

Site is moved

The location of the Fourth of July fireworks display has been moved from the football field to the Thresher Show Grounds. Refreshments and a fellowship time will begin at 9 p.m. and the fireworks are scheduled for 10 p.m. Spectators should bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on since seating is limited at this location. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help direct the crowd should contact Dan Bowers at 734-2614.

Weather observer is honored

Editor's note: The following article was taken from the June 16 edition of "Fence Post" magazine and featured in Milo Yield's column.

I have another weather report (of sorts) to make. It's actually a story about a weather reporter. On my trip, when I stopped to overnight at Bird City, Kan., I learned that my old friend Tommy Sawyer has retired from his duties as the unofficial local weather reporter. For a couple of decades or more, ol' Tommy has labored diligently to report the day's weather forecast and the daily high and low temperatures, moisture, humidity, and other pertinent weather-related information.

Without fail, that weather report was posted early in the morning on a chalk board at the Blue Bird Cafe in downtown Bird City so the local farmers and townspeople could discuss the weather as they are breakfast and then plan their day accordingly.

I ran Tommy down at his home and he jokingly said that he'd been fired because the last two years he couldn't get it to rain. And he said that ever since he relinquished his weather reporting duties a couple months ago, the Bird City area has been blessed with abundant rainfall.

Tommy, rather than you getting fired for poor weather reporting, I think the rain is just God's way of thanking you for a thankless job done well and faithfully.



RICHARD "DICK" UPCHURCH handles the heat on a busy Saturday night at Big Ed's Steakhouse. It is not unusual for several hundred steaks to be prepared in a night. Times staff photos by Casey McCormick

Local business earns award for development, consistency

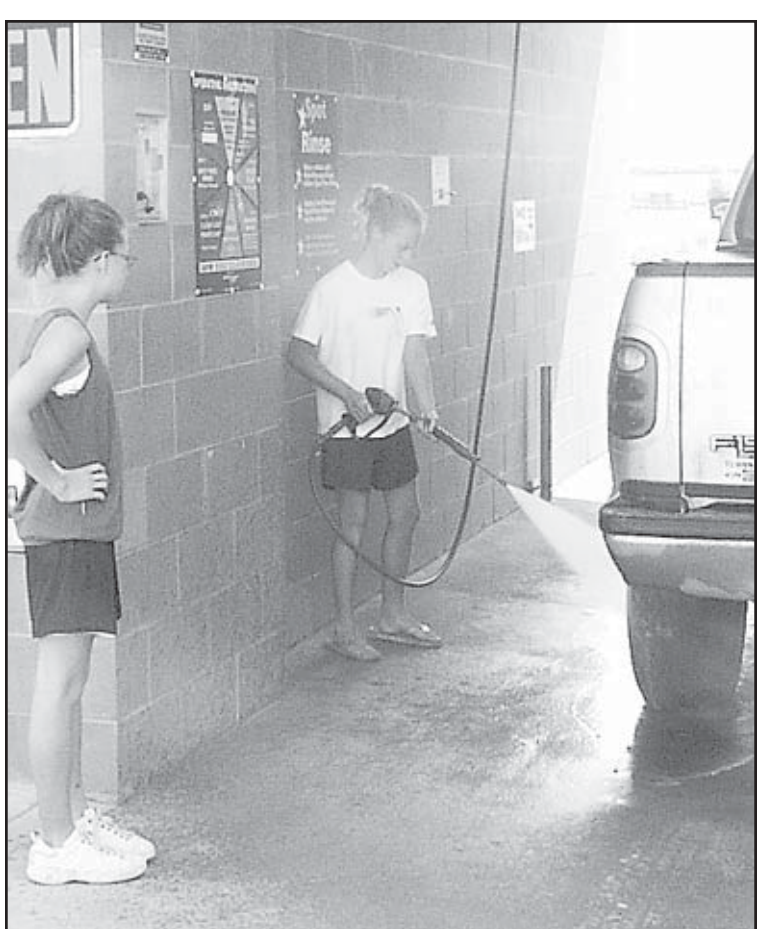
By Casey McCormick

Most everyone in northwest Kansas knows where to go for one of the best steaks in the region. And now, Big Ed's Steakhouse and owner-operator Richard Upchurch, are also being recognized for business development.

The Kansas Business Appreciation Month organization met in Oberlin on June 16 to award regional businesses. The two area establishments given awards were Big Ed's and Saintry Super Foods of St. Francis. Big Ed's was nominated by the Cheyenne County Development Corporation.

Big Ed's, which employs about 25 workers, has long been known for excellent food and a lively environment but owner Richard Upchurch has continued to expand by building a car-truck wash along U.S. 36 and changing the Right Motel into individual storage units. This was done at an expense of \$400,000.

Karla Whitmore, manager of Big Ed's, attended the ceremony to accept the Merit Award on behalf of Mr. Upchurch. (It was) "a greathonor and I was happy to represent him for all he's done for Bird City. I'm glad he was recognized," said Mrs. Whitmore.



LEXI WEISHAPL AND Kori Underwood offer a full service car wash for anyone interested on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 2:00.

Hospital remodeling project could start as early as July

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 every-

thing 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 the county ineligible for a grant. Recently, those with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, who are handling the grant writings, were informed that 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

First wheat load comes in to Bird City

By Casey McCormick

They do not seem to work "banker's hours" so it should come as no surprise that Kermit and Cludette Bear had the first load of wheat brought into an elevator in Cheyenne County.

"We actually harvested it on Saturday," said Mr. Bear, but the seed truck could not deliver the load to the McDougal Sager Grain Company in Bird City until Monday.

The Jagger wheat was weighed in at 8:16 a.m. The plot is small, only 35 acres, and is located on the Bear's K.C. Ranch which is north of Bird City along the Republican River. Moisture was recored at 14.2 percent and the test weight was 59.

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



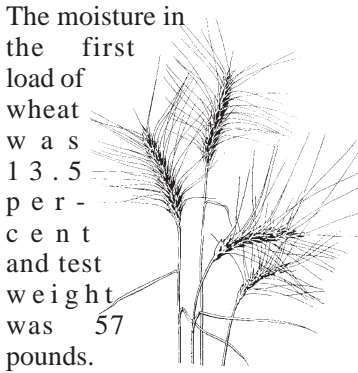
Bear

and 62. Beadsley 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.

In the first load of wheat in the western part of the county was brought in by Rodney Bracelin and his grandson Cade to the Wheeler Equity elevator on Monday afternoon. Harvey Neitzel followed him five minutes later.

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.



Servicemen info still needed for papers

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.



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.

Girls vie for 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 numbers follow and finally, the fitness presentation.

Following the announcement of the new Junior Miss, there will be an afterglow in the cafeteria.

Check out the special Junior Miss page located elsewhere in this issue.