

*Budget Set for 2010*

After a lengthy process, the Board of County Commissioners have set the county budget for 2010. The budget process is a tedious process and the Commissioners do believe that they have positioned the 2010 numbers in a way where the citizens of the county are going to see the most benefit.

In 2010, Kiowa County expects to gain an additional \$466 thousand dollars in total revenue, while expenses will see an increase of \$465 thousand dollars from last years budget. The majority of the increase in expenses are due to the overall cost of doing county business, the

continued pressure of unfunded mandates from the state, and the increasing cost of healthcare for our employees. While continuing to strive to keep the overall costs down when it comes to county government, the commissioners did award a pay raise for all county employees. This increase in compensation was overdue in the Commissioners opinions and they would like to personally thank each employee who has worked so tirelessly at making the county's operations run as smoothly as possible.

The current budget crisis at the state level does have the commissioners worried

about what the legislature and the executive branch of the State of Colorado are going to do about erasing this very large deficit and what impacts will be felt at the county level. The last estimates were that there was some \$1.2 billion of gap that has to be erased. The largest concern would be the loss of funding from the Highway Users Tax Fee or the reduction in funds for specific programs where law requires that these programs stay in place. The commissioners are keeping a watchful eye on the dealings in the state legislature so that Kiowa County can be prepared for unforeseen changes in the future.

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Transit Service Exceeds Expectations
- ◆ Prairie Pines Outlook
- ◆ Proposition 101
- ◆ Medical Marijuana
- ◆ Covered Pavilion

*County Transit Services Exceed Expectations*

The Kiowa County Demand Response Service recently wrapped up their 2009 transit program and the numbers of users of this service has gone beyond what anybody expected. In 2009 there were approximately 2,800 passengers that utilized the transit service. In many of these instances, these persons would not have been able to make their appointments, or get to their doctors had it not have been for this invaluable service. The service is funded in 4 ways:

- Donations by users
- Medicaid reimbursements
- County Funds
- Grants

The transit service offers transportation for work, medical appointments, shopping, and social activities for the residents of Kiowa County. Some common destinations include Lamar, La Junta, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, DIA, and Fort Collins. The transit service has wheelchair lift accommodations, and are available on a demand-response basis. All ride reservations should be made at least 24 hours in

advance. Same day requests will be considered on a space available basis. Special group services can be arranged by calling (719) 438-5439 and speaking with Carla Gifford.





## *From the County Administrators Desk*

On behalf of the Kiowa County Board of County Commissioners, thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Part of our mission as defined by the Board of County Commissioners and the State of Colorado is to run an open and transparent government, sharing data, knowledge, public records and information with you, the public. This newsletter partially helps us fulfill that responsibility. We hope that you find it of use and ask that while reading, if you have suggestions for improvements or wish to comment on anything, that you send us your thoughts.

I believe having an open dialogue with the citizens of Kiowa County is paramount to providing the high quality of service we all expect from our County government. We are committed to serving you and appreciate the resources entrusted in our care. We are working hard to ensure that Kiowa County is a secure and prosperous and enjoyable place for all our residents.

As the County Administrator, I understand that we have many areas that we need to continue to improve. Kiowa County is a wonderful place to live and work; in fact, many of us consider it to be one the best places in the world but with your help, the guidance of the Board of County Commissioners and the efforts of each of our staff and employees we can make it even a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Mark Scott

The Commissioners would like to thank the following employees for their years of service to Kiowa County:

Charles Collins-10 years, Kay Brown- 14 years (Retired in 2009)  
 Delisa Weeks- 16 years, Sherry Emmert- 17 years  
 Shane Lessenden- 17 years, Dennis Pearson- 18 years  
 Marci Miller- 20 years, Cheryl Wyatt- 20 years  
 Pam Weirich- 23 years, Rick Spady- 26 years  
 Allen Watts- 31 years, Charlot Phillips- 36 years  
 Rodney Hopkins- 43 years

