



**POLES SET — Prairie Lane Electric crew recently set the poles to bring in electricity for the automated weather observation system at the Cheyenne County Airport.**

*Photo courtesy of Robert Grace*

## INSTALLED

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Cheyenne County Airport Authority, said the airport is very fortunate to have this system.

"The Kansas Department of Transportation worked with us to get this equipment," he said. "Without it, we would be just a 'back-pasture' airport."

"This opens the airport to air taxis and Flight for Life aircraft." The Airport Authority will soon be opening bids for the apron expansion. The apron is where aircraft park after landing and the apron at the airport is very small. The apron work will be done with a 95-5 matching Federal gov-

ernment grant. The county will pay only 5 percent of the costs for the apron addition.

An environmental study will need to be made in the near future as the runway will need to be widened and lengthened.

## NUMBERS

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where the old port of entry was once located.

He explained that when the bid of \$390,390 had come in at the start of the grant process, prices have gone up and it was necessary to cut some of the costs. He suggested that the building be downsized and the wash bay and storage area on the right side be cut.

The architect has 45 days to send out bid information and then contractors will have 30 days to return their bids. Councilman Weeks said the bids will be opened in August and accepted.

Construction should begin shortly after the bids are in. The "window" completion date has been set for March 15, 2008.

### Engineering services

Thaniel Monaco representing Miller and Associates of McCook presented the council a breakdown of expenses relating to the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The company originally bid the project at \$28,700.

The problems that had come about with the one cell's sludge and liner was an estimated \$6,200 extra. This leaves \$25,674 exceeding the original bid. The issue was tabled until the May 1 meeting in order to give the council members time to go over the figures.

### Firemen

The council agreed to match the county's pay increase for the volunteer firemen. Originally the firemen received \$10 per call, with the county paying for those calls outside city limits and the city paying for those within city limits. Both entities have increase this amount to \$20 per call.

### Other business

In other business:

- The council approved to schedule the next St. Francis City Council meeting from May 2 to May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the old city hall building.

- The council approved to advertise bids for the completion of the meeting room in the city hall building at 209 E. Washington. A meeting with those interested will be held at 8 a.m. on May 1.

- Roger Goltl of McCook is scheduled to put the finishing touches on the fountain this week along with spraying the bleachers in the band shell.

- The council approved the blocking of streets around the park on May 13 for the annual car show.

- The council approved the reappointment of Linda Rogers to the St. Francis Housing Authority Board.

- Attorney Mike Day noted that the Randy and Dorothy Smestad, on July 1, will start a 6-month lease-to purchase of the old city hall building.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for the following residents: Shawn Straub, pour concrete and erect fence; Brenda Nelson, erect dog pen; Delbert Henderson, wood deck.

### Executive session

Superintendent J.R. Landenberg requested 5 minutes in executive session to discuss personnel. The council approved Steve Nolan as nighttime dispatcher, and JD Hawkins and Luke Keller for summer help.



**PIONEER STORE, BIRD CITY IN 1905.** From the collection of Donald L. Beardette. Great-grandson of Daniel Berry and Dr. George Pegg.

# Early buildings of Bird City to be featured at historical society meeting on May 9

Cheyenne County history will come to life as a local history buff shares her work of identifying and preserving photographs from the early years of Bird City.

Lifelong Bird City resident Delores Dorsch, secretary of the Cheyenne County Historical Society, will share photographs and histories of early buildings in Bird City at a special gathering of the Historical Society starting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at the Heritage Corner Cafe. The public is welcome to attend the presentation.

"I've always been interested in these historic photographs of Bird City's early buildings and feel it's important to preserve them in a digital format," Mrs. Dorsch said.

The photos were borrowed from local residents Helen Howk, Wally Underwood, and Bill Boyson, as well as the Bird City Library, Century II Foundation and the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

There are many fascinating aspects to our town's history and this will be a fun evening for us to look back and remember Bird City's early years, Mrs. Dorsch said.

She has compiled approximately 50 photographs that will be presented in a "power point" format. Technical assistance is provided by Susan Jensen of Bird City.

