

# Group to provide new park facilities

**By Casey McCormick**  
 Monday evening the Bird City Council met to discuss new bathrooms at the park, future activities with the Cheyenne Country Development Corporation and other business. A representative of the Bird City Community Club, Ned Smith, brought a proposal to build new restrooms at the Bird City Parks. The old bathrooms have been in need of major repair for years and have had damage done to them by vandals. Mr. Smith said the Community Club had received a grant from the Century II Foundation which would pay for two, simple, handicap access-

sible bathrooms located close to the old rest rooms. Any additional expenses for the project will be covered by Community Club. The council approved the request which will begin as soon as the weather cooperates and the old structures can be demolished and removed. Susan Hobrock, coordinator of Cheyenne County Development Corporation, also came before the council. She thanked Bird City for previous financial support and made a request for similar help this year. The council had already budgeted \$2,000 which will be given in two

payments this year. She said that her organization would like to help with several grant requests for Bird City. These include the completion of the Bird City Emergency Building and a new fire truck. In addition Mrs. Hobrock said that the Cheyenne County Development Corporation is trying to get more recycling bins for Bird City. Some discussion was made about purchasing a "new" used forklift which the city needs to load and unload the bins for transport to St. Francis. **In Other Business** In other business, a portion of the final payment to Salina Supply and

their supply houses will be held pending completion of the city's water meter system. Some computer integration and interfacing work needs to be done and the council hopes this will speed up the process. The council is scratching their heads over a loss that is not a loss. Approximately 1 million gallons of water is showing up as lost each of the last few months on the city's water meters. The council is united in thinking that this amount of water, the equivalent of seven swimming pools, should show some sign of seepage on the ground in town. Another city meter will be changed out soon and

the system will continue to be monitored. Ads will be placed in *Bird City Times* asking for applications for summer help and bids for park grounds upkeep. Wendy Richmeier, head of the Parks and Recreation Committee, noted that it was past the deadline set for a contractor to complete the job at the city park. He will be contacted and told he cannot cut down the trees at the park. Deputy sheriff Jeff Moser addressed the council with a report of last month's Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department activities in

Bird City. He also voiced the department's confusion as to the relocation and return of speed limit signs to the east of town. He asked for input from the council concerning the ordinance relating to semi-tractor trailers inside city limits. One truck damaged a culvert in Bird City and action is being taken to have it repaired. Also the sheriff spoke to the council about having residents move unlicensed, parked vehicles off city streets and onto private property. Bird City received a \$600 refund from the insurance company that had been covering former police chief Stan Harp.

# Legal assistant selected as judge

**By Karen Krien**  
 A legal assistant has been appointed as District Magistrate Judge for Cheyenne County and will be sworn in at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at the courthouse in St. Francis. The public is welcome.



Dodd

Mrs. Dodd has spent over 15 years working in the law profession which has included drafting legal documents and legal research. She has worked with matters involving estate and probate proceedings, domestic actions, real estate transactions, civil litigations and criminal matters. Until the new judge's orientation can be completed, she will be observing the different magistrate judges while in court and, of course, she will receive rules from the Judicial Committee. A test is to be completed by Mrs. Dodd within 18 months of her appointment.

"Jolene Dodd's experience and understanding of legal matters will be extremely useful as she assumes the position of District Magistrate Judge," Governor Sebelius said. "I am certain she will do a fine job." The Selection Committee who made the recommendations of Mrs. Dodd, Mr. Van Allen and Mr. Patton to the governor were: Lee Amsberry, Bird City, Jerry D. Fairbanks, Goodland, John Kite, James Milliken and Rueben F. Schultz, all of St. Francis.

Mr. Kite reported that they had received a letter from the governor thanking them for making the recommendations. Mrs. Dodd replaces Tamara Zimbelman who had served as the District Magistrate Judge since August 1994.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced on Monday that she had appointed Jolene Dodd, St. Francis, as the District Magistrate Judge. She has been a legal assistant and office manager of James M. Milliken Chartered, St. Francis, since 1996. Mrs. Dodd, along with Robert Van Allen and Dale Patton, had gone to Topeka last Thursday where they were each interviewed by Governor Sebelius and her assistant. "I was very impressed with the way the selection committee handled the interviews," Mrs. Dodd said. "Everything we went through to the point of getting to the governor's office was handled extremely professional. "I also feel that anyone of us would have done a good job and I would have stood behind the final candidate. "I plan to bring honesty and integrity to the office and hope the community will stand behind the judge's position."



LORETTA RUCKER brings strange characters alive for first graders Tanner Gilliland, Nikki Callies and Mary Anne Orten. Both young and old had fun on what would have been Dr. Seuss's 100th birthday.



JUDY SAGER entertains the third graders with the story of Horton Hears a Who. Times staff photos by Casey McCormick

# Cheylin classrooms become 'Seussville'

**By Casey McCormick**  
 A 100th birthday party was held at Cheylin Schools on Tuesday as guest readers entertained each class with stories to honor children's writer Dr. Seuss. Beginning with Phyllis Carson in the Kindergarten class to principal Dave Zumbahlen reading to the senior class, everyone at the schools in Bird City had a chance to hear the words and see the illustrations of Dr. Seuss. Guest readers came from Cheylin staff and faculty and parents of students. The other readers were: Loretta Rucker (first grade), Deanna Nelson (second),

Judy Sager (third), Denise Keltz (fourth), Jeri Antholz (fifth), Steve Carpenter (sixth), Laurie Leonard (seventh), Clayton Janicke (eighth), Yvonne Eggers (ninth), Lynne Busse (10th) and Roseanna Underwood (11th). Characters such as Horton the 14-foot Elephant, Thing One and Thing Two, Sam-I-Am, Sally and her brother, Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose, The Cat in the Hat, The Grinch and his dog Max, Yertle the Turtle and many others came to life in the schools of Bird City on Tuesday.

