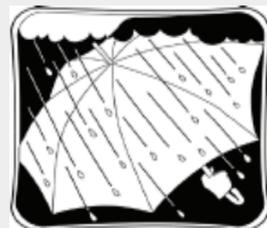


Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Not as warm. A slight chance of light showers in the morning...Then a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north around 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent. Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. North winds around 10 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday and Sunday night...Mostly clear. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

Monday and Monday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday through Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Lows in the mid 60s.

Wednesday's low, high: 69, 98. .09 precipitation.

Water Use Report
average daily use, June 20-22

• 3,159,000 gallons
3 Consecutive Days over 3.5 million will put us in a water watch

3 Consecutive Days over 4.0 million will put us in a water warning

3 Consecutive Days over 4.5 million will put us in a water emergency

Dairy spills its milk to the public

By Linda Schneider
dublinls@hotmail.com

The Bird City Dairy held its open house on June 18. Visitors young and old lined up to take the tour.

The Bird City Dairy is a fourth generation of dairy farmers. Operated and managed by Mike, Clay and Ken McCarty, the facility is an expansion of the McCarty Dairy in Rexford. They also employ 20 full-time employees.

The visitors were guided by the McCarty family through the various sections of the dairy, starting with the calves.

Judy McCarty, tour guide, spoke to her group about the process of raising a milk cow. Most of the cows on their dairy farms are Holsteins because their milk has the best drinking quality and lots of it. There are a few Brown Swiss with their doe-like appearance. They do not produce the quantity of milk like the Holsteins, but they produce milk with more protein, butter fat and have hardy calves.

The calves are separated immediately from their mother after birth and given a gallon of colostrum within eight hours. The males are sold to local people, but not before given the gallon of colostrum. By giving the calves colostrum, it increases their survival

rate and reduces the incidents of diseases.

Mrs. McCarty told the visitors the Rexford facility is building a heifer yard. After 12 weeks, the female calves will be transported, raised, bred and then brought back to the Bird City facility to begin their milking career.

When asked how long a cow can produce milk, Mrs. McCarty said, "On the average, 5 to 7 years. However, we do have a cow at the Rexford dairy that is 10 years old and still producing."

Since its building completion in August 2007, the dairy has added several new features. One of the newest structures is the hay barn. Located just west of the calf lodging, it provides a well-covered area for keeping better hay.

To keep the dairy cow feed at its optimum for the different phases the cow goes through, and to keep it cost effective, a computer is used to measure out the grains and minerals. Each month a nutritionist from New Mexico arrives at the facility to check and take samples of the feed.

Mrs. McCarty explained to the tour group that there are different stages of dairy cows at the facility: the calf, the milking cow and the dry cow. At each stage, the cow is fed according to her need. Keeping a cow milking for 305 days is



BIRD CITY TIMES/Linda Schneider

Judy McCarty, far right, took her group around to the different housing units for the dairy cows. The group also learned what lays ahead for the Bird City Dairy.

the goal of the facility and to do this she is "dry" for 60 days for breeding that is done artificially.

The facility has an area where cattle can be checked for illnesses and have their hoofs manicured. Mrs. McCarty said their next building project is to install misting throughout the facility to keep the cattle cool during the hot months.

At the milking station, the cows are prepped for milking by washing and disinfecting their udders. Mrs. McCarty explained that milking cows can be temperamental and are not forced to milk. She went on to say that being calm around the cows is important for good milk.

After the milk is taken from the cow, it is immediately cooled down

and stored ready for transportation to the next step of getting the milk to the stores and once a month a state inspector takes samples of the month to insure it quality.

At the end of the tour, the group was invited to sample different cheeses and, of course, taste the finish product in their choice of chocolate, strawberry and whole milk.

Complaint filed against Sheridan County Courthouse

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Free Press Reporter
jkackerman@gmail.com

Sheridan County Commissioner are having to get serious about installing an elevator in the courthouse in Hoxie.

M.J. Willoughby, general council for the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka, said a formal complaint logged against the county prompted her visit to Sheridan County on Monday. Willoughby was accompanied by Anthony Fadale, State Americans with Disability Act Coordinator.

"Programatically you are making efforts and making good faith efforts," Fadale said. "But we all know you've got to get a way to get to the second and third floors."