## *Kiowa County Temporarily Limits Medical Marijuana*

In the November 2000 general election, Colorado voters passed Amendment 20 and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was given the task of implementing and administering the Medical Marijuana Registry program. Since the 2000 Colorado Constitutional amendment allowing medical use of marijuana, only about 5000 patients registered with the state in the nine years leading up to 2009, and there were only a few dispensaries. Federal regulation did not allow for dispensaries until 2-25-2009 when the US Attorney General proclaimed FDA would no longer raid dispensaries that were legally established under state law. Since that time Colorado has over 13,000 patients registered and 100 operational dispensaries. Medical marijuana dispensaries are not defined in the 2000 Constitutional amendment and there is no regulation of dispensaries at the state level. Currently the sale of medical marijuana is not regulated by the state. Many municipalities and counties are waiting for some type of defined action by the state legislature to help manage this issue. You can expect to hear and read much about this issue thru the course of 2010. The Colorado Department of Public Health and environment is the authority to hold confidential patient registry, issue I. D. cards and promulgate rules. CDPHE is having trouble even processing the more than 23,000 applications received since Jan, 2009.

CDPHE statistical data as of 9-30-2009 includes:

- \* 23,000 patient applications received to date
- \* 73% of applicants are male.
- \* Average patient age is 40 years old and 8 patients are minors.
- \* Over 800 physicians have signed for patients in Colorado.
- \* Patients on the registry represent all debilitating conditions covered under amendment twenty. Severe pain is the reported condition for 90% of all registrants and the second highest reported condition is muscle spasms at 30%.

The Kiowa County Commissioners, by a Jan. 12, 2010 resolution, established a six month moratorium on dispensaries and associated growing of Medical Marijuana in Kiowa County. Hopefully this will allow time for State legislation and give time for local officials to establish zoning or other appropriate regulations for these types of businesses. There have been some that have asked the BOCC why not just outlaw this type of business in Kiowa County? Although Kiowa County could do this, history shows that this approach could be both litigious and costly for our county to do so. Our constituents in other counties, as well as county advisory groups have indicated that the best way to approach

this is to make sound planning and zoning decisions regarding these types of facilities and structure the zoning process in a way that reduces opportunities for the industry to take advantage of our citizens or in any way, reduces our quality of life here in Kiowa County. The Kiowa County Planning Commission met with the BOCC on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the need to implement some planning and zoning regulations regarding Medical Marijuana dispensaries. The BOCC is hoping to include all incorporated towns, the sheriff's department, public health and all interested parties in a series of meeting to help develop a policy regarding this.



“We are committed to serving you and appreciate the resources entrusted in our care.”

## *Southwest Colorado Enterprise Development*

“SINCE 1977,  
KIOWA COUNTY  
BUSINESSES HAVE  
RECEIVED \$699,581  
IN REVOLVING FUND  
LOANS”

SECED was formed in 1988 under governmental agreements between multiple county and municipal governments. The primary function was to administer the Southeast Enterprise Zone created through statute in 1986. This zone includes all of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa and Prowers counties. SECED currently manages multiple programs including the Southeast Enterprise Zone, a business loan fund, management tools for business and a single family owner occupied housing rehabilitation loan program. Regional services include the S E Colorado Transportation planning commission, technical assistance for public infrastructure, the Region 6 Planning and Management Agency, the S E Council of Governments and a Workforce Council. Regional projects include the Sante Fe Trail Film Commission and the Pierre Auger Cosmic Ray Research Project.

The Enterprise zone program provides

several tax credit incentives for businesses located in the zone as well as credit to taxpayers making donations to qualified non-profit projects within the enterprise zone.

The Revolving Loan fund is an alternative financing method to help finance business that will positively impact the economy within the zone. A Façade Loan program helps businesses with signage, awnings, windows, entry doors and a variety of exterior improvements.

Tools for Business offers businesses management assistance programs to include planning and feasibility, product development, marketing, employee training and much more.

Housing rehabilitation loans can be arranged for a variety of issues such as plumbing and heating, foundation problems, code violations, handicap accessibility and several other common homeowner situations.

Since 1997 Kiowa County Businesses have received \$699,581.00 in Revolving fund Loans and Housing related loans equal \$259,632.00. Tax credit has also been a major boost to individuals and business within the county.

To contact South East Colorado Enterprise Development go to [www.seced.net](http://www.seced.net) on the web ; e-mail [seced@seced.net](mailto:seced@seced.net) or call 719-336- 3850.



## *Assisted Living Facility Providing A Place to Call Home*

Prairie Pines Assisted Living continues to create a warm, supportive, home-like residence for senior adults. From social, cultural and educational life enrichment programs to amenities that foster an easy way of life, our respect for each resident's individuality is at the heart of all that we do. Each resident receives personalized service and Prairie Pines is a place where friendly faces and conversations are easy to come by; a place where independence and dignity are respected. A place to call home.

