



TRIATHLON RACERS get their instructions from Darci Schields, event coordinator, during the 125th celebration. Times staff photo by Sydney Busse

Pavement tested on K-161 highway

This week (June 21-25) the Kansas Department of Transportation will be conducting pavement evaluation tests on portions of K-161, K-25, and U.S. 24 highways in Cheyenne, Rawlins and Thomas counties. The testing will include the use of a pilot car operation to control traffic.

Specifically, these annual surveys called Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) tests are performed by the agency each year. The survey measures the quality of pavement and certain aspects of deflection upon the roadway. The department's technicians will be working in 4-mile segments while performing the tests. The traveling public should expect a slight delay - waiting 15 minutes or less - while the survey is underway.

Former resident celebrates reunion

Debbly Johnson, San Antonio, Texas, daughter of Elaine Johnson and the late Oscar Johnson, was a recent visitor on the family farm with her mother and brother, Ken.

She was honored on her birthday by Tammi Carmichael and Dawn Miller who took her to the Bird City Diner for lunch. Debbly and classmates celebrated their 25th high school reunion together at the home of Dawn Miller and family for lunch on Saturday. They also enjoyed the Quasquicentennial festivities honoring Bird City's 125th year, with classmates, schoolmates and many others.

Debbly celebrated her June 15 birthday with a dinner in the farm home. Guests were Bethel Gohl, McDonald, Don Bruder, Bird City, Phyllis and Gerald Wright, Bird City; and Elaine and Ken of the home.

Debbly returned to San Antonio and her nursing position in the recovery department, Santa Rosa Hospital on the 16th.

Debbly's younger brother, Brent, lives and works in Houston, Texas. Brent is also a student in the Houston School of Theology and is taking summer classes at present working toward a master's degree in theology.

County loses money due to tax base

By Karen Krien

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In the last five years, Cheyenne County has lost \$7,247,329 from the tax base because of the property valuation.

The commissioners reviewed information sent to them from Paul Steele, Thomas County Commissioner. He had sent a study which revealed that rural counties have lost a substantial portion of their farmland tax base starting in 2004. Counties with large amounts of their land devoted to pasture appear to suffer the most; grassland is now valued for ad valorem purposes at \$10 per acre, the same value that is assigned to land that has no economic use whatsoever.

In 2004, Cheyenne County farmland value was \$16,048,390 but, by 2009, the value was \$8,801,061, a difference of \$7,247,329, or a 45.16-percent drop. In Northwest Kansas, the 19 county total in 2004 was \$296,737,760 and in 2009, it was \$191,709,055, a difference of \$105,028,705 or a 35.39 percent drop.

Mr. Steele proposed sending a letter to the Kansas Attorney General to get an opinion since the legislators do not appear to be interested in dealing with the anomaly. The commissioners made no decision.

Sheriff's report

Craig Van Allen, sheriff, said officer, Kent Allard, will be going to field sobriety training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Salina. This will be at no charge to the county, since county officers have helped teach classes at the academy.

For several years, the county sheriff's office provides law coverage for the city of Bird City. Last year, the city paid \$33,000 but, the commissioners pointed out that there has been a raise in fuel.

The county provides an average of 147 hours in officer coverage of Bird City. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to raise the contract to \$34,000 or 3 percent.

Fence line

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, discussed Craig Schoenrogge's

proposed fence line. There was the question of a road paid for by FEMA funds, and, if so, would it be 80-feet wide or 66? Mrs. Gilliland said she would follow up and see if the matter could be resolved.

Letter signed

Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Kansas Technical College, Goodland, talked about the funding cuts for the technical college. The college brings in \$10 million to the surrounding area. They are, he said, one of the top 20 technical colleges in the United States.

The college has no taxing authority so the only way they can make up a \$300,000 cut is by raising tuition. With only 350 students, the cost cannot be made up by raising tuition.

Dr. Mills asked the commissioners for a letter to the Kansas Board of Regents, supporting the current funding level, without funding cuts. They signed a letter of support at the current funding level, before cuts.

Emergency medical service

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, presented insurance write offs in the amount of \$7,800 which the commissioners signed off.

There was discussion over the mock emergency that took place over the weekend. Clerk Terry Miller was a "victim" and said he felt the response by the emergency medical service and fire department was overwhelming and felt everyone present did an excellent job.

Noxious weeds

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, and Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, talked about a plan of action regarding noxious weeds within the county. Due to the wet weather, bind weed and thistles are flourishing, they said.