The three-story courthouse is not compliant with the Americans with Disability Act. Sheridan County Attorney Mike Haas, also present at the meeting, said he has been county attorney for 36 years and county commissioners have struggled with the issue of accessibility for "all 36 years."

As far back as June 1999, boards of commissioners have talked about installing an elevator in the courthouse in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. That Act went into effect on Jan. 26, 1992, with structural changes to allow accessibility to have been done by Jan. 26, 1995.

Fadale, forced to use hand-held walkers due to physical disabilities, told Commissioners Doyle Kauk, Ron Schamberger and Keith Kennedy they need to "get the issue of vertical access solved."

Fadale, also an attorney, said while he navigated the marble stairs from the ground floor to the third floor courtroom, he asked Magistrate John Cahoj to walk ahead of him to assure his safety.

Kauk said for the past year the commissioners have researched

installing an electric chair lift which would cost about \$50,000.

"You need to try and work for an elevator first and go down from there," Fadale said. "From a practical standpoint, a lift is being strongly discouraged. You are going to get a doable (situation), but you have to maintain it and it's expensive to maintain."

Kennedy argued that either option, an elevator or chair lift was "expensive to maintain."

Fadale recommended the commissioners contact the Kansas State Historical Society to determine whether the courthouse, built in 1917, meets requirements to be listed on the state's historical registry. He said if it did, money might be available to put towards the cost of installing an elevator.

Besides the complaint currently on the table, the topic of installing an elevator surfaced in October 2005 when a Colorado man fell down 10-feet of the stairs.

John Bergmann, 77, of Aurora, sustained injuries to his right shoulder and ribs as a result of the fall. Bergmann, who was researching oil and gas leases in the register of deeds office, having had both hips replaced and was considered legally disabled and was required to descend stairs by going down them backward.

Although handrails are installed part of the way up the stairway, they are offset, making them difficult to reach. Bergmann did not sue the county at the time of his fall.

Someone else required to navigate the stairways backward is Chief Court Clerk Vergie Wente of Hoxie. Wente has had multiple surgeries on her hips and feet, making walking the stairs to the third floor difficult. She said she was pleased Willoughby and Fadale came to Hoxie to apprise the situation at the courthouse.

"I'd like to see them put in safe access to the courthouse for the public," Wente said. "It's only the

right thing to do."

Sheridan County Treasurer Esther Bainter in January was injured in a fall on the marble stairs.

"I was carrying two or three things and fell down 10 of the 20 south stairs," Bainter said. "I don't know what happened, but I hit my lower back on the stairs behind me and fractured a vertebrae."

Bainter had a medical procedure done in Salina to repair the vertebrae.

"I had a lot of pain," she said.

Bainter asked numerous taxpayers have asked her about plans for an elevator that were drawn up in 1999, but since nothing was done she does not know what to tell

them.

"(The commissioners should at least ask the taxpayers what they want done," she said.

Besides looking at an elevator or chair lift, Kauk said the commissioners were considering moving the third floor functions of the court to another location in Hoxie.

Fadale said that still does not address the issue of getting people to the second floor of the courthouse to the offices of county clerk, appraiser, register of deeds and treasurer. He told the commissioners they needed to select the best solution to make sure they are using tax dollars to the best they can to

"move down the trail."

"We want to move down the trail," Kauk said.

Willoughby said she and Fadale understand the commissioners want to make the courthouse accessible, but they need to keep moving forward to make it happen.

"It's just to determine what you do," she said. "We'll look at the regulations, but we need to find the right solution instead of throwing good money after bad."

Lawmakers oppose using Leavenworth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas lawmakers sought Wednesday to discourage any talk of moving detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., calling the idea dangerous and unacceptable.

Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts — both Republicans — told colleagues in a letter that the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth lacks the space and security to handle the detainees.

"We would be placing Americans in harm's way," Roberts said. "It would be a logistical nightmare, costing the taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars to make Fort Leavenworth even partially compliant with standards at Guantanamo."

Speculation that government officials plan to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center has grown since the Supreme Court ruled this month that detainees there could challenge their detention in federal court.

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VOTE WYRICK
District Judge, Div. 2

I will be visiting COLBY on Friday, June 27th @ 9 a.m. at the Thomas County Courthouse Commissioner's room and REXFORD on Friday, June 27th @ 5 p.m.

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