



TAYLOR MCCARTY brushes all the dirt from the sidewalk and the kiddy pool.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Pool gets cleaned during nice weather

By Norma Martinez
bc.times@nw.kansas.com

Saturday was a perfect day for enjoying spring weather, and the group that showed up for the Community Club pool cleaning day were enjoying working and absorbing the sun. Twelve adults, three high school students, and four elementary children made work look like fun by working together cleaning up the swimming pool, getting it ready to be filled, and ready for opening up Memorial Day weekend.

The two McCarty boys, Colton, and Logan, along with Jake Rath were digging out dandelions and cleaning up the yard. Taylor McCarty was pushing a broom to clear the dirt from the sidewalk and sweeping out the kiddy pool. Her mother, Amy McCarty, was assisting and giving her instructions.

When the three boys finished the job of digging out dandelions, they started cleaning the accumulated leaves out of the puddle of water in the bottom of the swimming pool and disturbed a big sleeping leap frog. After catching it with their leather gloves, they tried sneaking it out past their moms. When they were caught red handed, their moms told them they had to put it back in the water so it would survive and live. Asking Rod Klepper and Brad Schneider where they planned on relocating the leaping critter, they smiled and said, "We are going to take it out to a pond near Ned Smith and Rob Jensen's place, where it can leap and swim



COLTON MCCARTY, Jake Rath and Logan McCarty all helped clean up the leaves out of the puddle of water from the bottom of the swimming pool.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

in plenty of fresh water."

Diana Garcia, Elizabeth Keltz, and Vanessa Castillo were climbing to the top of the ladder, putting in light bulbs. Lanee Carpenter and Ailysa Blair were standing below and handing the bulbs up to them. Sherry Carmichael kept busy, trimming the grass along the pool fence, and then went across the street to the park entrance to play

repairs and seeing that everything is up to par, so he was assisting and checking everything out to see that everything was ready for the official opening on May first. Everything will have to be checked over once again before the crowd takes advantage of the free swimming on July fourth for the all day celebration.

Mayor Wade Carmichael is in charge of the swimming pool

Representative has chosen not to run again

By Steve Haynes

steve.haynes@nw.kansas.com
State Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis, who has represented the northwest corner of Kansas for nearly four years and risen to a key position in the House leadership, said Monday he won't run for re-election this fall.

Speculation on who would take his place centered on former Rep. Rick Billinger of Goodland, who filed for the seat on April 18, more than a week in advance Mr. Cassidy's announcement.

Rep. Cassidy, 67, beat Mr. Billinger in a contested primary two years ago after they were thrown together in the same district by a panel of federal judges who wound up drawing new boundaries for the state Legislature. The House and Senate had been unable to agree on a plan that would pass court muster, leaving the job to the judges.

In his short time in Topeka, Mr. Cassidy had become chairman of the House Education Budget Committee, vice-chair of Education and a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. In those roles, he helped shape state spending and his committee had the final say, for the House, on nearly 100 school and college budgets.

"Four years and time away from family have taken their toll," he said. "I have enjoyed fighting for northwest Kansas and feel I have had success in promoting and protecting our area."

"I did an interview for a Topeka paper a few weeks ago and responded to the question, 'What did I like best and what did I like least about serving in the Legislature?' My response was the same for both questions: 'Some of the people I have met.'"

"It has taken a lot of thought, but I have missed too many events of my grandkids. I will finish my term, as I still have some issues to solve for constituents."

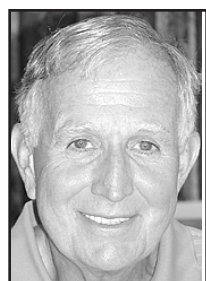
Reached after yet another meeting in Topeka, the representative said he hopes to stay involved in public affairs.

"That was a hard decision," he said. "It was a lot of work, but that's what you ask for when you ask to come down here."

"I've got a grandson who'll probably be playing a lot of high school basketball next year. I never got home (after taking the Education Budget job). It's tougher than most people think."

