

1,541 people turn up at the polls

By Karen Krien

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The election is over! There is a new president.

This may be proclaimed in history as one of the most well-attended presidential race. Terry Miller, Cheyenne County election officer, reported at the close of the advance voting on Monday, 29 percent of the people had voted. Of the 1,985 registered voters in the county, a total of 572 had already shown up at the polls.

On Tuesday, the final total showed 1,541 people voting. Mr. Miller said 78 percent of the registered voters had

turned out for the election.

In Cheyenne County, John McCain came out ahead. His strong opponent was Barack Obama. However, the final national vote for president was not known at the time the paper was sent to the printer.

In the local race for county commissioner of District 2, Dale Patton was the winner over incumbent Ray Lee. The rest of the local races were unopposed.

In St. Francis, the \$2.5 million bond to build a new gymnasium was voted down.

Following are the results of the votes in Cheyenne County.

President/Vice President	John McCain/Sarah Palin 918
	Barack Obama/Joe Biden 235
	Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez 9
	Bob Barr/Wayne Root 5
	Chuck Baldwin/Darrell Castle 6
Sheriff	Craig Van Allen (R) 1225
Treasurer	Dolores Jenik (R) 1049
District Court Judge, 15th District, division 2	Scott Showalter (R) 914
Magistrate Judge, 15th Dis-	

istrict, 1st position	Robert Van Allen (R) 1029
Clerk	Terry Miller (R) 1085
Commissioner 2nd District	Ray Lee (R) 189
	Dale Patton (I) 306
Commissioner 3rd District	Andrew Beikman (R) 295
Register of Deeds	Mary Morrow (R) 1061
County Attorney	Kari Gilliland (R) 1077
U.S. Senator	

Pat Roberts (R)	979
Jim Slattery (D)	159
Randall Hodgkinson	14
Joseph Martin	10
U.S. Representative	
1st District	
Jerry Moran (R)	1015
Jack Warner	14
Kathleen Burton	28
James Bordonaro (D)	71
State Senator	
40th District	
Ralph Ostmeyer (R)	1002
State Representative	
120th District	
John Faber (R)	969

Robert Strevey (D)	149
District Court Judge	
15th District, Division 1	
Glenn Schiffner (R)	912
No results were had for the following:	
Supreme Court Justices	
Court of Appeals Judges	
Supreme Court Justice	
Eric S. Rosen	
Lee Johnson	
Court of Appeals Judge	
Steve Leben	
G. Joseph Pierron Jr.	
Christel Marquardt	
Richard Greene	



CHEYLIN CHOIR PRESENTATION of the musical *Lil' Abner* with Jayden Cahoj performing as *Lil' Abner* and Sydney Busse as *Daisy Mae*. The play is showing both Friday and Saturday evenings with a dinner served at the Saturday performance.
Photo courtesy of Susan Jensen

Farm and ranch expo comes to McCook Nov. 19

By Karen Krien
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New to the tri-state area is the McCook Farm and Ranch Expo which is coming to McCook on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 19 and 20. Held at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds, the expo starts at 9 a.m. both days and ends at 5 p.m. on Nov. 19 and 4 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Darren Dale, rural Cheyenne County, has organized the show and has a great lineup of entertainment. There are around 130 booths featuring everything from ag related products to cowboy tack to vehicles and insurance. For a full listing of the booths expected at the show, go to www.mccookfarmandranchempo.net.

Kansas cowgirl, Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo America 2008, will be signing autographs on Nov. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Miss Wilson, a Colby resident, graduated from Colby Community College with an associate's degree in agri-business and an

associate's degree in communications. She plans to pursue a career in ag-related television broadcasting with the goal to become a broadcaster for televised professional rodeo.

In addition to competing in breakaway roping and barrel racing, Miss Wilson also enjoys riding and training horses, raising registered Welsh-Corgi puppies, basketball and helping with farm and ranch work.

Will Lowe, three-time bareback riding world champion and six-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier, will be signing autographs.

Ron Collins, Bar C Stockdogs, will be giving demonstrations on Nov. 20. The Collins raise and sell Border Collies.

People are urged to take advantage of the expo and plan to spend both days checking out what the booths have to offer.

For more information, contact Mr. Dale at 785-426-2092 or his cell, 785-332-6506.

Harvest slower this year

Harvest appears to be slow this year. With the drought for the last few years, there was little problem of wet corn. However, this year, with moisture, especially in the last week when there was snow, the corn is taking a little time to dry out and there has been a problem with farmers getting in the fields to cut.



Elevator operators reported farmers are wanting to get into the fields but the samples are coming in around and over the 20 percent moisture mark.

Unless there is more rain, she expects harvest to have a good start by the week-end.

