



## Sheriff gets okay to hire deputies

By Karen Krien

Hiring deputies for the sheriff's department was the reason the commissioners went into private session when they met on Feb. 15. Deputies were approved but no names were given until the sheriff had contacted them.

Troy Gardner, sheriff, said he was wanting to hire a full-time deputy

and two part-time deputies in the department. Interviews had been made and in the executive session, he revealed his choices of applicants and the commissioners approved. However, until he had contacted them to see if they were still interested, the names of the applicants were not announced.

Sheriff Gardner said that the inter-

est service in the office was so slow and files were so big that the connection is often dropped before the files were able to open. He asked to switch to the city of St. Francis' wireless service which was approved.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker asked that the cell phones be assigned to the people who will be car-

rying them. She also questioned the "Touch to Talk" feature which was listed on the bill. The sheriff said he will discontinue this feature.

### County attorney report

County attorney Justin Barrett said he had talked to Alan Rose, owner of a number of cars, which his neighbor complained about at the last meeting. Attorney Barrett said

Mr. Rose is within the law and has a state license. The neighbor also moved to the property when the cars were already there. Mr. Barrett is waiting for more information.

The county attorney and commissioners discussed changes that may need to be made in employee handbook:

On page three under recruitment,

Commissioner Brubaker suggested adding that departments can go from part time to full time without opening the position to the public. The county attorney will check to make sure that it is legal. If it is, he will incorporate it into the employee handbook.

On page 13, under workman  
See COUNTY on Page 3

## Changes needed for airport zoning

By Karen Krien

Dave Yost, Airport Authority president, was present at the Feb. 15 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting to ask the Commissioners to enact a zoning ordinance which would protect the Cheyenne County Airport's airspace from future obstructions that would adversely affect the airport's operations. Mr. Yost was accompanied by Robert and Richard Grace, Grace Flying Service, the firm which manages the airport for the county.

Mr. Yost had with him a model ordinance from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), but it was noted that the required accompanying map which delineates the restricted airspace would cost \$1,000 and would be supplied by Ollson Associates, the engineering firm which is creating the airport master plan. It was also noted in the meeting that the city of St. Francis would be required to enact a similar ordinance.

Mr. Yost said there are no existing buildings which encroach upon the protected airspace, but when prospective builders ask where they can build, the Airport Authority is unable to answer the question, since no definitive map exists. Mr. Yost also noted that the Federal Aviation Administration will not protect the airspace, but if an obstruction were built, it might adversely affect the instrument approaches into the air-

port, thereby reducing or eliminating airport access in times of inclement weather. The proposed zoning ordinance would authorize the county to protect the airport's airspace from such a scenario.

It was suggested that the Airport Authority get a map from the appraiser's office and just say that no one can build in these areas, but Justin Barrett, county attorney, pointed out that such a method would be overly restrictive. Robert Grace added that the airspace map is quite complex, because the calculation includes complex three-dimensional figures which are based upon the specific topographical data for the surrounding area.

Discussion reviewed the fact that the present Federal funding is on a 95-5-percent basis, which is very desirable for the county, and may not be repeated in the future. Previous grants have been offered at rates varying from 75 to 25 percent to 90 to 10 percent. The Federal Trust Fund money comes from user fees generated by taxes on aviation fuel and airline tickets. No Federal Trust funds have ever been granted to the Cheyenne County Airport.

The Authority also said that there are many things they could do at the airport but they do not plan to do anything that is not necessary. The airport Master Plan does include future options to widen and extend

See AIRPORT on Page 3

## Legislators plan visit to St. Francis

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Fabor will be in St. Francis from 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant. The legislators will be seeking ideas on matters being addressed in the Kansas Legislature.

Following the meeting in St. Francis, they will be in Atwood from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.; Oberlin, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Norton, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Among the items they plan to discuss are: insurance for the Kansas National Guard mem-

bers on federal duty in a combat area; campaign finance measures; the proposed transfers of medical service such as Medicaid, MediKan and HealthWave from Social Rehabilitation Services to the division of Health Policy and Finance within the Department of Administration; and wind energy projects such as wind farms.

Their schedule began in Goodland on Saturday, Feb. 19. On Saturday, they will start the day in Oakley.

## Strip till seminar planned on March 3

A strip till workshop has been set for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant in St. Francis. Dale Fjell, Kent McVay and Jeanne Falk, Kansas State University crop and soil specialists will presenting the program.

Some of the topics discussed during the workshop are: 1) water utilization; 2) soil compaction; 3) field residue; 4) maximized fertilizer benefits; and 5) fuel savings.

"There will be significant research based information provided for the producers looking to incorporate no-

till farming practices," Tye Faulkender, Cheyenne County Extension director.

No-till farming is becoming a more widely used farming practice due to economical reasons.

"Strip till is a good transitional tool for the producer who is not ready to commit to no-till," Director Faulkender said.

Lunch is being served compliments of St. Francis Equity, Bartlett Grain, Frontier Equity and Krien Farm Supply.



