

Sheriff voices concerns about doing away with position

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The county sheriff, at the Nov. 30 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, said that he had heard a great deal about the last meeting where the commissioners and St. Francis City Council had discussed doing away with the elected sheriff position.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported that he had been approached by a number of people regarding county-wide law enforcement as well as doing away with an elected sheriff.

First of all, he said, through the sheriff's office, there is already county-wide law enforcement.

Whether I am the sheriff again or not, he said, if you take away the elected sheriff, there will be statutory authority that will not be given to another person.

He thought the better approach to the matter would be to contract with the city of St. Francis. The county, he said, already contracts with the city of Bird City and it has worked out well.

He said it probably would save some money but, if the county contracted with St. Francis, the city would need to pay for its share of the costs. However, he thought the city of St. Francis would probably save money. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, pointed out that the county needs to make sure the county does not lose money if they decide to go this route.

Other options were discussed but no decision was made.

Sheriff Van Allen said that his office has been moved to the basement of the courthouse where the county attorney's office had been.

He was given permission to purchase a radio that would work out of the basement. He thought an antenna would work if they installed it between the ceiling and drop ceiling.

The office will need a wall and door where they keep the NCRC equipment. The sheriff offered to do the work as it will be cheaper. The commissioners accepted the offer.

Sheriff Van Allen said they need a copier and fax machine.

The commissioners questioned if they needed the equipment but, in the end, agreed to the purchase of the equipment.

Appraiser's report

Bruce Webb, county appraiser, said the county will lose \$47,000 of taxes that had been levied for the budget. The natural gas compressors that are leased had been taxed by the county when they should have been exempt.

Mr. Webb said leased equipment could cause a problem in the future, not only for Cheyenne County but for all Kansas counties. It will hit home for the whole oil and gas industry, he said, and, in the long run, the tax will be passed on to the homeowners.

Tim Carson, Corporate Plan Management vice president, was there to talk about the county's health insurance. Sam Beeson, county dispatcher, was also at the meeting. Mr. Beeson needs a lung transplant but the insurance plan did not include enough coverage for a transplant.

Commissioner Ketzner said he felt Corporate Plan had dropped the ball with regards to the amount of coverage the county had for transplants. After discussion, Mr. Carson said he would work with the Veterans Hospital system and try to get Mr. Beeson evaluated to see if he is a candidate for transplant.

County is behind

Ward Cassidy, representative for the 120th District, said the state of Kansas had made a study and Cheyenne County was given an unfavorable review when it came to progressive growth. He said out of the five counties he represents, Cheyenne County is the least productive when it comes to economic development.

The other counties (Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips) are growing, he said. They have great economic development and have found grants. Cheyenne County is the furthest behind.

Economic development is so important, he said. Cheyenne County is the first and last county in the state. There are so many things that could be happening here but aren't.

Cheyenne County is my home and I want it to survive. The bot-

tom line is it takes money to grow the county.

Carol Redding, president of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, discussed the state of economic development, noting that the coordinators will be quitting before the first of the year. There is only limited funds and they didn't have anyone to replace them.

If the county dies, she said, it will be from apathy. Chuck Kribs, director, has worked hard to bring in businesses but has had no co-operation.

Also present for the discussion was Jerry White, St. Francis, but did not enter into the discussion.

The commissioners said they welcomed Ms. Redding to attend other meetings to keep them updated.

In other business

- It was once again time to pay the Kansas Legislative Policy Group dues. After discussion, the commissioners decided to not pay them this year and see what happens.

