

# City decides not to fog for mosquitoes

The Bird City City Council, at a recent meeting, decided not to fog the city for mosquitoes this summer.

The city is offering larvicide briquets to residents of Bird City that they can place in any standing water on their property to kill the larvae (eggs). The briquets are available at city hall. At this time, there is no charge for them. Residents will receive two briquets as well as an informational paper.

In an effort to help residents prevent and/or minimize mosquito breeding their own yards, the following tips were taken off the internet ([www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org)).

1. Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate in the saucers of flowerpots, cemetery urns or in pet dishes for more than 2 days.

2. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures, or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or eliminate puddles that remain for several days.

Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week and stock ornamental pools with top feeding predacious minnows. Known as mosquito fish, these minnows are about 1- to 1 1/2-inches in length and can be purchased or native fish can be seined from streams and creeks locally. Ornamental pools may be treated with biorational larvicides (Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. israelensis (Bti) or S-methoprene (IGR) containing products) under certain circumstances.

Commercial products "Mosquito Dunks" and "Mosquito Bits" containing Bti can be purchased at many hardware/garden stores for homeowner use. Wellmark International, a division of Central Life Sciences, has developed Pre-Strike Mosquito Torpedo that kills developing mosquitoes using insect growth regulator (IGR) technology. Like Mosquito Dunks, Pre-Strike can be found at many home/garden and pet specialty stores.

4. Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas, and either remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with mortar. These areas may be treated with Bti or methoprene products also.

5. Eliminate seepage from cisterns, cesspools and septic tanks.

6. Eliminate standing water around animal watering troughs. Flush livestock water troughs twice a week.

7. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.

8. Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.

9. Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.

10. If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to a Mosquito Control or Public Health Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.

## Lightning awareness week designated

The week of June 19-25 has been designated National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. In Colorado, this is being called Colorado Lightning Safety and Wildfire Awareness Week to highlight the dangers of wildfires as well as lightning.

Across the country, National Weather Service offices are promoting lightning awareness by issuing Public Information Statements and playing special safety information on NOAA Weather Radio. The Fourth of July holiday is fast approaching, a time when people are outdoors at picnics, at the lake, playing baseball, and attending parades and fireworks displays. Many lightning fatalities and injuries occur this time of year, which is one reason why late June is chosen as a time to promote lightning safety nationally.

Look back at lightning fatalities occurring over the past five years, most victims are male (80 percent), most occur in June, July, August, and most occur at ball fields, parks, on the beach and under trees.

The National Weather Service has excellent information on lightning awareness, and everyone is encouraged to visit the site. Topics include the science of lightning, indoor and outdoor safety, the history of lightning, statistics of being killed or injured by lightning and what type of injuries occur with lightning strikes victims. The web site is located at: [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov).

Another site is the National Lightning Safety Institute, located at: [www.lightningsafety.com](http://www.lightningsafety.com). This is an educational site and discusses lightning accidents and incidents, statistics and lightning safety.

The National Weather Service office in Pueblo, Colo., is another valuable resource that is available,

and information can be obtained by visiting: [www.weather.gov/pueblo/ltg.php](http://www.weather.gov/pueblo/ltg.php).

During the week of June 19-25, the National Weather Service office in Goodland will issue Public Information Statements discussing a different aspect of lightning each day. NOAA Weather Radio stations throughout the tri-state area will also play these short information segments. The web page [www.weather.gov/goodland](http://www.weather.gov/goodland) now has a story at the top of the news section with a link to the NWS Lightning web site.



THE DITCH in front of Goodland Greenline in Wheeler was filling up during the steady rain that fell in the area on Monday. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

## Commissioners agree to help with cost

**By Karen Krien**  
[karen.k@nwkans.com](mailto:karen.k@nwkans.com)  
E-waste collection was discussed at the June 15 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. The commissioners decided to pay 12.5 cents of each pound collected in the county.

Roger Jensen, county representative to the 8-county Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling organization, had approached the

commissioners at the last meeting asking them if they would be interested in funding the full cost for people in the county to bring in their e-waste items. That cost was 25-cents per pound.

He said Oakley had paid the full amount and it had cost them about \$800. He figured that this pick up would be around \$1,000 for Cheyenne County.

He had gone to the city coun-

cils in Bird City and St. Francis and both said they could not afford it. However, the St. Francis council had noted that they allow three of the city crewmen to help with the e-waste recycling and that was their contribution.