"It's not something I regret. I really enjoyed it.... A lot of people have really been very nice since they heard I would not run, but those kids are only little for so long."

"This was never about me. I really wanted to help northwest Kansas."



Cassidy

Special meeting called to vote on empty council seat

Mayor Wade Carmichael called a special meeting of the Bird City Council Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting was to vote on a replacement to fill the empty council seat left after Wade Carmichael was moved up to complete Hal Sager's term as Mayor for Bird City. It was a unanimous decision of the council members present that Chris Howard would fill the seat, finishing out Wade Carmichael's City Council term.

Mr. Carmichael also said presently they have five applications that have been turned in for replacing Ailysa Blair as City Clerk. Mrs. Blair will not be leaving until the end of July, but it was the council's decision that they should give the city clerk ample time for training the new City Clerk. The decision was made for the council members to review these applications, and they will act upon making a final decision at the May fifth City Council meeting at 7 p.m.

Challenge for youth in Bird City May 7

NetWork Kansas is hosting the first annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge May 7 in Bird City. Northwest Kansas middle and high school students will compete for \$5,000 in prize money at this regional competition. The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge features a business plan tradeshow, elevator pitches, and formal business presentations. Mike Bosch, serial entrepreneur and PIPELINE fellow, will be the featured lunch speaker. The event is open to the public, but RSVPs must be received by April 30.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is open to students in grades 7-12 who live in a north-west Kansas Entrepreneurship (E-) Community who have participated in one of four qualifying local competitions held in Bird City, Rawlins County, Sherman County, and Wichita County during March and April. Northwest Kansas E-Communities include: Bird City, Ellis County, Greeley County, Phillips County, Norton County, Rawlins

County, Scott County, Sherman County, Thomas County, and Wichita County.

The competition is hosted by NetWork Kansas as part of their 44-community E-Community Partnership. The E-Community Partnership is dedicated to increasing entrepreneurial activity and developing self-sustaining ecosystems favorable to long-term entrepreneurial growth. NetWork Kansas and Midwest Energy are proud sponsors of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

All participants will display a business plan booth, present their entrepreneurship idea to judges, and participate in elevator pitches. Students who advance to the final round will present their business plan in a formal presentation to a panel of judges and the audience. A total of \$5,000 in prize money will be awarded, including \$2,500 for first place, \$1,250 for second place, and \$750 for third place, and other awards.

Banquet held in Hill City

The Northwest Kansas District FFA Banquet was held Thursday, April 24, at Hill City. The ceremonies got started with the first session at 4 p.m.

There were 20 chapters present. District officer elections were held during this session. Jacob Brubaker from Cheylin was running for the position of reporter-sentinel. Each of the four candidates that were vying for these positions gave a 3-minute speech.

Each chapter was allowed three votes. Chapter advisors and two delegates cast ballots. The voting delegates from Cheylin were Mary Anne Orten and Reece Leonard, along with advisor Max Keltz.

The candidate that received the most votes would be named the reporter, and the one with the second number of votes would be named the sentinel. The banquet was then served to over 270 advisors, FFA members and parents.



DARYL SIMMONS, FFA State reporter, Landon Wingerson, out going District reporter, and Jacob Brubaker, who ran for FFA district reporter and won, discuss duties.

The second session then began at 6:45. During this time, recognition of District Proficiency Awards were handed out.

Those from Cheylin that received these honors were: Elizabeth Keltz, Dairy Production Placement; Mary Anne Orten, Agriculture Services; and Russell Porubsky, Wildlife

Production and Management.

After the retiring officers gave remarks, it was announced who the new officers would be. Jacob Brubaker was named the reporter for the 2014-2015 Northwest Kansas District FFA. Cheylin has not had a District officer since Nathan Hendricks was elected sentinel for

2000-2001.

Closing ceremonies were then held. Afterward, Jacob was an honored guest at a reception for the new officers. Max Keltz, Cheylin FFA Advisor, and Gary and Jane Brubaker also attended the reception.