center board members Kurt Kocher, Monte Wentz and Christy Hasch and hospital CEO Jim Wahlmeier.

The first resolution provides for the calling of a special question election in Cloud County to be held on February 26, 2013, for the purpose of submitting to the voters the question of imposing a special three-quarters percent (.75%) countywide retailers' sales tax for the purpose of financing the provision of health care services and related matters.

Commissioner Gail Engle said he thought there were issues the hospital board needed to have cleared up with the Airport and CloudCorp, but he would vote to put the issue on the ballot.

The second resolution requests the Public Building Commission to issue Revenue Bonds for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs to acquire an interest in a site and construct and equip thereon a

health care facility to be leased to Cloud County and subsequently to be leased to Cloud County Health Center.

Cloud County Health Center is proposing the construction of a new \$26,825,000 critical care facility adjacent to the Concordia airport.

In other business, the board approved classification changes submitted by Andy Asch, highway administrator, and Diana Gering, Health Department administrator.

Michael Roudybush, construction laborer, will move to heavy equipment operator to fill an open position effective Dec. 30, with a wage change from \$11.32 per hour to \$13.44. Dana Alkire will move from home health aide to immunization/WIC clerk, effective Dec. 31 with a wage of change from \$9.05 per hour to \$11.33 per hour and Lori Kindel will move from Home Health LPN to immunization nurse effective Dec. 31 with no change in wage.

Asch reported he has received notice the price of gravel will be increasing from \$6 per ton to \$6.50 per ton Jan. 1. Commissioners discussed the cost share policy and asked Asch to review it and make any

recommendations for changes to the policy at the next commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Johnita Crawford reported she attended the Juvenile Detention meeting Dec. 19 in Junction City. Commissioner Gary Caspers reported he attended the Cloud County Resources Council meeting Dec. 17, the owners meeting, along with Sheriff Brian Marks Dec. 18 and the Public Building Commission and hospital meeting Dec. 21. Commissioner Gail Engle reported he participated in a conference call with the executive committee for the KCCA Dec. 20.

In other matters the board

— approved department payrolls totaling \$141,990.57 and reviewed department monthly expense vouchers.

— approved the 2013 Pawnee Mental Health contract for \$68,875.

— approved appointment of Marvin Henning as Summit township trustee and Diane Portenier as Summit Township treasurer.

— approved a resolution for transfer of unused funds for 2012 from the election fund to the election capital outlay fund.

— approved a request from

the Convention and Tourism committee to be allowed to encumber \$8,956.96 for 2012.

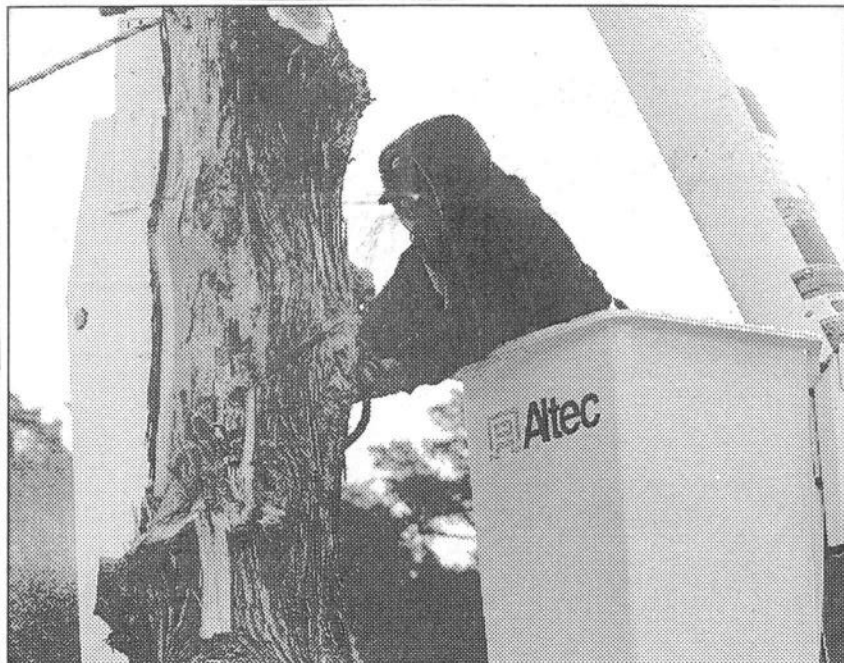
— approved a resolution for transfer of unused funds from the road and bridge fund to the road and bridge machinery and equipment fund with the amount to be determined after the 2012 county audit.

