

Food stamp usage rises in county

By Emily Guerin and Tim Marema

The use of food stamps in Cheyenne County increased during the recession, assisting families in stretching their food dollars, contributing to local spending and helping spark a national debate about the future of the federal nutrition program. The proportion of Cheyenne County residents receiving food stamps hit 4.6 percent in 2011, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services. That's an increase of 1.4 percentage points since 2007, the year the recession started.

Cheyenne County's food-stamp usage rate is lower than the state rate. Across Kansas, 10.5 percent of residents in 2011 received support from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as the food stamp program is officially known. Nationally, 14.8 percent of the population receives these benefits.

Places like Cheyenne County, which are located outside metropolitan areas, tend to have a higher percentage of the population receiving Supplemental Nutritional benefits. That's because incomes are generally lower in nonmetropolitan counties.

The inflation-adjusted median household income in Cheyenne County in 2011 was \$38,150,

compared to the Kansas median of \$50,588. Nationally, median household income was \$52,306 in 2011.

In 2011, residents of Cheyenne County received a combined \$168,821 in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The Department of Agriculture reports that each \$5 in Supplemental Nutritional benefits generates \$9.20 in spending.

These benefits start to circulate in the economy quickly. Participants spend nearly all their food stamps within one month of receipt, according to a study by the University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute.

Grocers say they feel the impact of food stamps and other Department of Agriculture nutrition programs like Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

"Without these programs, we wouldn't be able to make it," wrote the owner of the Mill City Market in the small town of Mill City, Ore., in a survey of rural grocers conducted by the Oregon Food Bank and Kansas State University Rural Grocery Initiative.

Owners know they have to stock the shelves to prepare for more business when Supplemental Nutritional benefits hit the streets, said David Procter with the Rural Grocery Initiative

It's not just the mom-and-pop stores that see a bump from food-stamp spending in small towns and rural areas. Walmart reported in a recent Securities and Exchange Commission filing that a decrease in these benefits last year could affect the retail giant's bottom line.

Average food stamp benefits nationally fell about \$30 a month per family in November after a temporary increase that was part of the 2009 economic stimulus package. More funding decreases are on the way.

This summer, Congress agreed to trim about \$8 billion from the program over the next decade. Backers of the cuts said the program had expanded too much in recent years and was creating too much reliance on government assistance. Food stamp expenditures increased 135 percent between 2007 and 2011.

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (Va.-R) backed a measure that would have removed food stamps from the farm bill entirely.

"While this is an important part of our safety net, our overriding goal should be to help our citizens with the education and skills they need to get back on their feet so that they can provide for themselves and their families," Rep. Cantor said during congressional debate.

Food stamps have been part

of the farm bill for the past 50 years. The legislation's combination of farming and nutrition programs has helped ensure the bill receives broad backing from farm-country representatives and more urban-based members who support anti-poverty programs.

That alliance was tested but held with the passage of the 2014 farm bill.

Data for this article came from USDA Food and Nutrition Services, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census. The data was compiled and analyzed by Roberto Gallardo, Ph.D., associate Extension professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Funding for this report came from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Daily Yonder (<<http://www.dailyyonder.com>>www.dailyyonder.com) is an independent rural news site published by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Center for Rural Strategies.



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Public Notices

Petition filed in court to determine descent

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, May 22, May 29, June 5, 2014. (22, 23, 24)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS
 FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF
 THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 KEITH W COOK, Deceased. Case No. 14-PR08

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Brent Cook praying for the determination of the descent of the following described real estate situated in Cheyenne County, Kansas:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW1/4SE1/4) of Section 16, in Township 2 South, Range 40 West of the 6th P.M.

and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein, owned by the decedent at the time of his death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 16th day of June, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on said day in said court in the City of St. Francis, in Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition..

Brent Cook, Petitioner

VIGNERY & MASON LLC
 214 E. 10th P.O. Box 767
 Goodland, Kansas 67735
 Telephone: 785-899-6588

Ordinance to set new rates in Bird City

Published in the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, June 5, 2014. (23)

ORDINANCE NO. 331
AN ORDINANCE INCREASING WATER RATES IN THE CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR AND FIXING THE RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER SOLD BY THE CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS; AMENDING SECTION 13-105 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS, AND REPEALING SAID SECTION AS THEY EXISTED PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 13-105 of the code of the City of Bird City, Ordinance No. 326 of the City of Bird City, Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 13-105. RATES. The City Council has established the following rates for water uses and sewer:

- a) For meters of less than 1" diameter input size, a base rate of \$33.60 per month per meter for a minimum usage of up to 5000 gallons per month;
- b) For meters of 1" or more in diameter input size, a base rate of \$35.28 per month per meter for a minimum usage of up to 5000 gallons per month;
- c) Regardless of meter size, water usage over 5000 gallons per month would be charged at the rate of \$2.80 per thousand gallons per month over 5000 gallons plus the minimum base rate.
- d) The sewer rate shall be \$19.60 per month.

SECTION 2. Existing Section 13-105 of the Code of the City of Bird City, all such sections existing prior to the adoption of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the Code of Ordinance of the City of Bird City, Kansas, 1998, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering systems of the Code.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective for the next billing cycle and be in full force and effect after its publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Governing Body of the City of Bird City, Kansas, on this 2nd day of June, 2014.

SIGNED by the Mayor this the 2nd day of June, 2014.

Wade Carmichael, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ailysa Blair, City Clerk

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