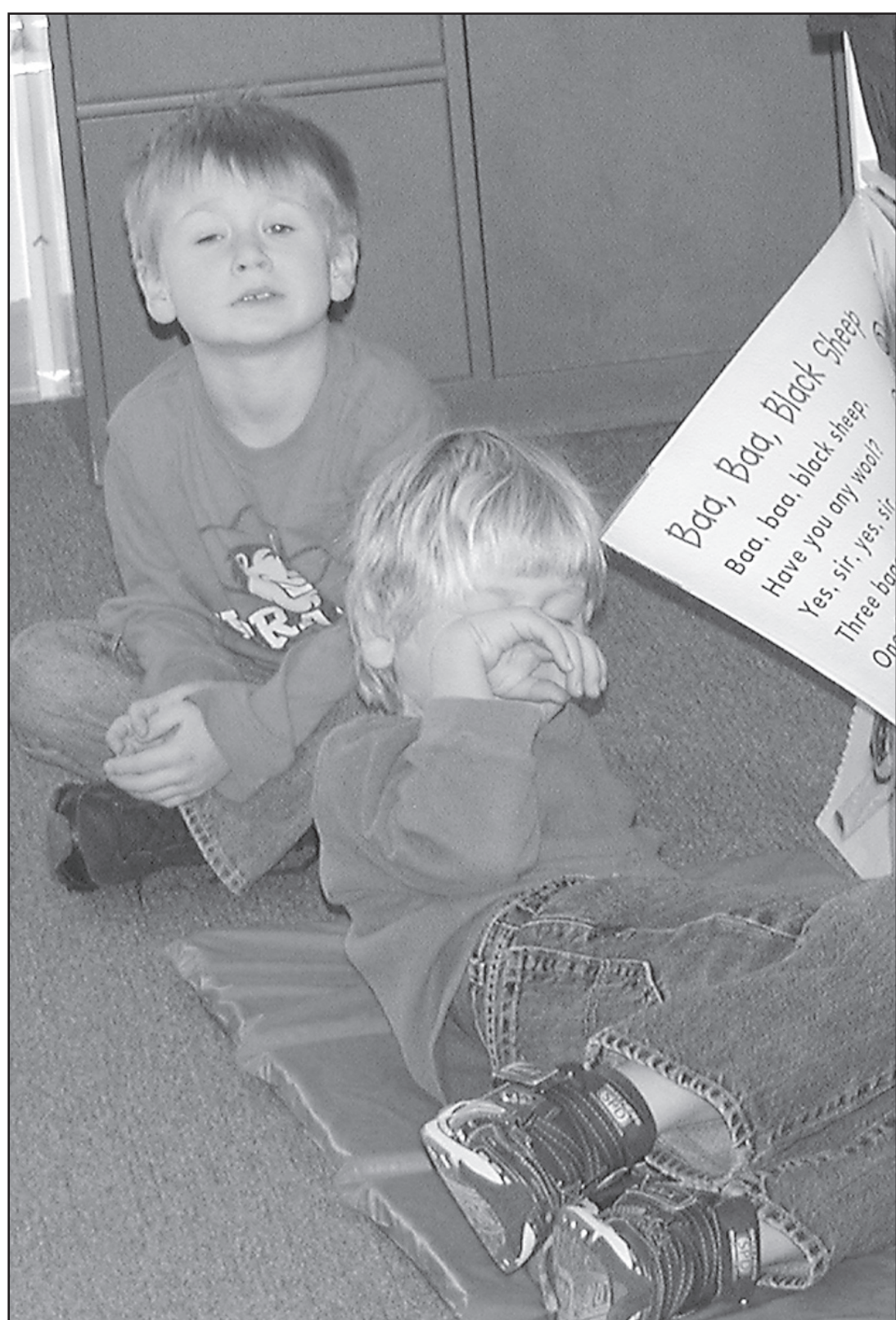
- Karan Thadani, assistant county attorney, reported that he and Robert Grace, manager of the airport, were looking into a 95/5 state grant which would help pay for writing a zoning resolution for the airport.

- Cody Beeson, representing the Bird City Fire Department, said the fire truck needed a light bar. After getting quotes, it will cost around \$1,600 and, if they need it, will cost \$378 for a controller. There was enough money in their fire department's budget to pay for the needed equipment.

- Mr. Thadani reported that the county attorney office in the basement of the courthouse has been vacated and the equipment moved to Milliken Law Office. The commissioners suggested that a sign be put in the office window letting people know that the county attorney's office is located inside. Clerk Miller said he would put the location on the web site.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



SO SLEEPY — Taos Dale and Brady Ketzner get ready for kindergarten nap time. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Junior high girls host the Coyotes

On Thursday, Nov. 29, the Cheylin Junior High Lady Cougars hosted the Weskan Coyotes. In the B-team girls game, both teams went scoreless in the first quarter and Weskan had a 4-2 lead at half. The Coyotes pulled off the win 12-8.

