

# Council talks about Bird City law

**By Sandy Barnhart**  
 Providing law enforcement for the city of Bird City was the opening topic at the June 17 St. Francis City Council meeting. Present to discuss the topic were Bird City Mayor Dave Hickert and councilmen Troy Burr and Larry Henry. After deliberating the issue it was the consensus of the council that Jason Ryan, St. Francis Chief of Police, at-

tend the next Bird City City Council meeting to see exactly what Bird City is interested in and then report back at the next St. Francis City Council meeting.  
 Mr. Hickert began stating that Bird City was interested in working with either the county or city of St. Francis in obtaining a part-time officer stationed in Bird City. The hours the officer would work could be

worked out, but they preferred to have an officer around in the mornings when school is beginning, do door checks, and take emergency calls in the area. He said that the council was willing to share the costs with the county or St. Francis and had budgeted \$15,000 - \$20,000. Mr. Hickert said Bird City had a patrol car and an office. Councilman Roger Jensen noted that to have an

officer work four hours a day at the rate St. Francis pays their officers, it would cost around \$19,000.  
 In previous years Cheyenne County had an officer located in Bird City with Bird City contributing a portion of the costs to the county. Officer Mark Davison who is employed by the city of St. Francis now resides in Bird City, but at the present time the St.

Francis Police Department, at their request, is not deputized to take calls in the county.  
 Mayor Scott Schultz noted that at the April 8 meeting, commissioners Jane Brubaker and Tim Raile and county attorney Kevin Berens had approached the council concerning county-wide law enforcement. The commissioners were to come up  
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## Harvest contest ends

**By Karen Krien**  
 Over the weekend, it was obvious that harvest was just days away as many of the wheat fields in the county had turned that golden color but there were still green patches to be seen.  
 On Saturday, the temperatures reached the upper 80's and a hot, dry wind had blown steadily through the night and all day which helped the wheat harvest along. So it was no surprise when the first load of wheat came into the Wheeler Equity elevator Monday afternoon at 3:40 p.m.  
 Nine businesses had sponsored the Harvest Countdown Contest and the winners were announced early Tuesday morning.

Winning first prize of \$50 in scrip was Spencer Schlepp, St. Francis. He had cast his guess of 3:38 p.m. on Monday for the first load.  
 Marlin Houtman of St. Francis won the second prize of \$35. His guess was 3:35 p.m. at Monday. There was a tie for third prize of \$15 in scrip which will be divided between Garrett Sundstrom and Sam Miller, all of St. Francis. Their guess for the first load was Monday at 4 p.m.

The contest was open to anyone over 18 years and were not employees or related to an employee of The Saint Francis Herald, which promoted the contest. The winning person had the closest guess of when the first load of wheat came in to one of the elevators in St. Francis or Wheeler.  
 The winners will be able to spend their scrip money at any of the following participating businesses: Pizza Hut, Stevens' Kansas Territorial, Sainy Super Foods, Yost Farm Supply, Windmill Restaurant, St. Francis Equity, P & L Ideal Meat Market, Krien Pharmacy, K-Store and The Herald.

Last year, Barbara Waters, Bird City, guessed the first load of wheat would be brought into the Wheeler Equity on June 18 and won first prize. The load of wheat was brought by Harvey and Glen Neitzel, the test weight was 56 pounds and there was 13.5 moisture.



**DALE WEEKS, manager of the Wheeler Equity, runs the probe into the truck of wheat while Rodney Bracelin and grandson Cade watch. Bracelin Brothers had the first load of wheat in the western part of the county on Monday afternoon.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## First load of wheat arrives at Wheeler Equity elevator

**By Karen Krien**  
 "It was a race to town," said Dale Weeks, manager of the Wheeler Equity elevator, after he had weighed the first load of wheat.  
 The first load meeting the requirements of the Harvest Countdown Contest came in at 3:40 p.m. Monday afternoon. Rodney Bracelin and his grandson Cade brought in the wheat to the Wheeler elevator and was followed 5 minutes later by Harvey Neitzel.  
 The Bracelin Brother's wheat field is located south of St. Francis. Mr. Bracelin said it took about two turns around the field and they had a truckload which could indicate that the yields will be fair on that field. The moisture in the first load

of wheat was 13.5 percent and test weight was 57 pounds.  
 Last year, Mr. Neitzel and his brother Glen brought in the first load on June 19 and it was again brought into the Wheeler Elevator. Mr. Neitzel's wheat this year was taken from the field just south of Wheeler.  
 Many of the wheat fields in the county are rapidly turning and Mr. Weeks thought that harvest would probably be in full swing by the weekend.  
 Kermit and Claudette Bear who farm north of Bird City, had the first load of wheat in Cheyenne County, having actually harvested it on Saturday. The seed truck could not deliver the load to the McDougal Sager Grain Company in Bird City until Monday.

Mr. Bear reported that the plot was only about 35 acres and was planted with Jagger wheat. Moisture was recorded at 14.2 percent and the test weight was 59. The crop came from the Bear's ranch, the K.C. Ranch, which is located north along the Republican River.  
 The McDonald Coop Elevator took in its first load of wheat on Monday. Doug Howard brought in the wheat which had 12 percent moisture and a test weight of 61 and 62.  
 Beardsley Coop Elevator, McDonald, also took in its first load on Monday morning when Tim Domsch brought in a load with 11 percent moisture and 61 pound test weight.


