

# Skunk population increases this fall

Numerous calls have been made to Bird City Hall complaining about the outburst of the skunk population. What to do about it has been one of the prime concerns of city council members. A great deal of skunk discussion was held during city council meeting.

Some residents and city council members have been setting traps and not knowing what to do to dispose of them. Hal Sager set a trap and got three out of the same trap at the same spot. Larry Anderson caught three just days before the Oct. 4 council meeting. Hal Sager said Randy Reynolds' dog has been sprayed two or three different times.

Brad Schneider, city supervisor, said, in the morning when he goes to work, the smell is bad. The skunks, he said, are a big problem as they are everywhere. Everyone agreed something needs to be done, as trapping is just weeding some out and not solving the problem.

The council approved Mr. Schneider's request to purchase two "live traps" at \$60 each to set out in the most populated areas of skunks. If a resident is plagued with these fur bearing animals, the best thing to do is call city hall at 734-2616 and request a trap.

K-State Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service has published information on the internet in regards to skunk control:

Kansas has two species of skunks: the common skunk easily recognized with the shiny black fur and two white stripes down the back. The second species is the eastern spotted skunk which has white splotches on its back and sides. It is rare in Kansas and is fully protected as a threatened species under state regulations. They should not be destroyed. Anyone capturing a spotted skunk must contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Kansas laws classify skunks as fur bearers and they are protected by law with the following exceptions: during the hunting and trapping season, found in or near buildings on private premises, or found destroying property. Building owners or occupants may then kill them.

Most residents fear skunks because of their objectionable odor. In Kansas they are the primary wildlife carrier of distemper other diseases and parasites. Extreme caution should be taken in capturing them.

## Donation benefit auction set for Sunday

Friends of Alicia Burkhalter Rippe are planning a free-will donation benefit lunch and live auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday at the Columbian Hall on Lake Road in Atwood.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy soup, sandwiches and desserts. There will be an exciting auction of donated items beginning at 1:00 p.m. Among the items to be auctioned Bennelli 12 gauge shotgun autographed by Tom Knapp and Tim Bradley; K-State and Nebraska tied fleece blankets, 1/2 beef, homemade quilts, and many more. See full page ad in Country Advocate for the entire listing.

The benefit is being organized to assist with ongoing medical expenses being incurred as Alicia is in treatment following cancer surgery.

In May of 2010, it was discovered that Alicia had a 4 pound tumor in her abdomen that was removed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and proved to be adrenal cortical cancer.

This is a very rare and aggressive form of cancer.

Alicia sought a second opinion

Because poisoning may kill pets and wildlife, there are not any registered poison baits to control skunks in Kansas. This mass rise in skunk population makes it difficult to control.

The usual bait suggested by K-State to set in traps is fish-based, meat-type cat food, canned fish, chicken parts or sardines. In urban areas these items can attract house cats instead of skunks. Mayonnaise, peanut butter, dried fruit, honey or molasses on bread will attract skunks but not cats.

The traps should be covered with burlap, canvas or plywood. The darkened area keeps the skunk calm so it will not spray its musk. Kansas law requires these traps to be inspected daily.

Once the skunk is trapped the cages should be kept covered, very carefully removed to the back of a pickup and transported outside the urban area. They can then be humanly disposed of with carbon dioxide gas or dry ice. The American Medical Association approved method of euthanasia is shooting. A precaution to this means is sometimes they will spray. If it needs to be tested for rabies do not shot it in the head as brain tissue is needed for testing. This is a case where the sheriff's office should be called for disposal once trapped.

Skunks mate in February and the young skunks stay with the mother until autumn. They may be left alone in their den during May and June, so avoid sealing buildings or foundations this time of the year to avoid starving the young.

A means of avoiding skunks on your premises is to keep the area clean of all uncovered garbage, getting rid of wood piles that harbor mice and rats. Blocking off places where they might den with wire netting bent outward 12 inches at the bottom in an "L" shape. This prevents the skunks from burrowing. The lawn should be cared for properly to control grubs that attract skunks.

Skunks are nocturnal, so illuminating the den or other frequented areas may discourage them. If they dig a new opening in the patched area thoroughly soak the den and surrounding area with water. They seem to prefer den sites with good drainage.

For further information, contact Extension Wildlife, Kansas State University (785) 532-5734 or the website World Wide Web at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>

at the University of Michigan, a center known worldwide for working with this type of cancer. She began chemo and radiation treatment.