NO FISHSTORY! Jacob Riedel checks his fish in to be weighed at the Cheyenne County Wildlife fishing derby. \$1,800 worth of farm-raised, rainbow trout were placed in

Keller's Pond for the event. Hal Sager (right) helped to sponsor the derby and recorded information.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Fishing derby attracts many anglers

By Casey McCormick

This year's Cheyenne County Wildlife Trout Fishing Derby, held on Feb. 20, was a big success, drawing 31 teams. Keller Pond was lined by young and old, all waiting for a chance to reel in a large rainbow trout.

Cheyenne County Wildlife had stocked the pond with 611 pounds

of rainbow trout at a cost of \$1,800. The fish came from Klein Fish Farms in Boulder, Colo. They were placed in Keller Pond on Jan. 24.

Participants used worms, spinning lures and power bait to attract the trout. The winning team was the brothers, Tim Baxter and Slim Baxter who brought in seven fish that weighed a total 24 and a half

pounds. The second place team was the father-son team of Clay and Casey Keller who had six fish at 17.5. Keith Peter and Jim Miller were third with four trout, weighing 11.5.

Of the 37 fish caught during the contest, the total weight was 103.75 pounds. The average fish was 2.80 pounds.

Cheyenne County Wildlife will hold their annual banquet at the Bird City Legion Hall on March 18. The \$15 fee includes yearly membership as well as prime rib dinner that evening.

Other placers were: Martin Hilt, Jodie Hilt: four at 9.75 pounds, Ward Cassidy, Tate Busse: two at 6.75 pounds.

## Newspaper expands with arrival of new associate editor on staff

The Bird City Times has an associate editor.

DeAnza Church, Bird City, has taken over most of the duties of Casey McCormick. Casey will be devoting more time to advertising sales for *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. He will continue to write his "Casey's Comments" as well as a few articles from time to time.

"Ms. Church is well known in Bird City having ran the Blue Bird Junction for a year. We are happy to have her aboard," said Karen Krien, publisher. "She is looking forward to working with the community in her new line of work."

DeAnza says, "I love to write and I am already looking into some possible human interest stories."

Ms. Church will be covering school and community events. She will also need people to let her know when a special event or meeting is planned so she may cover them as well.

All ads, news copies and photos need to be submitted by 5 p.m. on Mondays. Those having news articles may leave them in the basket at Hometown Market, mail them to Box 220, Bird City, 67731; or call DeAnza at 785-734-2324. (Ms.



WELCOME ABOARD! DeAnza Church has joined the staff of the Bird City Times. She brings an enthusiastic attitude to the paper.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Church will be working out of her home.)

"I am happy to have the help in Bird City but I also want to stress

that I will be in the city to help DeAnza, as well as selling advertising," Mr. McCormick said.

Ms. Church's mother, Peggy

Horinek, was the editor of the *Bird City Times* before Mr. McCormick took the position.

**DeAnza Church**  
*Bird City Times* Associate Editor  
 Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731  
 Phone/fax-785-734-2324  
 or contact  
**The Saint Francis Herald**  
 785-332-3162





DAMON RICKARD (left) and Stewart Johnson work on a car at the old Frontier Equity Tire Store. They will soon be working out of the Philling Station building that has been purchased by the Coop.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Coop purchases station, work begins on upgrades

**By Casey McCormick**  
The Frontier Equity Exchange Tire Shop in Bird City will have a new location. Frontier Equity have purchased the building where Troy James has been operation the Philling Station.

Frontier Equity will be moving Mr. James's equipment to the old location of the Tire Shop, at the southeast corner of Bird Ave and Hwy 36. The new Tire Shop will be in the gas station located between the Dairy King and Krien Farm

Supply to the south of Hwy 36. "We're going to put everything in there that we can," said Frontier Equity manager Dale Hazuka, "We'll have pop machines, snacks and all sorts of things for people on the go."

The tire shop will be closed on Feb. 25 and 26 for the move. The station will reopen on Monday, Feb. 28.

The Cardrol System, which allows fuel purchases with credit cards, will also be moved from the Equity location to the service station on Wednesday, Feb. 23. The

system will be shut down at 7 p.m. that evening to be moved to the new location.

Some of the improvements to the gas station will be additional lighting to make the facility more visible from the highway. Also, in addition to the tire store, the station will offer full service on automobiles.

Damon Rickard will operate the Tire Store and Stewart Johnson will handle the auto service.

Hopes are that the new location will attract highway drivers who don't know they can buy fuel from the coop or who are turned away by the large trucks and heavy equipment.

For the time being, red farm diesel will only be available at the old location during business hours. This will change once tanks are installed at the new site.

"We hope this won't inconvenience our customers in any way," said Mr. Hazuka.

## Airport

**Continued from Page 1**  
the runway, as well as replace the aging runway lights, install an AWOS (automated weather reporting for pilots), and increase ramp space. The Master Plan is nearly finalized, and it represents the required first step for Federal funding.

Further, the members noted that such a plan often saves time and money in the long run, by streamlining the process.

The members told the commissioners that, as future expansion stages develop, they will be informing the commissioners. It is estimated that the present grant money will to-

tal \$500,000 to \$700,000, which would require a corresponding commitment by Cheyenne County of \$25,000 to \$35,000.

