

City Business
Park Improvements
by Michael Leamons

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Public Works Supervisor Jim Pitchford, his staff and volunteer Frank Hengels, the City's Bosque River RV Park was opened for business just in time for the Steak Cookoff. All 20 of the newly upgraded sites (as well as one makeshift site) were filled with campers. Hengels, who also volunteered as park host, reported the campground guests were pleased with the accommodations. The level of satisfaction was such that nine of the sites have already been reserved for next year's Cookoff.

It was also encouraging to hear how, the Friday before the Cookoff, some of the campers spoke of dining at local restaurants, since the prime motivation for improving the City's RV campground was to bring visitors to town who would do business with local restaurants, convenience stores and shops.

All of the RV sites are equipped with full hook-ups and WiFi and rent for \$25 per day. The electrical pedestals include 20, 30 and 50 amp outlets. Some of the sites are the back-in type, but most are the more convenient pull through variety. The RV sites were kept together in the east end of the park to preserve the main body of the park for the enjoyment of local citizens.

It is expected having RV guests will prove a sufficient deterrent to vandalism to eliminate the need to lock the park gates at night. As a further safeguard against vandalism, there should be a way to tie security cameras into the new WiFi system.

Not all of the anticipated campground and park improvements have been completed. Some of the campers suggested a few more of the low hanging branches need to be trimmed. A little more work needs to be done leveling and compacting the RV pads. And, there are plans to install some additional picnic tables.

Finally, there has been some discussion about constructing a modest community center in the park to better accommodate family reunions and special events. The current open pavilions are quite nice during the spring and fall, but come up a little short during both the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of winter.

May God bless the City of Hico.