



## Bird City girl earns 2004 county title

By Karen Krien

The stage was a jungle of greenery and wild animals depicting the theme "Jungle Fever" and just the setting for the Cheyenne County Junior Miss Program held Saturday in St. Francis. After a week of activities and an evening filled with talent and entertainment, a five-judge panel selected a Bird City girl as the 2004 Cheyenne County Junior Miss.

Hayley Young, who will be a senior at Cheylin High School in the fall, was selected over seven other young ladies and will represent the county in Belleville next spring.

First runner up was Toni Rice, St. Francis; second runner up was Cristi Antholz, Bird City; and Andrea Carpenter was third runner up. Others participating were Dana Raile, Christina Zweygardt, Meredith Knodel and Hannah Sowers.

Hayley took home the Scholastics Award, the Interview Award, Poise Award and the Talent Award. Toni earned the Spirit of Junior Miss Award and the Fitness Award.

Hayley's talent was a humorous reading entitled "Junie B. Jones" who thought eating right included consuming the right amounts of fruits (two glasses of grape Koolade and a bowl of Fruit Loops) each day.

Each contestant was asked: "If you were part of the school's ad-

ministration, what would you change and why?" Hayley was concerned with the disciplinary policy and felt the lack of respect needed to be addressed.

The evening began with the 2003 Cheyenne County Junior Miss Jenny Weems presenting the flag while Tara Neitzel and January Fiedler sang the National Anthem. Acting as emcees were Cory and Jenny Busse.

Jenny Weems briefly talked about her year as the 2003 Junior Miss, saying that it was a "most memorable and fun-filled year." She performed several numbers including the clarinet solo "Beauty and Joy." During intermission, 2002 Cheyenne County Junior Miss Meaghan Jamison gave a reading about Kansas.

"What an awesome program provided by eight vibrant young ladies who captured the audience's attention throughout the evening," said Vickie Cress, coordinator.

It was also noted during the program that the Cheyenne County Junior Miss Program had been the Most Outstanding Local Program in the state of Kansas last year.

Judges for this year's program were: Molly Horner, Benkelman; Davina Sanford, Parks, Neb.; Sandy King, Belleville; Susan Brown, Akron, Colo.; and Jennifer Kling, Ulysses.



**HAYLEY YOUNG HAS plenty of well wishers as she brings the Junior Miss title to Bird City. She will be very busy fulfilling her duties for the next year.**

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

## Theater try outs are set

On Stage, Inc. will be holding auditions on July 30 at the Cheyenne Theater for its upcoming production.

The auditions will be for the production of *D.K. Molar: The Devious Dentist*, also known as *There's Gold In Them Thar Teeth!*

This hilarious melodrama written by Billy St. John tells the story of the depraved dentist D.K. Molar, his noxious nurse, Nova Caine, and their dastardly scam of removing their patients' gold crowns while "asleep" and replacing them with fakes made of fool's gold. But the hero, upstanding dentist Phil de Tooth, and heroine, the lovely receptionist Flossy Dailey begin to notice some strange happenings in the office.

On Stage, Inc. is looking for:

- 1) Two males and four females for *D.K. Molar*;
- 2) Singers and dancers for four olio acts
- 3) Three to four stage crew/scenery personnel;
- 4) One emcee;
- 5) One drummer.

The production for *D.K. Molar* has been set for Oct. 24 through 26. Selected performers will be asked to rehearse one night per week for 10 weeks. Two final weeks will be more demanding. Rehearsals will start the first week of August.

Questions about auditions can be directed to: Dennis Schiel, director; Talley Morrow, assistant director; John Kite, president; or Elaine Kite, Robin Petersen, Leisha Hilt or Jenny Busse, board members.

## Commissioners sign hospital remodeling contract at meeting

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to sign the contract for hospital remodeling when they met Monday morning.

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, presented the contract for the commissioners' signatures. Joy Anderegg, hospital board member, and Darwin McClung, Rhoads Construction Company, Goodland, were also present to answer any questions.

The final cost of the project will be \$2,175,250, around \$755,000 more than the original cost, however, the administrator pointed out that this additional cost was mostly the added heating, air conditioning and ventilation costs which will be paid with Community Service Tax Credits and the board's Funded Depreciation and Memorial Account money.

The commissioners were concerned that the hospital funds would be depleted but Administrator Lacy assured them that this would not happen — that he was always aware that the hospital should have reserve funds to protect the hospital in case of any emergency.

Tim Raile, commissioner, noted that while it is good to have some reserve funds, he did not approve of saving taxpayer's money when the taxpayers could be saving in their own accounts.

Administrator Lacy said that being able to have some reserves was critical to the hospital and that was what the Funded Depression fund was for. He reminded them that the X-ray equipment would come out of that fund and the cost for that equipment was \$90,000.

Administrator Lacy said that the board didn't plan to raise taxes and was requesting the same amount of county funding to be budgeted to them again this year.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker informed the group that the budget had not been set and while they wanted to give everyone the same amount as last year, the board should be prepared that there might be some cuts as was the case several years ago.

