

People need to file before noon Tuesday

By Karen Krien

People wanting to file for seats on the school boards in St. Francis and Cheylin and/or on the city councils in St. Francis and Bird City or for mayor of St. Francis need to do so before noon on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, election officer Terry Miller reported that there have been people filing for all the positions in the city council and school board which are up for election. However, in Bird City, filings are still needed for the city council and the Cheylin School Board.

There are two St. Francis City Council positions and mayor of St. Francis up for election. In Bird City, there are three city council positions open.

In the schools there are four seats up for election in St. Francis and three seats in Cheylin.

City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are two city council seats and the position of mayor which will be up for election.

Those members whose term are up are: Roger Jensen and Rick Krieh, council members, and Scott Schultz, mayor. Councilman Krieh will have already resigned before the filing but the council will appoint a person to fill out the term until the April 8 regular city council meeting when the elected councilman takes over.

Bird City — There are three seats on the city council up for election. These positions are currently being served by Wade Carmichael, Canda Orten and Ned Smith.

Election officer Terry Miller reported that, as of Tuesday, only Troy Burr had filed for the Bird City Council position. Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks filed for

the St. Francis council position and Scott Schultz for mayor.

Board of education

St. Francis — There four seats on the St. Francis Board of Education which will be up for election. Positions are: District 1, position 1, Cliff Raile; District 2, position 2, Bonnie Zwegardt; District 3, position 3, John Knodel; and Member-At-Large, position 7, Sherry Weeks.

There has been three incumbents, Bonnie Zwegardt, Sherry Weeks, Cliff Raile and John Knodel, file for positions on the school board.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board of Education has three seats up for election including District 2, position 2, Eric Churchwell; District 1, position 5, David Frisbee; and District 2, position 4, Kerby Krien. No one has filed.

When filing

Those filing will need to either pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be filled by the candidates with the most votes in the April 1 election.

To run for a seat on the city council, the candidate must live in Bird City. See Filing on page 5



LAST SNOWPILE — While the weather has been jumping back and forth from winter to spring and back to winter again, Cody (left) and Dominick (right) Cisneros are taking advantage of the snow pile which hasn't melted yet. Coats off on Monday was the norm as the kids exited another school day.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

County employee's salaries frozen to help curb spending

By Karen Krien

There was a lot of discussion before the Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Monday meeting, agreed to freeze county employee's salaries.

The state of Kansas officials have indicated that counties and cities may not be getting funding as in years past. The budgets were set in August so it is now up to the commissioners to make cuts where necessary and curb any unnecessary spending.

Already, the road and bridge supervisor had held back in proceeding with projects and making purchases.

"Until we know what the state is going to do, I just think we should freeze wages," Tim Raile, commissioner, said. "If we do get funding, then the raises could be retroactive to the first of the year or we could start the raises then — we need to

know more (about what funding is coming in)."

The other commissioners, also concerned about the state funding or lack of funding, agreed to freeze wages.

In keeping with being frugal, several areas of spending were discussed including overtime in the sheriff's department. It was noted that undersheriffs are exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act but

Cheyenne County currently pays overtime. This matter will be discussed later.

Because money is tight, the commissioners said that it was absolutely necessary that each department spend no more than what was in their line items. After discussion, the board asked that a resolution be written regarding budget line items and obtaining permission from the commission-

ers to spend should a line item go over its budget.

The commissioners questioned the number of hours used to fill out and submit forms in the ambulance department. Janelle Bowers, bookkeeper, and Larry Gabel, emergency medical service coordinator, will be asked to come to a future meeting to discuss the hours. If Mrs. Bowers is working over 35 hours per week, the commission-

ers will need to consider her full time and place her on the payroll as such.

Another decision made by the commissioners to conserve county money was to not have the employee appreciation dinner as planned after the first of the year. They discussed possibly a dinner or a potluck get-together in the spring or summer. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Fair board elects new officers; three resign meeting night

By Lezlie Hilt

Officers were voted on and installed at the Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting Thursday night. Dick Bursch was voted back in as president. John Finley is the vice president; Wade Krien will be the new secretary and Kelley Faylor, the treasurer. Rita Koros, Jeanne Dunn and Shawn Blanka all handed in their resignations from the board. Cliff Bursch and Lacy Reed are new members.

There should be 15 fair board members — five from the three commissioner districts. Present board members besides those listed above include: Ernie Ketzner, Mark Mills, Jared Douthit, and Cliff Pilkington.

More fair board members are needed and anyone interested in being on the board should contact Dick Bursch or call Terry Miller at the county clerk's office.