There are many problem areas within the county right-of-ways as well as resident's land. After discussion, the commissioners agreed that Mr. Lohr needed to concentrate on treating the right-of-ways.

If landowners want the county to treat their noxious weeds, they should be directed to a list of private sprayers, as the county weed department's main interest isn't in treating private land. After Mr. Lohr left the meeting, it was decided to increase his wage by \$.50 per hour since he has achieved all his accreditations.

Mr. Flemming warned the commissioners of an impending large bill to repair the D6 Dozer.

In other business

In other business: The commissioners signed a proclamation noting the 20th anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act.

A wage agreement for Michael Blehm, sheriff's officer, was signed.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Wednesday in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. It was decided to have a budget work session after the meeting.

Preparadness director resigns at June meeting

By Karen Krien

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The emergency preparedness manager turned in his letter of resignation to the Cheyenne County Commissioners at their June 15 meeting.

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said his retirement will be effective on Oct. 10. Even though it seems like a lot of time, he said, the commissioners will have some major decisions to make.

Several years ago, Sherman and Rawlins counties agreed to share the expenses and expertise of Mr. Rogers. His office is located in Cheyenne County which is basically located in the center.

He still needed to turn in his resignation to the other counties. In the county's best interest, he said, it is best to keep the three counties combined. In the 2006 agreement, he noted that each county has the option to pull out.

Commissioner, Dale Patton, said he would like to see someone in place to take over the duties before Mr. Rogers retired so he could help train the person.

He updated the commissioners on plans that have been made and



Gary Rogers

said he had made out the budget for the upcoming year. He said the 800 MHZ radios had been received and will be installed in the emergency and sheriff offices. They will not be installed in the ambulance office.

Mr. Rogers said he and his wife, Carol, have committed to making the road signs for 4-H. The 4-H'ers will probably not have the information available until fall. If it was alright with the commissioners, they would finish the job at no cost. The commissioners agreed.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be closed Monday, July 5th.

Deadline will be Tuesday, July 6th at 5 p.m.



PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH, 10:00 a.m.

Location: 4-H Building, N. Hwy. 25, Atwood, KS

VEHICLES/RECREATIONAL/EQUIPMENT: 1968 Bantam T350 Crane, (15 ton Clam Bucket & Drag Line Bucket)• 1998 763 Bobcat, (2798 hrs.)• 1996 Case 1838 Skid Steer, 5' Bucket, Pallet Forks, (2800 hrs.)• 16' Car Trailer• Go-Go, Elect. Scooter, (like new)• 2006 Hoveround Elect. Scooter, New Batteries, (like new).

SHOP & LAWN EQUIPMENT: Wegele Scooter Mower, 12 hp. 36" Deck, (like new)• Cyclone Rake Grass Catcher, 5 hp. • 500 gal. Propane Tank• Air Compressor• Lawn Spreader• Flatbed • Flatbed Tool Box• Air-Ride Seat• 4-16" Car Tires• Shop Manuals• Assort Shop Tools• Lawn Pro Lawn Mower w/grass catcher• Drill Press

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Occasional Chairs • Cast Iron Lawn Furniture• Office Desk

HOUSEHOLD & MISCELLANEOUS: Writzer Elect. Organ, (M#4420)• Bird Cages• Animal Carriers • 2-Aquariums• Golf Clubs• Bicycles• Pots & Pans• Dishes• Bedding• National Geographic Magazine

ANTIQUES: 2-Horse Collars• Cigar Boxes• Assort. of Antiques

NOTE: This is a partial listing of items, many more items by sale day!

Lunch will be served.
GLAD REAL ESTATE

415 State, Atwood, KS 67730
Office # 785-626-2039

Rocky Hayes, Auctioneer
Home # 785-626-9600

Terms: Cash day of sale. Not responsible for theft or accidents.
Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.

Thank You

The Bird City Quasquicentennial committee extends a huge and heartfelt "thank you" to all the volunteers who made our 125th birthday celebration a success. From the committee chairpeople to the littlest parade watchers, everyone played a part to make a fun, memorable and wonderful celebration of our town. Countless hours were contributed behind the scenes to plan and prepare for the weekend. Thank you to all the leaders, workers and participants — we dare not list names because undoubtedly we would omit someone! Volunteers have always been a hallmark of our little town and this celebration proved once again why Bird City has been a great place to live and work for the past 125 years, and will continue to be a great town thriving on agriculture, commerce and people who enjoy being part of a caring and vibrant community.

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