



KANSAS DAY brought a large attendance to the Bird City area last Wednesday. Throughout the day many guests enjoyed viewing the numerous displays. Diana Weinstein seemed to be fascinated with the quilt work. Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

## 74th annual Kansas Day attracts many people from around the area

By Marsha Magley  
"Beauty Is Where You Look For It" was the theme of the 74th annual Kansas Day on Jan. 29. Doors of the Bird City American Legion Hall opened at 9 a.m. for set-up of individual displays and the registration table opened at 10 a.m.

On arrival, participants were welcomed by the Kansas Day greeters, Melvin and Louise Schleppe and Dean and Theresa Knapp, who directed all to the Registration Committee, Marsha Magley, Vada Leach and Rosemary Powell, where each received a name tag, a felt sunflower decoration, made by Manette Keeler and various handouts.

The Swingin' Seniors provided light-hearted instrumental music during the potluck hour, which commenced at 11:30 a.m. with table grace and the invocation by Ken Beougher.

At 12:30 p.m., Connie Miller, president, called the afternoon session to order, extending a welcome to all. Presentation of the American and Kansas flags was performed by Bird City American Legion, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Chad Miller sang *The National Anthem*.

First to appear on the Kansas Day program were Natalie Knodel, Twila Kramer and Tema Trumbo, who sang some beautiful vocal selections.

The fourth grade students of Cheylin School, under directorship of Marjean Zumbahlen and Janice Churchwell, thrilled the audience with three extremely beautiful patriotic vocal numbers, followed by presentation of word charts.

Business of the day was election of persons to serve on the Kansas Day Committee in 2004. Those elected were: J.D. Eggers, president; Yvonne Eggers, vice president; Marsha Magley, secretary; and Manette Keeler, treasurer.

Michael Sager and Matt Wilson,

did a stand-up routine, "Who's On First?" made famous by legendary comedians Abbott and Costello many years ago. Andy Smith recited, "Casey at the Bat" and John Simmonds also entertained.

St. Francis third grade students sang and square danced to the delight of all in attendance.

Speech Class students of Colleen Gardner, St. Francis Community High School, delivered the following selected short biographies: Chelsey Weeden as Vinnie Weeden; Brandi Barnhart as Irene (Moore) Barnhart; Gabe Gienger as Richard P. Vandike and Andrew Feikert as Jake Feikert.

Special memories of Cheyenne County past were shared by Tobe Zwegardt, Norman Dorsch, Robert Brubaker. J.D. Eggers, masters of ceremonies for this part of the program, read a letter of special memories written by Wayne Deeds who was unable to be present.

By courtesy of Betty Hill, Connie Miller recited "Kansas - My State" by the recently deceased Leland Neal Hill; and all appreciated reading some of his other works in the printed Kansas Day program.

Marsha Magley, display/recognition chairman, reported the following displays, each of which received a display certificate:

- St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City, celebrating 91 years on Jan. 8, 2001;
- Cheyenne County Historical Society, books and historical items;
- J.D. and Yvonne Eggers, Bird City Jubilee photos from 1935,
- Rose Ostdiek and Walter Eggers antique cookbooks,
- Angela Eggers' dolls made by Lynn Busse and Amy Eggers;
- Helene Landenberger, a Wild Rose Quilt made by her mother, Vera Magley and original paints by herself, including one of Ruben Landenberger's horse "Old Bill";
- Kanred Unit, certificates of education and recognition for various



THIS COUNTRY CHURCH was another display enjoyed by the guests attending Kansas Day. Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

activities, which took first place in the state of Kansas and was displayed in Hawaii at National Conference;

• Home Circle Club, 80-years-old in 2003, a quilt made by Carol Peters, Circle president, containing the embroidered signatures of all club members of the past, and other items displaying beauty in friendships, fashions, youth and years.

• Tri-State Antique Auto Club, 40 years old in 2003, by Carol Brubaker, a 30th anniversary plaque and old car replica;

• Russell Childers, old newspapers, pertaining to Charles Lindbergh in Bird City and the Republican River Flood of 1935; and a photo of the USS Intrepid with a 50-year certificate he received as a former crew member 50 years ago. The USS Intrepid is now a museum in the New York harbor.

• Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Association, 50-years old in 2003, a display of antique barbed wire and antique wrenches;

• Fred Magley, 1930s farm collectibles, including a gas calculator, a gas can and several Farm Collec-

tor magazines.

