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Children Honored



Standing for a photo opportunity after the presentation Monday night (April 10) are Chiefland Students of the Month (from left) Calista Knapp of Chiefland Elementary School, Bryanna Martinez of Chiefland Middle School, City Commissioner Teresa Barron who made the presentations, and Jaimee Hockaday of Chiefland High School. In the background is City Commissioner Donald Lawrence. Each of the students was awarded a certificate of recognition for their academic and civic success. They also each was awarded a \$20 gift certificate to use at Walmart. Those gift certificates are a present from the Rotary Club of Chiefland to add to the recognition of students in three of the public schools that are located in this city. Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © April 11, 2017 at 4:37 p.m.

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All cats are saved



Patty Pastore offers to volunteer time to help city workers tend to stray animals that are picked up.

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © April 11, 2017 at 4:27 p.m.

CHIEFLAND – In the ongoing saga of stray pets in Chiefland, the City Commission learned Monday night (April 10) that all of the cats had been adopted as of then.

There were a couple of dogs remaining, City Manager Mary Ellzey said, including one pit bull that had bit a person and did not have an owner showing up to claim it.

(See Video Above stories on the April archive page)

In this part of her presentation to the Chiefland City Commission on April 10, Patty Pastore says she and other volunteers would be at the dog pound when city workers were there. They will walk dogs, or feed the dogs and cats that are in custody, or clean cages.

In the past 20 years, Water and Facilities Manager Shane Keene said two weeks ago, he has never euthanized a dog or cat that was later sought by an owner. Pastore indicated in her earlier presentation that she thought a person might lose their pet in the city limits and then somehow not be able find it in the impound area for the city's stray animals.

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Goldy the cat Hardison, the senior mascot of *HardisonInk.com* was abandoned as a kitten. Inky the cat Hardison, the junior mascot, was adopted from The Family Pet Vet – Dr. Ronald Spink. Both cats are indoors at all times, and are examined and vaccinated against rabies annually.

Patty Pastore of the NAPA store in Chiefland had complained a couple of weeks ago that she felt the city's dog pound was not up to standards she saw as being proper. Another complaint she shared was that animal owners would not be able to reach the city workers at the pound easy enough.

One result from her complaints at the previous meeting was the city seeking and obtaining a free donation of ad space so that anyone can click on the ad and find the animals listed as being in the Chiefland City Dog (and cat) Pound.

She was back Monday night.

At the most recent meeting, Pastore said she and others want to volunteer to walk dogs or otherwise help city employees who tend to the animals there. The said she would sign the standard volunteer statement, which precludes the city from liability in the event of an accident -- such as a slip and fall.

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Among the city officials at the meeting on Monday night are (from left) City Attorney Norm Fugate, City Commissioner Teresa Barron, City Commissioner Rollin Hudson, Mayor Betty Walker and City Commissioner Donald Lawrence. Vice Mayor Chris Jones was absent.

Her volunteerism is slated to be discussed and potentially confirmed at the next regular meeting, scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on April 24 in the Hardy R. Dean Sr. Municipal Building (Chiefland City Hall), 214 E. Park Ave.

City Manager Ellzey said the dangerous dog that is in the city's custody now has bit a couple of people.

City Commissioner Donald Lawrence asked if this dog that has bit people would be released. City Attorney Norm Fugate explained that if the city deems the animal to be dangerous, as it appears to have done, and if no person claims the dog as their own and contends that the dog is not dangerous, then the dog will be euthanized.

State law protects humans from dangerous dogs. State law protects dog owners from losing their dog without due process.

In the instance of a dog deemed dangerous and with no person to claim it and object to that determination, the law is clear as to its destiny.

City Commissioner Rollin Hudson and Mayor Betty Walker mentioned that a dog was deemed to be dangerous in Chiefland a couple of years ago, and that led to the city's ordinances being updated. The process for that dog which had an owner led to its life being taken.

City Commissioner Lawrence said he loves dogs, and owns a dog, but he will not abide by a vicious dog roaming the streets of Chiefland on the loose. Lawrence said he has grandchildren and he does not want them bitten by aggressive dogs that are on the loose.

Pastore was quick to express her opinion that dogs are all good until one or more humans make them bad.

City Manager Ellzey told Pastore that she believes the general waiver of liability for volunteers will be sufficient. The matter is set for more discussion at the April 24 meeting.