In 2009 we were excited to welcome our first couple to Prairie Pines bringing our census to seventeen residents. We mourn the death of William Brachvogel, Irene Getman, and Ruth Miller who resided at Prairie Pines. Our current census is sixteen. Marketing will continue to be a top priority in 2010.

In 2009 The Daniel Foundation awarded Prairie Pines a grant to advance the health and well being

of our residents and community members. Besides the installation of exercise rails in the pool and a NuStep exercise bike, we have expanded our exercise program to include Wii Fit and games; Chair Dance exercise videos and a variety of other energizing videos and equipment. Future plans are to expand our exercise program to include community members who want to benefit from living a healthier life style.

The swimming pool and hot tub continue to be a hub of activity. Aquatic Arthritis Exercise classes and Water Aerobic sessions are offered throughout the year, along with individual exercise programs. Water exercise is a gentle way to exercise joints and muscles. The pool has also been the host of numerous private party celebrations.

Jan Richards, KCEDF announced that Prairie Pines was awarded a grant from The Colorado Health Foundation through the Community Regranting Program to pur-

chase Handicap door openers for our front entrance. The Handicap door openers will greatly improve accessibility to our facility and will enhance the independence of the residents.

Prairie Pines continues to be blessed with dedicated and hard working employees who truly have a heart for the residents. Rick Weber of Eads was hired as our part-time maintenance personnel who began in January. This position will enable us to continue maintaining and improving the structure and grounds of our model facility.



### *Sheriff's Dept. receives Grant, Contracts with the Town of Eads*

IN 2009 THE  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
APPLIED FOR A  
JUSTICE  
ASSISTANCE  
GRANT, AND  
RECEIVED A GRANT  
AWARD OF  
\$140,000 AS  
PART OF THE  
FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT'S  
RECOVERY  
EFFORTS.

Many residents of Kiowa County have probably noticed that some changes have been made at the Kiowa County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to share with the community and let everyone know about the changes and what Kiowa County residents can expect in the future.

In 2009 the Sheriff's Office applied for a Justice Assistance Grant, and received a grant award of \$140,000 as part of the Federal Government's recovery efforts. The grant does not require matching funds meaning that Kiowa County does not have to match or repay the funds in the grant. The grant will be in effect over a two year period which started in October of 2009.

This grant is what has allowed the Sheriff's Office to make the changes it has in order to better serve the community. The grant has allowed the Sheriff's Office to hire back one deputy, and is paying for that deputy's salary for the two year period of the grant. In addition the grant has allowed the purchase of used State Patrol vehicles which the Sheriff's Office was able to obtain, pre-equipped with certain equipment, for a fraction of what it would cost to equip new equivalent vehicles. As part of updating the Sheriff's Office vehicle fleet it was decided that the truck in best re-sale condition would be sold and funds generated would go back into the County General Fund. Rising fuel costs were also a factor

in the decision to make changes to the vehicle fleet.

In addition the grant has allowed for the purchase of other equipment that the Sheriff's Office was in need of, such as computer equipment, computer upgrades, and tactical equipment. Under the conditions of the grant, the Sheriff's Office will also be updating the community through the creation of a new departmental web site and blog, which will allow the community to keep up to date with what is happening in the community from a law enforcement perspective, and also to leave tips, and comments for Sheriff Frazee and his staff. In addition the Sheriff's Office will be increasing traffic patrols on Highway 287, will be continuing its Fraud Education program, and working to address youth and senior citizen issues in the community.

Another grant program used to increase law enforcement and traffic safety activity in 2009/2010 is through the State of Colorado's Heat Is On program. This program pays overtime hours for officers to perform DUI patrols throughout the county. The Kiowa County Sheriff's Office is one of many law enforcement agencies in the state that is helping keep Colorado roads a little safer. This grant program is also non-matching, and is only in effect currently during certain periods throughout the year when traffic safety has been considered to be an issue because of past activities. Between Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 1,181 people were

arrested for DUI in Colorado by more than 50 law enforcement agencies and the Colorado State Patrol. During that same time period, six people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, according to preliminary reports to the Colorado Department of Transportation.

