



## Historic site comes down —



FOR THE SECOND TIME fire struck the historical Church of God building, but this time the fire was done through a controlled burn by the local firemen.



## Time jumps ahead

Spring is here and on Sunday, people should plan to set their clocks ahead an hour before going to bed Saturday night or you might be late to church Sunday morning.

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday. The actual time change is 2 a.m. on Sunday but most people will not be up at that hour and should just take care of the clock changes a little earlier. So, if you go to bed at 11 p.m., reset the clock for midnight.

While it will stay light longer in the evening, it will still be dark when many people, especially school kids, get ready for the day. Be careful on the way to work.

It would also be a good idea to get to bed an hour earlier than usual or you'll end up losing an hour of sack time and it could take the whole week to catch up.

Everyone is also urged to change the batteries in their smoke alarms rather than to wait until there is a strange sound like a bird chirping or there is an emergency and the alarm doesn't go off. Firemen suggest that by changing the batteries, it could save a life.

## Fire claims old church building

**By Casey McCormick**  
Fire again claimed the old Church of God building in McDonald but this time it was a controlled burn by the local fire department in order to demolish what could have been a hazard. On Thursday, as some area residents watched, a match was set to what was left of the structure.

"It breaks my heart to see it gone," said Eunice Officer as she watched from her front porch just to the south of the church's corner lot.

"I was here when it was built," she said.

The Church of God was constructed in 1926 and was known for the beautiful stained glass windows and curved back oak pews. With time the congregation grew older and members began to dwindle.

In 1969 the church was purchased by Danny Hartman and

family. Though Mr. Hartman lives in Loxley, Ala., he grew up in McDonald and attended the church as a kid. He had been using the building to store some of his antique car collection and other property until April 27, 2002, when four youth broke into the structure and lit it on fire.

Luckily the boys escaped and earlier, Mr. Hartman had removed one of his vehicles, a 1940 Lincoln. But three cars were destroyed, all 1950s Ford coupes and the four boys were never brought to justice. All have moved from McDonald with their families but since "they were wards of the state," said Mr. Hartman, "we couldn't do anything about it."

Mr. Hartman and "Shorty" Hawkins of McDonald, had used an old winch truck to drag the charred cars out of the partially demolished church before the McDonald Volunteer Firefighters set off what remained.



MCDONALD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT stand by as the church finishes burning. Those overseeing the controlled burn are from left to right: Andrew Johnson, Craig Antholz, Randy Miller and Dave Hubbard.

Times staff photos by Casey McCormick

## Hospital acquires \$81,000 in tax credit for community project

**By Karen Krien**  
An accounting company in Montezuma has contacted the Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator that the owner has a client who will be giving \$81,000 toward the Community Service Project which is funded through Kansas Income Tax Credits.

The Hospital Tax Credit Fund now has \$254,260 in cash and commitments. The \$45,740 left of the allowed \$300,000 will need to be raised by Dec. 31.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, told the hospital board at the March meeting that other individuals or businesses wanting to take advantage of the Community Service Tax Credit Project should plan to either pledge or give very soon or the hospital may run out of tax credits.

The Community Service Project allows individuals and businesses to steer their taxes back home and it is a way for people who want to donate to the hospital to maximize

the contribution while minimizing their costs.

To qualify for and take advantage of this tax credit, taxpayers must file taxes in Kansas. When they make a qualified donation, they will get 70 percent of that donation back as a refundable Kansas income tax credit.

"This means that 70 percent of your donation is used to pay the Kansas income tax you owe. It's money you would have had to send to Topeka," the administrator said. "There are additional benefits on the federal income tax for those who itemize. People need to visit with their tax preparer to be clear about

those."

Administrator Lacy said there is a chance that if the project has collected the amount awarded by the state and it has been filled early enough, he can file an application for addition funds if there are any left.

See Hospital on Page 2



ELECTION BOARD consisting of Bonnie Burr, Phyllis Carson, Jane Brubaker, and Marilee Leach were busy helping voters at the American Legion Hall Tuesday. Not pictured is Canda Orten.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Commissioners meet with health representatives

**By Karen Krien**  
The county representatives for the High Plains Mental Health Board were present to ask the Cheyenne County Commissioners not to cut the budgeted amount for High Plains Mental Health.

