

ASSISTANCE

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The commissioners had several inquiries as to what the county was going to do with the old emergency medical service building on U.S. 36 when the new emergency building is finished. At the meeting, they agreed that they would wait until the service was out of the building.

Appraiser's office report

Bonnie Zwegardt and Deb Smith, both representing the appraiser's office, talked about the new aerial maps for the 911 system. Mrs. Zwegardt said that there is not enough memory on their present computer to handle the size of the maps. They have sufficient money to purchase a new computer and monitor costing \$1,875. They said the computer is still a very good computer and suggested someone in the courthouse might be able to use it.

They suggested the commissioners stop by their office to look at the new aerial slides.

"They are amazing," Mrs. Zwegardt said.

They then turned to discussing mileage vouchers. They had talked to the auditor about the documentation on the vouchers. They explained that if they used parcel numbers, the vouchers would be more accurate and there would be less paperwork and the commissioners could see exactly where they had been if there was a question.

Mr. Beikman said if the auditor had been agreeable to listing

parcels, then it was all right with him. He said that they were just following the auditor's instructions in making sure the vouchers were filled out correctly.

They went on to say that this time of year, they will be driving the entire county for final review. Noting that there are around 4,000 parcels in the county. When they are doing the review in Bird City and St. Francis, it takes a lot of gas and, at gas prices today, they are not coming out even.

Mr. Beikman suggested that the county purchase a vehicle for the appraiser's office to use and just put the gas in. That way there would be no worry about mileage vouchers. The women said that the last appraiser's vehicle was very unreliable and, in truth, it was probably cheaper for the county to pay mileage. There was no decision made on the matter of mileage while in the city limits. The mileage paid is \$.40 per mile.

Both Mrs. Zwegardt and Mrs. Smith said they will need to go to required classes in the future. The commissioners agreed that they should attend. They also asked if Kathy Graf, who was recently hired as full-time office help with the intention of eventually having her trained to be the appraiser, should be attending the class. The women said she was probably not ready for this type of training and suggested they call Randy Sangster, appraiser, for his recommendation.

Emergency manager's report

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, was concerned about having the right equipment for his office in the new emergency building. He said his office will need some radio equipment, along with the wiring and antenna. He estimated the cost to be around \$1,000 and wondered if it could be taken out of the 911 Fund. The commissioners agreed that it could as the funds are to be used for capital improvements, installations and startup costs — The proposed equipment is for communications and new equipment.

Mr. Beikman suggested that there be a means to add wiring later on. Mr. Rogers said those working on the new building have already looked seriously at every angle. While there will need to be a ceiling in the hall, a false ceiling will also be put in place where additional wiring can be run and it will be easy to access. He also noted that the architect had only called for four electrical outlets in his room (one on each wall). He said that he had installed more as by the time all the equipment has been plugged in, he will need more than four outlets.

In other business

In other business:
• Deputy clerk, Deb Lindsten, who is in charge of the cafeteria health plan, was allowed \$7 per each employee per month. She will be paid approximately \$150

each month.

• Mary Morrow, register of deeds, asked that Carol Whipple be deputized and her pay raised to the next level (level 2). The commissioners agreed.

• Jane Young, Bird City, was appointed as the new hospital board member, taking the seat of Swede Calnon, who retired after serving eight years. See related article.

• Cody Beeson, representing the Bird City Fire Department, said their vehicle used for carrying emergency equipment had a transmission leak. The commissioners said to get some prices but order them on next year's budget.

• Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, had a Pandemic Influenza Contract for the commissioners to sign. The grant is for \$5,010 and runs until August 2008.

• At the end of the meeting, it was noted that the General Fund was over budget. However, it was because of unexpected health care costs and adjustments will be made.

Next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



Lisa and Bert Stramel

Couple exchange their wedding vows

Lisa Ann Bradley and Bert Jon Stramel were united in marriage on Aug. 25, 2007, at the Wesleyan Church in Colby. Pastor Eugene Rothfuss officiated. A reception and dinner followed at the Kohrt Ranch in Edson.

The bride is the daughter of Ron and Bonnie Zwegardt of St. Fran-

cis. The groom is the son of Ron and Sharon Stramel of Colby.

Grandparents of the bride are Grace Zwegardt of St. Francis and the late Ray H. Zwegardt and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wulf of Goodland. The couple has made their home in Colby where they are engaged in farming and ranching.

AGENDA

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prices," Ms. Gries said.

The program is comparable to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

Applications are available at the sheriff's or the county treasurer's offices, both located in the courthouse in St. Francis. People may call the company at 303-296-3435; e-mail priorityog@aol.com or contact Jessica Andrews in Idalia at 970-354-7495 for applications. Applications are due in Priority's office no later than Jan. 31.

"Helping residents with their heating bills is a way the company can give back to the community," Ms. Gries said. "The assistance is not designed to pay the whole bill but assistance will be given on the varied bases of need. We try to weigh the need with the amount of dollars to be dispersed."

Priority owns wells only in Cheyenne County, however, they have exploration projects in Wyoming and Colorado.

Ms. Gries started the company in 1992 and reformed the business in 1995. She started with 12 wells and is now up to 121 wells in the county.

She has a bachelor's degree in geology from Colorado State University and a master's degree from University of Texas, Austin. She has been a geologist for 35 years and prior to that, for 2.5 years, taught beginning geology at Wichita State University.