As far as traffic patrolling is concerned in the county, in 2009 Kiowa County adopted the Model Traffic Code, which also keeps more funds within Kiowa County and helps augment the County General Fund. The Model Traffic Code is the same traffic code that the state uses, the violations are the same, the fines and fees are the same, it simply allows the fines from violations to go to the county instead of the state. The Town of Eads has also implemented the model traffic code allowing fines to go directly to the town for violations that occur in Eads town limits.

Towards the end of 2009 the Town of Eads contracted with the Kiowa County Sheriff's Office in order to hire another deputy to provide law enforcement services for Eads. As a result of the contract and the grant, the Sheriff's Office now has six sworn officers available to assist the citizens of Kiowa County in their law enforcement needs. And two of those officers, and much of the departments equipment are provided through grants which provide necessary law enforcement services at a net savings to Kiowa County Tax Payers.

*Proposition 101 and Amendments 60&61; Damage easy to see*

The potential devastation of Proposition 101 can be measured in millions and even billions of dollars at the state level, but at the local level, the damaging effects would be felt by each student in a school district.

Under Prop 101, headed for the 2010 ballot, ownership taxes would be reduced to \$1 for used vehicles and \$2 for new ones. Every school district in the state gets a share of those taxes

Based on an [analysis](#) by the Bell Policy Center, that that means funding from ownership taxes for each student in **Denver** would plunge from \$434 to \$6.08. In **Mesa County**, the drop would be from \$490 to \$6.87. In **Alamosa County**, funding would fall by more than \$ 2 5 0 .

Those are punishing cuts of about **98 percent**. But Prop 101 won't just harm students. All Colorado residents will be hurt as counties and cities and towns have funding slashed for general funds, water, sanitation and recreation districts, fire departments, pension funds and ex-

penses such as weed and mosquito control.

**Conejos County**, one of the poorest in the state, will see its share of ownership taxes drop from \$227,571 to \$4,711. Denver's share will fall from about \$12 million to \$171,268.

As for maintenance and construction of roads, highways and bridges, we would take a giant step backward there, too. License fees, most of which go to the Highway Users Tax Fund, would be cut by about **85 percent**, and **FASTER** fees, designed to help us catch up, would be eliminated **c o m p l e t e l y** .

The Bell Policy Center is analyzing [Proposition 101](#) and its companion measures, [Amendments 61](#) and [60](#). On Prop 101, we want to dig into the impact down to the local level, on students and schools, on libraries and hospitals, on fire departments and other special districts

So far we have completed partial analyses for **Alamosa, Conejos, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson** and **Mesa** counties, and we will keep working on Colorado's

other counties.

The Bell Center is currently working on an analysis for Kiowa County but this analysis was not complete at the time this newsletter went to print.

*This article was originally published by the Bell Policy Center which is a research , advocacy group which is a non-profit, non-partisan policy center which conducts objective research .*



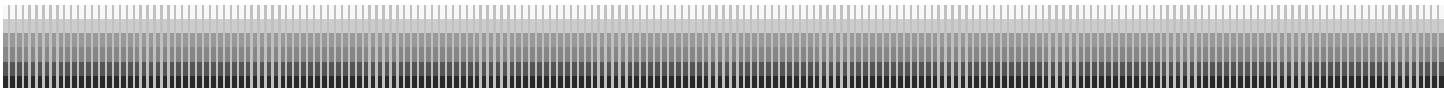
“BUT PROP 101  
WON'T JUST HARM  
STUDENTS. ALL  
COLORADO  
RESIDENTS WILL BE  
HURT AS COUNTIES  
AND CITIES AND  
TOWNS WILL HAVE  
FUNDING  
SLASHED.”

*Winter Months Busy for Department of Social Services*

During the cold winter months activity at the Kiowa County Department of Social Services increases to a level far beyond the normal pace. The tempo begins to pick up in November with the beginning of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which provides assistance to qualified applicants with paying their winter heating bills. The LEAP program is funded entirely with federal and state dollars that are supplemented by cash donations from the large energy suppliers. Christmas brings even more activity as the DSS office coordinates the annual Christmas drive for the needy. The local Salvation Army Unit, service clubs at both Eads and Plainview Schools and private donations pay the cost each year. The DSS staff, Charlotte Phillips, Brenda Stoker, Hallie Cordova and Audrey Johnson, then sort, wrap, label and coordinate delivery of the gifts.

