

City wants stop to underage drinking

By Casey McCormick
 Both the Bird City City Council and local law enforcement have had enough of underage drinking, especially at the high school. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring spoke to the council about the problem.

With school out kids are doing the regular thing of driving around and meeting their friends. Unfortunately some minors are coming into possession of alcohol. A common gathering place has been outside the

high school and police have been there too many times. The council, sheriff and police chief Stan Harp agreed that warnings are not enough and that Minor-In-Possession charges will be issued.

Sheriff Dankenbring also presented the council with a proposal to join the northwest Kansas Quad County Drug Task Force. At a cost of \$500 the city would have the services of a field agent from Colby who would work in conjunction

with the area Kansas Bureau of Investigation officer to deal with drug enforcement. The council will consider the proposal and how it will effect budget constraints.

Dan Bowers asked the council for a letter from the city which would allow him to purchase class "B" fire works for the 4th of July show. Funds for the fireworks will come from the Bird City Community Club and PRIDE but wholesale distributors in Denver require city ap-

proval. The council granted his request. Mr. Bowers also said he is looking for private donations for two special displays: the Statue of Liberty and the American Flag. Each of these displays will cost \$125.

The Mosquito Committee presented their information about mosquito control equipment. With concerns about the West Nile virus, especially after recent rains, the council decided to purchase a used

sprayer from the city of Iola for \$1,500. The council also approved buying chemicals for the sprayer as well as "donuts" which can be placed in standing water to kill mosquitos. The city cannot force individual landowners to take steps to control the mosquito problem but they want to encourage active participation. They will purchase additional "donuts" which will be sold at cost to interested residents.

Other business was the approval

of four building permits. These were for John Blea (fence), Leo Mazon (front porch), Rick Dehaven (garage addition) and Carol Markley (patio slab).

Mayor Hickert ended the meeting with concerns about speeding and vehicles not stopping on Rich Ave. near the swimming pool. This time of year many children are on bikes or walking to the pool. One possible solution may be temporary speed bumps which the council will look into.

Director reports what funds buy

By Karen Krien
 A representative from the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging had been asked to attend the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday to explain how the county's money directed to the Agency is being used.

Greg Hoover, executive director for the Area Agency on Aging, reported that the county gives \$4,500 to the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging and these funds are matched with government funds. In the county there are 23 clients served. The object is to have quality service and clients pay on a sliding fee.

The match the county provides helps cover the following services: Meal sites, case management, information and assistance, in-home meals, senior center grants, legal services, health promotion, Elder Abuse Program, insurance and tax counseling and the Caregiver Support Program.

Mr. Hoover said that a lot of dollars are poured into the senior center for food. The money also pays the cooks and the manager gets a small fee per day. Seniors coming to eat at the center are asked to pay a minimal fee and those who can pay more may do so. Mr. Hoover said that it was unfortunate that those who have the money to pay more for their meals seldom do but, at the same time, they are not required to do so.

Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, was at the meeting. As a senior citizen, he

said that the St. Francis Center has trouble making ends meet and falls short every month. If it were not for donations and memorials, they would not be able to keep the center open.

Mr. Kellner was also concerned about the mileage reimbursements. As a Silver-Haired Legislator, he travels many miles. The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging pays 21 cents per mile while the Silver-Haired Legislators are paid considerably less.

State funding

There was considerable discussion about the lack of state funding to counties and cities. At first, after reading a letter from the state treasurer, the commissioners thought the county would be shorted over \$300,000. However, road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming made some phone calls to the department of transportation and was informed that he would be getting most of the road and bridge state funding.

The letter did inform the commissioners that Senate Bill 6 of the 2003 Legislation states there will be no money transferred from the state general fund to the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund and the County or City Revenue Sharing Fund during the state fiscal year 2004. This shortage will amount to \$60,400. The commissioners will be working on the county's budget following the next meeting.



WHERE DOES 3 inches of rain go? The same place that many Bird City residents went to watch this unusual display: the streets. Even after a recent city wide thistle burn, tumble weeds did not help the flow of water as they plugged drain pipes.

Pen pals reunite after years of writing

By Casey McCormick
 This story begins in two elementary school classrooms many miles apart in the 1950s. One was in Bird City, the other in Raymond, Alberta in Canada.

Both of these classrooms had similar students and teachers, although they were far apart in different countries. And the teachers encouraged their students to learn about other people and places with a pen pal.