Commissioner Ron Krien asked the administrator what he thought the cost of utilities and maintenance would be for the new addition. Administrator Lacy thought it would

be about 20 percent higher. Mr. McClung added that the new equipment would be more energy efficient so it would cost less to operate it. When asked, Mr. McClung said that his company would probably begin construction on the hospital addition in two to three weeks and noted that there will be some local contractors involved in the project.

### Appraiser's system

Randy Sangster, county appraiser, said the county's office had saved enough money to purchase an Autodesk GIS solution system. The system which will be compatible with the Farm Service Agency will allow the staff to do mapping on a computer.

The department had requested that \$3,500 be put in reserves to purchase the system and there is now \$11,000. The total cost will be around \$18,000 but right now, all that is needed is around \$12,000 which will be available by the first of the year. The cost will include the necessary software, training and a computer system.

Mr. Sangster said that the new system will not save the county taxpayers money but will basically provide a service to the community. It will also help get property on the tax rolls quicker.

The commissioners approved the purchase.

### High Plains Mental Health

Walt Tell, interim director of High Plains Mental Health, and Karen Beery, manager of consultation and education, along with the local representatives Carol Rogers, Ilene O'Leary, Tammy Pettijohn and Tracy Winchester-Hillman, presented their budget request, asking for \$5,880 which is the same amount as the county had funded the service last year. Mr. Tell noted that the service had been cut \$225,000 and, within the service, cuts had been made and there had been no salary increases in several years.

They listed the services to the county and showed that 66 county residents had received treatment in 2002. Mrs. Pettijohn reported that she had been working closely with the schools, hospital and law enforcement to try and help as many

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**CUSTOM CUTTERS FROM far and wide help with the giant task of bringing the wheat harvest in from the fields. This combine was operating north of Wheeler on land owned by Neitzel Farms.**

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

## Weather slows but does not stop harvest

By Karen Krien

Harvest is underway with the first loads arriving in county elevators at the end of last week. Rain fell throughout most of the county on Saturday and stopped the harvest but by mid-day on Monday, the combines had started cutting in many of the fields and the trucks were rolling into the elevators.

There were reports of around .90 near Wheeler but west of St. Francis, there was little rain recorded. St. Francis reported around .25 inches and McDonald had .07. Bird City had .65 inch.

Tim Burr, manager at the St. Francis Equity, reported the wheat coming in again late Monday afternoon. The Haigler area is just getting started. Melinda Basnett at Frontier Equity, Bird City, said that area was only about 15 percent into harvest.

Tadd Neitzel and Blake Krien were harvesting 80 acres north of Wheeler Tuesday afternoon. Tadd said he was pleased with the wheat and it was one of the better dryland fields he had cut.

"Everytime there is thunder and lightning in the night, I lay awake worrying," he said, noting that his father and grandfather had also

done the same thing.

Both Manager Burr and Doug Ross, manager at Bartlett and Company Grain, were pleased with the quality of the wheat, especially after last year's crop when drought pretty much dictated the yields and quality.

All of the elevators in the area have seen the army worm which has appeared in the crops this year. Hal Sager, McDougal-Sager Grain, Wheeler and Bird City, thinks that the area has probably had some army worms in years past but not like it had been seen this year. Dale Weeks, manager of the Wheeler Equity, said that some of the earlier loads had more evidence of army worm damage but within days, there was less and less.

However, all of the elevators in the county are accepting grain despite the army worm damage. There could be some minor discounts but Manager Burr said they can "handle it."

"It (army worm festation) is within tolerance," Manager Weeks said.

Test weights are averaging from 55 to 62 pounds and rumors of yields are anywhere from 20 to 60

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**ARMYWORMS HAVE BECOME an unexpected enemy of farmers. This one came from Don Orten's fields north of McDonald.**

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Unusual pest attacks regional wheat fields

By Casey McCormick

During harvest farmers spend many sleepless hours unable to rest when they so badly need the energy. They'll stare at the ceiling and worry about the timing of the ripening crop and if the harvesters will arrive at the necessary moment. And this year the farmers got a special bonus concern: Wheathead Armyworm.

The Kansas State University Research and Extension department issued this warning last week, "Wheathead armyworm has fed on maturing kernels causing excessive damage. Kernels are either half eaten or have bore holes in them. These damaged kernels can cause wheat to be unwanted by flour mills."

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# McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

## Hospital address

Duane Wilkens has been transferred to the V.A. hospital in Wichita. He would appreciate cards of cheer. His address is V.A. Hospital, Room 323-1, 5500 East Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67218.

**Ice cream social and talent show**  
The "Evening in the Park" in McDonald will be Sunday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m. Many talent numbers have been lined up, and the ice cream and cake is always great. Be sure to bring a chair or blanket for seating.

