

Household hazardous collection is set

By Karen Krien

The second Household Hazardous Waste Roundup has been set from 1 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Cheyenne County Landfill. The commissioners set the date on a Saturday thinking that it would be more convenient for those wanting to bring in their hazardous waste products.

"We want people to know that this

hazardous waste collection is for household hazardous waste — not commercial," Commissioner Ron Krien said. "Businesses bringing in hazardous waste products will be charged. Schools will also not be allowed to bring in items as there will be a special collection for schools in May. The state will be notifying the schools closer to May."

Some of the materials which can be accepted include paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries and used oil. Automobile lead acid batteries will also be accepted.

Materials need to be placed in sturdy boxes and used oil in disposable containers.

People with empty paint cans, dried paint or other empty or dried materials

may put them in their dumpsters. However, if the paint is still in a liquid form, it needs to be taken to the collection.

If those having paint that is still liquid, they can take the lid off and let it dry out. If it is taking longer than thought to dry out, then add some dirt or sand to the can then put it in the dumpster.

However, for those wanting to get

rid of their paint on the day of the collection, there will be a large container which all paint will be poured into.

Contractors and other business owners will be charged for bringing in their hazardous items — the collection with no charge is only to help get rid of household hazardous items.

Appliances, tires, yard waste, explosives, medical waste or radioactive

waste will not be accepted. Program organizers reserve the right to reject delivery of materials.

"We are hoping to get a lot of residents to participate in the household hazardous waste project," said Commissioner Krien. "We think it is an important project and will help people get rid of some of these items."

Ballots can be cast now

Terry Miller, county election officer, said the advanced voting booth has been set up in the clerk's office at the courthouse and registered voters may now cast their ballots.

He said that there have been many questions about the write-in campaign since L.B. "Sonny" Rundell announced a write-in campaign.

Points of interest include:
• The name doesn't have to be spelled correctly. It is up to the county board to determine the intent of the voter so anything close will most likely be counted.

• Ideally, the box should be checked as well as a name written in. However, the vote will count even if the box isn't checked (write-in candidates only).

• Cheyenne County has decided to not allow stickers to be placed on the ballot. Some candidates supply stickers to be placed on the write-in line and it is up to each county to decide whether to allow this or not.

Closing of books

The registration books will close at the end of the day on Oct. 21 and remain closed through the day of the general election on Nov. 5. People can register to vote during regular business hours at the offices of the county clerk at the courthouse; the city clerk's office at 113 W. Washington, both in St. Francis; and, in Bird City, at the First National Bank on Bird Avenue.

When a voter has registered, his or her registration will be valid until the voter changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings or changed the place where they are living.

Those who will need to register are citizens 18 years of age and upwards or will have attained the age of 18 at the next election or those who have changed their name or place of residence. The person can register by applying to the election officer in person or by mail. Application forms shall be provided by the election officer upon request.

Those not registering before Oct. 21 may register after the election as the books will once again open on Nov. 6.



BIRD CITY YARDS are taking on a festive Halloween look as is shown in Bonnie Burr's yard.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

New regulation explained to county commissioners

At the Thursday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, Larry Gabel, emergency medical technician service director, reported on the new Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulation.

This regulation does not allow the director to show the names of those individuals who appear on the ambulance and/or Blue Cross Blue Shield will not pay the additional amounts. And, when these companies pay what they think is fair, they do not allow the additional amount to be billed. Now, they do not allow the names of these people to be released.

The commissioners were unhappy that they had no control over what was not being paid and if those being written off were considered old billing. But, still, the county was having to pick up the difference.

The director said that he thought the auditor had suggested that the list be submitted so the commissioners were aware of what was happening but the commissioners, in actuality, had no control over what was writ-

ten-off.
It is possible that the name of the insurer (Medicare or Blue Cross Blue Shield) and the date might be listed but the director was not sure.

The director then addressed the matter of why one of the write-offs was an older bill and why the bookkeeper or director had not caught the fact earlier so the bill had not been processed sooner. Director Gabel informed the commissioners that the bookkeeper is doing an excellent job but, at that time, those bills were being turned over to a billing company in Plainville and this bill was lost in a folder. Commissioner Ron Krien thought that missing a bill was inexcusable. Director Gabel said that the billing company in Plainville had become overloaded with work so the county's ambulance bookkeeper had taken over the billing.