Carol Ross and Ilene O'Leary are the county's representatives and they reported that last year, the county gave \$5,800 to the organization. Commissioner Tim Raile said that he didn't anticipate that the county would cut the amount unless the state's funding to the county was severely cut and, if that were the case, there would be other organizations besides the High Plains Mental Health which would see cuts.

Tracy Hillmer, the new High Plains Mental Health director in Goodland, and Tammi Pettijohn, also with High Plains Mental Health, told about the new respite care center in Hays which is now up and running. The center, which has four beds, gives supportive assistance during unmanageable, stressful circumstances to help strengthen coping skills and decrease the risk of psychiatric hospitalization and for medication assessment, initiation or adjustment. Those coming to the center may avoid hospitalization.

Ms. Hillmer reported that there is a new program which includes three

manuals. It is not certain where the manuals will go but most likely to the schools instructors to better help them recognize mental problems in children and adolescence.

### Sprinkler system

Carl Williams, maintenance supervisor, had asked for and the commissioners had received some bids for replacing a section of sprinkler system plus replacing a section of cement. The supervisor also thought that a buildup of sand should also be removed by first having the sod removed, the sand taken out and the sod replaced. This had not been figured into one of the bids so the matter will be looked at in a future meeting.

The courthouse budget has sufficient funds to cover the expected costs.

### In other business

• Several vouchers were examined before the commissioners approved them.

• Commissioners asked county attorney Kevin Berens about prisoner keep costs. The attorney said that the prisoners in question were now out of jail. When asked, he also said that the magistrate judge makes the selection of the court appointed attorney and that attorney is based on the fact that the person cannot pay for the attorney.

See Commissioners on Page 2

## City, school election results told

**By Karen Krien**  
The school and city election was held Tuesday with only 21 percent of the registered voters going to the polls to cast their ballots. Terry Miller, county election officer, reported only 649 people voted in the election.

The only races in the election were that of St. Francis Board of Education, District 1, position 1, where incumbent Cliff Raile won the seat 17 votes over Pete Kinen

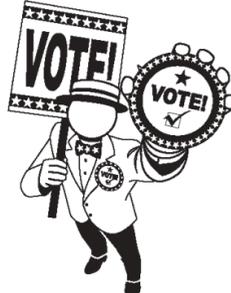
and incumbents Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks won the St. Francis City Council seats over Bud Erskin.

The Rawlins County Clerk reported that the vote to consolidate the Herndon school with the Atwood Schools had overwhelmingly passed.

Final votes were:  
**St. Francis City Council**  
Bud Erskin 27  
Roger Jensen 197  
Dale Weeks 215

**St. Francis Mayor**  
Scott Schultz 221  
**Bird City City Council**  
Frank Serrano 68  
Troy Burr 76  
Loren White (write-in) 55  
**St. Francis Board of Education**  
Pete Kinen 151  
Clifford Raile 168  
Bonnie Zweygardt 287  
John Knodel 299  
Sherry Weeks 286

**Cheylin Board of Education**  
David Frisbie 179  
Wade Carmichael 183  
Kerby Krien 180





SONJA WEEDEN, middle, was Sworn into duty by area manager Mark Kerschen, right. Sonja's husband, Dennis, left, along with her family and friends were present for the ceremony. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## New postmaster sworn in

**By Casey McCormick**  
Sonja J. Weeden became the 18th Bird City Postmaster, being sworn into duty by Mark Kerschen, area manager of Post Office Operations before a large crowd at the post office on Tuesday. Present were her husband, Dennis, family members, friends, two area Postmasters (Maryanna McMillan of Atwood and Steve Schultz of the St. Francis Post Office) and many local citizens. With one hand on the Bible and

the other raised, Mrs. Weeden took her oath of office. After the ceremony Mr. Kerschen presented the Postmaster with a framed copy of the oath as well as a framed list of the 17 individuals who held the position before her. The first Postmaster of Bird City was Charles J. Kerndt who took the duties on October 28, 1885. Mrs. Weeden brings a great deal of experience with her having worked for the United States

Postal Service since 1985 and growing up with a family heritage in the postal service. She received the post over seven to eight other applicants. In year's back the process of swearing in a new Postmaster was performed by the President of the United States, though this has not been done for many years. Although the visitors to this occasion did not get a chance to see the President they were able enjoy refreshments and cookies.