In a later interview, Robert Grace said that a Flight for Life pilot, Jimmy Stouffer, had told him that Mr. Stouffer had declined to land on the Cheyenne County runway on several instances when the air temperature was so high that safe operation was not possible because the runway was too short for the King Air aircraft he pilots.

The commissioners agreed to support the zoning ordinance.

# Article features architect

**By Karen Krien**

The *Kansas City Star* on Jan. 30 in the New Homes and Plans section mentioned the name of former Bird City resident Byron Sawyer. It is seldom that this section mentions the architect so Mr. Sawyer and his family were pleased with the recognition.

The article tells how John Lober, owner of Provence Homes Inc., helped his wife found "Touched by Cancer Foundation" following her diagnoses of stage IV breast cancer and her recovery after treatment.

Mr. Lober constructed the first show home to benefit the foundation with the goal to build awareness about treatment options for newly diagnosed cancer patients. There were donations from suppliers, contractors, employees and volunteers with proceeds bringing in \$125,000 for the foundation. The following year, he built another. This year, he will be building a \$1.4 million home with all profits from the home sale to go toward the foundation.

The article goes on to say that Provence Homes is gearing up for a fast-paced 2005, with the incorporation of two new home communities. As one of the featured homebuilders for the exclusive national Golf Course community in the Kansas City area, the company is taking it one step further by taking on the construction of five new luxury homes.

The article states, "Each home, designed by prestigious Kansas City architect Byron Sawyer, has been individually designed to maximize views of the golf course. Home prices in this spectacular Parkville community will range from \$1 million to \$1.7 million.

Mr. Sawyer, the son of Louise Sawyer, Bird City, graduated cum laude from Kansas State University School of Architecture in 1976. He has been involved in residential architectural design and development planning in the Kansas City metro area. He was employed at Elswood Smith Carlson, Architects, then

served as vice president and also performed the duties of corporate secretary/treasurer and managing partner. During this time, the company designed approximately 50 percent of the homes constructed in an exclusive upper income housing development with homes ranging from \$400,000 to \$5,000,000.

Since 1994, he has been practicing as an individual "free-lance" architect. He has received many awards and recognitions for his work.

## Bird City News

Wednesday through Friday guest of Paul and Edna Roesener was Robert James of Pueblo, Colo. Robert, whose wife recently died, is Edna's brother.



## County

**Continued from Page 1**

comp, it is to be added that the department head is required to notify the county clerk when there is an injury or possible claim so he can notify the proper people.

On Page 14, Insurance, the book says an employee needs to work three months before he is eligible for insurance. However, the commissioners had been informed that employees can get on the cafeteria plan a month after employment.

Cell phone usage on page 27, the suggestion was to add that cell phones are not to be used for personal use. If necessary, these calls must be paid for by the employee.

They also felt that it should be noted that the sheriff's office only is allowed to have overtime compensation time.

**Bird City Fire Department**  
Dale Hazuka, Bird City fire chief, spoke on behalf of the Bird City Fire Department. He said the Department needed a new tanker truck and he presented two proposals.

The commissioners voted to allow the department to purchase a new tanker truck for around \$15,000 using money from the Special Fire Equipment Funds.

Mr. Hazuka said the Bird City Fire Department would like to have ambulance 11B when the new ambulance arrives. The department would use this vehicle to transport generators, lights and fans to fires and accidents. The board thought this would be okay but they will

check with ambulance director Larry Gabel before the final decision was made.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Commissioners discussed the bill from attorney Mike Day for \$400 for when he had covered the case of a Service Master cleaning charges. Kevin Berens, then county attorney, had withdrawn himself from the case because of a conflict of interest.

• Janelle Bowers, ambulance bookkeeper, reported she had turned in information that only commissioners were allowed to see because it contained patient information which is against Health Information Portability and Accountability Act regulations.

• Commissioner Brubaker suggested that the names on the cell phones in the sheriff's office be changed to those carrying the phones.

• Rane Pilkington, solid waste secretary, said that she had some questions about the bill she had received concerning a revised sampling analysis plan for the solid waste site. The commissioners okayed the payment. She also presented a bid from Sporer for \$8.80 per ton to crush cement at the landfill. The commissioners accepted the bid.

• Commissioner Andy Beikman

was appointed to the Northwest Kansas Authority Board with Commissioner Ray Lee as the alternate.

• The board was informed that the courthouse's chimney appeared to be "shifting" and the board will look at it when the weather is warmer.

• The commissioners signed a Community Development Building Grant document which stated that the county will not use grant money for anything other than the specified purpose of the grant.

• The dues of \$672 for the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group were approved.

• Those approved to attend schooling, meetings and/or workshops were: Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor; and Deb Smith and Bonnie Zweygardt, appraiser office.

• An emergency medical technician teaching course contract was approved. Beth Gabel, St. Francis, will be teaching the five-credit hour class on March 5 for a cost of \$3,000 with Colby Community College paying part of the salary and the county paying the rest.

• The Kansas County Commissioner Association dues of \$165 were approved.

### Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Monday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

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