Included in the presentation are photos of the 1887 Fourth of July celebration at the town's first windmill, The Pioneer Store — the town's first store, early churches and an aerial view showing the foundation of the Bird City Rural High School building.

There will be a buffet "Dutch treat" supper following the presentation at the Heritage Corner Cafe.

## MUSICAL

**Continued from Page 1A**  
Janae Glidewell, Sara Miller, Megan Rice, Heather Hnizdil, Lauren Zwegardt, Maddie Knopel, Angela Van Allen, Amanda Nipps, Andrea Blair, Janelle Zwegardt and Andrea Born, ladies-in-waiting; Sawyer White, kitchen wench.

Once Upon A Mattress is presented through special arrangement

with R & H Theatricals. Music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer.

Two performances will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 9, at the high school auditorium. (See advertisement for more information.)

# Nitrogen fertilizer tool to be used as part of energy strategy

Agriculture could save up to \$1.5 billion annually by improving nitrogen applications

State Conservationist Harold L. Klaege, for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas, reports that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released its latest tool to estimate energy use. The Energy Estimator for Nitrogen is a web-based awareness tool that farmers and ranchers can use to identify potential nitrogen cost savings associated with major crops and commercial nitrogen fertilizer applications.

"The Energy Estimator for nitrogen provides Kansas producers with another new tool to reduce their energy costs and protect the environment," said Mr. Klaege.

According to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, encouraging proper fertilizer management is part of department's comprehensive energy strategy to help farmers and ranchers mitigate the impact of high energy costs.

Nitrogen fertilizer is one of the largest indirect uses of energy on an agricultural operation. Fertilizer accounts for 29 percent of agriculture's energy use, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture research data. Proper management of nitrogen fertilizer, including the use of organic sources of nitrogen such as animal manure and cover crops, can save producers energy and money.

Using manure instead of petroleum-based fertilizers could reduce costs up to \$55 per acre, based on February 2006 prices, while adopting management intensive grazing practices can save up to \$6.50 per acre in energy costs and another \$38 in reduced harvest costs. In addition, converting from conventional tillage to no-till can save up to 3.5 gallons of fuel per acre with a current value of \$6.83 per acre. Nationwide, reducing application overlap on 250 million acres of cropland could save up to \$750 million in fertilizer and pesticide costs each year and doubling the use of manure-based nitrogen fertilizer to replace fertilizer produced from natural gas could save an additional \$750 million and 100 billion cubic feet of

natural gas annually.

The Energy Estimator for Nitrogen estimates savings in nitrogen fertilizer applications and use to help farmers and ranchers make practical and sound decisions regarding nitrogen fertilizer use on their farm or ranch. This is the second tool the Department of Agriculture has developed as part of its overall energy strategy to mitigate the impacts of high energy costs and develop long-term solutions for agricultural producers. Last December, the department released its first web-based tool - the "Energy Estimator for Tillage" - to help farmers and ranchers calculate diesel fuel use and costs associated with various tillage practices.

Producers using the Energy Estimator for Nitrogen can select up to four crops from a list of commonly harvested crops in their state. Next, they enter the acres of each crop, pounds or units per acre used for each selected form of nitrogen fertilizer, and the nitrogen fertilizer price. Finally, producers select the nitrogen fertilizer application practices - the timing and placement of the fertilizer application and whether or not they used materials that reduce potential nutrient losses to the environment.

The Department of Agriculture intends for farmers and ranchers to use the Energy Estimator for Nitrogen for guidance rather than as a sole source for decision-making on nitrogen fertilizer application. They recommend that farmers and ranchers take their nitrogen fertilizer estimates to their local Department of Agriculture Service Center, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) office, or their crop consultant. The Energy Estimator for Nitrogen identifies a producer's local USDA Service Center and provides links to Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service websites.

Additional information about U.S. Department of Agriculture's Energy Estimator for Nitrogen can be found at <http://nfat.sc.gov.usda.gov/>.

Additional information about the departments Energy Initiative can be found at "<http://www.usda.gov/energy>".

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