Given the sour economy and the accompanying cold winter months when agricultural activity slows, applications for financial assistance typically increase. Between March of 2008 and March of 2009, food stamp distribution in Kiowa County expanded from around \$9,000 per month to over \$18,000 per month. The food stamp caseload has settled in around \$14000 per month this winter.

Questions regarding any of the DSS programs may be answered by contacting the DSS office at 438-5541 Monday through Friday.





## *New Covered Pavilion at the Fairgrounds*

“THE FAIR BOARD  
IS TO BE  
CONGRATULATED  
FOR THEIR EFFORT  
TO MAKE THIS  
PROJECT A  
REALITY.”



In August of 2007, the Kiowa County Fair Board initiated plans to erect a multi-function covered pavilion as a new addition to the Fairgrounds through a \$200,000.00 Great Outdoors Colorado Grant (GOCO) The total projected cost was \$369,427.00. The difference between the Grant and total cost was to be made from the Kiowa Co. General Fund (\$40,000.00) and “In-Kind” (not cash) contribution from County Road and Bridge (\$51,604.00) and other partners (donations etc.)

In December of 2007 GOCO Awarded the \$200,000.00 Grant to the Kiowa Co Fair Board. However, Kiowa County was unable to meet it’s Cash contribution at that time and the economic

downturn made other funding impossible. The project was placed ‘on-hold’. The Fair Board persisted and continued to work toward reducing cost but maintaining the original purpose of the facility. In May of 2009 the Fair Board presented a plan that reduced total cost to \$292, 662.00 as well as reducing the County General contribution to \$27,240.00. The GOCO Grant time frame had expired and no further extension was available. Meanwhile the availability of GOCO Grant funding had diminished drastically and the sale period on the building itself had expired. The Commissioners decided they could make the \$27,240.00 cash contribution and that future construction cost would only increase. The Fair Board was permitted to move forward with the project and the new pavilion was in place for the 2009 Kiowa County Fair.

The Fair board is to be congratulated for their effort to make this project a reality.

Board members include Shane Lessenden (project manager), Bob Sinka, Brenda Fickenscher, Areta Laird, Kevin Davis, Terri Leonard, Dale Butler and Tyrell Lessenden.

The all metal building is 120’ wide and 240’ long. Final cost totaled \$292,662.00. Cash income source was \$200,000.00 GOCO Grant, \$27,240.00 Kiowa County General Fund and \$18,000.00 from donations. “In-Kind” contributions included \$29,992.00 from Kiowa County Road and Bridge for ‘fill’ material and machine work plus \$17,500.00 ‘in-kind’ from the project manager, SE Colo Power, Survey crew and FFA. Donations came from Southern Colo. Farm Credit for \$10,000.00; Competitive Power Ventures (CPV wind farm) for \$5,000.00; Conservation Trust Fund \$3540.00; Bruce and Brenda Fickencher for \$1000.00, Liz Rehfeld for \$500.00; Holly Fair Board \$250.00; \$200.00 LaJunta Mills; \$1741.00 from the Bull Fry/Roping Donation; \$150.00 from Anna Carere, State Farm Insurance; \$150.00 Colorado Machinery and \$50.00 West End Recreation District.

The Pavilion is located west of the existing show barns. Original plans called for the old show barns to be dismantled and the new facility would be erected in that area. New plans are to clean out the old show barns and make a covered area open for seating for the BBQ during the Kiowa Co. Fair.

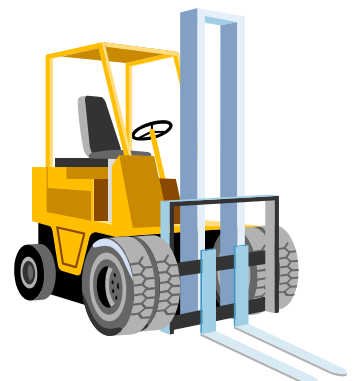
## *Road and Bridge Department; The Backbone of Kiowa County*

The county road and bridge department is a sizeable portion of our annual budget from manpower to equipment, and fuel to keep everything operating. The county has several gravel pits which require numerous fees, liability insurance, and mandated miner safety training for employees. These pits also require inspections and ongoing care to maintain them which adds up to a tidy sum each budget. So when a citizen asks to enter, use or get gravel from those pits we do our best to work within our mandated limits to provide service to them at minimal cost. We do sell some gravel to county businesses and residents at our costs. This is certainly not a revenue generating segment for us. This year our policy has changed where we will provide each household with one free load of gravel. After that, we encourage the public to contact the various local hauling companies for

gravel as they exist for that purpose.

