

Concrete poured recently at county Event Center

Written by Darci Tomky

Phillips County Commissioners are heading into summer making preparations for several county projects and events.

McAtee Construction recently began on the Enhancement Project at the Phillips County Event Center, reported commissioners at their May 27 meeting. The project started Monday, May 24 and will continue through mid-July.

Yost Construction, a sub-contractor, began work on the concrete portion of the project. The first portion of the concrete to be poured will be a concrete pad on the east side of the Dragon's Wagon Preschool.

County crews are helping with the underground water line for Event Center sprinklers with assistance from PC Telcom and the City of Holyoke in trenching efforts for the lines.

Also at the Fairgrounds, Dragon's Wagon Preschool has plans to put up a rod iron fence around the playground.

Commissioners said they have received a bid to replace the landfill building that was damaged due to high winds in April, but they need approval from insurance before they can move forward.

No bids were received for the Courthouse steps project, so commissioners are pursuing a couple bids from contractors.

Bridges in Phillips County are inspected every two years, and commissioners recently received the report from the inspection that was completed in 2009. All 14 bridges in the county are above 50 percent sufficiency and considered adequate bridges. However, three of those bridges will need posted signs for weight limits.

This summer, the non-profit Bike & Build group will again be stopping in Holyoke as they bike across the United States to raise funds for affordable housing projects. Instead of staying in churches, this year the group will be staying at the Event Center.

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Commissioners are excited about the entertainment offered at this summer's Phillips County Fair. There will be free admission to the performance of Cowboy Capital Chorus, a group based out of Ogallala, Neb. which has vocalists from Phillips County.

New Phillips County employees include Zane Schoenfeld who took the District 1 job following Robert Patton's death. John Sagehorn has replaced Gerald Roberts in District 2. Roberts is moving to a new position as a part-time Event Center coordinator. Albert Roberts is returning to serve as part-time help for maintenance at the Fairgrounds and Courthouse.

Other business

In other business in the month of May, commissioners:

—noted Nancy Dee will be teaching a watercolor class, hosted by the Phillips County Arts Council, at the Event Center June 8, 10 and 15.

—approved the use of the Courthouse square for Dandelion Daze June 18-19.

—noted commissioners Bud Biesemeier and Susan Roll Walters were scheduled to attend the June 1-3 conference for Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI).

—noted Raising Ranchers 4-H club worked on the flower beds at the Courthouse.

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—reported the county is looking for ways to utilize the space vacated by the Extension office at 127 E. Denver in Holyoke.

—noted video arraignment capabilities are up and running at the Phillips County courtroom. Funds were made available through the Court Security Grant.