## Bulletin Board

**Death notice**  
Lyle L. Smith, Goodland, died Sunday, March 30 in Denver. He was born April 26, 1929 at Beardsley. Funeral services were held April 1. Complete obituary in next week's Herald and Times.

**Clinic planned**  
Bird City City Council will hold a clinic on tree pruning Wednesday, April 9 at the local park. There is no fee required and Kansas State University Extension Forester Jim Strine will conduct the clinic.

Participants should come to the park at noon for a "dutch lunch." In order to know how many meals to prepare please contact Larry Henry (734-2661) if you plan to attend

**Legion Auxiliary to meet**  
The regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will be Friday, April 4 at 2:00 pm. Roll call will be a war related thought, current events will be discussed, etc.

**Cheyenne County Farmers Market**  
Vendors are welcome to attend a meeting of the Cheyenne County Farmers Market to be held at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The meeting is for all new and returning vendors who are planning to sell at the 2003 market. They will be covering changes for the 2003 season as well as reviewing the guidelines still in place. There will be an opportunity for questions and comments at the meeting. Bring a friend.

**Hospital Guild**  
The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild will meet at 2 p.m. Monday at the senior citizen center. The program will be presented by Jason Johnson. Hostesses are Naomi Holliman and Gladys Confer.

**Bridge Band**  
The Bridge Band from Norton United Methodist Church will be

playing a concert at the Prairie Heights School in Jennings on Saturday, March 29 following a soup supper (5 to 7) sponsored by the Jennings Lions Club. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

Former Bird City resident Glenn Krebs is a Oion and plays electric bass in the Bridge Band.

**Recognition night in Colby**  
Retired and Senior Volunteer program (RSVP) annual recognition night "Spirit of America," will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 16 at the American Legion in Colby. The dance is open to all area senior citizens. For more information, call 785-462-6744.

**Fair Board**  
The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday), in the commissioner's room in the courthouse.

**Cheyenne County Kansans for Life**  
Cheyenne County Kansans for Life will meet at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City on Monday. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Donetta Robben from Hays will be speaking.

**Taxaide**  
People Helping People Income Tax Assistance volunteers will assist you in preparing and filing your tax return. They will be at the St. Francis Public Library from 2 to 5 on Wednesdays and at the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. For appointments call Annette Erskin at 332-2304; Rowland Roelfs at 332-3490 or Wayne Keeker at 332-3428.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Al-Anon date change**  
Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon open meeting, held at 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Methodist Educational Building, upstairs.

**Happy 85th Birthday LOU WEBB!!!**

From Gerald, Sandy & Casey

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# Previously leased tractors to be purchased by county

**By Karen Krien**  
After many meetings of discussing whether or not to lease or purchase two tractors used for mowing ditches during the summer, the Cheyenne County Commissioners at the Monday meeting, agreed to purchase the two tractors which were leased three years ago. The purchase pay off price of the John Deere tractors was \$72,533. Ron Krien, commissioner, said that there were some older tractors that the county road and bridge crew was using and, he would rather see one of those replaced instead of leasing two new tractors to replace the purchased John Deere tractors. The tractors which were purchased had previously been leased by the county and Dave Flemming, road

and bridge supervisor, pointed out that the county had fallen short of even using the hours allowed in the lease. Supervisor Flemming reported that the scraper which the county had purchased had finally made it home after being caught in a snow storm in Colorado. He indicated that the equipment was in much better shape than expected and had caused fewer repairs. In other road and bridge department business, the superintendent reported:  
• The illegal landfill cleanup (there were three projects) was complete and the state had paid 75 percent of the cost. The county will pick up the other 25 percent of the cleanup cost.

