

County employee retires after 29 years of service

By Karen Krien
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Mary Morrow has worked in the Cheyenne County Register of Deeds office for the last 29 years. Before the election last year, she decided that she was going to retire.

The first 13 years in the register of deeds office, she served as the deputy under June Henderson. She was elected register of deeds in 1997 and decided to retire so she could enjoy spending time with her husband, Norman, and make some short trips.

Mrs. Morrow said she has enjoyed all 29 years. Time has gone so fast, she said. My youngest son, Derek started kindergarten the year I started.

"I met a lot of people including the local people that I might not have gotten to know by working in the office," she said.

During the oil/gas boom several years ago, she said it was a fun time. Often the office was packed with people. I learned a lot about oil and gas leasing and met a big cross section of people.

Through the years, there have been a lot of changes including changes in the types of documents and the way they were handled. One of the biggest changes was becoming computerized. Coming in the future is e-filing, she said. Many of the offices in the state are already e-filing and it won't be long until it will be done in



MARY MORROW studies a document before filing it.

Cheyenne County. However, she said, this county is small and it isn't going to see the benefits that will be seen in larger counties.

She said she will miss seeing and talking to other register of deeds in the state. She said they were always there when help was

needed – they were like family. I have worked with terrific people including those in the courthouse, she said. In the future, she would like to work part-time in the office when the new register of deeds, Jeanne Dunn, needs help.



JEANNE DUNN reviews document with county employee Amanda Milne.

County conservation secretary resigns from district office

By Karen Krien
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Jeanne Dunn recently changed jobs, going from being the Cheyenne County Conservation District secretary and manager for 26 years to the new register of deeds.

Mrs. Dunn started as the district secretary and manager the fall of 1986. In those 26 years, she said the changes were tremendous.

Among those changes was

the amount of paperwork that was prepared and filed. Today, she said, we have computers and copiers that make multiple copies, front and back, with the click of the start button.

She was there when there were new compliance requirements and conservation reserve program (CRP). There were copies to be made and, in those days, copies were made with carbon paper. Today, we not only have copiers but we can also

scan documents and store them on computer drives.

"Just the technology and the equipment has made the work easier and information is obtained quicker," she said.

She said she has had good boards to work with. Through the years, she worked with Joan Gienger, district conservationist, and Reuben Burr, soil conservation technician. When they retired, they were replaced with Bernadette Luncsford and Cale Rieger, and Mrs. Dunn said they were also good people to work with. The Farm Service Agency shares the same building with the Conservation Service. Mrs. Dunn said they worked well together and were always willing to help each other.

Trees are one of the district's projects. In the early 90s, they sold over 10,000 trees. Farmers and ranchers were buying them for conservation reserve program wildlife plantings. Today, Cheyenne County is the Northwest Kansas Conservation District's hub for ordering and distributing trees.

Mrs. Dunn has been responsible for organizing the annual district conservation meeting, planning events including the poster contest and giving programs to school children. She also planned and implemented several different planting programs at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

Mrs. Dunn said she will miss working in the district office as she looked forward to seeing landowners and operators. However, she is looking forward to meeting the people coming to the courthouse and taking over the register of deeds office.

"It's going to be a great new learning experience," she concluded.

change.

Item 2 will find officials discontinuing the study for the office and, instead, offer roadside mailbox delivery by a rural carrier.

If item 3 is selected, it will mean finding an alternative location – probably a local business. Mr. Wingfield pointed out that there are only a handful of local businesses to chose from and it is possible that none of the businesses will meet the postal service's criteria.

Lastly, item 4 would be to move the McDonald Post Office to another nearby post office.

"They (postal service) are making these changes all across the country in small post offices when the full-time employees retires, moves to another office or resigns," Mr. Wingfield said.

Everyone needs to plan to attend the meeting on Feb. 12, Mr. Wingfield said. The number of people attending that meeting and the surveys returned will show officials how interested the patrons of McDonald Post Office are about keeping our post office open.

McDonald residents may lose post office

By Karen Krien
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McDonald residents are in danger of losing their post office or reduced services. Last month, residents within the post office's delivery zip code and post office box customers were sent a survey to fill out.

The surveys are to be back by Jan. 22 and a public meeting has been set for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the McDonald senior center.

A letter sent by the postal service said officials would know the results of the survey before the meeting but they would not make a final decision until after they had heard the comments from the public.

"I would encourage all McDonald Post Office patrons to fill out that survey form and return it to the U.S. Post Office Department immediately," said Owen Wingfield, McDonald resident. "The post office is going to make a change in McDonald."

It is important that residents know that, unless the postal department receives 60 percent or more of the surveys back, the officials will make the changes without any input.

Residents are given four choices on the survey. Mr. Wingfield recommends that everyone select item 1 as their choice.

"We need to keep the post office open at least four hours a day," he said, noting that is basically what item 1 outlines. The post office, at this time, is open two hours on Saturdays and those hours will not

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