

Imperial police officers helping out as Chase County sheriff's deputies

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

County Sheriff Kevin Mueller was back in the office a few days last week after spending time with his wife, Marsha, at a Kearney hospital.

His wife was life-flighted to Kearney Nov. 1 after suffering a stroke at their home. That came after a cancer diagnosis two weeks earlier, he said.

During his absence, two members of the Imperial Police Department, Rob Browning and Ryan Wisnieski, were deputized to help cover shifts at the sheriff's office.

Mueller said Browning was appointed as a sergeant in the ranks there to help make some of the daily operating decisions, and has been in regular contact with him.

On Wednesday, the sheriff said Browning and Wisnieski will continue to help cover shifts for awhile.

That's been especially helpful, he added, with the resignation of Sheriff's Deputy Dan Vodicka, who worked his final day earlier this month.

The sheriff planned to begin advertising for that position last week.

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Mueller said he appreciated how both police officers stepped up and offered to help out when he was out-of-town to be with his wife.

Both police officers are filling in at the sheriff's office during their days off as policemen. Imperial Mayor Dwight Coleman gave his okay, Browning said.

The Muellers returned home from Kearney recently. The sheriff said Marsha has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and will be starting chemotherapy treatments soon.