

Cheyenne County Courthouse handicap drive may be extended

By Karen Krien

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he had been told that the handicap drive on the west side of the courthouse needed improvement. The commissioners, at their Feb. 15 meeting, agreed to see what it would cost to extend and widen the drive.

Commissioner Beikman said older people and/or people with handicaps have trouble getting out because the drive is so narrow that there is not room to get out of the car without stepping on the grass. It is also difficult to back out of the drive.

He suggested that the commissioners look into the cost of a "drive thru" with the handicap drive being extended to make a circle drive that would exit on Benton Street. He also suggested that it be made wider.

Those using the handicap drive can enter the courthouse at the basement level and use the elevator to go to the other floors. There are also handicap door entry pads. However, the narrow drive discourages people from using it.

Maintenance person Carl Williams will get some measurements and Terry Miller, clerk, will see about getting some bids for the work. Bid deadline will be March 14.

Snow removal

For a number of years, there has been little need for snow removal from county roads. However, this year, there has been weeks of snowy conditions and complaints that the county was not clearing private drives.

Commissioner Beikman had talked to the insurance agent, Roxie Neitzel, who said the county was covered while clearing roads and drives. But, if there are a lot of claims, the insurance coverage may need to be reviewed.

The commissioners felt that the first removal of snow should be to the roads and that the county crew didn't have time to open private drives. Commissioner Ernie Ketzner said the county crew used to clear drives when needed. They discussed the fact that some country residents had the equipment to clear drives while others had nothing.

Commissioner Ray Lee thought that, if nothing else, if there is an emergency, the county should clear that person's drive. It was agreed that the crew would do this.

Commissioner Beikman said the county has a policy that if there is a business which can remove snow or any other service, the county crew does not interfere.

The matter of snow removal was tabled until after Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, visits with the St. Francis Board of Edu-

cation about bus routes and private drive snow removal.

Records moved

The county's voting machines are required to be kept under lock and key. The machines are currently being stored in the history room in the basement of the courthouse. When someone wants to look at the school and census records, the room needs to be unlocked and monitored.

Margaret Bucholtz and Janet Carmen, Cheyenne County Historical Society, said the museum on U.S. 36 had an area where the school and census records could be safely stored. Mrs. Bucholtz said it would be convenient for everyone if they could move the records from the history room to the museum.

The commissioners thought this would be a good solution for all involved and agreed to the moving of the records.

Noxious weed supervisor report

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, had a letter of support for the commissioners to sign. The letter asked that the application for Rozol be extended from March 15 to April 15. Rozol is used in getting rid of prairie dogs.

The commissioners talked about cost sharing for eliminating prairie dogs. Mr. Schlittenhardt said Logan County Commissioners are taking ranchers to court because of their prairie dog problems.

Mr. Schlittenhardt had a bid for a new pickup but, looking at the cost, the commissioners asked that he get another bid so they could compare prices.

In other business

• Tammy Pettijohn and Tracy Winchester-Hillmer, High Plains Mental Health, told the commissioners some of the services provided.

• Sheriff Gardner presented two bids for a pickup but no decision was made.

• Randy Hrabe, executive director of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission,

presented the Community Development Building Grant contracts for signature. The contracts are for the dairy being put near Bird City. One contract was for Northwest Kansas Planning and Development to serve as the grant administrator and the second contract was the State of Kansas Economic Development Grant Agreement (Bird City Dairy Community Development Building Grant). The contracts were signed.

Mr. Hrabe then talked about the work provided by the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, noting that the commission could possibly help with a grant to purchase a generator for the new 911 emergency system.

• Janelle Bowers, emergency medical director, has been informed that Medicare wants the write-offs to be referred to as "adjustments." Adjustments of \$1,194 were approved.

• Director Bowers said she has had trouble with the one of the ambulances starting even after it had been worked on by Yost Ford-Mercury. She was concerned that the ambulance would be needed for an emergency run and it wouldn't run. The commissioners gave her permission to go to another qualified mechanic.