## Hospital remodeling to start soon

**By Karen Krien**  
 Darwin McClung with Rhoads Construction, Goodland, was present to talk about the plans for the hospital remodeling when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met Thursday evening.  
 The costs for the hospital remodeling including change orders will be \$2,175,250. Mr. McClung said he had talked to the architects and they were supposedly getting the change orders out immediately, but, as of meeting night, the orders had not arrived.

"As soon as the contract and change orders are signed, we will be able to get started within two to three weeks," Mr. McClung said.  
 They then turned to other change opinions which included whether or not to include surge protectors on each panel. It was Mr. McClung's opinion that surge protectors should remain in the plans. They also talked about the electrical system going into the hospital and that the location may not be as efficient if it were located in another area. Mr. McClung said he would look into the matter.  
 Rueben Schultz, board president, commented on the difference in the bids for windows, noting that Rhoads' bid was considerably less.

The clinic construction which is being finished up was discussed including some of the minor construction details. It was noted that Thissen Construction, the company doing the work, had been at the clinic that week and that the final payment is being held until everything is finished to the approval of the architect and the board.  
 The board was reminded that the clinic open house would be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday.

**Grants**  
 Administrator Les Lacy had been to a Community Block Development Grants meeting at the commissioners' June 16 meeting where he was told that there was a possibility that the planned ambulance entrance might be eligible for a grant. He also asked about a grant for the county health office which will soon be moved from the highway office to the basement of the clinic and found that getting the matching funds might be more difficult.  
 Earlier he and others asking about grants had been told that the figures taken from the government census would determine if the county and cities would be eligible for grants. The current census figures makes  
**See HOSPITAL on Page 10A**



**Cheyenne County fireworks display moved to Thresher Showgrounds in Bird City**

## Information needed for special issue

*The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times* will be publishing a "Freedom" special section and are looking for names and addresses of those who have served this country in any of the armed services. The staff has extended the deadline for submitting information to June 27.  
 "We are asking that people please call the offices at 785-332-3162 or 785-734-2659 with names," said Karen Krien, publisher. "If we do not have the names, they will be left

out of the special section and we do not want this to happen."  
 Businesses and individuals will have the opportunity to help sponsor this section. Those not receiving a call but would like to help should contact Claire at *The Herald* office.  
 "This is a special time when we have had a successful campaign in the Middle East and it is a time when all of our military personnel should be remembered and honored. We need your help," Mrs. Krien said.

## Eight girls vie for 2004 Junior Miss title

**By Karen Krien**  
 Eight young ladies will be performing at the Cheyenne County Junior Miss program at 7 p.m. on Saturday in the St. Francis Community High School auditorium. That afternoon at 2 p.m., there will be a parade down Main Street with introductions and an autograph session at the banks intersection.  
 Those participating in the program are Dana Raile, Hayley Young, Toni Rice, Andrea Carpenter, Cristi Antholz, Christina Zweygardt, Meredith Knodel and Hannah Sowers.  
 Throughout the week, the girls have been practicing their talent and physical fitness numbers. The interviews with the judges will be held on Saturday followed

by a luncheon in the girls' honor.  
 Each evening the girls go out for supper then come back for some relaxation time with the 2003 Junior Miss, Jenny Weems before practicing routines.  
 This year's theme is Jungle Fever. After the opening number and parade of contestants, Miss Weems will be introduced and will present a special number. The poise presentation finds contestants at their best as they answer the judge's "question." The talent number and fitness presentations follow.  
 Following the announcement of the 2004 Cheyenne County Junior Miss, there will be an afterglow in the cafeteria.  
 Check out the special Junior Miss page located elsewhere in this issue which is brought to readers by community sponsors



**PRACTICING PHYSICAL FITNESS** — It was hot and Junior Miss girls were still practicing routines Monday evening. Pictured: (l to r) Dana Raile, Hayley Young, Toni Rice, Andrea Carpenter, Christi Antholz, Christina Zweygardt, Meredith Knodel and Hannah Sowers.  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# LAW

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with more details and some figures but, as of yet, had not contacted the council.

### Council comments

Councilman Jensen said that he had been approached by members of the community concerning the progress of the cleanup of property located at First and College streets and the status of the criminal proceedings. He asked that Attorney Day update the council on where the matter stood.

Attorney Day explained that property cleanup and criminal proceedings were two different cases and the city of St. Francis is not involved with the criminal proceedings.

In regards to the cleanup of the property, he explained that the first part of February, the city had the first hearing before Judge Jack Burr, District Court Judge, and Judge Burr had made the finding that the condition that existed at that property did constitute a nuisance, he gave the owner, Erva Gene DeAragon 90 days to abate the nuisance. If the nuisance was not abated at the end of 90 days, he authorized the city to go in and cleanup the property at which time the costs would be assessed to the property's taxes.

