

# Prairie dogs may become protected

By Karen Krien

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In the future, farmers and ranchers may be facing prairie dogs as an endangered or threatened species and will not be allowed to take care of them.

This report came from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Mountain-Prairie Region. The letter stated that the black-tailed prairie dog may warrant federal protection following an initial review of a petition seeking to protect the dogs.

The decision, commonly known as a 90-day finding, is based on scientific information about the black-tailed prairie dog. The petition requests listing the dogs under the endangered species act.

The findings, the letter stated, does not mean that the service has decided it is appropriate to give the prairie dog federal protection. Rather, this finding is the first step in a long process that triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information available.

The service will be undertaking a more thorough review of the black-tailed prairie dog to determine whether to propose adding it to the federal list of endangered species. To make sure the review is comprehensive, the service is asking information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the black-tailed prairie dog and its habitat.

To help keep these dogs from becoming an endangered species, farmers and ranchers, along with any other interested people, need to write their comments and information, sending it to the proper authorities by or before Feb. 2.

Addresses include: electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>; mailed to Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R6-ES-

2008-0111; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203.

Dan Schlittenhardt, Cheyenne County Noxious Weed and Prairie Dog Control manager, urges people to write their comments. However, he warns people to not be radical in their comments and to write intelligently.

If the prairie dogs are put on the endangered list, he said, people will not be able to control them, nor will they be allowed as a hunting sport.

The service, the letter stated, will evaluate all information regarding the status and distribution of the black-tailed prairie dog, including the impacts or potential impacts to the species resulting from either human activities or natural causes.

### More on prairie dogs

Black-tailed prairie dogs are found in the tri-state area including Cheyenne County. They are also found east of the continental divide in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

In the early 1960s, prairie dogs were wiped out of Arizona. However, 74 prairie dogs were reintroduced back into the state in October and further reintroduction efforts are anticipated.

In March 2008, WildEarth Guardians filed a complaint against the service for failure to complete a finding on their August 2007 petition to list the black-tailed prairie dog. In a July 2008 stipulated settlement, the service agreed to submit a finding on the petition by Nov. 30, 2008.

The petitioners said that several factors affect the prairie dog habitat including conversion of prairie grasslands to cropland; urbanizing; oil, gas and mineral extraction; plague; recreational shooting and livestock grazing.

# Closing day for voter registration is Feb. 16

By Karen Krien

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The registration books for the city and school general election will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16. The books will remain closed until March 4.

Election officer, Terry Miller, said those wanting to register to vote in the general election can come to his office in the courthouse during regular business hours. People may also register at the First National Bank in Bird City.

To register, the person must be an 18-year-old or older citizen of the United States. They can apply in person or by mail to the election officers. Application forms will be provided by the officer by re-

quest or in writing.

After registering, the registration will continue to be valid until the voter changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings or changes their place of residence.



**FOUNDATIONS ARE POURED** — Bud Erskin, middle right, owner of Majestic Service on U.S. 36, is getting closer to opening his business to sell gas. Part of the pumps are already set and ready to go. Within the week, Mr. Erskin plans to have the rest of them ready.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# Deadline to file is Tuesday

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The deadline for filing for seats on Bird City or St. Francis city councils, Bird City mayor and Cheylin or St. Francis school boards is noon on Tuesday.

Terry Miller, county election officer, reported that those filing are coming in slowly. As of Tuesday, there has been no one filing for St. Francis City Council and Derrick Tice has filed for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Education;

In Bird City, no one has filed for the city council. On the board of education, Belinda Serrano, George Louderbaugh, Anita Pochop and Jim Cahoj have filed.

Cindy Burr has filed for a seat on the Sunflower Extension Board.

Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, said there has been a lot of interest shown in the election with people calling and picking up filing information. Again, she reminds those wanting to file that they have until Tuesday to do so.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be filled by the candidates with the most votes in the March 3 election.

To run for a seat on the city

council, the candidate must live within the city limits.

School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidates running in a district, there will be a primary election on March 3, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.

### City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are three city council seats up for election.

Those St. Francis members whose terms are up are: Rodney Bracelin, Natalie Knodel and Carla Lampe

Bird City — There are two seats on the city council plus the position of mayor up for election. The council positions are currently being served by Deb Smith and Wade Carmichael. Troy Burr is the mayor of Bird City.

### Board of education

St. Francis — There are three seats up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. Positions and the people currently serving are: District 3, position 6, Pete Raile; District 1, position 4, Bruce Feikert; and District 2, position 5, Kelly Gienger.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board

of Education has four seats up for election including District 1, position 1, George Louderbaugh; District 2, position 6, Doyle Bock; District 1, position 3, Don Orten (Mr. Orten was recently sworn in, replacing Anita Pochop) and Member At Large, Belinda Serrano.

