

Funding cuts lead to office closings in Northwest Kansas

By Karen Krien

Four Natural Resources Conservation Service offices in northwest Kansas will be closed by 2008. Offices include Cheyenne, Decatur, Sheridan and Gove counties.

At a meeting with conservation districts on Aug. 24, Harold Klage, state conservationist, said there was a \$2.6 million reduction in technical assistance funding that had to be dealt with by 2008. His plan called for cutting 48 of the staff and consolidating 48 of the field offices down to 23. He would also cut area offices from five to four.

Decatur County would consolidate with Rawlins County; Cheyenne with Sherman; Sheridan with Thomas and Gove with Logan County. Lane and Wichita counties will merge with Scott County. These are just a few of the western Kansas county offices which will be required to merge.

A proposed map shows that about six office closing are in the eastern half of the state, the rest are in western Kansas and most of those counties are considered "farm-dependent."

Joan Gienger, Cheyenne County District Conservationist, said she didn't have any comments and said all questions should be referred to Mr. Klage.

However, Randy Rueb, Conservation District Supervisor, said he had been told the state of Kansas had done an exceptional job of getting conservation on the land and this was the reason the funding for the state was being cut back.

The federal money is being given to other states that did not care enough about conserving the land, he said.

"What it amounts to is we are being punished for doing a good job," Mr. Rueb said.

"The NRCS people say that in eastern Kansas, there are more farmers and more of a work load; however, in northwest Kansas, there is more agricultural land which needs more conservation practices."

What he said really concerned him was the fact that the Farm Service Agency office is under a study and it could be the next area under attack.

"It not only affects the farmers but it is also going to affect the businesses in our small community," Mr. Rueb said.

Pat Owens, owner of Owens True Value, St. Francis, said taking the office (Natural Resources Conservation Service) out is just another

nailed in the coffin for small counties like Cheyenne County. He said that of course, people traveling to the Sherman County office will buy things which could have been purchased in St. Francis.

"Just seems like the government doesn't care about counties in this part of the state," he said.

Dave Yost, Yost Farm Supply, said any office that is removed hurts the community. People going out of town will get their groceries and other stuff there instead of shopping at home.

Mr. Klage said that, with the state getting less money, the cuts are necessary. He said that with cell phones and computers, farmers don't depend on the office people like they did a number of years ago.

He said that most of the cuts in staff will be through retirement or "attrition." The present staff in offices to be cut will either need to move or travel, however, they will still be making the necessary field visits.



TUESDAY was the start of the dirt work for the construction of the apron which will allow for more parking area for planes.

The majority of the funds will come from a matching grant acquired by the county.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Apron construction starts at airport

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Airport continues to see improvements, thanks to matching grants through the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA).

The construction of the apron (parking area for planes) started on Tuesday when the dirt moving equipment arrived at the airport south of St. Francis. Dave Yost, member of the Cheyenne County Airport Authority, reported that a pre-construction meeting with Marek Kubesa of Olsson Associates, Englewood, Colo., the consulting firm hired by the Authority, was held Tuesday before the construction began.

Doing the work is Klotz Sand Company, Scott City, the low bidder for the project.

The apron will be approximately four times the size of the present apron. There will be six tie downs for planes and Mr. Yost said it will be a much better parking area for planes coming in, especially the medical planes and ambulance staff transporting patients to other hospitals.

The apron is estimated to cost \$152,953. However, the grant is a 95/5 matching grant with the county only paying \$7,647.

"To get the major projects done on the airport with so little local funds required is a chance in a lifetime," Mr. Yost said.

Other improvements made at the

airport with grant funds include a master plan which was necessary before most improvements could be made and/or buildings erected; an AWOS which provides the weather to pilots automatically (if the weather is bad, even though the airport has an instrument approach, a commercial flight may not attempt

the landing if there is no approved weather reporting available). Future projects include lengthening and widening the runway, new runway lights and the continued maintenance of the runway.