Commissioner Krien asked that the director do some spot checking occasionally to make sure that all bills were being processed as quickly as possible. However, the commissioners agreed that there would be write-offs each month.

Commissioners sign closing documents for bond sale

By Karen Krien

The Thursday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners was combined with a special meeting and held on Oct. 10 instead of Oct. 15. The reason for the change was so the commissioners could sign the closing documents for the hospital bond sale.

County treasurer Dolores Jenik discussed investment options for the money so it would earn some interest but also be available when the hospital building began. The treasurer said that the money would be divided and deposited in the two county banks. Certificate of Deposit rates are currently 1.8 percent for six months and 2.75 percent for one year.

The commissioners felt that Treasurer Jenik was a better judge at in-

vesting money than they were so she is to invest the money how she thinks is best. The commissioners then signed the closing documents.

Consolidated law enforcement
Combining the law enforcements of the two cities and the county was discussed. This was an issue in the last election as one of the three candidates was in favor of consolidated law enforcement. County attorney Kevin Berens had looked up what it would take to implement consolidated law enforcement and it appeared that a representative from Bird City could be left off of the law board.

A law board would be required if there is consolidated law enforcement. The commissioners were not in favor of even pursuing the issue if

this were the case.

Attorney Berens said he would look into the matter further. If Bird City can have a representative on the five- or seven-man board, then Commissioner Jane Brubaker said she would be willing to talk to both the Bird City and St. Francis city councils to see if they would be interested.

In other business

In other business:
• Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, informed the commissioners that the final payment on the Morehouse Canyon Bridge project was \$1,215. The bridge had cost \$160,492 with the county picking up \$30,203 and the Kansas Department of Transportation paying the rest.

Another bridge built in the county

was not quite as wide but made of steel and the superintendent said that the total cost for this bridge had not been much more than \$30,000 and would last as long if not longer than that built with Kansas Department of Transportation's specifications.

• Several vouchers were questioned including one from Jack Armstrong, Goodland. He had sent the bill to the clerk noting that he had been asked to be on call while the sheriff was out-of-town.

When Sheriff Dankenbring talked to the commissioners later in the meeting, he said that he had not authorized payment of the bill and would not pay for it.

The other voucher questioned was for a meal eaten by emergency medical technicians following a run. Di-

rector Larry Gabel explained that the crew, on their way back from taking a patient to a hospital, had come across an accident at Goodland and, in their haste to help the victims, had accidentally lost the receipt.

The commissioners reminded the director that there is a \$10 limit per person per meal and they will not pay anything above that amount.

• The commissioners agreed not to allow employee's spouse or other family members to come onto the county health insurance, or allowing open enrollment.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Oct. 31 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Wreck near Greeley kills St. Francis teen, one critically injured

A St. Francis teen was killed and another critically injured Sunday at an intersection at Kersey, Colo., near Greeley.



Navarro

Christina Navarro, 17, was pronounced dead upon arriving at North Colorado Medical Center. She was a passenger in a Ford Escort driven by Richard "Ricky" Straub, 18, who was in critical condition Sunday night at North Colorado Medical Center with massive head and internal injuries. Patrick Laybourn, 19, of Cope, Colo., was driving a Pontiac Grand Prix west on U.S. 34 at 11:11 a.m. Sunday when Straub turned in front of him to get onto Colorado 37, according to a witness and the Colorado State Patrol.

On Tuesday, Straub was reported to still be in critical condition.

Navarro was a senior at St. Francis Community High School and the daughter of Deonn and Kip Wiese of

St. Francis and Chris and Christina Navarro of Las Cruces, N.M.