The day's special recognitions were acknowledged: Ethel Dunn, born Oct. 23, 1907, Smith County, Eldest Lady Present Who Was Born in Kansas, and also the Eldest Woman Present; Tobe Zwegardt, born March 17, 1916, Cheyenne County, Eldest Man Born in Kansas, and also Eldest Man Born in Cheyenne County; Eva Murray, born Feb. 6, 1909, Eldest Woman Born in Cheyenne County; Edwin Meyer, born Jan. 15, 1912, Smyrna, Neb., Eldest Man.

Orsen Fenske-Koons traveled the farthest to attend the Kansas Day. She lives at Woodland Park, Colo., and was visiting her Busse relatives in Bird City.

Pastor Richard Garcia, First Christian Church, St. Francis, led in a Memorial Tribute in honor of all county residents known to have become deceased since Kansas Day 2002.

Following announcements, Chad Miller sang "The Lord's Prayer", the Colors were retired and Kansas Day adjourned.

## Consolidated enforcement stalled for now

By Karen Krien

At the Jan. 30 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, county attorney Kevin Berens reported on several different matters including presenting the commissioners with an updated employee handbook and research he had done on consolidated county law enforcement.

At the present time, a board for consolidated law enforcement would require five members including county attorney, chair person, mayor of the largest city in the county and two elected members. This law does not guarantee representation from Bird City as it is the smaller community in the county.

Attorney Berens said he will contact the Kansas Attorney General regarding Consolidated Law Enforcement Boards and home rule, which would allow the county commissioners to change the law to add the mayor of Bird City and another representative. (It would need to be a seven member board.) He also noted that it will probably be some time before any kind of answer is received. Until more is known, the matter has been tabled.

Sheriff department

The undersheriff had turned in 34 hours overtime and the employee handbook states that overtime will not be paid unless it is considered an emergency or if the department head approves the overtime, it can be paid. Since there is generally a lack of budget in the sheriff's department at the end of the year, there was concern among the commissioners. Commissioner Tim Ralle said that he would talk to Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring and challenge the overtime.... "was the overtime earned in an emergency situation?" and ask him to keep a log of hours worked which will be submitted with the hours. The commissioners said they want to see all overtime claims in any of the departments and they will make the final decision..

Budget policy

Attorney Berens presented a county budget policy. The policy prohibits each department in which funding comes from the General Budget from overspending on a line item. A department cannot overspend a line item unless permission is received. See Law on Page 6

## Prairie dogs — an extinct animal?

At the Jan. 30 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, Dan Schlittenhardt, county noxious weed department supervisor, reported on new legislation concerning prairie dog erradication which is being considered this session. The hearing was held Jan. 29 but, as of Tuesday, no further information was known.

House Bill 2027 which deals with the management of prairie dogs has a number of proposed changes but for the most part, it appeared to have only minor changes including allowing the county commissioners to authorize the purchase of materials and hire a person to control the prairie dogs. However, in the next section of the bill it states, "Prairie dogs are a species of management concern requiring both control and protection."

Prairie dogs are close to being classified as an "endangered species." But they are a pest to farmers in northwest Kansas who are finding them taking over the pastures and eating the sparse grass which has managed to grow despite the drought leaving the land bare and subject to erosion. Neighboring landowners don't want them on their land either but, according to Supervisor Schlittenhardt, prairie dogs are looking for better pastures and branching out, even moving into stubble fields.

Senator Stan Clark in a statement made Monday said, "Why in the world would all the major statewide farming, livestock and county government organizations want to manage prairie dogs instead of eradicate them?"

He said that he didn't understand why would they testify in support of a document whose goal is to have within 10 years, 20,000 more acres of prairie dogs in western Kansas.

"Why in a time of great national concern about bio-terrorism would we seek to protect a rodent that is a carrier of fleas that can and has carried bubonic plague?" he asked.

The legislation would allow those people wanting to keep prairie dogs to do so as long as they are contained on their land. There is also talk of establishing certain areas for prairie dogs to satisfy environmental groups who are concerned about eradicating them to where they will no longer be around.

"Why do we believe pressure groups (environmental groups) and government officials when they say 'trust us' when the record shows countless examples that they are not trustworthy? Why would anyone in their right mind want the government calculate into the equation its view of "aesthetics" in creating a management plan for the land and habitat the prairie dogs are going to live on? Don't people know that they are just trying to turn our pastures into parks!"