Fair entertainment

Baxter Black has been confirmed for the Thursday night grandstand entertainment for the 2003 fair. The Kids' Ranch Rodeo contract was received and needed to be signed and returned. The Antique Tractor Pull Association is planning on being at the fair if the association gets their scales fixed.

Extension office

Dale Weeks, representing the county extension board, and Casey See Fairboard on page 5

Kansas Day celebration slated for the end of January

By Karen Krien

The annual Kansas Day celebration in Bird City will be held on Jan. 29 at the American Legion Hall. The hall will open at 9 a.m. and a carry-in dinner will be served at noon. The afternoon program will follow at 12:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "Beauty Is Where You Look For It." Everyone including individuals, families and/or organizations are asked to bring displays showing the beauty of anything they would like to share. This can include various things such as old recipe books, old tools, old or new dolls, photographs, family albums, scrapbooks, quilts, clothes, hats, trunks or anything else people may come up with.

"It is a great way to share beauty from the past as well as the present," president Connie Miller said. Everyone is urged to attend this special celebration, enjoy the displays and the entertainment. Look for more information about Kansas Day in Bird City in next week's issue.

Commissioners review changes in county employees handbook

The county attorney Kevin Berens spent considerable time going over changes he had suggested for the county employee's handbook when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Monday. One of the items changed to clarify the policy concerned vacation days, when and how they could be taken and that they could not be carried over into the next year.

Attorney Berens had looked into the consolidated law enforcement requirements and had found that a board for the county-wide law en-

forcement would include the chair person, county attorney, the mayor of the largest city and two elected members at large. The commissioners agreed that there should be better representation from Bird City, the smaller city in the county.

Attorney Berens said that, in the case of consolidated law enforcement, "home rule" where commissioners can make changes in statutes, would not apply. The commissioners asked that the attorney get an opinion from the state attorney general to see if the requirements on

this law enforcement board be changed. Otherwise, they did not see that consolidated law enforcement would work in Cheyenne County.

Emergency medical service

The clerk reported that Larry Gabel will teach the emergency medical technician class and will be contracted through Colby Community College. The county will pay the tuition for the students and the college will then reimburse the county. Commissioner Jane See Handbook on page 5

Congressman to stop in Bird City

Congressman Jerry Moran will be making a stop in Bird City on his "Big First Listening Tour." This is the first leg of the congressman's annual tour of the district. When the tour is completed, Congressman Moran will have made a stop, holding town hall meetings in each of the 69 counties in the First District. He will be at the First National Bank, 210 Bird Ave., from 11

a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

The stop in Bird City will offer county residents the opportunity to personally meet the congressman as well as express their concerns and ask questions on federal issues.

The congressman's tour will be held throughout January and February and he will have traveled over 5,000 miles to meet with thousands of Kansans living in the First District.

Rides are offered

Now that the Bird City Market has closed, American Legion members know that it is difficult for some people to get their groceries. Senior citizens who would like a ride to the grocery store, please be at the Senior Center on Wednesdays. There will be several trips made that day, or to set up a specific time, call Charles Coleman at 734-2796.

Leo Mazon, a member of the American Legion, has also volunteered to drive people to the grocery store, doctor appointments, etc. If you are in need of a ride give him a call at 734-2457.

Handbook

Continued from page 1
 Brubaker asked about Rawlins County students attending the class and what the county should charge. The commissioners, after discussion, agreed that Rawlins County Commissioners should go through Colby Community College — that the Cheyenne County Commissioners had no say in the matter.

When Director Gabel was talked to Commissioner Tim Raile on Jan. 6, he had asked, that since he was agreeing to teach the class at no charge to the county, that the commissioners consider allowing technician's meal charges to go over \$10 since sometimes an ambulance run could take the technician all day and he could miss two or three meals. He offered to pay the amount over the \$10 meal out of his own pocket. However, the commissioners decided that this could be an "accounting nightmare" and if the director chose to pay more for the meal, he could do this on his own — that the policy of a \$10 per meal policy would stand as written.

Emergency manager's report
 Gary Rogers, emergency manager, reported that he had been approved to spend Mitigation Grant Funding for a printer which will cost between \$200 and \$300. Manager Rogers' request was okayed by the commissioners and he was told to purchase the printer for the best deal. The Mitigation Program Grant Agreement requests that the funding received should be placed in a non-interest bearing fund and, if possible, separate from other accounts. The clerk will discuss the matter with the auditor and the treasurer.

