

# Burn workshop planned for Nov. 6

Area producers can learn about using prescribed burning in a workshop to be held Nov. 6, at the American Legion Hall in Bird City.

Managing grasslands can be done in a variety of ways. One management tool that is available is prescribed burning management or the use of fire to manage the vegetation. This technique can be used on pastures, Conservation Reserve Program acres, and non-pasture grass area. The goal of prescribed burning is to remove old vegetation allowing for increased desirable grass development. Several Conservation Reserve Program contracts include burning management as part of their requirements.

The Prescribed Burning Workshop in Bird City is hosted by a coalition of local agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency, K-State Research and Extension, and Conservation Districts of Cheyenne and Rawlins counties. The workshop is designed to give producers a better understanding of what is involved with conducting a prescribed burn.

Workshop topics to be covered include Conservation Reserve Program Maintenance; Burn Safety

- Why and When to Burn; Burn Notifications and Local Regulations; Equipment Methods and Techniques; How to Adapt Your Equipment; and Planning and Conducting a burn.

The program will include a panel of local producers who have used burning as part of their management. Walt Fick, K-State Range Management Specialist, and Roger Tacha, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Management Specialist, will lead the list of speakers that also includes local Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service representatives.

Lunch is being provided by the County Conservation Districts of Cheyenne and Rawlins counties. The cost of the workshop covers the workshop materials. Pre-registration is requested by Nov. 1, and can be sent to Sunflower Extension District, P.O. Box 677, St. Francis, KS 67756. For more information or to register by phone, call the office at 785-332-3171.

Thomas and Sheridan counties will be hosting a Western Kansas Cooperative Burn School on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the 4-H building in Colby. For information call 785-460-4582.



FIREMEN burn down the old Zuege house on Francis Street Saturday afternoon.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Bird City firemen ask for equipment

By Karen Krien

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A Bird City fireman was at the Wednesday, Oct. 15, Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting to talk about the vehicle that carries the emergency rescue equipment.

Dale Hazuka, Bird City, said the vehicle which carries their emergency equipment needed work. The transmission was out and, by the time it was replaced, it was going to cost around \$4,000.

The vehicle is an 80s ambulance which had been converted to carry emergency equipment. The commissioners agreed that this is the time to look for a suburban as people are getting rid of them because of poor gas mileage. Mr. Hazuka said he would take the information back to the other firemen and look for a vehicle.

### Bind weed

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said Kay Bakke, Bird City, had

bind weed. She told him she had spent a lot of money trying to get rid of it but had no luck.

The Bird City crew doesn't have a permit to use the type of chemical needed and the county is supposed to control noxious weeds (which is what bind weed is). Mr. Ketzner said that when Dan Schlittenhardt, supervisor, was contacted by the city crew, he told them it had already bloomed and it was too late to treat it.

The commissioners agreed that it wouldn't hurt to treat it in the fall and, if it didn't work, he could treat it again in the spring. Mr. Ketzner would leave a message for Mr. Schlittenhardt to treat the weed.

### In other business

In other business: The commissioners signed a permit letting Nobel Energy seismograph land north of Bird City. Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, said

they estimated the seismograph would take up to six months.

- The commissioners agreed to get rid of the corner bushes on the courthouse grounds.

- After considerable discussion with Charles Krull, representative for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas, the commissioners agreed to raise the life insurance policy for employees from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The county now pays \$6 per employee for the insurance. The cost will go up to \$11.40 per employee.

Mr. Krull also asked that the commissioners consider changing the county's health insurance from the Corporate Plan to Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

- The fair board's no trespassing signs were ordered. The commissioners also talked about repainting the signs in front of the courthouse steps.

- Carol Gamblin, 911 dispatch director, said the supplies to lower

the ceiling in the dispatch office will cost around \$300. They will be installed by in-house labor. She asked for 15 minutes executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with no decision being made when they came out of the session.

- The commissioners agreed to meet with Bruce Web, an appraiser from Osborne, who is interested in working in St. Francis part-time. He knows that the commissioners plan to train an appraiser. The commissioners also approved for Karen Flemming, who works in the appraiser's office, to attend a personal property and motor vehicle training for two days.

- Mike Hewitt's bid of \$800 to wash all the courthouse windows, inside and outside, was accepted.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

## Good Luck Lady Indians!



2009 VOLLEYBALL TEAM — Back row: Trista Orth, Andrea Holzwarth, Kaycee Williams, Kaitlin Figgins, Makaela Grace, Aubree Schleppe, Cara Hunt, Ashlynn Lambert; middle row: Aly Marin, Christina Hilt, Shayla Hilt, Elizabeth Gienger, Jami Pevler, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Sarah Trembly, Dale Northrup, Tilyn Bell; front row: Hayley Brown, Jodie Hilt, Lexi Hilt, Caitlin Northrup, Christina Schoenrogge, Joni Pevler, Alyssa Lee, Chauntell Peter.

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