Mr. Yost commended the commissioners and their cooperation in seeing these projects through.

Years Ago

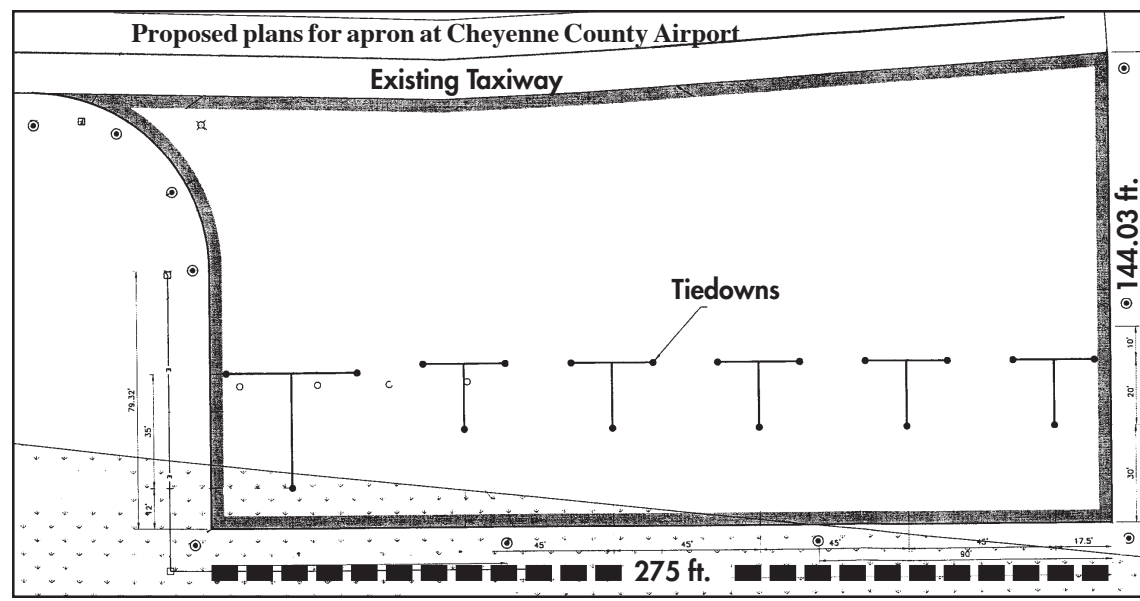
25 years ago - 1981

Cheylin United School District 103 Bird City and McDonald has enrolled students kindergarten through 12th. The tabulation shows a total of 252.

The school year got off to a good start Sunday when more than 225 residents of the McDonald-Bird City communities held a reception for the teachers.

Rev. Bruce Hogarth is the new minister at the Wesleyan Church. He is not a stranger to this area as his father pastored the St. Francis Wesleyan Church from 1962-66.

New officers were elected at the next Community Club meeting. Steve Carpenter was elected president, Robert Jones, vice president and OD Smith as secretary/treasurer. Old officers were Martin Burton, president, Jim Jordan, vice president and OD Smith, secretary/treasurer.



Antiques, Glassware, Garden, Guns & Misc.

Sat., Sept. 16 9:00 a.m. CT

SALE SITE: 207 Decatur, McDonald, KS
Signs will be posted.

SELLER: Hazel Hartman Estate

HOME & BUILDINGS (Selling at approximately 1:00 p.m.)
Four-bedroom two-story home w/basement & detached garage, Needs some TLC but good fixer-upper.
Legal on home: All of Lot 10 and south 30 ft of Lot 11 in Block 9 of original town, now city of McDonald, KS 15 ft x 45 ft. tin building w/pipe frame (on skids).
Shop building.
Legal on shop: All of Lot 13 in Block 3 of original town, now city of McDonald, KS. Will make nice shop - has restroom & office space.

