



FORREST BURR, summer pool manager, talks with Herald reporter Amanda Miller about her love of swimming and experience with lifeguarding.
Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

City police staffing tops city council discussion

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The St. Francis City Council members have been busy discussing how to staff the city's police department over the past month.

Following the resignation of Officer Darrell Thomas, council members voted not to fill his position. The council is now in the midst of deciding how heavily it would like the city's police department staffed, how much money the city wants to spend on law enforcement, and the possibility of contracting with the county's sheriff.

At the city council meeting, members were reminded that they were to meet with the county commissioners on May 15, along with Sheriff Cody Beeson, to discuss their ideas and the possibility of contracting with the sheriff's department for police coverage. City Attorney Mike Day asked the council members if they felt they had a clear understanding of what they were wanting, and suggested that they discuss the issue.

Currently, the sheriff is an elected position in Cheyenne County. The sheriff's department serves Cheyenne County, including St. Francis and Bird City. Cheyenne County Sheriff Cody Beeson's staff includes undersheriff Tony Rodriguez as well as four additional deputies, for a total staff of six people. The sheriff's department works with the Cheyenne County commissioners.

The St. Francis Police Department is ran by the City of St. Francis, and the St. Francis City Council makes employment as well as financial decisions. Shane Guggenmos became police chief in 2008. He works with one other police officer, Wes Guggenmos. The department has fluctuated over the years from one person to six full-time officers. In 2010, there were five full-time and one part-time officers.

Across the board, the city has faced budget constraints that have forced it to carefully consider all spending. Over the years, the police department's lack of "big ticket items," such as a big drug bust or theft, has forced the department

to answer some hard questions by council members, including at last week's council meeting.

Council member Carla Lampe began the discussion by asking Chief Guggenmos how many hours he spends in the office doing paperwork, and what type of laws he enforces. She also wanted to know how he views his position — as a civil-servant position or as law enforcement officer.

Chief Guggenmos said that in a small community, he believes the city police should fill both roles. They have the advantage of being able to be a preventative presence, intervening before a crime happens, and keeping the community safe and that person out of trouble, serving as a civil servant. But when necessary, they also serve as law enforcement.

After some discussion, it was decided that the council felt they were not prepared to discuss the police issue with the county commissioners and Sheriff Beeson at the May 15 meeting. The council did decide to invite Sheriff Beeson to their first meeting in June to go over police coverage.

Maintenance of pool delays opening date to May 31

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This is the last week of school for St. Francis students and all the kids are excited and ready for sun, swimming and summer! But with the cooler weather dragging late into the year, the pool will be opening a little later.

The swimming pool usually tries to open around Memorial Weekend. The city has been waiting for the weather to warm up enough to allow for painting and drying time, and mother nature has not been willing to cooperate. Once painted, the pool requires five to ten days of dry and cure time.

Bruce Swihart, city council member and pool board member, said that the tentative date for the pool to open is May 31. The pool has been sandblasted, and they are hoping to be able to paint this week.

This year Forrest Burr, Bird City, will be managing the pool. Forrest comes to the St. Francis Swimming Pool with a lot of experience and she is excited to

try some new fun ideas at the pool. Forrest was born and raised in Bird City. Forrest is the oldest daughter of Ted and Ann Burr. She has four brothers and sisters, ElsaCraig, Gregor, Guienvere and Tucker.

She started swim team when she was in the first grade. Swimming and the pool were always a big part of her summers. In fact, her mother was the pool manager at the Bird City pool.

This is Forrest's fourth year as a lifeguard, and she has been head guard at the Bird City pool for the past two years. She has been involved with the pool for the last 12 years.

Forrest graduated from Cheylin High School in 2012. She attends York College in York, Neb., majoring in elementary education and coaching. She is very involved in track and field and is conference champion of shot put.

She said she loves being outside and loves working with people, so pool manager and lifeguarding are the perfect summer job for

her. She will be living in this area while she is home for the summer from college.

Forrest is hoping to try out a few fun nights at the pool this summer, and keep the pool busy. She will be hosting a "Swim at night," where 15 and older come swim at night, later in the evening. She also said she might try a midnight swim where it is 18 and older. She is also considering doing a movie night at the pool.

Forrest said she will be filling the kiddie pool for all the smaller children to play in, so the toddlers can look forward to their own little pool!

Aly Marin does plan on doing swimming lessons for the children. Look for more details after the pool opens.

The pool will be open 1:30-5:30 Sunday through Saturday, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Admission is \$1.50. Children under 5 years of age are free, however, they must be accompanied by an adult.

Airport improvements approved

By Karen Krien
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Airport improvements will continue. This decision was approved by the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Thursday, May 15.

Dave Yost, Rick Rogers, and Ron Loudon, representing the Airport Authority, said they only had one bid for the taxiway. Sporer Land Development of Oakley had turned in a bid for \$943,749, which was around \$200,000 higher than had originally been estimated.