This is how Kay Chapman, now Mrs. Davis, and Jim Heggie began a relationship that has lasted over 50 years. Now both are retired elementary school teachers themselves with their own families, but through the years they have shared a special bond.

On Monday, June 3, the two met at Big Ed's in Bird City for their fourth reunion.

"We wrote often," Mr. Heggie said. "When I got my first letter from Bird City I couldn't find it on the map."

He wrote Kay back and asked her what did it look like? After finally making it to Bird City, he said, "It looks like a very nice place."

Kay described how they would correspond.

"After school we would write a couple of times a year, on holidays and special occasion such as the birth of a child," she said.

This routine has continued un-



Davis **Heggie**

changed, except for the advent of computers as they communicate more often now with e-mail.

When Jim went to college he attended a school in the northern United States and the pen pals decided to meet face-to-face. It was 1968 and the location was Rexburg, Idaho. Jim was 30 years old and Kay was 29. At this time Kay, and her husband Harlan, were living in Broomfield, Colo. It was decided that the next year Jim, and his wife LaBeana, would travel to Colorado. The families met and were together in 1969 to watch the television broadcast of man's first moon landing.

They kept writing but would not meet again until August of last year. The Davis's were entertained in Alberta, Canada that time. Also at the fourth reunion on Monday were the two spouses and Jim's grandson from Canada, ninth grader Logan Heggie. As they sat at a round table, ate steaks and laughed it was as if the two pen pals were longtime next door neighbors rather than next nation neighbors.

Heavy rain hits town in a big way

By Casey McCormick
 The heavens opened with unusual fashion on Sunday as Bird City received welcome rains. Area weather recorder Troy Burr acknowledged 3.46 inches of precipitation in a period from about 4:30 p.m. until around 7 p.m..

With that much rain came relief for local farmers but it also added to some problems as ditches and streets became in-

undated with heavy amounts of water.

The "Bird City lake" formed along U.S. 36 and the Thresher Grounds. Almost as soon as the storm hit it soon resided. The gray skies were replaced with a spectacular Kansas sunset and the air was filled with the "croaks" of thousands of frogs which had lay dormant before the gift of rain came and the temporary lake took place.



CARS HAD TO beware not to run over the unseen drainage ditches that lay hidden. The Hengen boys had a good time driving in the rain. Times staff photos by Casey McCormick

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Hospital board gives OK to remodel bid

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in special session on May 28 to make the final decision on the bid and cost of the renovation and addition of the hospital. Rhoades Construction of Goodland received the bid and the cost is not to exceed \$2,225,586.

The board has been meeting to discuss the future hospital plans. Earlier Rhoades Construction had submitted the low bid of \$2,537,800 but that bid was still more than the board was willing to spend. The architect and construction owner had met to cut costs.

At the May 28 meeting, Kevin Berens, county attorney, discussed the legal aspects of the bidding process and requirements for change and negotiations that would prevent liability to the board. In His opinion, based on information presented to him, the current and past discussions with the architect and low qualified bidder were "appropriate, prudent and legal."

Hospital administrator Les Lacy reviewed the project costs and hospital's financial position including a \$252,591 receivable (money coming to the hospital from Medicare) on the 2002 cost report. Extensive discussion of the project, costs and financial position and variables

to each followed. The consensus of the board and all present was that it was time to proceed with a decision on the project with further discussion of potential cost-saving alternatives and information gathering to be ongoing.

In the final motion, the board approved the bid by Rhoades Construction with cost-saving measures discussed by the architect, Rhoades Construction and the board and including alternates: heating, ventilation and air conditioning, windows, both upstairs and downstairs, and anew elevator. The cost is not to exceed \$2,225,586.

The administrator was directed by the board to contact the architect regarding cost-saving measures and some line item issues for clarification.

In other business

In other business:

- Tim Hoskins has been approved for the Kansas Bridging Program by the Kansas University Medical School. The program provides the physician with \$10,000 from the state and requires a \$16,000 match from the community. Several means of handling the match were discussed in light of the current building project.
- Administrator Lacy will visit with Dr. Hoskins to identify the best way to proceed.

Moisture brings unusual plant life

In last week's St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times there was an article which told about the white flowers which filled the pastures this spring. Mark Mayfield with the division of biology-herbarium, Kansas State University, reported that the flower was not bindweed or something similar that would hurt the pastures but a wild flower that shows up after a drought.

Tobe Zweygardt, local historian, said that the Indians told him that when the white flowers appeared in the pastures, it was time to plant corn.

