

Commissioners table requests for purchases

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday was short with few decisions made and several requests for purchases, which were tabled until more information was available.

Jennifer Padgett, communications director, had talked to the commissioners several months ago about purchasing a new dispatch console. She was unable to be present at the Friday meeting but asked the commissioners to consider the purchase. The console costs \$22,861 however, she has a grant for \$13,260. That would leave a difference of less than \$10,000 for the county to pay. The money would come from 911 funds but there has been talk in the state legislature about allowing counties to have that money which is a telephone tax charged to customers.

The commissioners agreed that they wanted more information on possibly repairing the console before buying a new one.

Another request came from the St. Francis Fire Chief, George Harper, who had talked to Andy Beikman, commissioner, about purchasing a truck cab and chassis, then putting a 3,000-gallon water tank on it.

The chief was asked to get bids and the commissioners will revisit the tanker truck at another meeting.

Work on county road curve

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the Kansas Department of Transportation had sent an agreement to help with the county's project to redo the dangerous corner southwest of town. The agreement, he said, states the corner is 13 miles west and 11 miles south of Saint Francis.

In November 2006, a Burlington man, Brett Files, was killed when he took his four wheeler on the road and failed to make the corner. In April 2007, Raymond Armknecht, St. Francis, offered the land to change the lay of the curve.

He said there had been several wrecks but no one had been killed before Mr. Files.

"I don't want to come out there someday and find some one who has been killed or seriously injured," Mr. Armknecht said. "That why I am donating the land to have that curve changed."

Work will start on changing the curve in the near future

Illegal landfill site cleanup

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, discussed the consent agreement that had been reached with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment after the county landfill had been fined for not enough coverage of trash. The county road and bridge crew will clean up the solid waste from an illegal landfill site located in a ravine in the county but the location of the ravine was not revealed.

The work must be finished within 45 days after signing the agreement. The agreement had been signed and work had begun.

Attorney Gilliland said she was researching state sanitary codes and talking to other county attorneys to see what they are doing about those people having nuisance property. She is also researching a sanitary code which the county will have to adopt and get approved by the department of health and environment. After this procedure, the county commissioners can then proceed with a letter to Doug Austin regarding the clean up of his lot located on east U.S. 36, St. Francis.

Support signed for tax credit
Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, said the state was allowing the Tax Credit Program again this year. The program returns the tax dollars directly back to the county and is a benefit to everyone participating.

He said the hospital and clinic has taken advantage of this program three times in the past. He plans to ask for \$300,000 in credits so the hospital can purchase a new 16-slice CT scanner. Currently the hospital is using a single slice scanner.

The new scanner, he said, will use less radiation and scan at a much faster pace.

The commissioners signed a letter of support for the hospital to apply for the tax credit program.

In other business

Dolores Jenik, county treasurer, said she would need to make a decision on the person to replace Marge Peter before the next meeting. The commissioners gave her permission to make the decision.

Mr. Flemming was approved to attend a Road Safety Assessment meeting in Colby and the Kansas County Highway Association Spring Conference in Hutchinson.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting is set for Friday, May 14, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



MARIBEL PINON helps Taylor McCarty hit the piñata at the second Cinco de Mayo celebration held in Bird City on Sunday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Many attend Cinco de Mayo celebration

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On Sunday, local and residents from Bird City and the surrounding area attended the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Bird City.

This was the second year for the celebration and nearly 240 adults and children sat down in the American Legion Hall to an authentic Mexican dinner of tamales, frijoles charros, arroz, and tostadas de guacamole.

Food preparation began several days before the event with Leticia Estrada and Maribel Pinon of Bird City. Many of their friends and family assisted in making 300 tamales to feed the crowd, there were not many tamales left over.

"I am not a tamale fan, but I did try one," said Stacy Hazuka. "My family and I had fun going to the dinner."

The Bird City Go-Getters 4-H Club painted faces with art that included butterflies, Mexico's national flag, and many other creative ideas. Face painters were Savannah Isely, Catline Isely, Brianna Cross, and Go-Getters' leader, Nina Isely.

"It was a fun time for the Go-Getters and a great opportunity for our new members to do something together," said Nina.

It was the second time attending the Cinco de Mayo dinner for Anita Burton and her husband,



BRIANA CROSS was one of the face painters at the celebration. Jacqueline Chacon sat quietly while she had her face painted.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Martin, and she said the it was a good crowd this year and the food was great again.

Following the dinner, the kids got the chance to whack the big piñatas. Little and big kids lined

up to get their chance with the stick at hitting the piñatas, and in the end every child walked away with a bag of candy.

For Tina Sager she said that there was great food, nice crowd

and she plans on attending the third Cinco de Mayo next year.

And finally, the cleanup of the American Legion Hall was led by Mike McCarty, Bird City Dairy, and his crew.



TEACHER, SHARON HENDRICKS, works with Celina Monteiro, one of her students.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Teacher retires after 25 years

After teaching 25 years at Cheylin School, 22 years as a kindergarten teacher, Sharon Hendricks will be retiring at the end of the 2010 school year.

Sharon was born in Cheyenne Wells, Colo. to Mac and Ruth Purvis, both deceased, and the youngest of seven children, five sisters and one brother.

She attended all 12 years of school in Weskan; however, she was not a kindergarten student because the school did not have a kindergarten class.

Sharon became a teacher largely because of her own first and second grade teacher whom she loved and adored. She never considered other careers and received her degree in education from Fort Hays State University in 1972.

Sharon has two sisters who have been teachers, one elementary and one home economics. She accepted her first teaching position in Bird City with second graders and

taught for 3 years. Then she met John Hendricks and they were married.

Sharon stopped teaching full-time during the next 13 years, but did some substituting and taught pre-school. She helped her husband around the farm and they had three sons, David, Chad, and Nathan.

David is a local farmer and is married to Amy who teaches science at Cheylin. They have three children, Kaylynn, 7-years old; Matthew, 4-years old, and Landon, 1-year old. Chad is also a local farmer.

Nathan and his wife, Lindsay, live in Davis, Calif., and they have a 10-month-old daughter, Charli Mae. Nathan is currently working on his doctorate degree at the University of California Davis.

Over the last 25 years, Sharon has seen a lot of changes that have taken place during her career; more specifically three things come to her mind. One is that kindergarten has become

more academic than when she began teaching.

"The children didn't begin reading until first grade, now they are beginning readers by the end of kindergarten," Mrs. Hendricks said.

Another area of significant change is the use of technology. She explained that computers were not in use when she went to college, now internet sites are helpful resources as well as teaching tools. Sharon adds that when the computers are not functioning, everyone is at a loss.

And the final change she has noticed over the years is the change in the family structure with more children from single parent families or other family arrangements from what used to be considered the norm of two parents raising their children.

The two greatest rewards Sharon has received over the years as a kindergarten teacher has been seeing the academic growth in the children from the beginning of the school to the end. Living in a small

community, she can follow the students through their school years and watch them grow, achieve and begin their own careers.

"I had the best job in the school, Mrs. Hendricks said. "I enjoyed what I did and was paid for it. You can't beat that!"

As for what is ahead for her in retirement, Sharon says that she has lived on a farm all her life and there is rarely a lack of things to do, so she is not really concerned about finding something to do. She adds that she will run the grain carts for her sons, David and Chat this fall.

But the best is to come with her husband as they celebrate 35 years of marriage this June. She adds that she and John have some special things they want to do together, and only time will tell just how adventuresome they get.

She also will be spending more time with the grandchildren and experience the simple pleasures in life with her family, and take time to read and cross stitch.