



STORED PARTS REUSED to revive a water well digger which is proudly displayed by Ben McGilvray.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Historic well digger restored

By Norma Martinez
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Mike and Ben McGilvray are in to the puzzle rebuilding business once again. David Blake, from Densmore, Kansas, had brought them a box containing parts from a Water Well Driller. All the parts were original, with

the exception of the Mast and Table, which were wood, and had been burned in a fire.

Mr. Blake has had these parts stored for several years, after one of his employees got upset with him and burned his Water Well business building down. He recently decided he wanted to re-

store this piece of equipment, and use it for demonstrating how wells were dug and constructed in the early days.

This piece of equipment could dig 100 feet per day with a good crew of workers. It was a slow process, as the operator had to bring the drill up from the ground and

empty the bucket every 30 inches.

Mr. McGilvray said this piece of Historical Art was challenging, but not the biggest challenge they had ever dealt with. That was the 1902 Horseless cart, which they had completed in the early spring, and that has been delivered to its owner.

Cheyenne County celebration nears

The City of Bird City Council, Thresher Association, Community Club, Churches, Century II and residents are busy making plans for hosting the fourth annual Cheyenne County July Fourth Celebration at the park, American Legion Hall and Thresher show grounds.

Excitement is being stirred from seeing the schedule posted

in all the Cheyenne County business' windows and the banners with flags waving in the wind along the highway.

Those coordinating the event have two ads in this week's Times and Herald telling about the event and naming the sponsors.

So everyone will get to the events on time, a list of times and places follows:

Cheyenne County July 4 Celebration Bird City

- 9:30- 11 a.m. Firetruck Rides - all ages (Fire Department)
- Wagon rides - all ages (Library)
- 10 Horseshoe Tournament (Van Doren Park)
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Concessions (Bird City Swimming Pool)
- 11:30 a.m. Red, White & Blue Kids Parade (Walking Path, Van Doren Park)
- 11:30 - 1 p.m. All-American Hot Dog Meal \$6 (Van Doren Park)
- 12 noon Hot Dog Eating Contest - Youth & Adult Divisions (Van Doren Park)
- 1 - 5 p.m. Free on the 4th Swimming (Bird City Swimming Pool)
- 1:30- 2:30 Patriotic Sing-A-Long (Bird City American Legion)
- 2:30- 3:30 Cake and Ice Cream Social (Bird City American Legion)
- 3:30- 7 Free Time to Gather with Family and Friends
- 7:30- 9:30 Evening Celebration (Thresher Grounds)
- Free tours of Old Sod House, Country Church & Country School
- DJ Music with Open Microphone
- Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts Finger Light sales
- Concessions
- Free rides for kids
- 9:45 p.m. Announcements & Our National Anthem (Thresher Grounds)
- 9:50- 10:30 Spectacular Fireworks display set to patriotic music (Thresher Grounds)

Cheyenne County woman sentenced to 14 years for murder

A Cheyenne County woman was sentenced Monday to more than 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said.

Leeanna Windell, 44, Bird City, was sentenced to 176 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections by Judge Scott Showalter in Cheyenne County District Court. Windell pleaded guilty in April to one count of intentional murder in the second degree for the April

2013 death of Brad Figgins.

The case was investigated by the St. Francis Police Department, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Assistant Attorneys General Nicole Romine and Jessica Domme prosecuted the case. Cheyenne County Attorney Karan Thadani assisted with the prosecution.

More detailed accounting of the sentencing hearing will be printed in next weeks issues of the Herald and Times.

Wheat field tour shares interesting information

By Tim Burr
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A large group of producers and others interested in this year's winter wheat crop attended the Cheyenne County Wheat Plot Tour. It was held at the plots south of Wheeler on Wednesday evening, June 18. The plots, well maintained by cooperators, Sunny Crest Farms, included 18 different varieties that were able to be viewed in side-by-side comparisons. The plots are a cooperative project between Kansas State University, Northwest Kansas Area Extension from Colby, Cheyenne County Extension, and the Smull family of Sunny Crest Farms.

Discussion about the various varieties, and information about the cropping history of the plots was given by Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State agronomist with Northwest Kansas area extension. Jim Shroyer, Kansas State wheat specialist, discussed the wheat, giving growing history and previous performance results for the varieties. Dr. Shroyer will be retiring from Kansas State this month, after more than 30 years working with the agronomy department. Most of those years, Dr. Shroyer had attended and participated in the Cheyenne County field day.

Information was distributed to those in attendance regarding the plot varieties, results from previous years plot tests, and information on new varieties being developed. There was also discussion about threats to Kansas wheat in the form of a new insect pest, the Wheat Stem Sawfly, which is a problem in Wyoming, and has now been found in eastern Colorado. Other concerns were discussed, such as weed pressure in thin or hailed stands, and insects or diseases which can be harbored over summer in volunteer wheat.

Most of those in attendance then moved on to Wheeler, where the Cheyenne County grain dealers sponsored a meal, held in the shop at the American Implement dealership.



AGRONOMIST AND WHEAT SPECIALIST Dr. Jim Shroyer of Kansas State University discusses the wheat plot varieties with a group of Cheyenne County residents on June 18. Listening intently are (top row) Spencer Schlepp and Grant Havel; (bottom row) Dennis Wright and Don Wright. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Meeting called for post office

By Norma Martinez
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A meeting is being called by the local Bird City Post Office to be held at the Legion Hall on July 31 at 4:30 p.m. This meeting is being called by the local management from the Regional Post office to answer questions and provide information on the possible changes to be made at the Bird City Post Office, through the POST Plan. All customers within the zip code area should receive a survey. If you haven't received a survey in your mailbox by July 10, please request one from the Post Office counter and fill it out.

The survey is requesting your opinions on which of the four options you would like to see happen to the Bird City Post Office;

1. Keep the office open, based on actual office work load. In the case of the Bird City Post Office, hours would remain 6 hours each weekday. Current Saturday hours will not change as a result of POST Plan, and access to your delivery receptacles will not be impacted by POST Plan.

2. Conduct discontinuance for the office, and offer roadside mailbox delivery. Retail and delivery service would be provided through a rural carrier. Mail delivery points will be established, and customers can purchase most postal services through the carrier or other alternate access points.

3. Conduct a discontinuance study for the office, and find a suitable alternative location operated by a contractor, usually at a local business. When businesses are found that meet the criteria, these establishments are contracted through the U.S. Postal Service to offer stamps and flat rate products, with service hours generally more expansive than what the local Post Office will be able to offer.

4. Conduct a discontinuance study for the office, and provide P.O. Box service via another nearby Post Office, and relocate P.O. Box delivery to that Post Office.

It is very important that you fill this survey out and return to the postal clerk. MOST IMPORTANTLY, be sure to reserve 4:30 p.m., July 31, on your calendar, and plan to attend this meeting.