

No Yuma City Council election

The Yuma City Council held a special meeting last Thursday, March 13, passing a resolution to cancel the April 1, 2014 municipal election.

There was no need for the election as there were five candidates for the five open seats. All five currently sit on the board.

Beginning in April, Jim Haag, Ron Swehla and Roc Rutledge will begin new four-year terms, and Don Silvius and Richard Pallesen will begin two-year terms.

The latter two seats will be up for election again in 2016, along with seats currently held by Mayor Shad Nau and councilman Cody Brandner.

YCA gala is set for March 22

Yuma Children's Academy — More Than a Fairy Tale! gala fund-raiser will be Saturday, March 22, at 6 p.m.

It will be held at the YCA, located at 915 W. Eighth Ave. (Highway 34). The evening will feature Yuma raised and fed Sterling Silver Strip Loin Steaks, a dessert auction and comedy hypnotist Gerry Kelly.

This event is YCA's major fund-raiser for 2014 and all proceeds from this gala will go toward the completion of the Infant Room and other operational needs at YCA. Tables can be sponsored by a business or individual for \$800 per table. (There is also the option of sharing sponsorship with a fellow business or individual.) Sponsorship includes tickets, advertising before, during, and after the gala event, and the opportunity to treat clients or employees to an evening of outstanding entertainment and an excellent meal.

To date, businesses sponsoring tables include: The Nelson Inn, First Farm Bank, Main Street Insurance, Yuma Dairy, Premier Farm Credit, The Home Place, Spittoon Farms, Blach Brothers Mycogen Seeds, Yuma Theater, Korf Continental, Crop Production Services, CHS, Jay Flaming Jewelers, Farm House Market, and Bank of Colorado. Tables and sponsorships are still available.

Individual tickets are also

Big crowd at symposium

250 attend full-day presentation on the Republican River Basin and depletion of Ogallala Aquifer

By Bill Boas
Special to the Pioneer

"The aquifer is depleting rapidly...should we be concerned?" That was the label on several cases of half-filled bottles of drinking water served with lunch at the "State of the Basin Symposium" held this past Monday at the Wray High School Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The symposium was sponsored by the Conservation Committee of the Republican River Water Conservation District (RRWCD).

About 250 people packed the auditorium to hear prominent speakers from Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska present a situation report on water issues affecting the Republican River Basin's many thirsty users. When water is short, state lines become battlegrounds and the recent legal battle between Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska points to a future that can't be "business as usual" for Great Plains water users.

Principal speakers included; Congressman Cory Garner, who was rescheduled from 4 p.m. to 1p.m.; Colorado Supreme Court Justice and water law expert Gregory Hobbs; Dick Wolfe, Colorado State Engineer; Scott Steinbrecher, Colorado Assistant Attorney General; officials of water conservation districts in adjacent Kansas and Nebraska; and experts from academic and private water engineering firms.

With population growing, and water supplies fixed, aggressive water conservation practices surfaces as one humanly manageable variable in the complex climatic, hydraulic, legal, and distribution environment of the Republican River Basin.

The symposium and its speakers addressed many highly technical and legal issues of the basin including the new compact compliance pipeline now operating northeast of Wray, and the draining of Bonnie Reservoir. Most of the people attending were substantial water users of the basin and familiar with the complexities of current water issues. However, for the layman, there were some interesting speaker highlights and statistics.

Dick Wolfe, State Engineer, said "The state consumes about 16 million acre feet of water annually, with agriculture accounting for 86 percent." An acre foot water is 325,851 gallons.

"Colorado's current population of 5 million is expected to double in the next 50 years while its water supplies remain the same as now," said water law expert and Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs, who also provided a succinct history of water law in Colorado.

"How we handle water will challenge our rural culture in northeast Colorado," emphasized Congressman Cory Gardner addressing the group. "Only 72 congressman in the House are from rural districts, and our fewer numbers mean we have to

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Call for conservation cooperation

Water from page 1

speak louder to promote our interests and way of life.

"Better water conservation can save 500,000 acre feet annually in Colorado," he said, adding, that the current national farm bill has added incentives and provisions for water conservation.

According to Deb Daniel, general manager of the RRWCD, a major thrust for 2014 is to make the general public more aware of water conservation by sponsoring additional meetings throughout all conservation districts in the Republican River Basin.

"We need to exchange hats to understand each other's perspective as we solicit and

plan water conservation practices for a viable and sustainable future," she added.

A brief question and answer period followed the scheduled presentations.

About a dozen companies helped sponsor the symposium

for the RRWCD. A barbecue lunch was served. Additional information and technical background material of the current water situation can be obtained from the RRWCD by visiting their website at: www.republicanriver.com.

Community Meeting Downtown Colorado Inc. Assessment Visit

A community meeting regarding the upcoming Downtown Colorado Inc. assessment visit will be held at the Community Center on **Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:30 PM**. The meeting will provide information about the upcoming Downtown Colorado visit.



Thank You!

Thank you to all of our customers who have trusted us to help guide you through the new health insurance landscape. It has been a challenging process with changes occurring almost every day. We will continue to be your source for the latest information and guidance.

For those of you who do not have coverage or want to find something better, **the enrollment period ends March 31st**. After that date you may only change or enroll in a new plan if you involuntarily lose your current coverage or have a life change event.

Enrollment deadlines and effective dates

Enroll by March 31st for coverage to begin May 1.

Time is running out. Call today, or email us at gaylen@cia-yuma.com
The only thing you need to know is 970-848-3364. We can help you with the rest.

Gaylen Campbell
Campbell Insurance Agency
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