The commissioners agreed to pay 12.5-cents per pound for the items brought in. Keeping e-waste items out of the landfill is one way of keeping the county dump from filling up so quickly.

The e-waste collection is Friday, June 24.

**Gas line approval**  
Dean Jarrette, Rosewood Resources, talked about accessing the county right-of-way. He had not been able to get approval from the surrounding landowners to buy a gas line.

Following discussion, the commissioners agreed to allow Rosewood to bury a 3-inch gas line at a depth of at least 4 feet.

**Rural Opportunity Zone**  
James Foster, Kansas Department of Commerce Northwest Region Representative, talked to the Board about the Rural Opportunity Zone program. Cheyenne County is one of 50 counties included in Gov. Sam Brownback's bill giving a 5-year income tax break to out-of-staters who moved to any of these counties and federal student loan repayments of up to \$15,000. So far, nine counties have signed up.

After discussion, the commissioners made no decision. For

more information go to <http://kansasccommerce.com/index.aspx?NID=321>.

**In other business**  
• County attorney, Kari Gililand, after presenting two bids, was told to purchase two needed computers for her office. The money for the purchase will be taken out of the Diversion Fund.  
• A Cereal Malt Beverage license for Rock County Entertainment was signed.  
• A resolution authorizing the Cheyenne County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 11-07, was reviewed and approved.

• Ambulance write-offs in the amount of \$1,101.23 were reviewed and signed.

• A wage agreement for Laurie Mayer, dispatcher, was signed.

• Samantha Johnson, Bird City, was approved as a new fair board member.

• Dick Bursch, fair board president, was given permission to remove a gate on the main entrance by the exhibit building and they recommended moving the gate north of the exhibit building.

**Next meeting**  
The next meeting of the commissioners will start at 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 30, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

*Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the June 15 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.*

## Road construction to start on Interstate 70

Beginning Thursday, June 16, construction began on I-70 in Sherman County.

The road construction project starts at Exit 12 and ends at Exit 19, for a total of 7 miles.

Workers will begin milling the existing asphalt in the westbound driving lane on Thursday between

Exits 17 and 19. The next week, a concrete patching process will take place along that same section of the project. After the patching is complete, contractors will apply an ultra-thin bonded asphalt surface on the westbound driving lane. The roadway between Exits 12 and 17 will also receive an ultra-thin bonded overlay on the driving lanes, while the shoulders will receive an asphalt seal.

While the roadway is being repaved, I-70 traffic will be reduced to one lane during both day and nighttime hours.

Please use caution, pay attention to the work zone signs, and respect workers when driving through any road work zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Break."

The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded the construction contract - totaling \$1,132,733 - to Venture Corporation of Great Bend. The pavement repair project is funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May 2010.

This job abuts the \$46 million dollar project to reconstruct I-70 from the Colorado/Kansas state line to Exit 12 - managed by Koss Construction. That project starts in earnest next spring.

Weather permitting construction work should be completed by the first part of August.

### South of McDonald

**By Sandy Binning**  
George and Kathy Banister attended a potluck dinner Saturday at the Quinter Care Home. They enjoyed having lunch with Kathy's mom, Laurene Dickman. Ashley Wahrman was a weekend guest of Tom and Kelly Dewey and children.

Grandpa and grandma, Craig and Barb Morton, and Tom and Kelly Dewey, Tayten and Tru all participated in the fishing derby Saturday morning in Atwood.

Thursday overnight guests of Bethel Goltl were Bob and Janice Arkle of York, Neb.

Elaine Johnson, Bethel Goltl, and Bob and Janice Arkle attended the funeral of Edith Pettera, Friday at the Herndon Catholic Church and the dinner afterwards.

Bob and Janice Arkle visited aunt, Hattie Toth in Atwood Friday morning. Elaine Johnson and Bethel Goltl visited with her Friday afternoon.

### Handy Tips

- Sealed envelope - put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.
- Use empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.
- For icy door steps in freezing

temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish-washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. The mix won't re-freeze.

• Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

### Helpful Hints

**Mine**  
If you purchase a new bike for your child, place their picture inside the handle bar before placing the grips on. If the bike is stolen and later recovered, remove the grip and there is your proof who owns the bike.

**Reducing Static Cling**  
Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and -- voila -- static is gone.

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