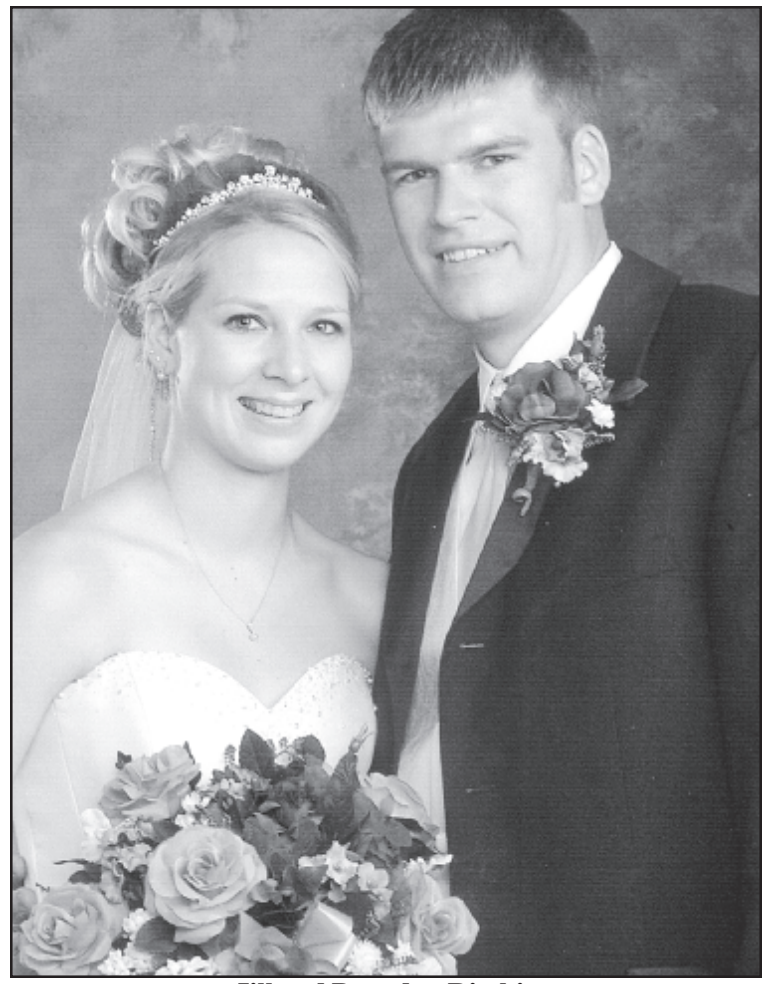
• Mark Mills, emergency medical technician, has taken the necessary training to recertify emergency medical technicians.

• Commissioners agreed to move forward with the new 911 emergency system. See related article.

• Judge Robert Van Allen had asked for assistance in paying for mileage to Denver and round trip airfare to Reno, Nev., so that he could attend the Judicial College in May. The judge received a scholarship for the college and the Kansas Supreme Court will pay for the conference fee, lodging and meals. The commissioners agreed to pay the mileage and airfare.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the courthouse.



Jill and Brandon Ritchie

Vows exchanged

Jill Faye Zumbahlen and Brandon Michael Ritchie were united in marriage on July 15, 2006, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Great Bend. Father Wesley officiated.

Parents of the bride are David and Marjean Zumbahlen of Bird City. The bridegroom's parents are Maurice Ritchie, Great Bend, and Rick and Connie Trinka, Pawnee Rock.

Honored guests were Judy and Lynn Welch of Pawnee Rock, the groom's grandmother and grandfather.

Joy Zumbahlen, Hays, twin sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Amanda Poore and Brooke Ritchie, sister of the groom. Junior bridesmaid was Bailey Ritchie, sister of the groom. Barb Wusk and Peggy Wusk, Sterling, Neb., and Joyce Wusk, Wilber, Neb., aunts of the bride, served as personal attendants.

Scott Schmidt, Pawnee Rock, was best man. The groomsmen were Richard Mead and Mitchel Smith, Pawnee Rock. Junior groomsmen was Blake Ritchie, brother of the groom.

Flower girls were Sasha Wasinger, Hays, and Monica Stallbaumer, Corning, nieces of the bride. Ring bearers were Matt Stallbaumer and Nicholas Thompson, Centralia, and Koy and Cade Olberding, Corning, nephews of the bride.

Candle lighters were Mayda Stallbaumer, Centralia, niece of the bride and Colin and Jordan Welch, Skiatook, Okla., cousins of the groom.

Ushers were Dustin Thompson, Centralia, brother-in-law of the bride, Ralph Wusk, Sterling, cousin of the bride, and Shawn Unruh and Grant Unruh, Pawnee Rock.

Special music for the wedding was provided by Patty Hengen and Annie Hengen, Bird City. Gift bearers were sisters of the bride Amy Wasinger,

Hays, Mindy Olberding, Corning and Manda Thompson, Centralia.