Shane Wurm, agronomist for Servi-Tech, reported that most of the corn is planted and up.

"It's (corn) looking pretty good," Mr. Wurm said.

He added that some of the corn was a little yellow due to the cold weather that hit the area last week but when it warmed up, the crop started coming around.

Temperatures hit the 100-degree mark on Thursday and that heat didn't help the wheat crop.

"The wheat is in a critical pe-

riod— just starting to flower and fill the head. Any moisture, especially on the dryland wheat will really help," Mr. Wurm said.

There are some leaf diseases on the wheat which the agronomist is keeping an eye on. Diseases include tan spot, strip rust and a little leaf rust.

"The bugs are pretty quiet — there is a little Russian wheat aphid but not too bad," he said.

He said there is really no sub-soil moisture present so the cool damp weather can maybe buy some time with the crops.

"We still have some potential to grow some wheat," he said.

Mr. Wurm reported that the pinto beans are in the ground and the soybeans are going in now.

Farmers are swathing the first cutting of alfalfa and some of the oats hay will be swathed starting next week.

Pastures are looking great — much better than last year. Cattle are standing in grass up to their bellies and flowers are everywhere... much better than last year!!

Classifieds

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to the nurses at the hospital, to Patrick and Dr. Miller for the good care while I was in the hospital. Elmer Zimbleman

A heartfelt thank you for all of the calls, cards, flowers, gifts and wonderful food brought to us since my surgery. Thank you to Najada and the hospital staff for the great care. Also to the ambulance crew for the ride to Denver. You all made recovery much quicker. Vickie Schliep

We would like to thank all our relatives, friends and neighbors for the beautiful cards and gifts we received for our 50th anniversary. The expressions of good wishes, congratulations and your attendance at the open house was very much appreciated. A very special thanks to our "kids" and "grandkids" for the wonderful job planning and carrying out our big "weekend." Jim and Mildred Barnhart

Thank you friends and relatives and a special thank you to Kathleen, Charles and Cathy for all you have done, for the cards, phone calls and gifts for my 80th birthday. Ruben Bandel

We want to thank you for making our bloodmobile a success. We received 88 units of blood. Thank you to the grade school cooks for a good meal, all volunteers for their help and time. All the Rebekah Lodge members for the cookies, which were delicious. Also for supporting our food sale on May 10, of which all proceeds were donated to the ABC Preschool for a privacy fence.

In Loving Memory

I remember when you held my hand as I'd say "Nanni let's dance!", and we'd dance the two-step till the end of the day.
I remember when you'd hold me close, in happy times and sad, to let me know you were with me
Good times and bad.
I remember the closeness that we shared, where Just watching your eyes said it all, your approval or displeasure was bared.
I remember our love for one another, So warm and true, No one could ask for a better "Nanni" than you!
Although I will have tough days ahead, Remembering you,
I know you are with me, as I look
At my son and tell him about the special Moments between me and you!
All my love, Candi
"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me" (Proverbs 8:17) written June 2, 2003

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Thanks so much. The Rebekah Lodge.

Thank you to almighty God, family and friends for prayers, cards, calls and deeds during my stay in Kearney Neb. A special word of thanks to Francis, Becky, Kathy, Ashley and Regina. God bless all. Rachel and Don Cress

A big thank you to Girl Scout Troop #124 under the leadership of Lisa Schlepp and Debbie Grace, with the aid of Spencer Schlepp for rebuilding "the Cross" at Hwy US 36-27 junction west of town. It looks great! The Stuart family

Thank you to Tim and Robin Burr for providing the concession stand at the 4-H horse show. The 4-H Horse Club members

Thanks to friends and family for the many, many cards, gifts, goodies, dinners brought in, visits, calls and for helping in any way to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. So nice to hear from so many of you good people out there. Thanks again, Andy Byerly

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, visits and calls since my surgery in Colorado Springs and here at my home. Melvin Schlepp

Thank you to Wade Krien for providing the trailer for the horse show office. The 4-H Horse Club members

I would like to thank all my friends and family for the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits during my recent hospitalization. Your acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. Wayne Goodell



THE OWNERS OF the Aztec Antique store could easily have been "gone fishing" on Sunday. It's not hard to imagine that with this much water there had to be a whopper or two swimming around. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

State to stop grass clippings at landfill

By Karen Krien

The announcement was made at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' Friday meeting that grass clippings will no longer be allowed at the county landfill site between Wheeler and Bird City.