— received information concerning the amount of sales tax and compensating use tax received for December 2012 (November sales) from county treasurer Sheryl Williams which showed \$60,293.53, compared to the amount received in December 2011, \$66,331.28.

— acknowledged resignations of Elizabeth Anderson, immunization nurse, and Susan Hoard, WIC clerk, both effective Jan. 3.

Adjournment was at 11:40 a.m.

Commissioners may attend the retirement reception for Jim Bourne from 1-3 p.m., Dec. 28, at the county highway department and the dedication ceremony and reception in Clyde for the new streetlights from 4-6 p.m., Jan. 6. Next regular commission meeting will be at 9 a.m., Jan. 7.



### **Cutting it down**

City of Concordia employee Aaron Hake cuts down a tree at Pleasant Hill Cemetery Thursday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>



### **Division I champions**

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

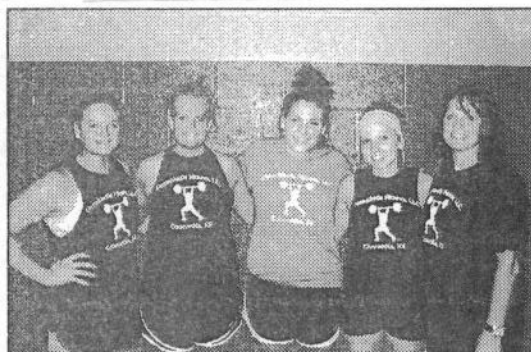
Sweet Aces placed first in the Concordia Recreation women's volleyball Division I. Team members include Kendra Krier, Tabi Brown, Rio Brown, Maria Blochlinger, Danae Gennette, Kayla Smith and Tara Atwell, Kate Hale, Laura Krier and Richelle Kueker.



### **Division II champs**

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

I'd Hit That placed first in the Concordia Recreation women's volleyball Division II. Team members are Amber Farha, Kelsey Abitz, Tawni Retter, Kim Reynolds, Amber M. Farha and Rachel Hambleton.



### **Second place Division II**

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

Dumbbells placed second in the Concordia Recreation women's volleyball Division II. Team members are Amanda Baumann, Carlee Baumann, Denise Baumann, Rachelle Duffy, Hannah Mahin and Martina Gieber.



### **Second place Division I**

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

Spiker Chicks placed second in the Concordia Recreation women's volleyball Division I. Team members include Ashley Nutsch, Emily Pierson, Lisa Wege, Mandi Valek, Michelle Smith, Steph Baltazor and Adrien Reed.



### NOTICE OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia, and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of this notice, and pay the removal, storage and publication charges.

**Vehicle:** Maker: Life MH; Model: 1969; VIN: MD1SC4DS2096, Colors: Standard

Dec. 27th

## Blosser Foundation pledges \$50,000 to CCHC campaign

Dec. 24th + 25th

The Cloud County Foundation for Health Care has announced it has received a gift of support for the construction of a new Cloud County Health Center facility from the Charles H. and Isabell Blosser Foundation.

The Blosser Foundation trustees have pledged \$50,000 to the Cloud County Health Center (CCHC) new hospital capital campaign. The helipad and taxiway serving the new hospital will be named in honor of Charles H. and Isabell Blosser.

"We are pleased to receive this gift from the Blosser Foundation, whose namesake's long history with aviation in Concordia has ensured we have an airport in this community," CCHC CEO Jim Wahlmeier said. "Because of our airport, we have an ideal site for our new hospital."

CCHC is proposing the construction of a new \$26.8 million critical care facility that will be located next to the Concordia National Guard Armory on the north end of the Airport.

### DOG TAX

Dec. 28th

Section 4, City Code: All dogs five months of age and older must be licensed. All dogs must have a certificate of Rabies Vaccination. License fees are five dollars (\$5.00) for each male dog and spayed female dog, and eight dollars (\$8.00) for each unspayed female dog, each dog over four (4) in a family, ten dollars (\$10.00). All persons, firms or corporations owning or harboring a dog or dogs within the city limits must provide a license for their dog before the 1st day of April or a fifty percent (50%) fee will be added to regular tags herein specified.

### EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES

Dec. 28th

Per Section 19-72 (a) of the Concordia Code, the director shall put into effect a parking prohibition on parts of all snow emergency routes commencing December 1 and terminating March 1; (b) While the prohibition is in effect, no person shall park or allow to remain parked, any vehicle on any portion of any snow emergency route to which it applies; however, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit parking at any time or place where it is forbidden by any other provision of law. Citizens should remove parked vehicles when the weather forecast or conditions contain sleet, snow or ice to keep these streets clear.

**The following streets or portions of streets within the city are hereby designated snow emergency routes:**

Second Street from Cedar to Valley  
Valley from Second to Sixth Street  
Cedar from Second to Eighteenth Street  
Archer from Sixth to Eighteenth Street  
Eleventh Street from east city limits to west city limits  
Eighteenth Street from Cedar to Lincoln Street  
State Street from Eighteenth to Campus Drive  
Campus Drive from State to Republican  
Sixth Street from Second Avenue to Doster

Per Section 19-76 of the Code, a vehicle parked in an emergency snow route will be towed at the owner's expense and/or ticketed.

**Please feel free to contact the  
Director of Public Works, 243-2670,  
if you have any questions.**

# Mild winter, new jail approved in 2012

Dec. 31st

## Looking Back

It was an exceptionally mild winter and Cloud County had an unusually early wheat harvest. Voters approved bonds and ground was broken for a new Law Enforcement Center. Threads for Him, a new men's clothing store, opened and Daylight Clothing, a men's clothing store which had been in business since 1906, closed. At the request of Cloud County Health Center board of trustees, the Cloud County commissioners approved putting a sales tax question for support of a new hospital on a ballot for a special election. These are just a few events that made the news in 2012. Following is a month by month review of local headline grabbers in the year that will end at midnight tonight.

## JANUARY

Emmit Jay Larson, son of Megan Larson and Alexander Schmidt, was the first baby born in 2012 at Cloud County Health Center. . . . Concordia city commission gave approval for a new McDonald's to be built. . . . The National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia had been selected as one of six sites to be host to the Smithsonian Institution's "The Way We Worked" traveling exhibit. It would open Feb. 2, 2013 and run through March 17 at the National Orphan Train Museum, 300 Washington. . . . Gary Caspers was elected chairman of the Cloud County board of commissioners. . . . Aren Copoc was the Concordia High

School Student of the Month. . .

The proposed construction of a new Cloud County Law Enforcement Center that included an 80-bed jail was a main topic of discussion during an intergovernmental meeting in Jamestown. . . . A petition had been filed with the Cloud County attorney to force the construction of the jail to be put on a ballot. . . . Concordia

received a Community Development Grant of \$341,800 to rehabilitate 12 homes and demolish four unoccupied units within a 20 block target area. Clyde received a CDBG of \$377,000 to rehabilitate 14 homes for low-to-moderate income families and demolish two unoccupied housing units. . . . Brass in Blue was giving a free concert at the Brown Grand Theatre. . . . S. Christy Hasch announced that she would be a candidate for Concordia City Commissioner. . . . A grant from the Duclos Foundation allowed Concordia Elementary School and Concordia Middle School students to begin learning with iPods. . . . Cloud County Community College board of trustees learned that a determination of hazard by the Federal Aviation Administration was still hanging over the College's Nordtank wind turbine. . .

Winter Sports king and queen candidates at Concordia High School were Gabe Sprague, Drew Ukens, Drew Erkenbrack, Jordan Brown, Dylan Moore, Tiraa Davis, Kaitlyn Buckland, Sydney Chrisco, Halie Steinle

and Mackenzie Parker. . . . Danie Kearn received the Leon Gennette Award for Community Service Volunteer of the Year at the annual Concordia Area Chamber of Commerce dinner. Ninety-two-year-old Gertrude Breault received the Leon Gennette Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service.

