



TEENS FOR CHRIST have fun in the park. Above: Cassie Rucker and Manda Barnett take a turn on the homemade slip and slide. (Right) Trying to break the egg dangling from Cassie Ruckers head is Jeremiah White, while riding piggy back on Noah Jones. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Five people attend county budget meeting

By Karen Krien

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There were five people present for the budget meeting held during the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Aug. 31. After about an hour of discussion, the budget was approved as printed in *The Herald*.

It was a question-answer session with Rodney Neitzel as the speaker for the group. Others present were Tina Kehl, Jim Laffond, Cynthia and Dr. Brett Poling.

Mr. Neitzel's first question dealt with the department budgets, especially solid waste. The commissioners said that the reason solid waste had raised was to put some money away to dig a ditch at the dump. There was also some allowed for the rising costs of oil and fuel used to cover up the trash at the site.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said the budget for 2012 basically remains the same as 2011 only the employees got a 1.5 percent in-

crease (with the exception of the county attorney who declined a raise).

The hospital, he said, is where there was a raise. We need a good hospital – the life safety and welfare of the people are important.

Mr. Neitzel asked about the large increase in property tax. Mr. Patton said that the county suffered about a \$10 million loss in valuations because of gas and oil prices and the fact that production was stopped. There has been

an increase in production, he said, but it is almost 2-years in coming back from the state, adding that the state determines the amount of money the county gets.

They talked about land valuation. Terry Miller, clerk, pointed out that in a comparison of 26 counties similar to the size of Cheyenne County, that the county was the fourth lowest county in the taxes paid. As long as there are six counties in a drought, land values will remain low, Mr. Patton said.

That turned the conversation to sales taxes. Mr. Patton pointed to Mr. Neitzel and said if you buy something, he pays sales tax and if it is a car or pickup, he pays property tax. However, a farmer can buy a \$290,000 combine and he not only doesn't pay sales tax but also is not charged property taxes.

"There are a lot of things that are not equal," Mr. Patton said.

Other discussion

The discussion then turned to

recycling, a delinquent tax sale and the sheriff's department's Hummer. See related articles.

Budget approved

The discussion ended and the 2012 budget for the county was approved.

"The annual budget is the biggest statement we make all year long," said Mr. Patton. "We tried to do what we thought was best – dollars come hard in this community."

Reverend takes trip to teach

By Norma Martinez

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The Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City has an ordained pastor.

After attending classes through the Wesleyan Church since 2004, and a formal service of ordination by Wesleyan pastors on July 21, the Wesleyan church's Pastor Dan Carson received the title of Reverend Dan Carson.

He was among six other pastors tested on their Biblical knowledge and of the governing covenants of the Wesleyan Church, by elder pastors of the Kansas District Wesleyan Church in McPherson.

On Labor Day Pastor Dan and his wife, Dianna, left for Indonesia to teach at the school he previously taught at for five years as a missionary. With Pastor Dan's previous education experience and ability to speak their language, they thought he could be helpful in helping them seek accreditation from the government.

In the three weeks there he will attend six speaking engagements where he will be preaching in different schools.

Pastor Dan graduated from Cheylin High School in 1988. After graduation he attended Fort Hays State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and Master of Science in Education Administration. During this course of time he taught elementary and middle school for 5 years in Kansas and 5 years in Indonesia. In Indonesia Mr. Carson had the opportunity to speak in cha-



GETTING READY TO LEAVE — Reverend Dan and Dianna Carson talk to Daniel Ray Bursch who lives in Zambia about their trip to Indonesia. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

pel service and retreats for both children and adults. Upon his return he began speaking and filling in preaching for different churches.

He has served as a worship leader, Sunday school superintendent, teacher, board member, part of a mission team, and youth leader in various churches.

After receiving his master's degree, he became the pastor of the Bird City Wesleyan Community Church. Up to this time he was always missionary minded, but did not think of being a pastor. Soon after he started pastoring, he felt like the many things he had gone through in life were preparing him for the pastorate. During his time at Wesleyan

Community Church he has been very involved in the community and works with Teens for Christ. At Cheylin School he coaches Junior High girls basketball, and does substitute teaching when needed.

Last February he and his team took the "Jesus Film" to Africa and trained the church there on how to set up, do the presentation and follow up work. Many have received Christ through this presentation. Last June, he and his team went to Arizona where they taught vacation Bible school to both adults and children in the Navajo Indian Reservation.

As he looks back on his life, he feels God led him through all the different areas of teaching and

preaching to gain the experiences he needed to help him be a better pastor. He knows it would not have been possible without the support of his wife Dianna (Hazuka) Carson whom he married in 2005 just after becoming a pastor.

He is also appreciative of the support from the Wesleyan Community Church, and his parents Ed and Phyllis Carson for bringing him up in a Christian home and church. Pastor Dan also has three brothers; Tim who lives in Topeka, Greg and Shawn live in Phoenix, Ariz.

A life verse of Pastor Dan is: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." Psalm 34:76.

City mayor signs proclamation for 9-11 anniversary

At the Monday meeting of the Bird City City Council, Mayor Troy Burr signed a resolution recognizing Sunday, Sept. 11, as the 10th anniversary of 9-11.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the peace and security of our nation was shattered by terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 innocent people at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the United States Pentagon, and in the pristine fields of Shanksville, Penn.

People of all ages and walks of life across America, and around the world, collectively witnessed the events of that day instantly transformed everyone's lives, some through personal loss, and others through an unfamiliar sense of individual and national vulnerability.

An unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective shock, unifying the country in an outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage and

service.

Many brave people heroically, tirelessly and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in some cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk.

On March 19, 2009, the United States Congress passed bipartisan legislation authorizing the establishment of Sept. 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance, which the president signed into law on April 21, 2009. He issued the Patriot Day Proclamation officially and permanently designating September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance and calling upon all interested Americans to participate in this observance through moments of silence, the flying of the flag of the United States at half-staff, as well as community service and charitable activities in tribute and remembrance.

Auxiliary collecting donations for troops

Due to the earlier shipping date, the American Legion Auxiliary is now collecting food, personal items and donations for our troops in harm's way. A full list of acceptable items is listed in the window of the Bird City Legion hall. For any questions call Joy Anderegg 785-734-3001.