In August, a routine scan revealed the cancer had metastasized and invaded her liver and lungs.

She is presently receiving chemotherapy in N. Platte, NE, under the direction of University of Michigan medical providers.

Alicia and her husband, Tim Rippe of Ludell, are parents of Wyatt, age 2. She is a 1999 Cheylin graduate and the daughter of Kevin and Jeanette Burkhalter of Bird City.

Thrivent, a Lutheran fraternal financial company, will supplement funds raised at the benefit.

Anyone wanting more information or wishing to make a donation may call Nadine Green at 785-322-5583 or Ruth Holste at 785-626-3522.



WIND TOWER BLADES being transported from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Oregon made a stop in Bird city on Monday.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

## Wind tower parades down Highway 36

Tuesday Oct. 19, the Bird City Diner was closed, but there were three Wide Load trucks and three Atlalissa Trucking Company trucks from Iowa loaded with Wind Tower Blades taking a rest stop and filling

up the parking lot. The blades coming out of Corpus Christi Texas were in route to Oregon.

According to James Carthen the head Heavy Haul Driver these three blades were going on one and a-half

wind towers. These specific parts were 150 ft. long the blades alone were 132 feet long. To be shipped at a later date are the small blades which are 99 ft. long, and the largest blade which is 167 ft. long.

Mr. Carthen estimates they will reach their destination by Wednesday unless they run into wind. They can't move in winds over 21 miles per hour.

## Approval of financial statements set

The Cheylin School Board meeting was called to order by Hal Antholz, President on Oct. 11. First thing on the agenda was the reading and approval of the financial statements by Adams Brown, Beran and Ball. Most items that required discussion were presented during the executive session.

Bruce Bolen Superintendent/Principal asked everyone to think about if they wanted to do anything special for staff appreciation as they have in the past.

At the present time they have no one for the assistant middle school girl's and boy's basketball coaches.

With the combining with Brewster for volleyball Cheylin has moved from Division Class 1A to Division I classification.

The construction of a weight room at the cost of \$14,500 - \$18,000 was approved.

Discussion was directed towards paying \$3,750 to anchor the basement walls in the rental house. It was decided that the

condition of the wall has not changed in years and the renters do not use the basement so they will not do this at this time. It was decided they would put new gutters on to eliminate the water that drains into the basement

Several action items were presented for approval and were unanimously passed. These items were:

Approval of the bid for \$42,750 to replace the gym and library windows with aluminum Manko Bronze windows.

Approval of establishing the Endowment Sub-Fund under the Cheylin Schools Foundation at the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

Approval to establish a Preschool Program Sub Fund under Cheylin Schools Foundation at the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

Approvals to the supplemental contracts of Max Keltz as the head high school track coach and the assistant junior high track coach for the 2010-2011 school year,

Approval of the supplemental contracts to Jolene Reeh as the head junior high track coach and as the assistant high school track coach for the 2010-2011 school year.

Janice Busse brought up the question for discussion as to what would happen on the times that both Keltz and Reeh had a lap over of away games at the same time. Bruce Bolen said they would work it out somehow.

Approval of paying the following coaches an additional \$400.00 at the end of the 2010-2011 fall sports season as follows: Tammi Carmichael, junior high volleyball Coach for giving up her planning period, Kale Schields, junior high head coach, for additional practice

time as a result of the Cooperative Agreement with Brewster, and Cristi Antholz, head high school volleyball coach, for additional practice time as a result of the Cooperative Agreement with Brewster.

Approval of hiring Dana Barnett as a Title I paraprofessional at a rate of \$10.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. The salary for this position is being paid from

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I funds and is a one year only position.

Approval of the terrorism coverage offered through EMC Insurance at a cost of \$323.

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Join the Lazy K Coach November 14 for a matinee performance featuring the world famous Rockettes at the Pepsi Center in Denver. The Radio City Rockettes are known for their precision dance and beautiful costumes. We will have a fun lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. prior to the show.  
Payment includes performance, meal and roundtrip transportation with Lazy K Coach. We will be loading in Goodland and Burlington.  
**\$135 per person: RESERVATION & PAYMENT DEADLINE OCT. 24**  
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Applicants will need computer and office skills. Will be required to answer phones, wait on customers, proof read, type, take photos and make pages.  
**The Saint Francis Herald**  
To apply or for more information, contact Karen Krien at the Saint Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.

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