Each of three districts within the county have four motor graders to maintain the roads, these graders each have around 90 miles of road to maintain thus when snow or heavy rains mess up those roads it takes a large amount of time to make it around to repair damages. This year at the request of several farmers who owned adjoining land we are constructing six miles of new road northwest of Sheridan Lake to make access more friendly to large agricultural equipment and the public. Each district also labors at keeping the barrow ditch weeds mowed and/or sprayed to annually kill the growth,. We do not use long term sterilants, due to the cost of those chemicals and licensing requirements. This past year we have replaced some employees who retired or moved on, they include: Jayde Lyons who primarily oper-

ates the loader for the gravel trucks. Jade returned here with his family from New Mexico. David Marble who operates a motor grader around Eads. Dustin Batteredton who shall operate a motor grader around Sheridan Lake returning after several years in Cheyenne county. Finally, Levi Johnson whose family moved here from Minnesota to operate a motor grader in the Haswell area.





## *Regional Organizations Play a Big Part for Kiowa County*

The county is a dues paying, voting member of numerous regional organizations each with a goal to improve things in the region (Kiowa, Prowers, Bent, Baca, Crowley and often Otero counties). Some examples are SECED, Sage Services, SCEDD, and SEBREA. Sage Services, based in Rocky Ford, provides the Meals on Wheels program to our low income home bound elderly residents. SCEDD or Southern Colorado Economic Development District is based in Pueblo making small business loans partnered with local banks for businesses normally in amounts approaching

one million dollars as an upper threshold. SECED or Southeastern Colorado Economic Development is based in Lamar, makes numerous business and homeowner loans in our region with partnership of local banks. SEBREA, Southeast Colorado Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction, is based at Lamar Community College working to collect and apply data which provides clearer direction for how our region can gain new businesses while supporting and encouraging present businesses. Action 22, based in Pueblo, represents us and 21 additional counties on numerous State

legislative issues, has committees available for immediate reaction to legislative issues, and sends weekly legislative updates for us to monitor and confront. CCI, Colorado Counties Inc, additionally represents us on legislative issues, provides council onto governmental questions, provides lobbyists on State level and membership to a national organization which lobbies there. CTSI, County Technical Services Inc., provides our health, workmen's comp, liability insurance, risk management and aides in mandated training for our departments.

## *Daycare Center Provides Much Needed Services in Kiowa County*

Little Sprouts Childcare now has 55 children enrolled. The center is open 6-6 Monday through Friday. Transportation is provided within city limits for such items as swimming lessons, sports practice, and to and from school at no additional charge to the parents. Tuition is \$1.75 per hour for the first child and \$1.25 per hour per child for each additional child in the family. Teachers maintain State qualifications and CPR/First Aid

certifications.

The center will be renewing our Colorado Qualistar Rating this summer. This is a measurement of program attributes set up by the State of Colorado to measure the quality of care provided to the children. The center received 4 out of 5 stars when we completed our initial ratings 2 years ago. This is a huge accomplishment by the staff.

Week of the Young Child is April 10-16. We will have many activities planned throughout the week involving the whole community. Watch for more information. If you have any questions about the center, stop by for a visit or call Yonda at 438-5840

## *Emergency Management Department Playing Critical Role*

The purpose of the Department of Emergency Services is to establish and maintain a progressive and proactive approach to emergency response in the event of natural or man-made disasters in Kiowa County including all municipalities. Chris Sorensen who is the Emergency Management Department Director works tirelessly at providing emergency management support for complex and/or extended disaster or hazard incidents that occur. On Thursday evening, February 3rd, 2010 such an incident occurred at the underpass in Eads on highway 287. Fire Department members, along with a Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials unit, responded to the scene of a single vehicle crash that occurred on Highway 287 near the

junction with Highway 96 in the Town of Eads. The crash occurred shortly before 11:00 p.m. . A northbound semi tractor-tanker failed to negotiate a curve, causing the tanker to overturn. The tractor remained upright.

The tanker was carrying approximately 45,000 pound of liquid sodium bisulfate, which is mildly corrosive and can be a breathing irritant. The tank was leaking a small amount of the chemical, however a haz-mat team contained the leak while cleanup arrangements were made. No evacuation was necessary.