Prairie dogs moving into neighboring pastures are not wanted. Neighbors who find the unwanted prairie dogs turning up in their pastures can complain and the landowner with the prairie dogs will be contacted and urged to get rid of them.

With the proposed law, if the prairie dogs move into the See Prairie Dogs on page 6

## Village to build four-plex on campus

Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, received final approval for the construction of a new four-plex on the Village campus.

"This project has been on the books for several years," said Administrator Rainbolt. "We are excited about the opportunity it brings to the Village to continue to provide independent living apartments for our area residents."

These apartments will be single bedroom, bath/shower, kitchenette with dishwasher, range and microwave oven. The apartment will also have a washer and dryer and independent heating and air conditioning. The facility will be built directly

east of the present activity room in the area of the fenced yard. Off-street parking will be provided on the south entrance to the apartments with two car spaces for each apartment.

"As our area residents age, we feel there is a continuing need for independent living as testified by the eight to 10 requests that are on the waiting list," Administrator Rainbolt said.

Penn Building Services will be the general contractor on this project with most of the materials coming from local businesses.

## Years Ago

20 years ago - 1983  
Kansas Day was celebrated in Bird City with more than 400 people attending. Alice Stebbins was the Kansas Day Queen and the highlight of the morning was a visit from Senator Bob Dole. The theme of the day was "Musical Jubilee of '83." Mary Dorsch was the president of Kansas Day 1983.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Antholz were among the winners of the Kansas Bankers Conservation Awards which were presented Jan. 27 in Bird City. The Antholz family also received the Wildlife Habitat award. Debbie James was recognized for receiving honorable mention from the state judging on her limerick from last year. On Thursday, Feb. 3, a

Burlington Northern freight train with 23 cars got stuck in a snow-filled cut just east of Bird City. It was there until Sunday afternoon. Loyd Walz, in the county's front end loader, dug through snow on Friday to reach the train and start digging.

Cheylin individuals recognized at the Northwest District FFA Awards meeting held at Russell include Brent Wilkens, runner-up for the Start District Greenhand award, and Abe Fisher for placing second in the District Beef Proficiency Award. Abe is now eligible to advance to state. Walt Eggers of Bird City received one of the Dane G. Hansen vocational education scholarship winners.

## Property purchased for ethanol plant

The board of managers of Western Plains Energy, L.L.C. of Quinter recently announced that it is exercising its option on the property where they intend to construct a 30-million gallon ethanol plant. The plant site is located in Campus, which is 5 miles east of Oakley.

The Western Plains Energy Board is also pleased to announce that it has received subscriptions for over \$10 million in its initial public offering. A second round of investor meetings was recently completed in several locations in Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota.

residents," said Jeff Torluemke, chief executive officer of Western Plains Energy. The \$41.1 million project requires a minimum of \$15.7 million in equity financing.

At a recent board meeting, the Western Plains Energy Board extended the offering period of its initial public offering drive until March 1.

"We expect that we will reach the offering's minimum of \$15.7 million in the next few weeks, close the offering, and, if these occur, anticipate beginning plant construction as early as April of this year," Torluemke said.

Western Plains Energy board members continue to hold meetings. See Property on page 6

# Update on Cougar boys basketball

The Cheylin boys basketball team had a very busy week as they competed with Atwood on Tuesday, Brewster on Friday and Sharon Springs Saturday.

The team is in the last month of regular season action with the end-of-the-season tournament coming up the first of March.

On the calendar for Friday and Saturday are games with Triplains at home and St. Francis on the road.

With Atwood, Cheylin slowly fell behind the Buffs. Atwood led 12-6 after the first quarter, 25-20 at half time, and 38-33 after three. It was during the final quarter that the Buffs turned in a strong defensive effort to stymie Cheylin and hold them to four points. The final score was Atwood 47, Cheylin 32.

"This is probably the best we played all year," Coach Dick Martogio said. "Turnovers and free throws still are hurting our effort."

Matt Wilson led the scoring for the Cougars with 12 points with John Simmonds also in double figures with 10.

C	06	14	08	04	32
A	12	13	08	14	47

Scoring: Wilson 12, Simmonds 10, Tyler Knapp 6, Michael Sager 3, Josh

Moyer 1

## Brewster 59, Cheylin 44

Cheylin had a stronger start than the Bulldogs in this game but Brewster came on strong in the third period to overtake the Cougars and roll to the 50-44 win. Brewster outscored Cheylin 23 to 8 in the third frame.

Leading the scoring for Cheylin was Moyer with 12 points, followed by Wilson and Simmonds with 10 points each.