## FEBRUARY

A petition to force the issue of a countywide vote for the proposed Law Enforcement Center was certified with more than enough signatures to put the question on the April 3 general election ballot. . . . Drew Ukens and Tiraa Davis were crowned the Concordia High School Winter Sports king and queen. . . . Lou Frohardt was inducted into the Cloud County Community College Athletic Hall of Fame. . . . Gabe Sprague was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . USD 333 board of education approved contract extensions for six administrators—Beverly Mortimer, superintendent of schools; Quentin Breese, junior-senior high school principal/activities director; Corey Isbell, junior-senior high school assistant principal/athletic director; Derek Holmes, middle school principal; Audrey Pingel, Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas director; and Debra Reha, LCNCK assistant director—and accepted the retirement of Concordia Elementary School principal, Chris Fall. . . . Concordia city commissioners voted not to change the city's

animal ordinance, which would have permitted female chickens and other domesticated fowl within the city limits. Gary Fraser, Tim Parker and Marsha Wentz voted against the measure and Lyle Pounds and Charles Johnson voted for it. . . . Jeremy Hill was the speaker at CloudCorp's annual dinner. His topic was "Creating an Impact: Rethinking Rural Economic Development." . . . Cloud County board of commissioners received a check for \$200,000 from Meridian Way Wind Farm Site manager Brian Plymnesser. . . . Patricia Richey received her 20-gallon (160 units) golden blood donor pin at the Concordia Red Cross Blood Drive. . . . Fuel stations were established in Jamestown, Aurora and Glasco because of the cooperation among county and city commissioners, college board and CloudCorp to use the wind farm money for this purpose. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved employment agreements with Andy Asch, highway administrator/weed director with a base wage of \$39,688.06 plus an additional \$13,300 for weed director duties, and Justin Murdock as Solid Waste director at a wage of \$17.15 per hour. . . . Cloud County Community College president Danette Toone told the board of trustees that the Department of Energy would not release grant funds until the wind turbines at the College were lowered.

(see Looking Back on page 4)

# Looking Back

(continued from Page 1)

## MARCH

The second of five public meetings regarding the proposed Law Enforcement Center drew 35 people to Concordia City Hall. . . . Patrick Ellert, Beloit guitarist, and Taylor Collette, Junction City vocalist, were first and second place winners in Division 1 of the NCK Got Talent? contest at the Brown Grand Theatre. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved signing the 2012 employment agreement with Diana Gering as Cloud County Health Administrator with a base wage of \$33,735 plus \$10,000 additional for administrative duties. . . . After a 4-1 vote the Concordia city commission changed the city's utility deposit ordinance to require deposits from rental tenants only. Commissioner Gary Fraser who voted against the change said he had a problem with the \$100 deposit. . . . Slater Champlin, son of David and Trisha Champlin, was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Winners of the Division 2 NCK Got Talent? competition were Taylor Thompson, Courtland, first place; Thornton Bonner, Valley Center, second place; and Shayla Martin, Salina, People's Choice. . . . More than 30 people from both Glasco and Concordia attended the fourth of five countywide meetings regarding the question of financing the new Law Enforcement Center. . . . Concordia Elementary School earned a prestigious Bronze Award from USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services for meeting USDA's Healthier U.S. School Challenge school meal criteria. . . . With all other av-

new Law Enforcement Center in the general election. In the Concordia city commission race Charles Johnson defeated Christy Hasch by 35 votes, 570-535. . . . Christa Deneault was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Lyle Pounds was elected mayor by Concordia city commissioners. . . . Cloud County board of trustees approved a tuition hike for the 2012-2013 school year, bringing the cost of tuition and fees to \$97 per credit hour. . . . Theme for the Annual Cloud County Community College Foundation Scholarship Auction was Saturday Night Fever. It raised more than \$20,000 for scholarships.

## MAY

Concordia city commission agreed to spend \$28,000 on an engineering study to extend natural gas service to the north development. . . . David Strait was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved using \$80,000 of wind energy funds for the Clyde Beautification project. . . . Concordia Panthers and coaches won a fourth consecutive North Central Kansas League Baseball Championship. . . . Threads for Him opened at 117 West 6th Street in Concordia. . . . Cloud County Community College board of trustees approved a settlement payment over Nord-tank wind turbine of \$6,349 to Entertech, Inc. . . . The Brown Grand board of directors voted to move forward with repairs to the Theatre and formed a committee to evaluate the various choices. . . . Joe White spoke to Concordia Junior-Senior High School students telling the story of the mistake he made while he was intoxicated.