• That when scarifying the road, the crew brings up the dirt which will mix with the gravel. In a complaint in the Bird City area, the supervisor said that he thought that, in a few weeks, that road would be okay and if not, he would put some gravel on it.  
"Scarifying is just stabilizing the road base," he said.  
• Commissioner Tim Raile asked that the road and bridge crew put some binder on the Callicrate road south of St. Francis because it was a good road but the wind was causing erosion.  
After an executive session concerning personnel, no decision was made but the supervisor announced that he would be hiring part-time help.

## Hospital

**Continued from Page 1**  
The administrator also informed the board that the state legislature is trying to pass a House Bill 2162 which would channel 80 percent of the tax credit money into one specific project and the other 20 percent would be divided into much smaller projects. The board signed a letter requesting that the bill be killed.  
**Clinic basement renovation**  
The board spent considerable time discussing the renovation of the clinic basement in St. Francis. The remodeling of the main floor of the clinic was paid for with Tax Credit funds but the basement will be done mostly with in-house and volunteer labor.  
The clinic basement will house the large meeting room which was originally there as well as the county health office which has been located on U.S. 36. Board members felt that there could be changes in the layout of the county health clinic and it was suggested that before walls for rooms are erected, they should "chalk" out the rooms on the floor. They also felt it was important that Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, and her assistant have input in the plans.  
The administrator and board were concerned about the dust tracking onto the new carpet in the main clinic which will soon be ready for operation. A discussion of dust control in the basement followed and the board requested costs for tile in the unfinished hallways in that area.  
The remodeling of the main floor of the clinic was discussed and it was noted that the architects will have a "walk through" in the very near future.  
**Administrator's report**  
In the administrator's report:  
• Inpatient volume was fairly good as of March 13 and the outpatient volume seemed stronger.  
• The hospital had been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting.  
• All on-site year-end and audit work had been completed.  
In other business:  
• The bid opening for the hospital building and renovation project has tentatively been set for 2 p.m. on April 22.  
• Treasurer Traci Neitzel was

## Hospital

asked to invest some board funds where they would gain more interest. She will look into it and report back to the board.  
• Board chairman Rueben Schultz was concerned that the architect fees for blue prints were more than the percentage they had quoted. The administrator will look

## Commissioners

**Continued from Page 1**  
• Commissioner Raile reported that he had been asked by a city council member if the St. Francis highway frontage could be cleaned up. Attorney Berens will look into new legislation and bring back information.  
• Attorney Berens said the Cheyenne County Development organization is working on the county's Enterprise Zone Plan which is due by April 30, 2004.  
• Overtime hours were approved for the sheriff's department.  
• Commissioner Jane Brubaker had attended a WaKeeney Juvenile Center meeting and in just a short time, those attending agreed to bring their juveniles to the Center if the cost is kept at \$145 a day.  
• Commissioner Brubaker also reported that she would be reporting on the consolidated law enforcement plan to both the city councils in Bird City and St. Francis. Commissioner Raile said he would also plan to attend and asked that Attorney Berens attend.  
• The commissioners were shown that there were \$2,094 in ambulance write-offs.  
• Mary Morrow, register of deeds, and Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, reported that they will be attending workshops and meetings in the near future, which the commissioners approved.

## Commissioners

**Next meeting**  
The next meeting of the commissioners will be at 8 a.m. on Friday when they will meet to canvas the votes of the general election.  
The next regular meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on April 14 instead of April 15 at the courthouse in St. Francis.

## Bird City News

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fabrizius of Colorado Springs, Colorado were Friday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Dorsch. On Saturday the two couples attended the wedding of John Fabrizius and Michelle Cullens in Wakeeney, Kansas.

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The Cheyenne County Clinic will be CLOSED Friday, April 11 so that we can move back to our renovated building. The NEW CLINIC will be OPEN Monday, April 14. Thank you again for your patience.

The 9HealthFair has been CANCELED for this year.