## McDonald clean up

The clean-up effort continues in McDonald on Main Street and other areas. Residents with unsightly yards are being contacted and are cooperating. The town is looking much improved and the efforts will continue throughout the summer.

Doug and Mary Tongish of Goodland and their granddaughters, Mikayla and Katlyn Cody,

were Saturday visitors of Joan Tongish.

Sharon Barenberg of Benkelman and daughter, Carla and husband, David of Omaha were last Monday visitors of Gail and Kay Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Erickson of Fort Morgan, Colo., brought Frances Erickson to her home in McDonald and were visitors of Gail and Kay Miller for several days.

Jerry and Betty Knapp were Sunday supper guests of Gail and Kay Miller.

Dal and Sue Curry of Casper, Wyo., were weekend guests of his mother, Vivian Curry.

Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison were Sunday visitors of Alvin Holzwarth in St. Francis on Sunday.

Melissa and Stephanie Swihart of Westminster, Colo., a friend, Sarah, and Adrienne Swihart of St. Francis were weekend guests of their grandmother, Eleanor Swihart. Bruce and Shirley Swihart were Sunday din-

ner guests.

Laddie and Vera Kacirek were Wednesday lunch guests of Agnes Reeh at the Snack Shack in Atwood.

Hazel Hartman and Vance and Betty Lewis were guests of the Bird City Senior Citizens for Monday dinner.

Vance and Betty Lewis took Lenora Spicka to Oberlin on Thursday for a dental appointment.

Tammi Loker of Parks, Neb., was a Friday visitor of Tunney and Leila Loker.

Ray and Marlene Johnson returned home on Sunday after a 10-day trip to Owensville, Mo. They attended a family reunion in which 122 family members from 10 states were in attendance. On their return home they visited Mr. and Mrs. Dave Johnson and family in Moundridge and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Davis of Kanopolis. They also visited residents of the Good Samaritan Home in Atwood on Sunday.



**TWICE A MONTH** the Bird City Lifeguards spend time practicing life saving techniques. Sara Moore acts as a victim while Ailysa Carpenter, Kori Underwood, Andrea Carpenter and Brittany Kehlbeck assist in the mock rescue. *Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Commissioners

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people as possible. The commissioners will have to wait on the new budget before they can make a decision concerning the funding request.

### In other business

In other business:  
• The commissioners approved the ambulance bill write-offs for \$4,318.  
• Agreed to let employee Bonnie Zwegardt attend a class on wireless tower valuations.

• Jeanne Dunn, Cheyenne County Conservation District secretary, submitted the District's budget request of \$11,059. This is the same amount as the District was given last year. Several questions were asked and answered. The amount will be considered as the commissioners work on the new budget.

• The commissioners had been notified that the Local Environmental Protection Group would be charging for services and the group wanted the

county to bill customers. Clerk Terry Miller said he had contacted the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group that the commissioners did not want to bill customers and felt that the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group should do the billing. They recommended that the county representative Ken Knorr come to the next meeting and then take the commissioners' concerns back to the Group's next meeting.

• Mary Morrow, register of deeds, asked that she be allowed to spend reserve funds for map covers. The cost would be \$903 and she had that much in the fund. The commissioners agreed to the purchase.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on July 15 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis. The commissioners plan to finalize the budget figures after the meeting so they can

submit it to the auditor. The last July meeting was changed from July 31 to the 30th.

## Harvest

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bushels per acre with the average being 30 to 40 bushels per acre. Last year's yields averaged around 20 to 25 bushels per acre.

The elevators managers are reporting adequate storage and some are shipping out by rail. Prices are not good. In fact, prices are under loan levels making Loan Deficiency Payments available to farmers.

The weather is supposed to be hot and dry throughout the rest of the week and that will help wrap up much of the harvest. In fact, Manager Weeks reported that he expects the harvest in the Wheeler area to be completed by that time.

## Armyworm

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Depending on the percentage of worm damaged berries or IDK (insect damaged kernels) a load of wheat could be declined by a grain elevator and sent to become livestock feed at a considerable lower price to the farmer.

"K-State does not have much information on this pest since it has not been a problem for 20-25 years," the University stated in the report.

Luckily, though the insect is present in northwest Kansas fields, its effect has been minimal.

The Beardsley Coop recorded a load of wheat around June 23 or 24 that tested 11 percent insect damage kernels. Sample were sent to Con Agra in Omaha for further tests. However later deliveries fell to 4-5 percent and later yet, only 0-4 percent damage and state inspectors held off to declare the wheat insect damaged

kernels. "I think it was blown way out of proportion (by the state)," said R.J. Sabatka of the Beardsley Coop. Another factor could be the types of wheat the armyworm is attracted to.

Bird City farmer Ned Smith said, "stressed wheat and early wheat seemed to be the most effected."

By most accounts the wheat crop in this area has not suffered major damage by the armyworm and incoming grain shows good yields and moisture content.



## Cute Quotes

• A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

• ..and one particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

• 3-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name." "Amen"

## Business Directory

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