. . . Project Flowerpot gave Concordia's downtown a shot of color. The idea was spurred on by three women, Tammy Britt, Susie Haver and Marsha Wentz. . . . A large clock was installed on the clocktower of the covered bridge constructed by Jim Elliott near the Jamestown Wildlife Refuge.

## JUNE

Three-term Rep. Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia) announced her intent to run for the 21st Senate District represented by Sen. Mark Taddiken (R-Clifton) who had announced his retirement. . . . Cloud County Undersheriff Mason Johnson resigned because his family was moving out of state. . . . Cloud County had what was the earliest wheat harvest for some farmers with cutting beginning for some the second week of June. . . . Marquis Clark, a women's studies instructor and head volleyball coach at Cloud County Community College had filed for the Democratic nomination for the 21st District Senate seat. . . . Thirty-eight people with representatives from six different states attended the 10th Annual Orphan Train Riders Celebration in Concordia. . . . Dr. Joe Fakler was named the 2012 Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) Veterinarian of the Year at an awards dinner in Manhattan. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved signing the Agreement For Sale of Real Estate between CloudCorp and Cloud County.

## JULY

The Jim Haist family was continuing its tradition of selling fireworks in Concordia. . . . Rod's Food Store offered fried chicken specials on National Fried Chicken

requested to take voluntary measures to reduce water consumption. The watch was later updated from a watch to a warning. . . . Kaylee Mosher, Hollis Hustlers 4-H Club, and Clay Boley, Hopewell Corners 4-H Club, were queen and king of the 2012 Cloud County Fair. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved on behalf of the Cloud County Public Building Commission, payment of vouchers for the Law Enforcement Center project.

## AUGUST

Cloud County Community College board of trustees approved for publication a proposed budget that would keep the mill levy unchanged. . . . After years of trying to work with the Army Corps of Engineers on Concordia's south flood control project, Concordia city commissioners found out that this was not feasible. . . . State Rep. Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia) defeated Kyle Abbott, Smith Center for the 'Republican nomination of state senator from the 36th District. . . . Cloud County Relay for Life raised more than \$21,923 for the American Cancer Society. . . . Janita Varant (Jon Strowig) was crowned Miss NCK CASA 2012 during Men in Tights Take IX.

## SEPTEMBER

Cloud County board of commissioners approved issuing a contract with Zahner Hansen Construction Group, Inc., Brentwood, Tenn., for the county's law enforcement/detention center project. . . . City of Concordia approved a farm lease with Swenson, Jeardoe LLC to rent the 132.5 acres surrounding the Airport. Swenson, Jeardoe had the high bid of \$104,055

king were Madison Brockman, Alissa Kearn, Shelby Fraser, Jordan Pounds, Katie Lambert, Logan Whitney, Blane Payeur, Gabe Bergmann, Trevor Nordell and Alan Garcia.

## OCTOBER

Katie Lambert and Gabe Bergmann were crowned Concordia High School Homecoming queen and king. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners rejected the possibility of making the emergency preparedness director a full-time position. . . . Assisted by Cloud County Extension agent Todd Whitney and Aaron Hake, Concordia Lions Club members, planted trees at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. . . . Neighbor to Neighbor won the title of Favorite Chili at the Chili for Charity fundraiser at the Concordia Fire Department. . . . USD 333 voted to close Concordia Middle School and move fifth and sixth grade classes to the Concordia Junior High building. . . . Katie Lambert was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Jack Kaufmann and Don Lambert received the year's Marian D. Cook Legacy Award in a presentation ceremony at Cloud County Community College. . . . Concordia city commission voted to increase the fee to reconnect water service from \$30 to \$100 in an effort to curb the number of water shut-offs each month. . . . Cloud County Health Center board of trustees approved moving forward with a plan to increase the county sales tax to pay for construction of a \$26 million hospital. . . . Cloud County Community College president Danette Toone announced that while the two Northwind turbines were in