"First time we've led at the half this year," Coach Martogio said. "In the third quarter they got hot and we went cold. That was the difference in the game."

C	13	11	08	12	44
B	10	09	23	17	59

Scoring: Moyer 12, Wilson 11, Simmonds 11, Sager 4, Knapp 4, Andrew Marshall 2.

## Sharon Springs 54, Cheylin 45

"This was a good team effort," Coach Martogio said. "We're still winless but the team continues to play hard."

Wilson and Simmonds again led the scoring, this time with Wilson having 14 points and Simmonds 11.

Sharon Springs took off in the first quarter and ended the period with a five point lead. At this time the Cou-



**MATT WILSON led the scoring for the Cougars in the Atwood game.**

Times staff photo Peggy Horinek

gars had a very good 18 points in the second quarter to come within two at halftime. The second half saw the Cougars keep within a short distance but gradually fall behind, giving Sharon Springs a 54-45 victory.

C	05	18	11	11	45
A	10	15	15	14	54

Scoring: Wilson 14, Simmonds 11, Knapp 7, Moyer 7, Sager 3, David Banister 3.

# Wool and mohair deadline extended to March 31

Wool and mohair producers are now eligible to apply for non-re-course marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) from the Farm Service Agency, but they must apply by March 31 for their 2002-year crop.

"The 2002 Farm Bill puts wool and mohair producers on par with grain and oilseed producers in that they now have the option of applying for marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments," said Angie Berens, executive director of the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency.

Producers have until March 31 to apply for a nine-month marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payments on wool or mohair sheared in 2002.

Producers placing their wool and mohair under loan with the Farm

Service Agency receive an established loan rate. National per pound loan rates are set at \$1 for graded wool, 40 cents for ungraded wool and \$4.20 for mohair.

Mrs. Berens said producers can forego putting their wool and mohair under loan and receive a loan deficiency payment instead.

In order to qualify for loans or loan deficiency payments, producers must meet program eligibility requirements. Producers must have owned the sheep or goats for at least 30 days before shearing, and they must retain beneficial interest from the time of shearing through either repayment of the loan or, in the case of a loan deficiency payments, the date the payment is requested.

A special exception to the beneficial interest rule is in effect for the 2002-year crop. Eligible producers who lost beneficial interest before

Oct. 11, 2002, are eligible to request an loan deficiency payment based on the date beneficial interest was lost. Requests for this special exception must be submitted no later than March 31.

The wool or mohair must be produced and shorn from live animals of domestic origin in the United States and be of merchantable quality.

Graded wool will be converted from a greasy basis to a clean basis to determine the quantity eligible for loan or loan deficiency payment. The net quantity of wool will be converted using the Schlumberger Estimated Commercial Top and Noil Yield obtained from the core test.

Producers can contact the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office in St. Francis for more information.

# Law

**Continued from Page 1**  
is granted from the commissioners. The commissioners also stated when a department's budget gets critically low before the end of the year, they will be reviewing all spending. Attorney Berens had said earlier that if a department is over budget, the commissioners can refuse to approve a voucher if they deem it unnecessary.

## Road and bridge department

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, presented his monthly budget reports and road work plans for the coming year. He reported that he had purchased a snow plow for \$8,000 and was still looking at scrapers.

The supervisor had been approached by the Good Samaritan Village Administrator concerning the use of the county's tractor to clear the road after a snow storm such as the one which occurred in January.

The tractor which would be used belongs to the county but is used by the Graces who run the county airport. There was discussion about liability and, in the end, the commissioners decided to allow the Graces to clear the road with the tractor, which would also open the road to the airport. This is especially important in case there is a need for the ambulance crew to meet the medical plane.

## Noxious weed department

The commissioners signed the annual Noxious Weed Eradication De-

partment report and talked about new prairie dog legislation.

Supervisor Dan Schlittenhardt asked to attend several meetings and was granted permission.

Commissioner Raile reported that he had heard complaints of gophers eating wiring at the fairgrounds and asked the supervisor to treat the gophers as well as spraying for "goat head" weeds.

The commissioners also discussed trying to get rid of joint grass which is growing in the ditches and on the county's right-of-ways. Commissioner Raile felt that if joint grass is treated aggressively, it would encourage grass to grow. Commissioner Ron Krien thought that with the drought conditions, without joint grass, there would be more erosion.