"We saw some really good things going on in the game," Coach Dan Carson said. "We had 25 rebounds and as a comparison, we shot the ball 24 times. Our ladies were getting in there and getting that ball. There was a lot of hustle out of our team, and that made it an exciting game."

Haleigh Rucker had six rebounds and three steals along with two points. Kelsey Miller

had four rebounds, two steals and four points. Elsa Craig Burr had two points and grabbed three rebounds. Zayra Lara and Alex Hazuka both got three rebounds for Cheylin, while Rachel Keltz grabbed four rebounds and Tasha Ritchey had two. Tasha also had four steals while Amber Manners had three steals.

In the A-team game, the Cougars took the lead at the beginning and kept it the entire game. At halftime, Cheylin led 17-8. Cheylin won 29-20. Danae Magnani led the Cougars with 10 points along with three rebounds and nine steals. Elizabeth Keltz scored seven points with seven rebounds and two steals. Diana Garcia and Haleigh Rucker both

added four points while Diana had two rebounds and five steals, Haleigh had three steals. Elsa Craig Burr and Kelsey Miller both had two points. Elsa Craig had two rebounds and Kelsey had three.

"It was an interesting game in that we had more steals than rebounds; 25-18," Coach Carson said. "This was the first game that we were able to run our press defense and that, along with some good heads up defense, we were able to get a lot of steals. It was a very nice win for the ladies."

On Monday, Dec. 12, the team travels to Almena to take on Northern Valley and will play at home on Tuesday, Dec. 13 against Trenton, Neb.

Great Tips

Expanding Frosting

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar/calories per serving.

Reheating refrigerated bread

To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Newspaper Weeds-Away

Start putting in your plants, work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go, cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic, they will not get through wet newspapers.

Notice

Please make a note of the new phone number for Cheyenne County Communications Center for non-Emergency calls:
785-332-8822
Dial 9-1-1 for an Emergency

Announcing

We are happy to announce that Rawlins clinic will be adding Thursday mornings to our outreach clinic in McDonald. Michael Dorsch PA, will start seeing patients in the McDonald clinic at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Thursday. This is in addition to Dana Jewell PA, seeing patients every Tuesday afternoon starting at 1:30. Call 785-626-3241 or 785-538-2559 to make an appointment.

Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times

Advertising Manager
Tim Burr
tburr@nwkansas.com

Phone 719-761-6238 785-332-3162
PO Box 1050 785-332-3001 (fax)
St. Francis, KS 67756 sf.herald@nwkansas.com

Howards Tri State

Construction

>Drywall >Painting >Carpentry
>Roofing >Tile Work >Insulation
>Garages >Additions >Basements
New or remodel- We do it all!

Free estimates!

Jason 1-970-630-9051
Travis 1-970-630-5122



Natalie Knodel
Personal Trainer
nBalance
122 W. Washington, St. Francis, KS 785-332-0191

THE CLASSIC ROSE
FLORIST
116 W. Washington Street
Saint Francis, Kansas 67756
Phone: 785-332-2200
Toll Free: 855-700-ROSE (7673)
We are here to help with all your floral needs!
www.TheClassicRose.com
RoseMary@TheClassicRose.com

Herald And Times Happenings:

Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is priceless

This year, as in the year's past, the Special Christmas and New Year's sections will be published before the holidays. The sections will feature letters from Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times staffs welcome participation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 9 in order to get them into the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to The Herald at P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 or fax 785-332-3001, or drop them off or e-mail to sfherald@nwkansas.com titling the subject as "Christmas for the Paper."



DON'T MISS
BRINGING IN 2012 WITH A MESSAGE TO YOUR
CUSTOMERS IN THE NEW YEAR'S SECTION.



FIRST BABY CONTEST

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!
Coming in January a bundle of businesses ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

To participate in a Special Section contact Tim at:

The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —
Bird City Times
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731