Prior to the expiration of the 90 day there was a question raised by the owner as to whether she had 90 days to decide whether or not she was going to bring the property into compliance. Another hearing was held in

April where Judge Burr advised the city that there could not be anything done giving the owner until May 13 to visit and retain a lawyer. Previously, the owner had not been represented by a lawyer.

At the May 13 hearing, the owner appeared stating that she had submitted a building permit to the city and if the city would approve the permit she would be able to do the necessary repairs thus bringing the property into compliance. Attorney Day told the council that he had advised the city not to address the permit as it was his understanding that Judge Burr would be making the determination as to whether or not the property was in compliance.

The May 13 hearing concluded with Judge Burr allowing the owner until July 1 to allow the owner time to provide and present to the court detailed information as to how and in what time frame she would be able to bring the property in to compliance with the St. Francis City Codes. According to the court, the information to be supplied shall include detailed descriptions of the improvements and repairs to be completed, time frame for work to be performed along with cost bids and/or estimates from contractors or persons who are to perform the work.

At the July 1 hearing, the court will then made a determination as to whether or not to enforce the court's order of Feb. 11 or allow the owner to proceed with the repairs and renovations to the property.

### Property cleanup

Three resolutions were approved by the council to start proceedings toward property cleanup. The resolution authorizes and directs the city attorney, city superintendent and other city agents to proceed with the abatement of the nuisance conditions existing at the location.

Those properties include: Resolution 2003-3, lot 2 in block 1, occupied by Linfred Oster; Resolution 2003-4, lot 7, 8, 9 in block 32 owned by Norman and Mary Morrow; Resolution 2003-5 - tract of land in the southeast corner of lot 3 in block 41 owned by Norman and Mary Morrow.

The other two properties notified were Ed Zuege at 610 S. Francis and Marvin Miller and Bonnie Coates at 613 W. First.

### Recycling center

Councilman Jensen reported that the baler had arrived and one bale of cardboard had been baled. Rawlins County had asked to join the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization. This will give the organization more funds for the recycling program. Each county pays \$1 per capita.

### Swimming pool

Pool manager Maddie Knodel informed the council that there had been several times of someone sneaking into the pool area after hours. The lifeguards add chemicals to the pool in the evening which are stronger than during the day and can be harmful to people using the pool during the night. The council asked that Chief Ryan have extra patrols done at the pool.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for the following residents: Laverne Boll, erect fence; Albert Burr, replace sidewalk; Greg Cooper, run cement slab and erect fence; Stan Krien, remove and replace sidewalk; Chris Doyle, pour concrete.

### Other business

In other business:  
• Correction - The county landfill will no longer be taking grass clippings as of Oct. 1.

• Funds to be received from the Special Highway Funds are as follows: 2003 - \$42,150; 2004 - \$44,640.

• The council approved the budget update with \$50,000 to be set aside for a new swimming pool, understanding that future expenditure cannot be legally committed beyond 1 year. Also \$4,000 was budget in for the senior center.

• Council approved Ordinance 518 which details the recodification of the general ordinances of the city of St. Francis.

### Executive session

Chief of Police Ryan requested 5 minutes in executive session for personnel and 5 minutes for legal matters. Officer Jed Leibbrandt turned his resignation in.



LEX LANDEBERGER at Wheeler Equity started emptying the grain from Harvey Neitzel's truck Monday afternoon. Mr. Neitzel was just 5 minutes behind the first load of wheat to come into the Wheeler elevator.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# HOSPITAL

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the county ineligible for a grant. Recently, those with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, who are handling the grant writings, were informed that the surveys could be taken and the eligibility of county would be determined on those with low to moderate income levels.

Administrator Lacy said that he would be attending another Community Block Development Grants meeting in Stockton.

### Computer system

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, reported on the new computer system which will soon be used by the Cheyenne County Hospital as well as other hospitals operated by Great Plains Health Alliance.

At the present time, the hospital and others are with Hays Medical Center but Hays was going to another system which is a far bigger system (Meditech) than the county hospital or other small hospital would need and would cost each hospital around \$25,000 a year more.

The Siemens Company offered

the option for Great Plains Health Alliance to purchase the system and Great Plains would then develop a program with local support. The cost would be about half plus the cost of the staff to head up the program which is still lower than the cost put out by Hays.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Crystal Murray, St. Francis, has withdrawn from the nursing scholarship program.

• The administrator reported that those staying in the hospital had been less than budgeted. However, the hospital had been able to meet its cash needs.

• The board voted to purchase an Ikon copier for the hospital for a cost of \$6,377. Other bids were: \$7,009 and \$5,550. While the bid was not the lowest, it was what the staff knew would work and was a reputable copy machine.

• The board went into executive session to discuss personnel with no decision being made.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 17 in the clinic's basement meeting room in St. Francis.

## Occasion

### Birthday club meets

The birthday club met Thursday, June 19 at Park Hill for the June luncheon.

Members attending were Rosemary Powell, RoseMary Bierig, Reva Pownell, Arlene Walz, Lois Leydig, Deloris Knorr, DeEtta Knorr, Dolores Kincheloe, Darlene Merklin and Betty Jean Winston. Ken Knorr, Seth Mills and Lee Busby were guests.



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