Supervisor Schlittenhardt was asked to see what kind of weed killer would work the best on joint grass. Also find out how much it cost and when it was best to apply it.

## In other business

In other business:

- The commissioners approved signing the secretary of state signature sheet; paying the Western Plains Resource, Conservation and Development dues of \$250; signed a contract with ThyssenKrupp Elevator for the elevator inspection; okayed Mary Morrow to attend a register of deeds meeting, Terry Miller, clerk, to attend a Health Information Portability and

Accountability Act class and Dolores Jenik to attend a treasurer's school.

• Richard Stephens of S & S Services, had contacted the county about abating his company's 2000 taxes. The county attorney recommended against this action and the county appraiser will be asked to attend the next meeting so more information can be gained.

• Attorney Berens recommended that the commissioners not sign the agreement with Greater Western Kansas Regional Juvenile Center in WaKeeney. Instead, they should contract with Finney County for services. The county clerk will get the contract for the next meeting.

• J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis City Superintendent, asked if the city could use 911 funds for city street signs. The cost for the signs would be around \$4,207.60 and the city crew would probably make the signs and use the county sign maker. There was sufficient money in the 911 Fund and, if the county attorney approved that it was legal to spend the funds this way, the commissioners agreed.

# Water meeting scheduled

The 28th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District will be conducted Feb. 19 in Colby at the City Limits Convention Center. Traditional business to be conducted includes:

- election of four board positions - Rawlins/Decatur, Sherman/Wallace, Thomas and Sheridan counties;
- approval of the 2002 audit;
- approval of a proposed 2004 operating budget; and
- approval of the 27th annual meeting minutes.

Also on the agenda is an open discussion session for any issues the public wants to discuss.

The district will again be providing an expanded annual meeting packet containing updated water level measurement data, well information and other material about the district and its operations.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the Groundwater Management District 4 office at 1175 S. Range, Colby, telephone 9785) 462-3915.

# Property

**Continued from Page 1**  
and contact interested investors. The board continues to accept subscriptions at its office in Quinter.

It is anticipated that the planned ethanol plant will utilize approximately 10.7 million bushels of corn or milo annually, produce approximately 30 million gallons of ethanol annually, and produce over 96,000 tons of distiller's grains for use as a premium cattle feed in western Kansas feedlots. Western Plains Energy has engaged ICM, Inc. of Colwich, to build the plant and anticipates that construction will take approximately 13-15 months after the offering is complete.

Investments will only be accepted in accordance with the terms of a written prospectus that is distributed at the meetings or requested from Western Plains Energy's office. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. All investments involve risk.

To request a prospectus or for more information, contact the office in Quinter at (785) 754-2119.

For more information, contact: Mr. Torluemke at 785-754-2119

# Prairie Dogs

**Continued from Page 1**

neighbor's pasture, he can go to the county commissioners who will provide a written notice to the landowner with the prairie dog population to provide management. If control measures are deemed necessary, the county will prepare a plan and consult with the secretary of Wildlife and Parks or the county will undertake the prairie dog management and control measures on the landowner's property and the landowner will reimburse the county for the costs.

As of Tuesday, the House Bill was still being debated.

**Conservation Tab**  
This tab features  
53 years of  
Conservation Programs  
in Cheyenne County.  
Set to run next week!

**Salute to The Boy Scouts of America**

**Coming Soon ...**  
A complete page filled with the area Tigers, Bears, Wolf's, Webelos and Boy Scout of the area.

**What's Happening in February!**

**Monthly Events**

- American Heart Month  
www.americanheart.org
- Bake For Family Month  
www.homebaking.org
- National Birdfeeding Month  
www.birdfeeding.org
- National Caffeine Addiction Awareness Month  
www.soycoffee.com
- National Cherry Month  
www.cherrymkt.com
- National Children's Dental Health Month  
www.ada.org
- National Weddings Month  
www.BridalAssn.com

**Weekly Events:**

- Women's Heart Week (2-8)  
www.womensheartfoundation.org
- Children's Authors & Illustrators Week (2-8)  
www.childrensauthorsnetwork.com
- National School Counseling Week (3-7)  
www.schoolcounselor.org
- National City Home and Garden Show (8-16)  
www.expoinc.com
- Heart Failure Awareness Week (9-15)  
info@hfsa.org
- National Child Passenger Awareness Week (10-16)  
www.farmshow.org
- World Ag Expo (11-13)  
www.farmshow.org
- National FFA Week (16-23)  
www.ffa.org

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