There was \$680 left in a Depart-

ment of Justice Terrorism Response Equipment Grant that will need to be spent before Jan. 31. This year, the county will receive \$16,400 in grant funding. Manager Rogers reported that he is applying for a Cascade System for the Bird City Fire Department

Sheriff's report
 Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring asked and received permission to go to a sheriff administration and management training the first part of February. Carol Gamblin, sheriff's office dispatcher, asked to attend a training conducted by the state highway patrol. The sheriff was asked to see if a similar training is offered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and, if so, that may be the training she should attend. The board was also informed that personal phone calls made by the undersheriff were reimbursed. Some of the vouchers from the sheriff's department which were made before the first of the year were reviewed and okayed.

The sheriff invited the commissioners to attend the meth seminar to be held on Jan. 21 at the high school in St. Francis. He also said that he had applied for a grant to pay for meth awareness.

In other business
 In other business:
 • Commissioner Jane Brubaker was sworn in and will be serving her third term of four years. Commissioner Brubaker was also elected as the new board chair person.
 • Eric Fiala, who had previously served as the county's representative on the Western Prairie Resource, Conservation and Development Board, reported that he had asked Elmer Kellner to serve, re-

placing him on the board and he had agreed.

• The commissioners agreed to pay one-half of the cost with the city of St. Francis for payment of each fireman attending a Farm Accident Extrication program. The total cost for each fireman is \$15.

• Two highway permits were signed by the commissioners for Gerald Feikert, St. Francis, to bury a water line and electrical wires on the county right-of-way. Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming reported that he was waiting to receive the contracts from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment concerning the three illegal dump sites in the county. The Gale and Mary Walz gravel pit agreements had been completed.

• Leadership Cheyenne County members were present for part of the meeting where they observed and asked some interesting questions.

• Dues of \$1,056 for the Kansas Association of Commissioners were approved. It was noted that the total was down from last year's dues.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Jan. 31 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.

Filing

Continued from page 1
 within the city limits.

School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidate running in a district, there will be a primary election on Feb. 25, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.



McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Jerry and Betty Knapp were Friday night supper guests of Zeldia Knapp.

Travis Knapp of Hutchinson surprised his parents, Jerry and Betty Knapp, when he came home to spend the weekend.

Phyllis Wilkinson accompanied Lisa Johnson to Sharon Springs on Thursday to attend the junior high basketball games.

On Friday evening, family and friends helped Rod Johnson and Monty Biggs celebrate their 40th

birthdays with supper at Big Ed's. Other birthdays acknowledged were Greg Wilkinson and Shawn Wilkinson. Guests were Rod, Lisa and Josh Johnson, Monty Biggs, his parents and his aunt, Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson, Bob and Helen Johnson and Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson.

Rod and Lisa Johnson and Josh were Saturday supper guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson.

Wednesday visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison

were Tammi Carmichael, Taryn and Ty. Judy and A.B. Fisher were Friday callers.

Verda Wancura of Colby took Dorothy Headrick to Atwood on Friday where she visited Gertrude Kastens. Diane Hazuka brought Dorothy to her home.

Gail and Kay Miller and Randy and Justin Miller drove to Hays on Sunday where they met Lori Driskill of Wichita and they spent the day together.

South of McDonald By Sandy Binning

On Tuesday, George Banister picked up his daughter Jamie in Denver at the airport. That evening the whole Banister family attended the basketball games in McDonald.

Jamie Banister returned to St. Louis Thursday.

On Thursday, George and Kathy Banister attended the junior high basketball games in Sharon Springs to watch their daughter Debbie play.

On Saturday, George and Kathy Banister attended the junior varsity high school basketball tournament in Sharon Springs.

John Simmonds was a Sunday supper guest of David Banister.

Thursday evening and overnight guests of Bethel and Lavern Golt was Sandra Sherood, Lavern's niece. They enjoyed an evening meal at Big Ed's in Bird City where Irene Kehlbeck joined them.

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Fair board

Continued from page 1
 Johnson, extension agent, were present.

Mr. Weeks asked that the newly elected fair board officers set up a meeting with the extension board so that they can decide who is taking certain responsibilities in the upcoming year. There had been some confusion last year that needs to be worked out. A meeting was set for 7 p.m. on Jan. 28.

Agent Johnson discussed a lack of rabbit cages during the fair. Last year they could have used a few more and they expect the rabbits exhibits that were there last year to be at the fair again this year along with more offsprings so several more cages are needed. The members discussed that maybe there were people who would be willing to donate cages or allow the extension

office to use them for the fair. No decision was made.

Derby
 The fair board is having an early derby this year. There was discussion about getting the committee together to set a date so that they can get flyers out. No date was set, however, they thought the derby would be held sometime in June.

In other business
 In other business:
 • Members signed up for the committees.

• The scales at the fairgrounds were discussed and it was decided that the scales do not need to be certified as long as all animals are weighed on the same scale.

Next meeting
 The next meeting of the fair board will be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 6 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

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