

City Council hears several visitors

By Amanda Miller
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The City Council met on the evening of Jan. 27, with several guests present to address the council. Mayor Scott Schultz was not present. The council listened to requests of the visitors, discussed the city's website future, and listened to reports from the police chief, superintendent, city attorney and clerk.

Visitors

The first visitor to address the council was Brock McAtee. He came to discuss the property on East Emerson and College Street that needs to be cleaned up. He said that he could have the property cleaned up, houses removed, basements filled and the lot cleared within six months. The title to the property is now clear, according to Mike Day, city attorney. The council agreed that it is time to begin the process, and will open the development opportunity to written proposals. Look for the ad elsewhere in this paper. They asked Mr. McAtee to bring back a written proposal to the next meeting.

The council then heard from Loyce Schamberger with Northwest Kansas Housing. Mrs. Schamberger is currently looking at St. Francis as a potential place to build affordable rental housing. She came to the council seeking approval to look at the city and see if it would benefit the community. After asking a few questions, the council agreed that it would not hurt anything to let her look.

Finally, Jenny and Dave Wright addressed the council regarding the past due amount Cheyenne Bowl has with the city. As was stated in the previous City Council meeting, the busi-

ness was reported to have a large amount overdue on their utility account. Attorney Day drafted a letter from the city to the business, that stated that the business must pay their current bill in full each month, plus \$1,000 of the overdue account, for the city to maintain its utility services.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright came to request a reduction of the overdue account payment each month. Mrs. Wright felt that they could pay \$500 each month toward the overdue account, as well as maintaining payment on their current bill. After a short discussion, the council members all agreed that the amount was sufficient. Council member Bruce Swihart said that everyone wants a bowling alley. Mr. and Mrs. Wright expressed appreciation to the council for understanding, and said in six years this is the slowest they have been.

City website

Council member Paula Keller has been working on building a new city website for several months. She has found a person that will build the website named Terri Richardson, from Goodland, and shared her work with other council members to review.

Mrs. Keller and council member Carla Lampe have now also met with Helen Dobbs, with Cheyenne County Development Corporation, and Mrs. Dobbs said she would be willing to run the website and keep it updated once Terri Richardson has it built and trains her.

The council agreed to a spending budget of \$800-\$1200 to pay Mrs. Richardson to build the website and get it going.

Police report

Shane Guggenemos, city police chief, reported that there is

the "grandparents scam" going around again. With this scam, someone calls and states that they are the grandchild of the recipient of the call, and they are in jail and need money. The grandparent thinks that it is their grandchild, and wires or sends money. Before sending money to any person, first call the parents of the child to see if they are safe. If you receive a phone call that is suspicious, please alert the police department at 785-332-3330.

Superintendent report

City superintendent JR Landenberger stated that the paint on the water tower is peeling. The company that painted it last year has been contacted, and is coming to look at why it is peeling, and review the warranty on the work.

Mr. Landenberger received the final billing for electric in for the year as well. As he had expected, the projection made that would have given the city more revenue was wrong. As in previous years, it maintained its margin, and there was not any extra revenue. This information will be used when considering all revenue and possible ways to finance the electrical upgrade that still needs to be funded. Mr. Landenberger said now that these numbers are in, the group will be meeting to discuss possible funding means.

Finally, the siren is getting fixed. Residents will again have their wake up call very soon.

City attorney report

City attorney Mike Day said that he had spoken with Mr. Johnson regarding the bandshell work, and he provided him with additional information. The supplemental documentation was provided to the committee that was made at the last meeting, con-

sisting of council members Roger Jensen, Dale Weeks, and Mayor Scott Schultz. They agreed that the city should pay the bill. The bill has now been paid.

City clerk

City clerk Glori Milne reported that the city did well with safety last year, only having one accident report that resulted in zero time off.

Closing of meeting

At the closing of the meeting, during council comments, Mrs. Keller said that she had not heard any minutes from the Theater Board in awhile. Council members agreed, and asked city clerk Glori Milne to contact the board.

Bruce Swihart told the council that he had placed an ad for lifeguards and manager of the pool for this summer.

Roger Jensen stated that the year end report for the recycling center was in, and our county was down 10 tons from last year. He stated that they are doing observations to see why there was a decrease in recycling over the last year, but cardboard recycling was down. Some council members wondered if this was because of a decrease in the grocery store supplies coming in. Another member mentioned that there is a restaurant he noticed that is throwing away a lot of recyclables.

However, as a community, Cheyenne County recycled 155 tons this year. Mr. Jensen said he was still disappointed, because Cheyenne County usually does very well. This year the county fell behind some other communities that it usually outperforms.

The next City Council meeting will be held Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in city hall. The public is encouraged to attend.



