



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

With more than twice the space, staff at the Chase County Extension Office in Imperial is enjoying their move to a new location.

Starting this week, the Extension office is operating at 135 West 5th Street in the former Upper Republican NRD office building. The staff spent all last week moving from 816 Douglas in Imperial, where the office has been located the past 13 years.

One of the big pluses with the move, according to the Extension Educators that serve the Southwest Four Extension Unit, is the private office space.

Because of the client sensitivity involved in some of their work, including financial and/or medical discussions, the offices provide more privacy.

At the previous site, the offices were set up more as cubicles.

Extension Educator Robert Tigner, who came on board this spring replacing Tom Dill, is headquartered in Imperial and has a separate office.

“That’s important for our clients,” he said.

Tigner is in Imperial on Mondays and Fridays, and spends time the rest of the week in Dundy, Hayes and Hitchcock Counties, all part of the Southwest Four Unit.

Extension Educators Nancy Frecks and Kimberly Cook are sharing an office at the new site. Frecks is in the Imperial office most Thursdays, while Cook is here on Tuesdays most weeks.

However, all the Extension Educators’ schedules depend on the Extension or 4-H activities that week.

While most of the heavy moving was completing last week, office secretary Connie Griess has been moving boxes for about three weeks.

Griess said the new space provides a lot more area for storage, which they welcome.

Extension Educator Tigner noted the meeting room at the rear of the office will be used for their Extension board and 4-H Council meetings, but will be available for other small group meetings, too.

It has been equipped with high speed wireless Internet and has webcast capabilities. He said the meeting room will be made available to their clients, other small groups and area businesses who may also be interested in using the webcast capabilities there for their own trainings and programs.

The county is leasing the west 5th Street office site from Cal German of Imperial, who purchased the building after the Upper Republican NRD built new offices on East 5th Street in Imperial.

The county commissioners signed a five-year lease for the building at \$500 per month.

An open house will be scheduled at a later date.