

Department head steps down

By Karen Krien
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The county clerk told the Cheyenne County Commissioners, at their Thursday meeting, that the 911 department head would like to step down from the position. The commissioners agreed to honor her request.

Terry Miller, clerk, said Carol Gamblin, 911 department head, had asked to be relieved of her managerial position but wanted to stay on full time as a dispatcher. Mr. Miller said that Mrs. Gamblin didn't feel that she could contribute the amount of time necessary for the job.

After discussion, the commissioners agreed to hire Jennifer Padgett, assistant dispatcher, as the 911 department head. She and Mrs. Gamblin will switch positions and salary. The change will take effect Nov. 1.

County attorney
Kari Gilliland, county attorney, said there would be a mock emergency preparedness drill concerning Bonny Dam the first part of November. Mrs. Gilliland thought there should be a 911 board meeting to discuss communication issues before the drill. A previous mock drill was held at the hospital and there were some communication problems, she said.

Dolores Jenik, county treasurer, and Mrs. Gilliland had discussed the possibility of having a delinquent tax sale. There are maybe \$50,000 outstanding delinquent taxes but that amount includes penalties and interest. We need to see, Mrs. Gilliland said, if it is economically feasible before setting up a tax sale.

Mrs. Gilliland told the commissioners that a ruling concerning a child-needing-care case had been overturned by the appeals court. Justin Barrett, former county attorney, was representing Cheyenne County but was not in court when the ruling was overturned.

Commissioner Dale Patton was very vocal about not paying Mr. Barrett because he had not represented the county. Mrs. Gilliland said she will ask to be appointed to the case since she is now the county attorney.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, asked about a problem with a road in the Bird City area. Mrs. Gilliland said the entryway to some land had been open for over 50 years but

Ted Partch had recently plowed it under. The entryway will be re-established.

Drive-thru
Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, after presenting his monthly work schedule and budget spending, talked about the proposed drive-thru on the west side of the courthouse. The present driveway, which is used by handicapped people, runs only up to the west steps but allows easy access to the handicapped entrance. However, the driveway is narrow with a retaining wall on one side. People using the driveway need to back out into on-coming traffic.

A year ago, plans were drawn up to run the driveway further north and west, coming out on Benton Street. There was also talk of making it wider.

Now, winter is approaching. There are still some issues with moving sprinklers and other lines which have not been worked out. Also, by the time the ground is ready so concrete could be poured, it will be too late in the season.

The commissioners noted that the money to extend the drive thru was in the budget for 2010 and

they would get everything ready so it could be completed later in the year.

Mr. Flemming said the debris from the Bird City Lumberyard hauled to the county landfill had totaled 53.83 tons.

A permit for Midwest Energy to bore under the road in the eastern part of the county was signed

In other business

In other business:

- The commissioners agreed to give county employees a Christmas bonus with the amount being the same as last year: \$200 for full-time, \$100 for part-time. The bonuses are given in Christmas bucks to be spent in St. Francis/Bird City businesses.

- Tracey Weeter, Bird City, was approved as a member on the county fair board.

- The commissioners signed the Phase 3 Focus 3 Contract between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Cheyenne County Health. The department will receive \$9,021 for H1N1 vaccines.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Monday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

Pharmacist offers help

Dr. Kody Krien, pharmacist at Krien Health Mart Pharmacy, will be the speaker at the monthly Diabetes Support group meeting to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the basement of the clinic.

He will talk to the participants about the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. This Medicare Fall Open Enrollment Period will begin Nov. 15 and end Dec. 31.

This is the time of year when all people with Medicare should review their current health and/or prescription drug plan and compare it to others to make sure it is still the best option for the annual enrollment period.

Any changes or enrollments made between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31 are effective Jan. 1.

The purpose of Dr. Krien meeting during this session is to give those participating the information and resources necessary for assisting with Medicare prescription drug needs.

This meeting is free of charge and open to the public to attend.

For more information, please contact diabetic educator, Susie Walz, at the Cheyenne County Hospital at 332-2104 or Mila Bandel, county health nurse, at 332-2381.



SOLDIER MEMORIAL Paul and Edna Rosener show Joseph Augusta a memorial provided by Chuck Kribs, to honor fallen soldiers.

Drug free ordinance is discussed

By Linda Schneider
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During the November Bird City council meeting, Kevin Berens, city attorney, told the council that the federal government is requiring a drug-free workplace policy to be in place because of a city project that is in process. He added the policy would be zero tolerance and immediate dismissal from work when tested positive.

When the policy is approved by the council members and in place, several requirements will be mandatory for the city to follow such as a number of random drug tests, drug tests on all new hires, employees tested after on the job accident, etc.

Mr. Berens told the council the policy is not just for the city employees, but to include the contractors and others who would

be doing any type of work for the city for any length of time.

"This policy addresses the threats and problems drug abuse causes in the work place," said Mr. Berens.

He went on to say the policy will basically say the city doesn't want the worker using, selling or possessing drugs, alcohol, and/or intoxicants during working hours or while representing the city. To include, if a worker is convicted of a drug offense, the worker must report it.

"While the policy does not offer rehabilitation, we do encourage the employee to get help," said Mr. Berens.

Adding that treatment maybe covered by the employee's health insurance policy and all information will remain confidential.

Councilman Wade Carmichael said he did not see why an employee would have to be drug tested if the employee fell, and had no prior indication of drug or alcohol abuse, when that employee is going to be random tested anyway.

Councilman Hal Sager brought up the issue of Workman's Compensation and liability, and how such a policy in place might be good.

The members instructed Mr. Berens to add a paragraph to say there is an appeal process to bring the review to a conclusion.

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Early Deadline

The week of Thanksgiving, The Herald and Times will be coming out early so everyone will have their paper which will include the Treasure Hunt numbers.

Articles and Ads Deadline is Friday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. for the Nov. 26 paper.

The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times

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Sun., Nov. 15, 1-5 p.m. Central

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