Readers were Ann Stallbaumer, Centralia, sister of the bride, and Kevin Welch, Skiatook, uncle of the groom. Altar servers were Sam Hengen and Max Hengen, Bird City.

Attending the guest book were Pat Krick, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and Carol Remmers, DeWitt, Neb., aunts of the bride.

A reception, banquet and dance followed the ceremony at the Elks Lodge in Great Bend. Hosts for the event were Arlo and Barb Wusk, Sterling, uncle and aunt of the bride, and Kevin and Michelle Welch, Skiatook, Okla., uncle and aunt of the groom. Grandparents of the groom, Lynn and Judy Welch, led the grand march for the couple.

The bride is attending Emporia State College where she is pursuing a degree in art. The groom is employed by Tower Builders in Topeka. They are presently living in Lebo.

Club Clip

McDonald Area Development

The McDonald Area Development met on Wednesday Feb. 7. Due to the weather and road conditions attendance was down, and there was very little business. Lori Morelock was not present, so there was no treasurer's report. This was the first meeting in 2007, so the group discussed the Bingo games, the Christmas lighting contest, and the Valentine's drawing. Names were drawn on Tuesday, Feb. 13 for the winners of the Valentine drawing. There were two winners, each receiving a gift certificate for \$30.00 to the Frosty Mug and Two Lees. The Easter Egg Hunt will be planned at the March meeting.

Singers to present program at a church in St. Francis

The Golden Cords from Union College, Lincoln, Neb., will be performing at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Third and Adams streets, St. Francis, on Saturday, March 3. The program, titled "We Have This Hope," will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Golden Cords is a group of students and their faculty sponsor that consists of a string quartet, pianist, artist and a student missionary. They present a program consisting of classical music and hymns, a mission story and children's story, while the artist draws a picture all during the program. The picture stays with the church as a memory of the visit of the Golden Cords.

The group is under the direction

of Dr. Tom Shepherd, professor of religion, who also is the cellist in the group. Dr. Shepherd says, "It is a joy for the students and me to bring this program to St. Francis. Our program is centered around the theme of the soon coming of Jesus."

We introduce all of our music with Scripture passages that revolve around this theme, he said.

The student missionary tells of her experience overseas in Kenya, Africa, and there is an exciting Bible story for children.

"Our artist draws a picture that links to the theme," Dr. Shepherd said. "I won't tell you what it is she draws — you will have to come and see, but many people enjoy watching her picture unfold before their eyes."

The group began touring in 1997 to locations throughout the midwest going both to large cities and small

towns. Dr. Shepherd notes that they enjoy taking the program to people throughout the midwest.

"The people are so welcoming and friendly," he said. "We like the fact that we can connect with people both during and after our concert, talking about Union College, music, art and the way God has blessed our lives."

The Golden Cords have traveled more widely to Florida, Washington, Oregon, California, British Columbia, Alaska, New York City, Washington, D.C., New England and even Brazil. In May, they will visit Arizona, Nevada and southern California.

Families of small children are welcome at the program. Children taking piano, violin, viola or cello lessons may talk with members of the group after the program and can ask to try out their instruments.

Cheylin screening set for Tuesday, March 6

Cheylin School District will be offering preschool/pre-kindergarten screenings on Tuesday, March 6, for children from birth to school age. These screenings are required for children who will be attending kindergarten next August, but parents are also encouraged to bring babies and preschoolers.

Hearing, vision, speech and language, concepts, and fine and gross motor skills will be screened. Parents are the primary and most influential teachers their children will ever have and these screenings will help parents discover their child's developmental stage and how best to encourage their ever changing

skills. They also help the school districts plan and prepare for future students in order to try to offer the best educational experience.

The St. Francis School District offers screenings in the fall of the year while Cheylin offers them in the spring. Those unable to attend the fall screening or are new to the county are welcome to bring their child to the Bird City site which will be the Methodist Church. The screenings are free but appointments are needed and can be made by calling the Cheylin Elementary School secretary at 785-734-2351.

Have questions, call Judy Sager at the same number.

Happy Birthday Dave!

February 22nd

Love ~ Mom, Dad
Mike, Sis, Cindy, Neil & Mark

Girl Scout Cookies FOR SALE

Saturday,
February 24
1-4 p.m.

Hometown Market

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effective March 1.

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ask that you please use our Stratton, NE
location for your building needs.

Our Stratton number is 308-276-2142,
and we will be offering daily delivery
from that location.