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Police report
Interim chief Shane Guggenmos gave his report. Officer Norman Grainger was introduced to the council as the new part-time officer.

The topic of placing some new speed limit signs was discussed. The council said they would tour the town and see where there might be a need for some.

Chief Guggenmos presented three schedules for the council to look at to see how they wanted to have the officer's work. He said the police officers have been trying to do all of the paper work, plus patrol and it was not working very successful. He asked if the council would hire someone to replace Sarah Clogston, the office clerk who had left in May.

He reported that he and Sheriff VanAllen had been in contact with each other and they would be working together in the future.

He asked for 10 minutes in executive session to discuss personnel.

After returning from the executive session, the council made the decision to hire Shane Guggenmos as the police chief. They also hired Kent Allard to come back as the office clerk.

911 Dispatch Board

The 911 board is making progress.

The resolution has not been signed, but as soon as county attorney Justin Barrett has approved it, it will be signed.

Sam Beeson and Jim Rarick will be going to the 911 Dispatch Academy for certification.

City park

With the historical status of the city park, the council talked about getting a grant to refurbish the band shell. Attorney Mike Day will be getting in touch with Greg Kite to find out what they should be doing.

Permits

Building permits were issued to Heidi Tice for a fence; Charlise Rogers, fence; and Brandy Jones to remove and replace concrete.

Fireworks permits were giving to Sherri Hilt and Donna's Gift Palace.

Property cleanup

Several of the people who were asked to clean up their property have been working on it. The council will be following the progress.

Other items discussed were the five year plan and the budget.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on July 15, to discuss the budget and the audit. There also will be a special meeting on the morning of July 8.



MANY TOURS were given at the Bird City Dairy open house held last week.

Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Dairy open house well attended

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City Dairy held its open house on June 18. Visitors young and old lined up to take the tour.

The Bird City Dairy is a fourth generation of dairy farmers. Operated and managed by Mike, Clay and Ken McCarthy, the facility is an expansion of the McCarty Dairy in Rexford. They also employ 20 full-time employees.

The visitors were guided by the McCarty family through the various sections of the dairy, starting with the calves.

Judy McCarty, tour guide, spoke to her group about the process of raising a milk cow. Most of the cows on their dairy farms are Holsteins because their milk has the best drinking quality and lots of it. There is also a few Brown Swiss with their doe-like appearance, they do not produce the quantity of milk like the Holsteins, but they produce milk with more protein, butter fat, and have hardy calves.

The calves are separated immediately from their mother after birth and given a gallon of colostrum within eight hours. The males are sold to locals, but not before given the gallon of colostrums. By giving the calves colostrum, it increases their survival rate and reduces the incidents of diseases.

Mrs. McCarty told the visitors the Rexford facility is building a heifer yard and after 12 weeks, the female calves will be transported, raised, bred and then brought back to the Bird City facility to begin their milking career.

When asked how long a cow can produce milk, Mrs. McCarty said, "On the average, five to seven years. However, we do have a cow at the Rexford dairy that is 10 years old and still producing."

Since its building completion in August 2007, the dairy has added several new features. One of the newest structures is the hay barn. Located just west of the calf lodging, it provides a well-covered area for keeping better hay.

To keep the dairy cow feed at its optimum for the different phases the cow goes through, and to keep it cost effective, a computer is used to measure out the grains and minerals. Each month a nutritionist from New Mexico arrives at the facility to check and take samples of the feed.

Mrs. McCarty explained to the tour group that there are different stages of dairy cows at the facility, the calf, the milking cow and the dry cow. At each stage, the cow is fed according to her need. Keeping a cow milking for 305 days is the goal of the facility and to do this she is "dry" for 60 days for breeding

that is done artificially.

As the visitors moved to the different housing structures, they were told about the use of sand as bedding for the milking being preferred by the cow and is cleaned and recycled back to their stalls. In the outside corrals, new protection structures have been built to cover the cattle against the elements. The facility has an area where cattle can be checked for illnesses and have their hoofs manicured. Mrs. McCarty said their next building project is to install misting throughout the facility to keep the cattle cool during the hot months.

At the milking station, the cows are prepped for milking by washing and disinfecting their udders. Mrs. McCarty explained that milking cows can be temperamental and are not forced to milk. She went on to say that being calm around the cows is important for good milk.

After the milk is taken from the cow, it is immediately cooled down and stored ready for transportation to the next step of getting the milk to the stores and once a month a state inspector takes samples of the month to insure it quality.

At the end of the tour, the group was invited to sample different cheeses and, of course, taste the finish product in their choice of chocolate, strawberry and whole milk.

HELP

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forage use must be completed no later than Nov. 10.

Under Conservation Reserve Program, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10- to 15-year contracts with the department's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Farm Service Agency administrators the program on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. Participants plant appropriate cover such as grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

MOWERS

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He said the Husker mowers are larger, have wider stances and are heavier than many. They are ideal for all types of mowing, especially for mowing road beds where there is a slope.

The machine has safety features including a roll bar or safety bar across the top, seat belts and, if the driver gets off the seat, the motor quits immediately.

All of the mowers he is selling are riding mowers.

In the future, a new diesel machine is coming, Mr. Morrow said. "It has tremendous power and uses less fuel."

While he sells to customers in the tri-state area, he is happy to be able to serve customers in Cheyenne County. He said it is nice to be able to keep the business in the county.

Mr. Morrow is the minister of the Church of Christ, St. Francis. He and his wife Mary have lived in St. Francis for 37 years. They have four sons and six grandchildren.

The Morrows are already planning to have a float in the parade so people will be able to see the mowers and trailers up close. He urges people to watch for another new product on his lot. Right now he is not disclosing what it will be but he is sure that people will want to stop by when the equipment arrives.

Credit company breaks ground

Ground breaking for the new Farm Credit of Western Kansas, ACA, office building located at 1190 South Range took place Wednesday, May 28. The new structure will consolidate the Farm Credit staff in a 14,000 square foot brick and stone building.

Farm Credit has housed its local headquarters in Colby since its inception. Originally operating as the Colby Federal Land Bank and the Northwest Kansas Production

Credit Association.

"We brought the two businesses together in 2000 and completed a corporate merger in 2002. Since that time we have continued to operate out of two buildings. In the spring of 2007, we seized the opportunity to purchase what we felt was the ideal location for our business when the J & J Oil and Deep Rock Cafe sight went to auction," said Larry Maxwell, Farm Credit president.

Harvest contest in next week's Herald

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\$5,500

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