City recovers overpaid taxes

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City City Council was pleased to hear that the city clerk had been able to recover overpaid sales tax.

Tabetha Ketzner said she was able to recover over \$3,500 in overpaid sales tax on water usage for the past 36 months for Bird City. The city did not charge this water usage tax to the residences.

Councilman Frank Serrano asked if a refund would be given out to the residents. He was informed that, unfortunately not, because it came directly out of city funds.

City hall improvement update

Councilman Wade Carmichael brought members updated information on city hall improvements and price quotes. He reported that improvements might exceed the \$20,000 budget.

The consensus of the members was the project should be completed. Mrs. Ketzner said she had a visitor who took pictures of the outside of the building and commented on what a unique building it was.

The cost-to-date on items such as replacing all the inside doors, electrical wiring including new light fixtures, sheriff office, tiling and carpet amounts to an estimate of \$24,000. The amount does not take into consideration labor costs from contractors, or that Craig White and Brad Schneider, city maintenance personnel, would be doing some of the work.

Kari Gilliland, city attorney, said the project should progress to create a city pride in what is happening at city hall. Mayor Burr had no complaints in keeping the project going. The council approved the improvement

proposal. Councilman Carmichael added the projected completion date would be May 1. Mayor Burr asked to plan another update in January.

Wastewater lagoon project

Don High, Miller and Associates, requested payment for October's work. He reported that the retaining fee had been dropped from 10 percent to 5 percent, which is standard. He added they never drop the amount lower than it would be to hire another contractor to do the job.

The council approved the amount of \$67,693 paid to BSB Construction and \$7,047 paid to Miller and Associates.

City business updates

Information on the bids for the Emergency Medical Service training room was brought before the council member by Mrs. Ketzner. She reported that she has not received any bids from contractors.

It was approved for her to buy a display ad and use Mile Saver Shopper to increase the advertising area.

Bids on salvage items closed with the council accepting bid of \$700 from Francis Wahrman.

Council approved two to one for \$2,500 to repair and add insulation in the Van Doren Park restrooms. Councilman Frank Serrano voted no.

Councilman Loren White returned with a bid on a 75-horse powered tractor. A new John Deere would be estimated \$40,000 and a discussion over buying a used one and its problems. Councilman White also brought bids on a lawnmower for the wastewater lagoon. It had been previously agreed by the council the Grasshopper would not be able to do the job. The bids ranged from \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Craig White, city maintenance, reported that gravel will be applied to side streets soon. Mayor Burr asked if there was still enough money to do the job. Mr. White said \$1,600 has been used from the approved \$10,000 budget.

Miscellaneous items

In other business:
• The Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department will submit the 2009 contract at next meeting and include the 5-percent increase that was already approved in the budget.

• A letter of resignation from Angel Pham as relief city clerk was accepted.

• A building permit approved for Dennis Whitmore to build a garage.

• Linda Schneider apologized to Craig White for a recent incident at city hall involving her telling Mr. White she did not appreciate him warming up in the office while her husband, Brad, worked in the cold and if her husband got sick, she would not be happy. Mr. White accepted the apology.

• Mr. White and Mr. Schneider will be inspecting construction areas on building permits for possible utility lines.

• It is important to note that city hall will be closed on Friday as Mrs. Ketzner will be attending a seminar for clerks.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 1.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE CITIZENSHIP. Seated left Guadalupe Ponce, Joaquina Hardon, Blanca Ponce. Standing left, Roberto Ponce Jr., Ana Ponce, Albert Hardon and Roberto Ponce look at one of Blanca's gifts. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Local celebrates citizenship

By Linda Schneider
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On Sunday, the residents of McDonald met at the Senior Center to celebrate Blanca Ponce's citizenship.

On Sept. 19, along with 247 other soon-to-be American citizens, Blanca was sworn in as a citizen at the Mary Jane Teal Theater Century II, Wichita.

Albert and Joaquina Hardon, of Beardsley, were her sponsors and provided transportation for her and her family, Roberto and Guadalupe Ponce, and Ana and Roberto

Jr. Three times Blanca made the trip, the first to be fingerprinted, second time for an interview and finally, her citizenship.

The Ponce family originally from Leon, Guana Juato, Mexico, have lived in McDonald for nine years and Blanca was in fourth grade.

As part of the citizenship ceremonies in Wichita, Blanca had to study 96 questions of which 10 would be asked.

"I was asked only three questions," said Blanca. Mr. Hardon added that Blanca

could have answered them all!

Lois Morelock and Judy Fisher, McDonald Area Development Committee coordinated the party, with family and friends congratulating her. When asked what she will do first as a new citizen, "I am voting on Tuesday!" said Blanca.

Blanca is a 2008 graduate of Cheylin School and attending Vo Tech in Goodland and studying cosmetology.