

‘Treasured’ county official retires after 25-year career

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Friends, relatives and co-workers lined up for punch and cake Friday afternoon to say goodbye to Sherman County Treasurer Shelby Miller.

Miller’s 25-year run will be up on Friday, Nov. 11, when the newly elected treasurer Iris Scheopner will take over.

Miller, 66, decided not to run for re-election last year, saying she was ready to retire. Unlike most elected positions, the county treasurer stays on after the election to finish out the tax year. Elections are held in the fall, Miller said, but the treasurer stays on until the beginning of the next tax year.

Friday, the courthouse was buzzing as Miller was named “Queen for a Day” and donned her crown and cape.

She sat behind a table decked with several vases full of flowers and balloons.

Guests were asked to sign in and some formed a line to congratulate Miller.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure stopped by to give Miller a pendant watch, a gift from the county for her years of service.

“It’s very, very pretty,” the treasurer said.

Three kinds of cake — carrot, chocolate and white — were set out, along with coffee and punch.

Miller said in her time at the county, she has seen a lot of changes. When she started, she said, they kept written records of everything and now they use computers.

“It made a tremendous difference,” she said, adding that it not only lightened the workload, but it made it easier to look up old tax information.

She started as treasurer in 1981 and soon after that, the county remodeled the treasurer’s office, removing bars on the windows and changing the counter. The state started a staggered system on license tags, Miller said, moving away from a first come, first serve plan and implementing a system using last names.

The office here started renewing driver’s licenses, she said, saving



Sherman County Treasurer Shelby Miller wore a crown, cape and necklace Friday to commemorate her retirement after 25 years. She cut herself a piece of carrot cake, her favorite, during a party at the courthouse.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

many people a trip to Colby.

“We’ve had a lot of ‘thank you’s for that,” she said.

The makeup of the county has changed, too, she said, and over the years, the population has dwindled.

After spending so many years in office, Miller said she will miss dealing with the public the most.

“I’m really going to miss the people,” she said. “I have really, really enjoyed this job.”

She said she was touched by the turnout. The guest list had about 80 signatures.

“I was just pleased that they came,” Miller said. “I just sincerely appreciate the trust that they have

given me in the last 25 years.”

Miller said she is looking forward to cleaning her house. In January, as soon as the holidays are over, she wants to travel a bit, possibly heading to Oregon to see her family.

And she plans to volunteer some of her newfound free time at the hospital.

School considers ‘rollover’ channel

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board heard a proposal to set up a “rollover” television channel for the schools last month.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said S & T Communications, a cable television provider here, is offering the channel to the school.

He said the school would need equipment costing about \$6,000 to operate the channel.

That would give them the capability to put schedules, video, school lunch menus and more on television.

Selby said in a meeting last month, board members worried that a channel on S & T might cost too

much and not reach everyone. They said many people are hooked up to Eagle Television and many people, especially those in rural areas, don’t get either service.

The board tabled the idea, hoping to get more information before making any decisions.

Selby said if they do end up adopting the system, a class at the high school would be in charge of the production. That way, he said, the equipment could be used for education, too.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Riddel, an aide for kindergarten classes at West. They hired Elaine Harper as an aide for the speech department at Grant Junior High and North Elementary.
- Approved checks for \$59,857.

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Commissioners look for bids on new cell at county landfill

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The county is seeking bids to dig a new cell at the county landfill southwest of the city to handle baled trash, and on Sept. 21 the commissioners reviewed the specifications.

Mark McMullen of American Environment, the Denver engineering firm working on the project, was at the meeting to review the specifications and explain what the project would do to expand the trash storage area.

Curt Way, county public works director, said he wants to have the new cell excavated this fall to have it ready when the new baler system goes into operation in the spring.

“It is time to dig a new cell,” Way said, “and it would be good to have the new cell ready to handle the new bales of trash so we can start with a good base area.”

McMullen said the section to be excavated is the second of three sections of the first major cell of the landfill.

He said it would tie into the existing section and the two together would allow the county to bury more trash and to begin building up a higher mound.

He said the plan has been approved by the state, but there may be a question about the depth of a lechate layer now required of small landfills in arid areas such as Sherman County.

The lechate layer is designed to gather any liquids in the landfill and to carry them to a central area where they can be pumped out.

Way suggested the county could provide the material for the lechate layer, and McMullen said that could be part of the bid to have the contractor spread the material.

McMullen said the details could be completed by the end of this week, and a pre-bid conference could be held the middle of next week.

He said the bids could be

back by the first part of October.

Way said would like to get the new section excavated and the clay liner and lechate layer in place this fall, but some of the work could wait until spring.

McMullen estimates the excavation will be about 33,000 cubic yards and open an area of about 2.7 acres.

The bid opening was set for Oct. 14 and the commissioners will be asked to approve the contract on Oct. 18.

Way said work could start right after that.

In other business:

- Tiede read a letter from the state property evaluation department praising the assessor’s office for its good records and efficiency.
- Talked about the preliminary design for the new storage area and garage and the possible expansion of the Bastille in the future.

The commissioners felt the plan was not quite what they had in mind, and gave the city commissioners a copy to get their reactions.

The architect’s estimate for the storage and garage area would be \$250,000, but the building much smaller than the commissioners had expected.

- Reviewed copies of the city travel and daily expense policy.

The commissioners told County Clerk Janet Rumpel to show the policy to the department heads and the commissioners would review it at the next meeting on Friday, Sept. 30.

- Approved a contract with Randy Rhabe, director of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission out of Hill City, to have the commission administer the county micro loan program for the next year.
- Held a closed session with County Treasurer Shelby Miller and a closed session with the county clerk for personnel matters.

student of the week



Name: Aaron Duell
Parents: Steve and Colleen Duell
Grade: Senior
Age: 17

We’ve nominated this student because: Aaron is a self-motivated student. He is very interested in school. He takes charge and is very meticulous in his work to get his projects done right. Aaron is an outstanding student to have in the classroom.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life is the friendships that I have made not only with classmates

but with teachers. Best liked subjects are Calculus and Technolog classes. I will always remember the great times I had with FCCLA and all activities I have been involved in at GHS.

Activities involved in at school: FCCLA, Yearbook, Webmaster, Science Olympiad, Wrestling Manager, National Honor Society

My choice of movies, books, and games : Fried Green Tomatoes, Fever of 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson, Card Games & Monopoly, Digital Photography, Wood-working, 4-H

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: Attend a college in Kansas and get a degree in Agriculture.

And 10 years from now, I think I’ll be: Happily married and holding down a good job I enjoy.

Favorite Quote: Always behave like a duck - keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath.

Unknown

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