They talked about rebidding the project but, if they did, it would have to wait another year. The present taxiway has large cracks, and if they don't do the project this year, the cracks will need to be filled. Also, in another year, there could be another

price jump. The project is funded with a Federal Aviation Administration grant. The Aviation Administration will fund 90 percent of the cost while the county will pick up the other 10 percent, which will be \$94,374. The Authority members

said there was enough money in their fund to cover the cost.

Once the taxiway is poured out of cement, the maintenance is expected to be considerably less than taking care of the asphalt.

The next airport project is the apron (parking area) for visiting aircraft.

Committee plans St. Francis fireworks

The Fourth of July is about six weeks away. The committee for the Fourth of July fireworks celebration in St. Francis have been meeting to further plan the celebration.

We are planning a great display of fireworks, said John Amack, one of the coordinators.

Holly Hingst has taken charge of the parade and games in the park. Closer to the Fourth, Mrs. Hingst will be scheduling the events and times.

That evening, games for all ages will be played. There will be horseshoe throwing, hillbilly golf

and, for those who want to go to the sand volleyball pit near the swimming pool, there should be some games going on.

The committee discussed the finances for the celebration. They all agreed that there should be a full accounting of what is being spent and they will be publishing it in *The Herald*.

Members of the committee include John and Anita Amack, Cynthia Poling, Ed and AJ Marin, Gilbert Sherlock, Wade Krien and Holly Hingst. Co-treasurers are Mrs. Poling and Mrs. Marin.

Fair board agrees to rent booth space free

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There will not be a calcutta at the derby this year, as the fair board is worried about the legalities of the betting pool with the police presence.

Fair board president Dick Bursch made the recommendation to the board that they not have a calcutta. The county commissioners said that they would not endorse it, and Mr. Bursch said that the police thought an Alcohol Tobacco Firearms agent may make a presence. The calcutta would have to be in the pit area only, and Mr. Bursch said he thought the board might be asking for trouble if they go through with it.

The board all agreed that they would not have a calcutta this year.

Business Booths
Mr. Bursch suggested that the board have the individual business booths in Jenkins Hall free this

year; they do not make the fair board any money and he would like to see the booths fill up. The booths normally cost businesses \$30 to rent. There does not have to be anyone at the booth at all times, however the merchandise is the business' responsibility.

The board agreed that it would be nice to have a lot of things for people to look at and purchase. Everyone was in favor of allowing businesses to rent the booths for free this year. They will be rented on a first come, first served basis. Businesses that are wanting to sell their merchandise at the fair are encouraged to contact Mr. Bursch as soon as possible.

Wednesday night free
Wednesday night will be free this year. The board unanimously decided to allow free admission to the new event, the "Redneck Olympics", on Wednesday night.

There will not be team roping because the contractor that usually stocks the cattle for the team roping event is no longer available, which will end the possibility of having the event. Instead, the board will hold a "Redneck Olympics." This will include farm games and competitions.

Old Business
The new sale arena has arrived, and is in Jenkins hall. It is in "just like new" condition and Mr. Bursch said that they are happy with it.

The board agreed on May 10 as clean up date. He asked that all the board members that can be there at 9 a.m. to begin clean up at the fair grounds.

Mr. Bursch suggested that they do hats instead of t-shirts this year. After some discussion, the board agreed to do half hats and half t-shirts, as long as the price was comparable. There was some

concern over the price increase of the t-shirts in recent years. They will see how the prices look this year.

There was some discussion on who would do the announcing this year for the derby. Curtis Duncan has announced the last several years. It was decided that Blake Krien would talk to a few people, but no decisions were made at the meeting.

Extension agent Marty Fear also gave his report. He said the spring show will be held May 24, and the horse show will be held June 22. He said that they are busy getting ready for fair, and hiring judges.

Next meeting
The next monthly meeting of the Cheyenne County Fairboard will be on Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds. The board agreed the June and July meetings would be at the fairgrounds to prepare for the fair.

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Od'e to the Vietnam Era Veteran

*So you have been to love
And you have been to war
So you know that all is fair,
And you ask yourself just who you
Are
And should you even care
Well that's not the way to feel
Youngman.
And you know that you not dare,
For there will come a time
For people to love and all to really
Care
So I'm asking you to say with me
So all will comprehend,
That love was made for feeling,
And war is not for man!
That love was made for feeling,
And war is not for man!
Where is love? There is love!
Where there is love, there will be
More love.*

Robert A. Webb Helicopter Combat Support
US Navy 1966-1970
Written 1976

80th Birthday celebration

Please join family and friends in celebrating Ken Beougher's 80th birthday at the United Methodist Church in Bird City on Saturday, June 7, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A brunch will be provided. Cards only, please.

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