

Rainy weather delays harvesters

By Sydney Busse

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With the cool weather and rain the past few days, harvest is just getting started in the Bird City area. So far, the elevator has taken in only 200,000 bushels of their expected 1.8 million. Co-op manager, Shawn Cravens, said that their biggest days have been Friday and Saturday.

But, a reported 2.3 inches of rain on Sunday at the Bird City Airport slowed things down significantly. Many farmers and harvest crews now have to wait several days before they can go back to the field. Local farmer, Steve Busse, remarked that he hasn't started harvesting this late in over 25 years.

Of the wheat that has been brought in so far, the average moisture content has been between 11 and 13 percent, and test weights have been in the 60-64 range.

The first load of wheat was brought in by Lonnie Willis at about 5 p.m. on Monday, June 28.



THOUGH MANY HARVEST CREWS aren't back in the field yet due to recent moisture, a group harvesters was busy cutting wheat North of U.S. 36 between Bird City and Wheeler on Wednesday afternoon.

Times staff photo by Sydney Busse

City council discusses dogs, smoking and cell phones

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A very early meeting of the Bird City City Council was called to order at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday. The agenda was short and sweet, as the council met to discuss the budget at an earlier time. The final revisions to this had been made in the meantime, and so the council approved the budget.

Cell phone service

Rick Bailey from Viaero Wireless was there to discuss the option of erecting a 50-foot tower in the center of Bird City. A site just east of the emergency building was suggested. Many council members agreed that this could be a big improvement

to cell-phone coverage in town; however, they would need to contact the property-owner to get their thoughts before proceeding.

Community Development Block Grant bids

Council members discussed Community Development Block Grant bids for the rehabilitation and demolition of several properties in Bird City. While they received many excellent bids, the council voted to approve contracts for two demolitions to Roy's Carpentry out of Bird City, and two rehabilitations to Randall Construction from Gove.

Loose dogs

It has been noted that many loose dogs have been running the

streets of the town. The council would like to remind all residents that there is a leash law in effect in Bird City. Please secure your dogs, accordingly.

Smoking ban

City Attorney, Kevin Berens, reminded council members that a new state-wide ban on smoking in public buildings went into effect on July 1. This requires all public and city-owned buildings to have no-smoking signs posted near each entrance. This ban also includes a 10-foot area surrounding each doorway. The city approved this ban, to comply with state regulations. They are now in the process of updating their policy.

Political figure speaks

By Karen Krien

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Sam Brownback, Republican candidate for governor of Kansas, met with a group of people at the Dairy King in St. Francis, on Monday. Mr. Brownback has spent the last 14 years in the U.S. Senate. He said, when he was elected, that there should be term limits and he served his two elected terms as promised.

He stated that he felt the three most important things for Kansas was "growth, education and family."

Kansas, he said, needed growth and he was confident there were ways of getting there. But, before spending, the state needed to grow in population and business. Too much debt and taxing, he said, is slowing growth.

Statistics show that 85 percent of the counties are losing population. There is a loss in per capita income, he said, and there is a need to create jobs.

He said the legislature needs to resolve problems in the schools and schools should not resolve these problems in the courts.

Kansas has, he said, a dysfunctional funding system. The state needs more equalization and the counties, he said, need to have more local control of the money.

There is a need to rebuild family structure, he said. The future depends on how the next generation is raised.

He talked about the welfare system and how a woman will lose her's (and her children's) welfare if she marries so, she lives with the man rather than lose the benefits.

With the right policy movements, he said, we can be a great state. Low taxes and low regulations will attract businesses.



SAM BROWNBACK, Republican candidate for Kansas Governor talks with Ryan Shay and Lonnie Willis .

He sees growth in animal health, military and aviation, animal agriculture, and wind and ethanol power, just to name some.

Connie Jenkins, St. Francis, said she worked at the local hospital and noted that there is a lot of charity care. She wondered what can be done about illegal immigration?

Mr. Brownback said there were two things: 1) build a border fence and, 2) have an e-verification system. Everyone needs a social security number and it would be easy to check.

There has been delays by the federal government and the Mexican government doesn't want the fence, he said. The Obama team doesn't agree with getting the border under control.

Kelly Gienger asked about regulations, federal and state, that can be changed to help the state.

Mr. Brownback said, because of regulations, the state lost billions of dollars concerning the Holcomb

power plant. Kansas needs transmission lines for power and Holcomb has lines to transport power to Texas and Colorado. It has held back our wind energy production, he said.

Mr. Brownback talked about having less statues and regulations, not adding them. Some, he said, are a burden to the system. Banking regulations and health care regulations are a few and they are federally driven.

Kevin Berens asked about changing the people who set the regulations. Mr. Brownback said he plans to do that. He wants to get people who want to grow the state, have a good grasp on the technical rather than the political system. "These people", he said, "need to know where the problems are. I may have to look in unusual places."

We need to state the agenda and listen to people with knowledge, he said. We need to be confident of where we are going.



A TEEPEE HAS BEEN ERECTED on the south edge of Bird City by Terry and Diana Weinstein. Mrs.. Weinstein employs farming and gardening practices that Native American farmers used many years ago, including planting native plants and using no pesticides.

Times staff photos by Sydney Busse

Local woman plants garden

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No, Indians have not set up camp on the south edge of Bird City – Diana Weinstein has just been hard at work. Mrs. Weinstein has been tirelessly working outside on the property she owns, surrounding her house. She has planted buffalo grass, flowers, vines, and fruit trees, and has erected a bat house and a life-size teepee.

She would like to eventually have an orchard for her family and community to benefit from. She believes in using no pesticide. Instead, she stresses replanting native plants to draw in the correct "birds, and bugs, and bees," for her orchard to thrive. She has planted plants to attract such critters, and plans to expand even more. So far, she has raspberries, plums, grapes, persimmons, blueberries and pole beans, along with her native grass and shrubs.

So, you may ask: "Where does the teepee fit into all of this?"

Mrs. Weinstein said she and her husband erected it, because she likes the Indians' philosophy on farming. They believed that corn, beans and squash are the three life-sustaining crops, and, if planted together, each would benefit from the others. The native people were very innovative in the history of agriculture, and developed methods and ideas still used today.

Mrs. Weinstein said she will continue to follow this idea of a pesticide-free orchard, because she wants better food for herself, and her family. Future possibilities



DIANA WEINSTEIN has been busy mowing, planting and tending her garden on her property north of her house. She plans to expand her project to include an orchard.

include more trees and flowers, Most days, she can be found out in the yard, mowing or working on the next phase of her project. So, the next time you drive by, stop and say hello; Mrs. Weinstein will happily answer any questions.