Others working with Ms. Gries are Melissa Gray, business director; Mrs. Andrews of LaRana Resources LLC, contract field operations supervisor; and Kevin Andrews of Andrews Well Services LLC, contract field manager.

Ms. Gries said the Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program will continue as long as the company can afford to do so and expects the program to be a long-term project. She reminds interested people that

applications are due by Jan. 31.

Qualifications

• The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed the guidelines set forth in the chart below.

• An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for purchasing heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or

to the fuel vendor.

• Must be a permanent and legal resident in the United States of America and Cheyenne County.

Size	Income @ Mo.	Size	Income @ Mo.
One	\$1,574	Five	\$3,720
Two	\$2,111	Six	\$4,257
Three	\$2,647	Seven	\$4,793
Four	\$3,184	Eight	\$5,330
Each additional person \$537			

Behind the Scene

By Janet Carman

Over 300 people signed the visitors' book at the Museum of Cheyenne County in 2007. Many expressed pleasant surprise at the professional displays and quality artifacts in the small museum.

Throughout the year, special exhibits were shown in the lobby. Astronaut Ron Evans and pilot Charles Lindbergh were featured during Stearman Fly-In weekend. A tribute to veterans was set up in the lobby during the month of November. December's colorful highlight was a Christmas tree decorated with old mystery photos.

Welcome donations, gifts and grants were received from individuals, families and businesses this year. Margaret Bucholtz, director, and a staff of volunteers painted walls, rearranged cases, set up displays, accessed donations, and inventoried museum contents. The year was active and productive year for the museum and the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

The new year welcomes incoming society officers: Lea Keller, president; Dave Rossbach, treasurer; and Marcia Hickert, trustee. Dee Dorsch, Lucille Rossbach and Janet Carman are returning board members.

The board will meet in January

to set goals for 2008. Exterior and interior work on Ye Olde Country will take high priority. Historical status for the church will be sought. Grants will be researched and applications filed. Displays will continue to be updated and arranged.

During the winter months several days will be scheduled for work in the museum. If preserving the history of Cheyenne County is "your thing," contact any board member to become involved in museum activities and projects.

Each person who donated time and resources to the Museum of Cheyenne County in 2007 is valued and appreciated.

Student graduates

Andrew Duayne Smith graduated Friday, Dec. 14, from Colorado School of Mines in Golden with a bachelor of science degree in metallurgical and materials engineering.

Andy is a 2003 graduate of Cheylin High School. He is the son of Scott Smith and Melissa Zeller.



Obituaries

She leaves to mourn her passing, one son, Earl LeMar and his wife, Rosalie of San Jose, Calif.; one sister, Irene Stoecker and husband, Milton of Aberdeen, S.D.; three grandchildren, Stacie Ciesynski and husband, Tim of Sparks, Nev., Natalie Steichen and husband, Greg and Kristie Dunbar and husband, Kevin of San Jose, Calif.; three great-grandchildren, Aubrie Ciesynski of Sparks; Cevin Steichen and Jaiden Dunbar, both of San Jose and many other family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 31, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bird City with Reverend Charlotte Strecker-Baseler officiating. At an earlier request made by Norma, Gilbert Ochsner sang two hymns in German.

Casket bearers were Lee Amsberry, Keith Dorsch, Norman Dorsch, Stanley Dorsch, Larry Henry and Leo Mazon.

Interment followed at the St. Francis Cemetery.

Give memorials in her name.

Judith Anne Monroe

Nov. 1, 1940-Dec. 23, 2007

Judith Anne Monroe, of Tulsa, Okla., died peacefully at her home on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007, after a two-year struggle with breast cancer.

Judy was born Nov. 1, 1940, in Bird City, Kan., to Ruth and Ralph Leach. She graduated from Bird City High School in 1958 and received her bachelor of arts in education from Kansas State University in 1962.

While a student at Kansas State University, Judy married Robert James Monroe of Portis. They moved to Bloomington, Ind., where Judy taught elementary school and had their first child. In 1967, Judy earned her master of science degree from Indiana University

and continued to teach elementary school.

The family lived in Phoenix, Ariz., before moving to Columbia, Mo., where a second daughter was born in 1970, and their third daughter in 1976.

Judy was a homemaker during the years her children were growing up. She enjoyed cultivating the creative spirit in herself and others with crafts, music and writing.

As a volunteer administrator, she helped establish an occupational therapy program at the cancer hospital in Columbia. The volunteers she organized offered craft programs for chemotherapy patients and opened a gift shop for patients to sell their work.

She loved to write and had several free-lance articles published in magazines.

In 1988, she went back to school to update her teaching credentials for the state of Oklahoma. She felt teaching was not just a profession, but a calling. She taught in the Skiatook Public Schools for over 10 years and was selected Teacher of the Year in 1994.

Judy's sense of humor and enthusiasm for life endeared her to many people from all walks of life.

She is survived by: her daughters, Julie Monroe of Dallas; Natalie and husband, Robert Kincaid of Chicago; Christina Monroe and husband, Lance Boyd of Honolulu; two grandsons, Robert and William Kincaid; brother, Jim and wife, Cindy Leach of Wichita; and former husband, Robert and wife, Pat Monroe of Tulsa.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Dec. 30, in the Chapel at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Judith A. Monroe Memorial Fund at Bank of Oklahoma.

Judith Anne Monroe view and sign the online guest book: www.legacy.com/tulsaworld



Monroe

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