

# Sheriff's office goes back to county courthouse

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

The sheriff's office is back at the courthouse. For the past few years, sheriff Troy Gardner was both the chief of police for St. Francis and the county sheriff. At that time, the sheriff's office was combined with the city law enforcement office.

However, when Sheriff Gardner resigned a month ago, the city decided to go back to having a separate chief.

The equipment had been combined so sheriff Craig Van Allen and Carol Gamblin, communications director, were at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday to discuss purchasing two hand guns, some computers and a printer/copier for the office.

The 911 system was in the process of being moved from the St. Francis city power plant to the old sheriff's office in the courthouse. Plans and arrangements had been made.

So, the sheriff and his officers will be setting up office in the old jail on the third floor of the courthouse. Sheriff Van Allen was concerned about the heat and air conditioning in both the sheriff's office as well as in the 911 dispatcher office as the system is shut completely down at 5 p.m. during weekdays and on weekends.

The commissioners discussed a separate heating and air conditioning system for those offices but they decided that it might be just

as cost saving if the office personnel turn down (or up) the system in their rooms instead of turning off the heat. That way, there would be heat and air conditioning in the offices where it is needed. Clerk Terry Miller said that it takes a long time for the courthouse to warm up on Mondays after the heat has been off all weekend and this might eliminate the frigid walls.

The amount of electricity/gas used will be compared with the year before. If there is a huge difference, they will look further into getting a second system for the sheriff and 911 dispatch offices.

Sheriff Van Allen said four new tires are needed for one of the pickups. The commissioners approved the purchase.

They also approved of the sheriff's office participating in the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). Sheriff Van Allen said it is just a matter of officers collecting traffic statistics and turning them into the state patrol. In return, the county will receive \$500 in equipment.

### Prairie dogs

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog supervisor, said he had talked to a number of people about getting rid of their prairie dogs. He reminded the commissioners that the dates where Rozal, a prairie dog bait, can be used is Oct. 1 through March 15.

They discussed bringing in black-

footed ferrets, a natural predator of the prairie dogs. Ferrets are being brought in to different areas and states.

### Road and bridge report

Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming said he had bought two mowers at a surplus sale for \$4,500. Jim McCann had been given approval to fill in to cover Dan Harris's vacated territory.

### In other business

In other business:  
• No commissioners will be able to attend the Northwest Kansas County Commissioner/Highway official's meeting this year.

• Clerk Miller will be attending the Northwest Kansas County Clerk's Association meeting. Deputy clerk Deb Lindsten will be attending an Advanced Election training.

• Mrs. Gamblin will attend a meeting on how 911 dispatchers should cover domestic violence calls, noting it is important that officers know what they will be dealing with before they get to the site.

• Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness manager, will be attending a meeting and will also be off duty for three weeks to have surgery.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Bids for steps in front of the courthouse will be opened at 1 p.m. There will also be a hearing for the ambulance grant at 12:45 p.m.



CHEYENNE COUNTY SHERIFF CRAIG VAN ALLEN (center) looks over paperwork with Undersheriff Cody Beeson (left) and Deputy Jon Lanz.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

# Sheriff Van Allen takes over duties with help of deputies

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

On Sept. 1, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Craig Van Allen, St. Francis, as the Cheyenne County Sheriff. He filled the vacancy left by Troy Gardner, who resigned to continue his education.

Sheriff Gardner had recommended Mr. Van Allen to the county commissioners before he left. The commissioners had then made the recommendation to the governor.

Sheriff Van Allen came to work for the city police department as a part-time officer in January 2005; then shifted to the sheriff's department in May 2006. In May 2007, he was appointed as undersheriff. Prior to coming to St. Francis, he had been a law officer in Lindsborg.

The sheriff's department was recently relocated to the courthouse. His office will be in the old sheriff's office on the second floor. A portion of the sheriff's office will be renovated as the new 911 dispatch center and Carol Gamblin will be the communication officer.

Other sheriff's officers are Jon Lanz and Cody Beeson. Officer Beeson is the undersheriff and is basically working in the Bird City area. The deputies' office will be in the old jail on the third floor of the courthouse.

Sheriff Van Allen said he and his officers are responsible for the county residents and those in Bird City. They are on call 24 hours a day,

seven days a week.

"We are here to do the best job we can," Sheriff Van Allen said.

The officers encourage people to call them if they see suspicious activity or something that may need to be investigated.

"The people are out there where they may see things that we don't," he said. "We are here for the people."

The sheriff's phone number is 785-332-8880.