Ed Gardner, landfill supervisor, Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and Ranae Pilkington, bookkeeper, met with the commissioners to see exactly what they wanted to do about the matter.

Supervisor Garner said that a state inspector had been at the landfill and informed him that the site

would not be allowed to take grass clippings unless they composted them. They could not burn them after they dried.

To turn them into compost, the clippings need to be ground, turned and watered and the supervisor did not have the time nor the equipment. At the present time, a dump truck is filled almost daily. The commissioners asked if the supervisor could spread the clippings in areas to keep the ground from blowing but Supervisor Garner said that this is almost impossible because, despite the sign listing what cannot

be put into the dump truck, there are always cans, cinder blocks and large tree limbs in the truck along with the grass. He would have to go through all of the grass and sort out the trash that is not suppose to be there.

The people of Bird City seldom use the grass clippings truck. At one time, the commissioners noted that the St. Francis City Council talked about establishing a compost pile south of the recycling center. Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Coordinator, had said there was a good possibility that there

would be grants to help establish a composting program.

The commissioners decided to have a letter written to the cities of St. Francis and Bird City stating that, as of Oct. 1, the county landfill will no longer accept grass clippings. The letter will be signed at the June 16 meeting. A notice will also go into the county newspapers stating the fact. The commissioners are hoping that St. Francis will take on the composting project.



Director

Continued from Page 1
Office closures

Shannon Lindsey, director of human resources for the Hays area of Social Rehabilitation Services, and Judy Dankenbring were present at the meeting. Ms. Lindsey told the commissioners that many of the Social Rehabilitation Service offices would be closing and what clients in the county could expect at their closures. She said that the office in Cheyenne County would probably be open until January 2004 and, after that, the service would have access points and offices where clients could meet with

Social Rehabilitation Service personnel.

After discussion, the commissioners and county clerk Terry Miller agreed that Clerk Miller and his office be an access point but there would be limited services such as posting a toll free number, keeping Social Rehabilitation Service application forms on hand and would provide a space for the staff and clients to meet privately. If group meetings were needed, the Social Rehabilitation Service staff could arrange to have the meeting in the commissioners' room.

Following the meeting with the commissioners, the women were on their way to meet with the hospital and clinic staff and the county health nurse to present their plans to them.

In other business

In other business:
• Rod Zweygardt had handed the commissioners a letter telling that the residents were not obeying the "no parking" signs on the county road which joins Benton Street in St. Francis. Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming talked to Mr. Zweygardt who told him that he felt the cars parking along the side of the road were a safety hazard.

The commissioners talked about having the sheriff issue tickets to those parking along that road where the signs were posted but were also concerned that harvest trucks might be parked along that stretch of road

where there were no parking signs and, if the law was going to ticket others, they could end up issuing tickets to harvesters.

• Commissioners Krien and Brubaker had received complaints about a fence across Road Q near Bird City. Supervisor Flemming will contact the landowner.

• Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, had submitted vouchers adding up to \$160 to pay for extra teaching staff involved with the recent training. The commissioners voted 2 to 1 to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Brubaker thought that since the county had contracted with Colby Community College to take care of the teaching of the class that the college should take care of that expense.

• The county extension council along with Reba White, representing director of extension, and her successor Dan O'Brien, presented their budget of \$108,848 to the commissioners noting that they were not asking for any more than last year. Following several questions, the commissioners asked to meet with the extension council in executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

• Highway permits to allow Priority Oil and Gas to bore gas lines under county roads were signed.

• The commissioners filled out a questionnaire concerning relationship between the commis-

sioners and the sheriff. The survey was being done by the Kansas Association of Counties.

• Reva Pownell, Food Pantry coordinator, had written a note thanking the commissioners for providing better facilities to house the Food Pantry.

• The commissioners had met before the meeting to look at the new sprinkling system and found that the grass line was above the sidewalk. The bid had stated that the grass would be taken down to one-half inch below the sidewalk. Commissioner Krien said he would visit with Lampe Hardware personnel concerning the matter.

• There were \$4,394 in ambulance write-offs which were approved by the commissioners.

• Supervisor Flemming, along with Bill and Cindy Stroh, talked to the commissioners about the purchase of right-of-way ground for the Wiley Road Project. The group discussed culvert replacements, costs to the owners and costs to the county. An agreement seemed to be near but the commissioners needed the county attorney to review all specifications before proceeding.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on June 16 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

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