According to Sheriff Forest Frazee; "We are very fortunate to have someone like Chris at our county. His commitment to training and

knowledge development puts him in line with even the top tiered Emergency Directors, and played a crucial and critical role in this situation, which was one that we all knew would happen eventually in our county." Sheriff Frazee went on to state; "His ability to coordinate across entities allowed for a smooth operation even in light of a very serious situation."

The Board of Kiowa County Commissioners want to personally recognize Chris and all the other responders and volunteers for a job well-done in their response to this hazardous situation. We look forward to gaining even further knowledge about emergency management so that we are even more prepared the next time.

"THE TANKER WAS  
CARRYING 45,000  
POUNDS OF LIQUID  
SODIUM BISULFATE  
WHEN IT  
OVERTURNED"

Governors Office Sheds Some Light as to Where ARRA Funds are Located

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866 - 2471
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Feb. 4, 2010

Kiowa County Commissioners
Donald Oswald
Rodney Brown
Richard Scott
PO Box 100
1305 Goff
Eads, CO 81036-0100

WHAT THIS ALL MEANS IS THAT RECOVERY ACT FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED BY PROGRAM, AND NOT DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTY, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE DOLLARS ARE IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT DIRECTLY ASSIST KIOWA COUNTY. OVER \$800 THOUSAND DOLLARS ARE IN WORKFORCE CENTERS, WORKFORCE SERVICES, RURAL CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHERE KIOWA COUNTY IS JUST ONE OF MANY ENTITIES

Dear Kiowa County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in response to your questions about funds that are coming to Kiowa County through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. First, I would like to emphasize that the funds listed below are not final. Federal agencies are still announcing awards and direct benefits such as the Making Work Pay tax cut and increased unemployment and food stamp benefits, will continue to grow. The funds listed below are simply a snapshot of what we know of at this point.

I'd also like to provide some background about how the Recovery Act works. The Recovery Act distributes funds through well over 100 different programs. The largest amount of money is dedicated to tax cuts and tax incentives for individuals and businesses. The other areas of funding include investment in infrastructure projects, additional safety net benefits and investments in certain industries, including clean energy, broadband and health care information technology, that will help the economy grow. All of the funds are administered by federal agencies, and most of the funds do not flow through the governor's office. Some funds go directly from federal agencies to local governments, businesses and non-profit groups. Some funds flow through state agencies. Some funds are distributed based on existing formulas and other funds are distributed through a competitive process. Federal agencies are in charge of the oversight process.

What this all means is that Recovery Act funds are distributed by program. No single agency controls all of the money. And some of the money has yet to be allocated because they are part of major competitive grants that are still in process.

The funds listed below are benefitting Kiowa County but they not necessarily going to to Kiowa County government. I will try my best to explain each program.

- \$140,000 is going to Kiowa County through the Justice Assistance Grant program (JAG). I believe this grant was allocated by the Colorado Department of Public Safety.



*ARRA Funds Continued.....*

- \$13,259 has been distributed as of October 31, 2009, to about 90 people in Kiowa County. This money represents a 13.6 percent increase in food stamp benefits through the program known as SNAP, and was distributed through the local human services agency.
- \$4,310 is going to Kiowa County through the Community Services Block Grant program. I believe this grant was allocated by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
- \$65,545 in unemployment benefits has been distributed to about 13 people in Kiowa County (as of Nov. 30, 2009) through the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. This is an extra 20 weeks of UI benefits funded through the Recovery Act.
- \$15,800 in unemployment benefits has been distributed to about 38 people in Kiowa County (as of Nov. 30, 2009) through the Federal Additional Compensation Program. This program gives almost every person receiving UI an extra \$25 a week.
- \$4,592 in unemployment benefits has been distributed to 2 people in Kiowa County through a new state law that allows for additional time on the UI program.
- \$373,038 is being spent for job training in Baca, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers and Kiowa counties. These funds are distributed through the workforce centers and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. We could not get a breakdown of funds by county.
- \$319,189 is being spent on workforce services in Baca, Crowley, Bent, Otero, Prowers and Kiowa counties. These funds are distributed through the workforce centers and CDLE.
- \$52,276 is the estimated amount of funds that are expected to be spent in a year for providing free energy efficiency upgrades in low-income homes. This program is administered by the Pueblo County Department of Housing and Human Services, which partners with the Governor's Energy office. This program directly benefits homeowners and renters by helping them to reduce their utility expenses.
- \$155,000 is going to the Southeast Colorado RC&D to provide energy efficiency improvements in Baca, Kiowa, Prowers, Bent, Otero and Kiowa counties. This grant is part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program and was distributed by the Governor's Energy office.
- \$20,953 is going to Kiowa County schools through the Title I program, which provides services in schools with high percentages of low-income students.

