



**THE PHILLING STATION** will once again be servicing customers vehicles. The station will not only be offering fuel — batteries, tires and accessories will also be offered. Mike Boswell, left, has supported Troy James in reopening the station.  
*Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

# Station reopens doors after setting idle for 1 1/2 years

**By Casey McCormick**  
Troy James has reopened the doors of his full-service gas station in Bird City. It is exciting to see any new business sprout up in this area. But the story of the Philling Station is a bit more than that of just a business.

The Philling Station closed after a tragic automobile wreck in September of 2001. The vehicle Mr. James, and his friend Dustin Wright, were traveling in collided with another vehicle driven by a lone individual. Mr. Wright and the other driver were killed and Mr. James was seriously injured.

It has been a long and painful journey for Mr. James since that accident but the goal of reopening his gas station has brought him to this point. As he walked through the office and service bays he said, "This is what physical therapy is all about," referring to how much better he feels being back at work. "It sure is a lot better than sitting at home watching T.V."

And, even though, Mr. Wright is not here with his friend, his memory remains. His mother, Velda Wright, devoted time and energy to help clean and prepare the station for operation.

The Philling Station is located on the service road south of U.S. 36, west of Bird Avenue. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. until noon. Besides giving locals another place to gas up, the station offers other services.

"We're a T.B.A. outfit," said Troy, meaning he provides tires, batteries and accessories.

Mike Boswell is working with Troy and they are ready to take care of Bird City drivers and their vehicles.

# \$7.4 million benefits 581 associations

Cheyenne County fire departments will receive a total of \$9,859.69 through the Firefighters Relief Fund this year.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger announced that more than \$7.4 million dollars is being distributed to the Firefighters Relief Fund this year, representing an increase of more than a million dollars over last year's allotment.

"This fund is crucial to assist firefighters and their families when an accident happens in the line of duty," Commissioner Praeger said. "Kansas firefighters put their lives on the line every time they respond to an emergency. I am proud to administer this important benefit."

The Bird City Fire Department will receive \$3,007.55; St. Francis Fire Department will receive \$4,782.32 and the Cheyenne County Rural Fire Department will receive \$2,069.82.

tional component that helps provide important training programs which in turn translates into better service to every Kansan," Commissioner Praeger said. This year more than \$225,000 has been allotted to the Kansas State Firefighters' Association and is earmarked specifically for educational purposes and research on fire prevention and extinguishments.

Last year, one Kansas firefighter was killed in the line of duty, while 144 firefighters were injured as a result of a fire and 84 firefighters were injured in other job-related accidents. A total of 151,000 fire alarms were sounded in Kansas in 2002.

"I am proud to play a small role in providing these well-deserved benefits to Firefighters Relief Associations throughout the state," the commissioner said. "This fund represents financial security to the thousands of active and retired Kansas firefighters and their families. I want to commend the efforts of the 581 firefighters associations in Kansas and thank them for their continued dedication to public safety."

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# Obituary

## John Rollen Williamson 1943 - 2003

Col. John Rollen Williamson of Evans, Georgia died on Friday, June 27 while on vacation in the Yukon Territory, Canada. Family members include his wife, Dr. Nancy (Burk) Williamson of Evans, Ga., son John "Rusty" Williamson of Atlanta, Ga., daughter Jennifer Peay of Atlanta, Ga., and daughter Jessica Williamson of Athens, Ga.

Funeral services were held on July 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 720 Telfair St. in Augusta, Ga. The family received friends with a Rosary at 5:00 PM and visitation until 7:00 p.m., Friday, July 4 at the Poteet Funeral Home, 214 Davis Road, Augusta, Ga. Internment will be in the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., on August 6 at 3:00 p.m.

He was born in Emporia and raised in Topeka, Kansas. Col. Williamson lived in the Augusta area for the past 28 years. Col. Williamson received his Army commission in 1969. After serving tours in Vietnam, Germany and Korea he was selected commander of the 67th Signal Battalion at Fort Gordon. Williamson was the assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a military satellite communications (SATCOM) action officer.