Ron Hartman, Executor
Executor represented by H. Scott Beims
LEWIS & BEIMS, Attorneys; 509 Main; Atwood, KS 67730 • 785-626-3221

Pickup/Tractor/Car

- Model A Parts
- '73-'75 Chev pickup (78,000 mi.)
- Old Allis tractor
- 1961 MG convertible car
- 7 Model A motors
- '32 V engine
- Numerous Model A pieces, cowlings, etc.

Garden/Shop

- Craftsman rider mower, Kohler 22hp, V-twin, 6 sp, 46" (almost new)
- Troy-Bilt rototiller
- 3 push mowers (Toro/Craftsman/Snapper self-propelled)
- 2 Wegele rider mowers
- Hydraulic log splitter
- 2 air compressors
- Kohler 800w generator
- B&D circular saw, jig saw, drills
- Double-wheel grinder on stand
- Shop benches
- Bench vise
- 30 ft. extension ladder
- 12 ft. step ladder & other ladders
- Chains, car creeper
- Hydraulic jacks, hi-boy jack
- Sockets, S&K open & box wrenches, etc.
- Pipe wrenches, screwdrivers, etc.
- Tool boxes full
- Misc. hand tools (shovels, posthole digger, rakes, etc.)
- Weed eaters, tree trimmers, sprinklers
- Shop Vac

Appliances

- Eastman upholstery sewing machine w/attachments
- 3 console Necchi sewing machines
- 2 Westinghouse roasters
- Zenith color TV w/remote
- Amana refrigerator
- Small refrigerator
- Washer/Dryer
- Kitchen appliances (toaster, micro, etc)

Miscellaneous

- Boxes of costume jewelry

2 Alaskan bear hides

- Fishing poles & tackle boxes
- Misc. doors & windows
- Lots of yard, books/cookbooks
- Porch swing/cots/coolers, etc
- Chicken feeders/waterers
- Lots of fruit jars
- Quilting frame

Antique Furniture

- Curved-glass curio cabinet
- 5x5x1 Bookcase w/3 glass doors
- Curio cabinet w/2 glass doors
- Unique corner curio w/mirror
- Oak desk
- Curved front oak dresser & chest w/swivel mirrors
- Oak secretary
- Round oak table w/leaves & chairs & cabinets
- Camel back and flat back trunks
- Metal top kitchen table
- Silvertone record player
- Wood slat rocker
- Dressers & chests
- Drop-leaf table
- 3 pc Bedroom set
- Lingerie chest
- Framed beveled mirror
- Clocks/Glassware & Avon
- Regulator pendulum clock (from McDonald school)
- Linden 30-day clock
- Complete set of 1920's Fiesta dinnerware
- 12 pc China set
- Depression glass
- Carnival glass
- Cut glass and hand-painted dishes
- More dishes, pots & pans, etc.
- LOTS OF AVON, never opened

Antiques & Collectibles

- Clas-food bathtub
- Numerous steel tractor seats (Buckeye, McCormick, Aultman, Miller & Co.)

Aladdin oil lamp, glass lamps

- Old ball bats and toys
- 5 gal. Red Wing crocks
- Iron bed frame
- 1950's Charlie Weaver bartender figure
- 50's Republic/Democrat whiskey decanters
- 20+ Wild Turkey decanter collection
- Ladies hats & hat boxes
- Ice tongs, milk & cream bottles
- Enamelware, cast boiler
- Stimpson meat scale & grinders
- Ladies Skyrider roadmaster bicycle
- Round wash tubs, coal bucket/shovel
- Old hand pump, gas can
- "Fred's Tractor" dust pan

Guns & Ammo

- Remington 870 Wingmaster 12 ga. shotgun, full choke
- Winchester model 12 feather-weight 12 ga. pump
- Old Remington 12 ga. pump
- Billy Club w/teargas cartridge chamber
- Peters shotgun shells
- Eley Alphamax shotgun shells #6
- 00 Buck Peters Victor US property, 12 ga. smokeless shotgun shells
- Kleenbore 45 colt shells in original box
- Federal gas cartridge for model M-29 Fed
- Remington 45 colt 250 grain lead fire cartridge box
- Kleenbore 25 Stevens short-rim fire shells
- Numerous other ammo in original boxes