Those positions up on the Sunflower Extension District 6 board are those of Cindy Burr and Penny Gienger.

### How to file

Those filing will need to either pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures to the county clerk located in the courthouse. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

### No withdrawing names

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

# Contest begins today

Do you know a couple who is special? A couple who deserves to be recognized? Someone you love? Well, people will be able to clip the ballot in this week's issue of *The Herald* on Page 1B, fill it out and take it back to one of the participating businesses. Ballots will be in *The Herald* for two more weeks.

On Feb. 9, the drawing will be held and two winners, will be featured in Feb. 12 issue. Just in time for Valentine's Day, the winners will receive flowers from Goodell Greenhouse and Floral.

"This should be a fun contest," said Casey McCormick, ad manager. "And it will be great to see who is going to be our featured 'Special Valentine's Couples.'"

Rules are: 1) The couple must be 21 years of age or older and married; and 2) must live in Cheyenne County.

This is an easy contest. There are no essays to write, no mushy notes to print and it doesn't cost a thing. Merchants are taking care of that.

When taking the ballot into one of the stores, be sure and thank them.

Participating merchants are: Donna's Gift Palace, Goodell's Greenhouse, Hilltop General Store, Krien Pharmacy, L & L Liquor, Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, Video Connection, Video Kingdom and *The Saint Francis Herald*.



Jorja Rae Ebert

# Birthday celebrated

Jorja Rae (JR), daughter of A.J. and Nikki (Krien) Ebert turned 1-year-old on Dec. 19. She celebrated on Dec. 20, with grandparents, Iva and Dennis Krien, Pat and Bill Schiele, Carol and Bob Ebert, great-grandma Frankie and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Cupcakes and cake were enjoyed by all.



**In Loving Memory of Dale D. Raile**  
01-27-43 01-25-04  
We praise God for the life that we were able to share, for the happiness we had together, and for being blessed with your love.

Your memory will always be in our heart. We miss you so much.  
Ramona & Kids

**The Natural Pizza**  
Starts with a multigrain crust and then a natural old world sauce made from vine-ripened tomatoes, all natural mozzarella cheese and finish with your favorite toppings.  
**1-Topping \$9.99**  
**Rustica \$11.99**  
(Natural old world sauce, natural mozzarella cheese, natural sliced Rustica sausage, fire roasted red peppers and marinated, sliced roma tomatoes.)  
Come in and try our new Lasagna!  
Visit us on: W. Hwy. 36 in St. Francis or Call us at: (785) 332-2601  
Carry-Out or Dine-in  
HOURS: Thursday • 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. • 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Sun. • 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.  
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**Help Wanted**  
Cheyenne County Hospital is currently accepting applications for a Management level Medical Technologist. As a proven team leader you will oversee all technical procedures, QC, QA, testing, regulatory compliance, and personnel involved with Hematology, Chemistry, Immunochemistry, Coagulation, Blood Bank, and Microbiology. Applicant will perform various chemical, serological, microscopic and bacteriological tests to obtain data for the use in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.  
This is a full time position that will rotate weekends and share call time. Cheyenne County Hospital has sincere commitment to staff development with competitive wages and benefits. For more information about our facility or to fill out an on-line application and resume please visit [www.cheyennecountyhospital.com](http://www.cheyennecountyhospital.com). You may send a resume to [kmeyer@cheyennecountyhospital.com](mailto:kmeyer@cheyennecountyhospital.com) or call 785-332-2104 and ask for Kary or Darrell. We are looking for a team player to join the staff at Cheyenne County Hospital, the Shining Star of Rural Health Care.

**Positions Open CNAs**  
• Benefits Available  
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• Advancement Opportunities  
Call Michele R. or Janet at 785-332-2531  
**Good Samaritan Society**  
820 South Denison, St. Francis, Ks. 67756 • 785-332-2531  
St. Francis Good Samaritan Village is an EEO/AAP — M/F/V/D employer

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**PLEASE VOTE!**  
I would APPRECIATE your vote for  
**Prairie Land Electric Cooperative**  
Board of Trustees District #5  
**R. Kent Anderson**  
Concordia, Kansas  
• 20+ year resident of north central Kansas  
• 25+ year Ag lender  
• Previous board experience  
• Cooperative experience  
You will receive your ballot in the mail from Prairie Land Electric about Jan. 20.  
**Please be sure to mail in your vote PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 11 DEADLINE!**

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