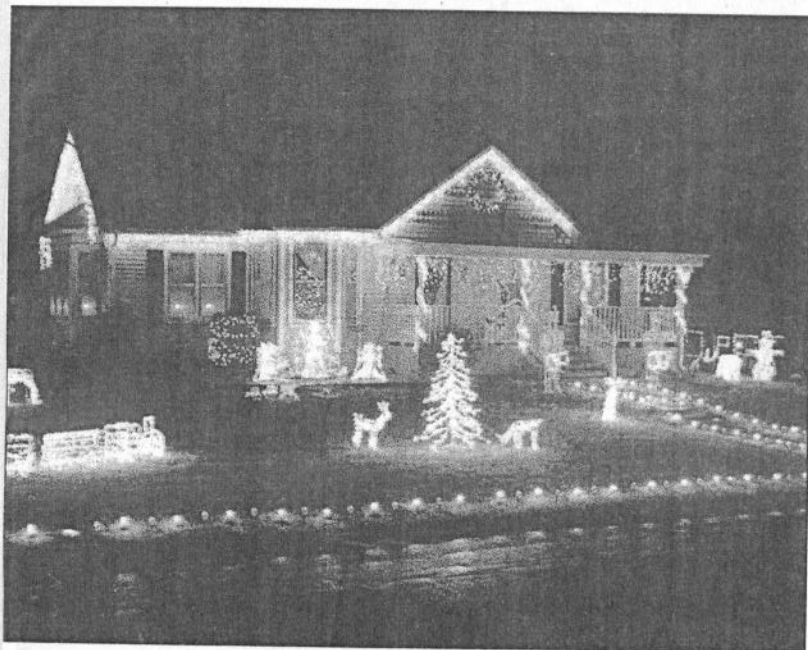
city commission gave its approval for the County Commission to issue \$26 million in industrial revenue bonds for an AgMark LLC expansion. . . . Since the Concordia Moose Lodge, which formerly sponsored an annual Thanksgiving dinner, had closed, Concordia American Legion and community volunteers were hosts for a Thanksgiving dinner at the National Guard Armory. . . . A reward of \$500 was being offered for information leading to the recovery of the antique dueling pistols stolen from the Cloud County Historical Society Museum. . . . Gabe Bergstrom was the Concordia High School Student of the Month.

## DECEMBER

Concordia city commission approved a one percent pay raise for all city employees. . . . After 19 years as director of Cloud County Development Corporation, Kirk Lowell announced his resignation at a CloudCorp meeting effective immediately. . . . Girl Scout Troop 20880, Walmart, the Catholic Church and the Cloud County Resource Center took over the Christmas basket program formerly sponsored by the Concordia Moose Lodge which had closed. . . . Ashley McMillan, Concordia, was named the interim executive director of CloudCorp by the CloudCorp executive committee. . . . Siri McGuire was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . A fire truck like the ones used during World War II had been added to the POW Camp Concordia display. The 1942 1 1/2 ton Chevrolet was purchased by Paul Rimovsky from an individual in Colorado. . . . Winners of the Concordia Christmas

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>





## Lighting Up The Night

### Contest winners

Winners of the Concordia Christmas Lighting Contest have been announced. First place, top left: Gary and Betty Blochlinger, 504 Willow St. Second place, bottom left: Rickey and Bobby McWhorter, 1122 Willow St. Kid's Pick, top right: Shawn and Judy Starr, 908 E. Seventh St. (Blade photos by Jay Lowell)

## Blochlingers named winners in Christmas Lighting Contest

Gary and Betty Blochlinger, 504 Willow, were the first place winners in the Concordia Christmas Lighting Contest. They received a \$100 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

Placing second and receiving a \$75 gift certificate were Rickey and Bobbie McWhorter, 1122 Willow.

Winning the Kids' Pick and \$50 gift certificate were Shawn and Judy Starr, 908 E. Seventh.

Winners from the kids' ballot drawing were Azia Pryor, second grade; and Karlee

Wahlmeier, fifth grade. They each received a \$10 Chamber gift certificate.

Receiving honorable mention were Jeremy and Penny Arnold, 630 E. 15th; David and Elizabeth Gomez, 529 W. Sixth; and Butch and Cecilia Thrash, 528 E. Sixth.

Heavy's Barbecue received the Christmas Spirit Award.

Judging the contest were members of the Belleville Main Street program. The contest is sponsored by the Women's Division of the Concordia Area Chamber of Commerce.