This is not all of the money going to Kiowa County. We know that working families in Kiowa County as well as the rest of the state are bringing home more in their paychecks but we don't know the number of people by county. We also know that people who have been laid off are paying less for health insurance through the COBRA program, but we don't know that number by county.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me.

Myung Oak Kim  
Communications Manager  
Governor's Economic Recovery Team  
303-764-7703  
[www.colorado.gov/recovery](http://www.colorado.gov/recovery)

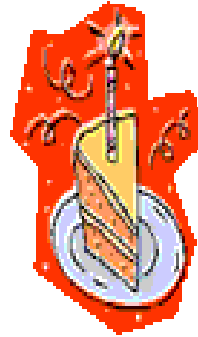


### *Courthouse Community Room— A Great Space to Use*

The community room at the Kiowa County Courthouse has been utilized by numerous groups and organizations for a very long period of time. It continues to see steady use even in light of additional buildings that have been put up that also serve the same purpose. The room, located in the bottom of the courthouse also has a full kitchen and can accommodate both small and large groups. The requirements for anyone to rent the community room is to pay a fee of \$20 and follow the procedures for setting up and cleaning up after its use. For

youth groups, the Board of Kiowa County Commissioners has eliminated the \$20 fee. These groups can be church youth groups, 4-H, FFA groups as well as others. Please do not hesitate to contact the County Administrators Office at the Kiowa County Courthouse for questions or reservations. The use is on a first come, first serve basis and scheduling its use can be tricky. For groups wanting to do presentations, etc. please keep in mind that all the audio-visual equipment that is in the community room is not to be used publicly. Groups will need

to bring their own equipment for those types of presentations. So, for those large birthday parties, or a large family gathering when your own house is just a little too small. Check out the Kiowa County Courthouse community room. It's a great location at a very affordable price.



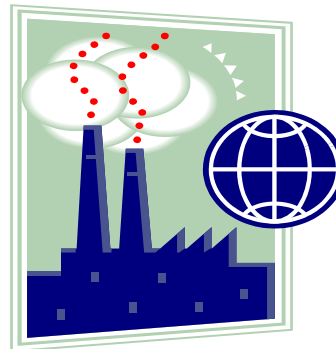
### *Landfill Now Has A Direct Line*

The landfill located just south of Eads now has a direct phone number that you can call to inquire as to days of operations, weather conditions at the landfill, etc. If you have questions please call Dwight at 691-5426.

Currently, the landfill is operating under their summer hours which are:

- Wednesday 8:00-6:00
- Thursday 8:00-6:00
- Saturday 8:00-6:00
- Sunday 1:00-6:00

The landfill hours will change back to its winter hours in November.



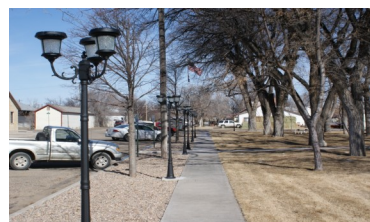
FOR INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE  
LANDFILL, CALL  
691-5426

### *Courthouse Receives 6 Solar Pathway Lights*

As part of the Vale Ordinance Refund, Kiowa County recently installed 6 solar powered pathway lights that have been placed on the west side of the courthouse. This refund was given to Kiowa County through the Prowers County Sheriff's Department and had to be used for Courthouse Lighting. The Board of County Commissioners opted for the solar lights in an effort to create awareness on behalf of the citizens of Kiowa County that the technology of

solar power has come a long way in the last ten years. When searching for the right lights, the commissioners felt that they needed to invest in not only new energy technology, but also had to preserve the historic look and feel of the courthouse and its facilities. "We believe that not only do these lights accentuate the historical significance of our facilities", said Mark Scott, Administrator of Kiowa County; "They also are reflective of a new technology that eliminated

the need to increase the size of our electrical loads." The lights which are pre-wired to come on at dusk, can stay illuminated for up to 12 hours depending on the amount of sunlight that the power cells receive during the day.







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