Col. Williamson returned to Fort Gordon as the Army TRADOC System Manager for Satellite Communications where he actively managed every aspect of 33 Army SATCOM programs from technical manual development to the fielding and testing of hardware and software. In 1991 his aggressive work and unrelenting efforts on restructuring the Milstar satellite program were instrumental in the successful deployment of five Milstar satellites, the last of which was launched in May 2003. These satellites are providing unparalleled, secure communications support to U.S. soldiers around the world today.

Col. Williamson created and guided the development of an Army SATCOM Architecture Book as an educational tool for Army users. Now in its ninth version, the book continues to be updated, produced and distributed to over 3,500 users worldwide. Col. Williamson retired from the Army in July 1997 but continued to actively work with the Army SATCOM program as the lead contractor with Lockheed-Martin, Augusta Branch.

Col. Williamson military awards and decorations include the Legion

of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (7), Joint Staff Commendation Medal, Air Force Space Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and Silver Order of Mercury.

Col. Williamson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Washburn University and his Masters of Business Administration from Kansas University. He attended the United States Army's Command and General Staff College and the Air Force War College.

Col. Williamson was especially proud of his family and attaining "grandfather" status, thanks to the birth of his grandson Steven. Col. Williamson was an active member of The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Catholic Church. He was the Eucharistic Minister for the church and table leader for the RCIA. He was an avid golfer and enthusiastic outdoors man, always ready for the next adventure.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in his name to the Immaculate Conception School, 1016 Laney Walker Blvd., Augusta, Ga., 30901.



## Wray Open house scheduled

An open house will be held to help Iola Wray celebrate her 85th birthday at her home at 511 N. Ketcham Avenue in Bird City from 2 to 4 on July 26. No gifts please.



**Walt Roesener greets Phyllis Wright during his birthday bash Sunday afternoon at the Senior Center. Over 150 people attended to wish Walt a happy 90th birthday.**  
*Photo courtesy of Edna Roesener*

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SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2003 11 A.M. • LOCATION: LUDELL SCHOOL HOUSE, LUDELL, KS.

**GUEST CONSIGNERS**

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Sears Kenmore Gas Range Cook Stove • Chest of Drawers • End Tables • Super Single Waterbed Book Cases • Large Footstool • Twin Bed w/brass headboard • Dining Room Table w/leaf & 1 chair • Easy Chair • Couch

MISCELLANEOUS: 2 Drawer File Cabinet • 3 Tier Stand • Microwave Stand • Wash Stand • Large Window Fan • Box Fans Lamps • Afghans & Quilts • Clothes Rack • Set of Encyclopedias • Set of Science Books • Psychology Books • Planters

NOTE: THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING OF ITEMS, MANY MORE ITEMS BY SALE DAY!

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Published in Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, July 24, 2003. (29)

State of Kansas City/County 2004

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of CITY OF BIRD CITY will meet on the 4th day of August, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bird City hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax

Detailed budget information is available at the City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
Proposed Budget 2004 Expenditures and Amount of 2003 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2004 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2002		2003		Proposed Budget 2004		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Current Year Est of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Amount of 2003 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate *
General	177,541	27.021	193,756	30.415	210,056	62,921	31.517
LIBRARY	5,523	2.300	5,741	2.306	6,308	5,398	2.700
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	15,388					ii	0.000
Special Highway	11,902		17,000		17,000		
WATER & SEWER	127,540		165,000		202,000		
SPECIAL PARK & RECREA	2,152		2,200		5,200		
SOLID WASTE	5,276		6,000		8,000		
EGGERS TRUST							
PARK TRUST	1,200		1,200		1,200		
EQUIPMENT FUND			4,748				
SEWER & WASTEWATER							
Totals	346,521	29.321	395,645	32.721	449,764	68,311	34.217
Less: Transfers							
Net Expenditure	346,521		395,645		449,764		
Total Tax Levied	56,186		69,158		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	2,079,444		2,113,537		1,996,418		
Outstanding indebtedness, January 1,	2001	2002	2003				
G.O. Bonds	13,000						0
Revenue Bonds							0
Other							0
Lease Purchase Principal							0
Total	13,000	0	0				0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills

*Maxine J. Burton*  
Treasurer