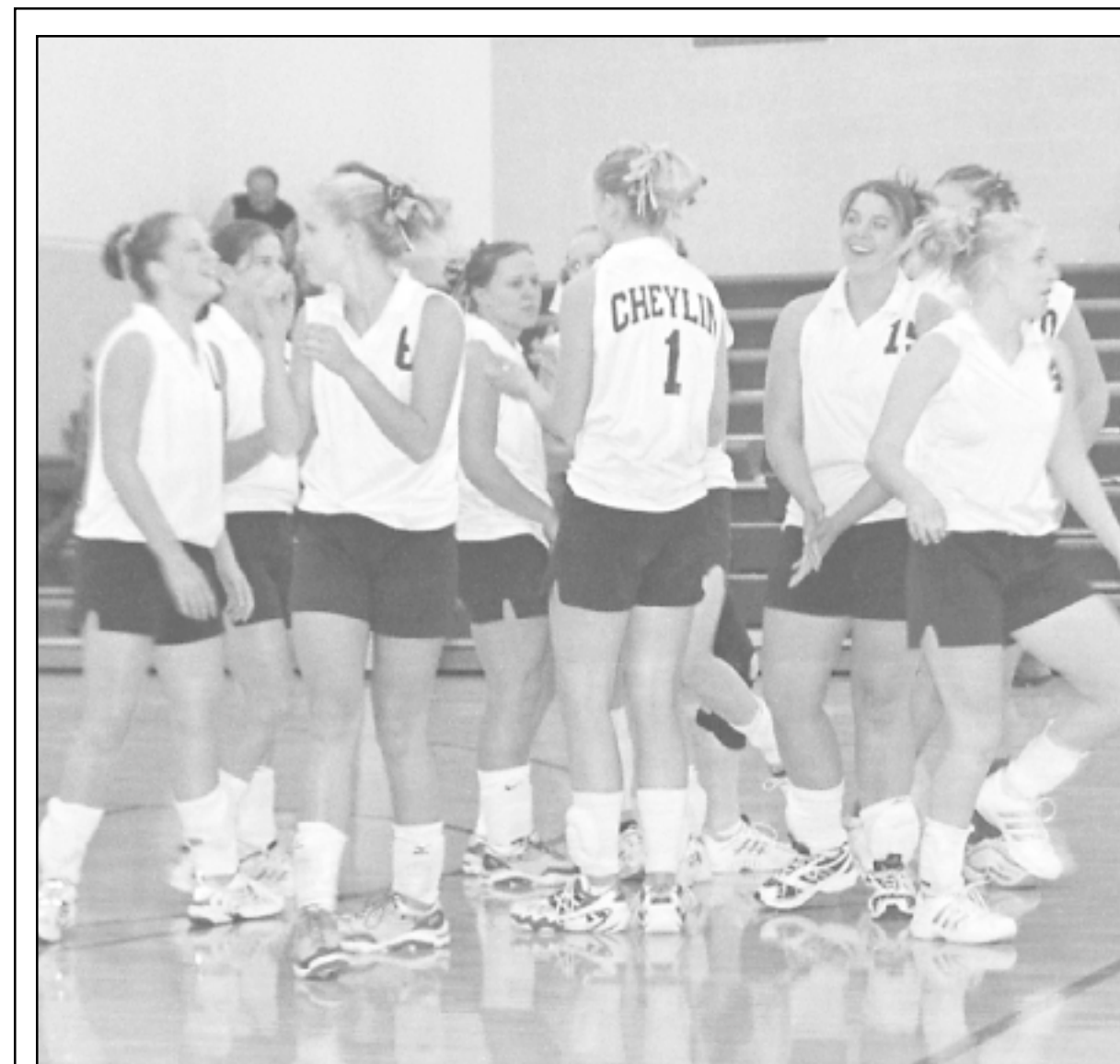
The funeral service has been set for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Peace Lutheran Church at College and Jackson streets in St. Francis.

According to the *Greeley Daily Tribune*, the intersection where the accident occurred is considered "an intersection some residents there (in Kersey) have dreaded crossing for years."

Three years ago, an 18-year-old girl was killed after pulling out in front of a semitrailer. Kersey Mayor Tim Phippard said the town appealed to the Colorado Department of Transportation but was unsuccessful in having a traffic light installed at the intersection.

Police believe that alcohol was not a factor in the accident, according to State Patrol spokesman Trooper Russ Zeller.

Both teens in the Escort were not wearing seat belts, Zeller said. Laybourn was wearing a seat belt and sustained minor injuries. He was treated at North Colorado Medical



LADY COUGAR volleyball players encourage each other as they warmed up for competition in St. Francis recently.

Times staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Century II to host dinner

Coming soon! Mark Nov. 2, on your calendar for an evening of entertainment to be held at the Bird City Legion Hall. Century II is hosting a free meal on that date beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period about Century II.

Roger Welsch, former CBS Sunday morning host of "Postcards from Nebraska" will be providing the entertainment.

Tickets may be picked up at First National Bank in Bird City. Tickets are limited and need to be picked up by Oct. 25.