### 911 system

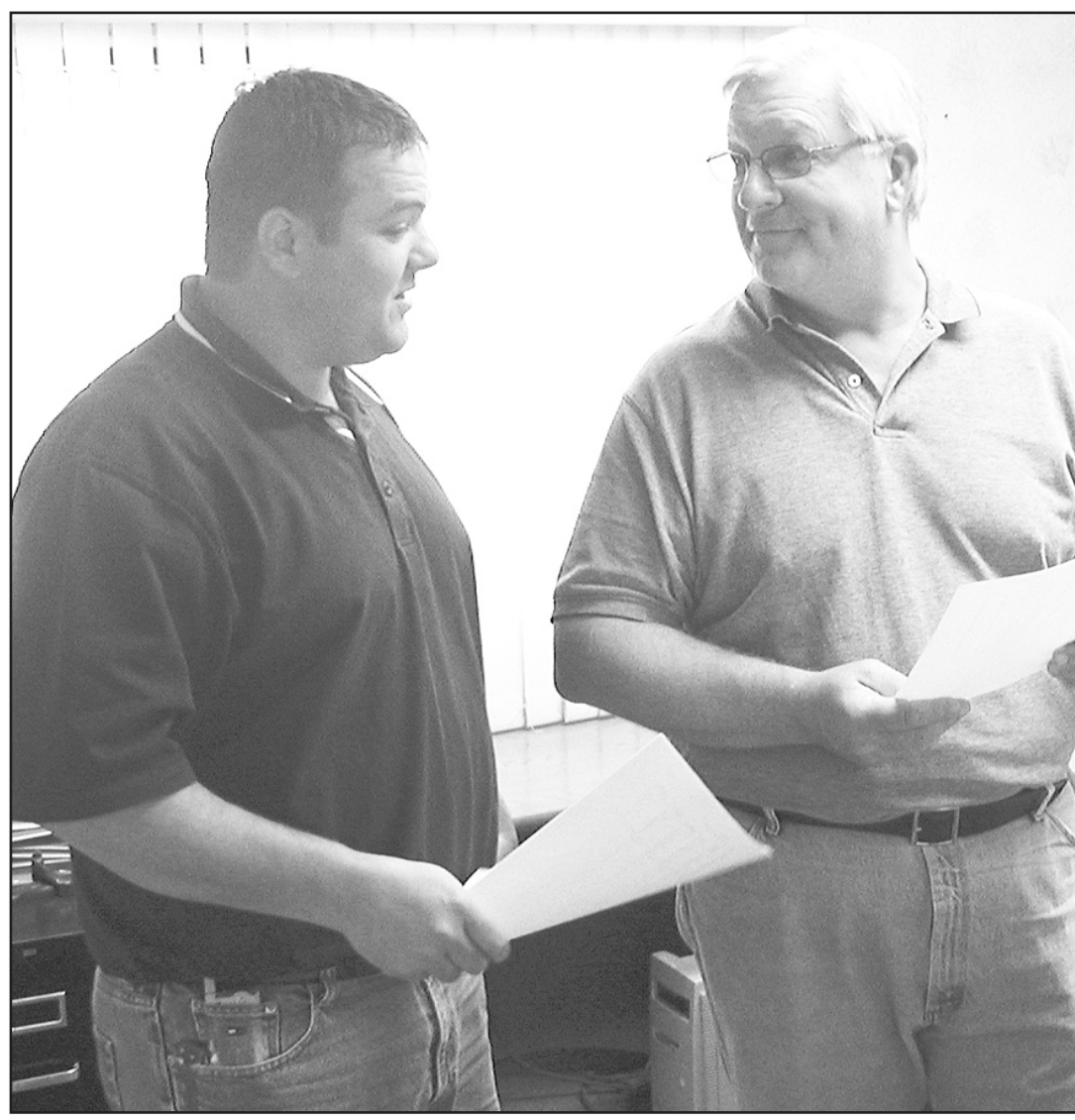
The 911 system is supposed to be in its new courthouse surroundings by Jan. 1. The sheriff is responsible for seeing that the partitions are up and the equipment is in.

"I am looking forward to seeing the new 911 system installed," Sheriff Van Allen said. "We are targeting Jan. 1, as the date for the Enhanced 911 system to be up and running."

Earlier, there had been talk that the Enhanced system would be delayed until March.

The Enhanced 911 system will include voice logging and geographical information. The 911 call will come up on a computer and the dispatcher will be able to tell where the call came from in the county, the address and, most importantly, record the call.

Watch for more information about the new system when it is completely installed.



FRONTIER EQUITY IS IN GOOD HANDS. Robert Bell and Tim Burr are sharing the management duties for the branch in Bird City. Mr. Bell is in charge of the fertilizer and spraying operations while Mr. Burr handles the elevator.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Hunter safety course offered in Bird City

A hunter safety education course will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Cheylin High School Library.

Eligible participants must be 10 years or older on Oct. 27.

The course is being sponsored by Cheylin Recreation Commission. Lunch will be provided on Saturday.

Contact Laurie at 785-734-2505 to register for the class.



## South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Mark and Katina Montgomery, Lindi and Jadon, Denver, were weekend guests of their grandpa, Linton Montgomery.

Linda Dewey was a weekend guest of Ote and Ellen Dewey. She took care of her niece, Tayten, Saturday for Tom and Kelly.

David Banister was home for the weekend from K-State at Salina. The Banister family attended the Cheylin football game Friday in Bird City.

George Banister attended the Cheylin - Grinnell/Wheatland football game in Bird City.

Ote and Ellen Dewey enjoyed spending the weekend in Salina and attended the horse sale.

Linda Dewey was home for the weekend to help Tayten Dewey celebrate her first birthday.

Tom and Kelly Dewey celebrated Tayten's first birthday Saturday with family and friends.

Kathy Banister attended the Howard - Mick wedding Saturday evening at St. Joseph, Bird City. She was the organist for the wedding.

Ilene Perubsky of Topeka, Rachelle Hubbard of Topeka, Jnel Hubbard of Lincoln, and Margie Hubbard all attended the Women of Faith Conference in Denver this past weekend with a group from the Federated Church.

Diane Montgomery joined other ladies from the Federated Church and attended the Women of Faith Conference in Denver this past weekend.

Amanda Banister was a weekend guest of her parents.

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