RHONDA BORN reviews a contract with Rodney Shay, owner of Shay Realty.

Saintly woman earns real estate license

Shay Realty, Inc., real estate and auction company serving Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska, is pleased to announce that Rhonda Born has joined the firm as a licensed Kansas salesperson. She earned her license after completing the Lowry School of Real Estate course work and passing both the uniform and Kansas examinations.

Rhonda is a native of the St. Francis area. She was raised on the diary farm where her parents, Harvey and Phyllis Zwegardt, still live and farm. She is a 1977 graduate of St. Francis Community High School and a 1978 graduate of Brown Mackie Business School in Salina. Rhonda also attended Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Rhonda has three children, Gabriel, Joshua and Andrea; two daughters-in-law, Cherish and Laura; and one granddaughter, Madilyn. Gabriel moved to St. Francis in 2010, where he and Cherish have purchased the lumber yard business, renaming it Heritage Lumber. She likes to spend time with her family, and she enjoys taking walks and bowling.

Rhonda has worked for Shay Realty as a receptionist and broker

assistant for 6.5 years, gaining experience in all areas of real estate. She is especially talented at home decorating and design.

"We have enjoyed working with Rhonda and are happy to now have her as part of our sales team," said Rodney Shay, broker. "She is very professional, loves people and is a hard worker."

Rhonda says she enjoys meeting and working with people, and she looks forward to helping meet the real estate needs of sellers and buyers in the area.



Singer Frankie Valens will be appearing at the **St. Francis High School Auditorium** **7:00 p.m.** **Thursday, Feb. 13** *Free-will offering*

Haigler Country Cafe
Haigler, Neb.
Valentine's Night Special
8 oz Ribeye with Crab Legs - \$24.95
Chicken Divan - \$16.95
Friday, Feb. 14 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Reservations appreciated 308-297-3330

2ND BEGINNINGS THRIFT STORE
Sack sale on "Women's" clothing only - \$5/sack
WED., FEB. 5, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. CT
FRI., FEB. 7, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. CT
SAT., FEB. 8, 9 A.M. - NOON CT
309 S. BIRD AVE. • BIRD CITY

Cheyenne County Conservation District
Producer's Appreciation Supper & 64th Annual Meeting
Monday, Feb. 10, 2014
6 p.m. CST
Bird City Legion Hall, Bird City
Meal Sponsored by Cheyenne County Bankers Assoc.
Presentation of Awards for:
• Kansas Bankers Soil Conservation Award
• Cheyenne County Home Garden Award
• Poster Contest for grades K-6
• NRCS Field Office of Kansas
Guest Speaker: Eric Banks, State Conservationist
Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 3 • 785-332-2341 ext. 101

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REAL ESTATE SPECIALISTS
We are proud to introduce **RHONDA BORN** As a New Licensed Kansas Real Estate Agent
Stop in soon to visit with Rhonda at Shay Realty: 107 E. Washington St.
More about Rhonda . . .
• Native of Cheyenne County
• '77 Graduate of St. Francis HS
• Graduate of Brown Mackie
• 16 years secretarial experience
• 6 years real estate experience
• Honest & dependable
• Enjoys people & is ready to serve your real estate needs
shayrealty.com
RHONDA BORN
785-332-2566 (off.)
785-332-4123 (cell)

The cost of going to college keeps going up, so I'm always looking for scholarship opportunities. - Lysann told us

We certainly understand, Lysann.
So, in 2014, we'll award \$1,000 scholarships to 15 graduating seniors whose parent or guardian is a customer.

The application deadline is Friday, March 14, 2014, and all of the information is available at www.blackhillsenergy.com/scholarships.



Musical performs Sunday

The Sharon Springs High School Auditorium will be the location of James Bertolin & The Stanleytones Musical performance on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, 3:00p.m. CST. The concert date was rescheduled since it was previously scheduled on the Super Bowl afternoon.

The Stanleytones was originally formed as a Bluegrass Band in 1999, when the original members met while attending local jam sessions in the Boulder, Colo. area. The band was named after the Stanley Brothers, Ralph and Carter, who played throughout the 50's until Carter's death in 1964.

Having recently finished recording a new album, The Stanleytones' passion for traditional bluegrass is evident in their sound, and has made them into what they are today--a classic bluegrass band reminiscent of those early bands of the 50's and 60's, with an added repertoire of original compositions comprised of melodic instrumentals and skillful vocal harmonies. Members of the band consist of: James Bertolin, Clarke Wright, Jeremy Kimball, Ron Dropcho, Dave Pulkins, and Paul Sink.

Admission for this event is with Western Plains Arts Association Season Ticket, or at the door; Adults, \$12; Students, \$6.