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RAMBAT AUCTION

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Jace Rambat & Justin Banzhaf, Auctioneers

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FOR MORE INFO & PICTURES VISIT <http://midwestauction.com>

AUCTIONER'S NOTE: Many items were boxed and we were unable to view so plan on lots of old treasures. We will have two sale rings at times so prepare to split up. This auction has a lifetime of collections so plan to spend the day.

Lunch will be served

Terms: Cash or Approved Check. Not responsible for accidents or articles after sold. All announcements day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.

L & L Implement Co., Inc.

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1-2004 8320, MFWD Loaded, 1,300 Hrs.	\$118,000
2- 2004 8520T, 1,179 hrs.	\$138,000
12 Row Orthman Ripper w/Western Sweeps	\$10,000
JD 9610, Loaded, Nice	\$80,000
5-JD 1760 12 Row Planters	starting at \$22,000
1996 JD 8400, 5,000 hrs...., loaded	\$72,000
1-2004 8320 MFWD, Nice, 1,100 hrs.	\$22,000
JD 2003 4710 Sprayer, Loaded	CALL
12 Row 8530 Orthman Cultivator w/Tracker Guidance	\$10,500
2001 1254 Ro-Gator w/ 100' Booms	\$94,500
1998 JD 7200 24 Row W/ Liq-Fert., Insecticide Boxes	\$49,500

MachineFinder <http://www.machinefinder.com>

THERE'S A MIRACLE CALLED SMALL TOWNS. WE KNOW THIS SPECIAL GIFT AND REALIZE THAT IT IS ONE OF GOD'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS. THANK YOU FOR EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY PRAYER AND EVERY HELPING HAND THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE JASON'S ACCIDENT.

THANK YOU BOB KLIE, RANDY RUEB AND SPENCER SCHLEPP FOR CATCHING US UP ON OUR FIELD WORK ... YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO KNOW HOW MUCH THAT MEANT TO US.

THANK YOU TO MY WORK PLACES: THE SAINT FRANCIS HERALD, THE ST. FRANCIS POST OFFICE, CHEYENNE CO. ROAD & BRIDGE AND CHEYENNE CO. FARM SERVICE AGENCY ... WHAT TRULY GREAT FAMILIES TO BE INCLUDED IN.

HELEN BROWN AND CARYN TORRENCE, THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE HELP GIVEN TO US WHEN WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE DEALING WITH. AJ AND SHERRI, TALON & ECHO JONES; DELBERT & SHARON BARNHART; BRANDI BARNHART; MARY & RON, AARON & TESSA LINNER; LANISSA BLEVENS, MIKE CALLICRATE; BRAD & RYAN CULWELL; JOHN MAHLBERG — THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR US.

None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our own boot straps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us

—Thurgood Marshall

Jason Barnhart & Amanda Jones
Doug, Sandy, Bruce & Chase Barnhart

Dundy County Hospital's

HEALTH FAIR

Thursday., Sept. 28 ~ 3-7 p.m. MST

General Health Panel

being offered for a discounted price of \$30

PSA is an extra \$15

(Valued at more than \$200)

For your convenience, lab personnel will be available in your community as follows:

Bird City — Sept. 14th at Legion Hall (6-10 a.m.)

All times listed are local times

For the accuracy of the test, you will need to be fasting (nothing to eat or drink) for 12 hours.

Payment is due at the time of service. This may not and will not be billed to your insurance, Medicare or wellness plan and may not be applied to your deductible.

Please call Dundy County Hospital at 308-423-2204 if you have questions.

Dundy County Hospital

"Caring For Our Community"

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dch
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