# Audience visits with commissioners

**By Karen Krien**  
 Cheyenne County commissioners had an audience when they met again with a St. Francis grandmother, the sheriff and undersheriff on Friday. The grandmother complained about the undersheriff stopping her granddaughter at night to give her some subpoenas. This meeting ended much the same as the last one, with the commissioners thanking everyone for coming but, making no decisions or comments on the sheriff's department. At the Feb. 12 meeting, Bonnie Jones had told commissioners about Undersheriff Cliff Flock stopping her granddaughter, Amanda Jones, at 11:52 p.m. on U.S. 36 west of St. Francis, where she served her with five subpoenas. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring and Undersheriff Flock were present at the meeting Friday when she and some of her supporters were present

to again talk about the matter. The subpoenas, which are orders to appear in court to testify, were served on five people, Brandi Barnhart, Paul Larson, Miss Jones, and St. Francis police officers Tom Raile and Mark Davidson to testify in a burglary and theft case. Charges were filed Chad Zwegardt, Uriah Williams and Brent Rogers. The trial date was moved from February to April 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Cheyenne County District Court. Commission Chairman Tim Raile told those present that all questions were to be directed to the commissioners and if there were interruptions, the person would be asked to leave the meeting. About five people accompanied Mrs. Jones to the meeting. In a statement, Sheriff Dankenbring first talked about freedom of speech compared to slander. He said he had contacted the Kan-

See LAW on page 8

# Commissioners discuss bridge project

**By Karen Krien**  
 Work on the Wiley Road Project, 16 miles southwest of St. Francis, is expected to begin the first full week of April. A new road with a new bridge will be constructed for 1 mile. LMK Concrete Construction, Lindsborg, bid the a 7-foot by 14-foot four-barrel box bridge which is 48.5 feet wide. The cost bid was \$137,160. It is a Federal-aid cost-share bridge in which the county will have an estimated cost of \$30,175. The Wiley Bridge Project was on the five-year plan and will be started as planned. The county road and bridge crew will be doing all the earth work, the culverts, fence and seeding at an estimated cost of \$131,786. This project is also included in the Federal-Aid Cost-share of 80/20 percent and the county will be reimbursed 80 percent of the work on this project. The commissioners signed the Local Public Agreement for engi-

neering on the dirt work at the Friday meeting. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, indicated that the Olofson Bridge, north of St. Francis, is estimated to cost \$238,925 and the county's cost will be \$52,563. The bridge is projected to be a three-span bridge, 100-foot long and 28-foot wide. After discussion, the commissioners asked Supervisor Flemming to submit a request of change for a 30-foot wide bridge. The work is scheduled to be let December 2005. Supervisor Flemming talked about the next supervisor's meeting, noting that they would like to have someone speak on county zoning policies. **High Plains Mental Health** Tammy Pettijohn and Tracy Hillmer, both representing High Plains Mental Health, told more about the services and how it is helping Cheyenne County residents. Mrs. Pettijohn said she is working more and more in the

county and has been giving presentations on stress and mental health to those groups or organizations asking for information. **Foreign Animal Disease plan** Gary Rogers, emergency manager for Cheyenne County, presented a Cheyenne County Foreign Animal Disease plan for the commissioners' signature. The plan lists the people and what duties they will be required to do if there is a disaster such as Hoof and Mouth Disease. It was noted that there are four levels of disaster and a resource list. The commissioners signed the Foreign Animal Disease plan and also signed a State and Local Assistant Funding agreement which is necessary to access the funding. **In other business** In other business: • The commissioners OKed the pay order to Rhoades Construction, Goodland, contractor for the hospital remodeling project. Commissioner Krien questioned the change order of \$996 but said he would look

into that matter. The hospital board had already approved the order of \$166,691. • Approval was given for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling dues of \$3,165. The dues are figured on the county's population (\$1 per head). • Southwestern Bell Company had given the county a quote of \$600 annual commitment which is 2 cents a minute less than the amount paid to Nex-Tech. The county would save 71 percent on its phone bill. The commissioners voted to use Southwestern Bell as the county's phone service provider. • The clerk said there are several old printers which may have some use left in them. The commissioners agreed to either run an ad in the newspaper or sell them on E-Bay. • Law officers Eddie Dankenbring and Cliff Flock along with Bonnie Jones talked about the matter of how and when subpoenas

See COUNTY on page 8

# Legislators to visit town on Saturday

Kansas State Senator Stan Clark, Kansas Representatives John Faber and Dan Johnson, and special guest Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline will be visiting St. Francis and Bird City and six other communities on Saturday. They will be in St. Francis from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center on 322 W. Washington Street. From 9 to 10 a.m., they will be in Bird City at the Blue Bird Junction at 104 W. Bressler. For those missing the Cheyenne

County meetings, the legislators will be in McDonald from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the bank meeting room and will be in Atwood from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Park Hill Too. Information will be presented on many of the issues being considered in the 2004 Kansas Legislature and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and their impact on residents. Everyone is urged to attend.





A 'GLITCH' IN THE SYSTEM is blamed for the recent confusion over speed zone changes by the Kansas Department of Transportation east of Bird City. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Reason for sign change given

**By Casey McCormick**  
The speed limit signs that changed to the east of Bird City along Highway 36 are in accordance with state standards. An apparent "glitch" in the system is to blame for the recent movement of the zone and the subsequent change back.

ter the state engineer who had surveyed the area was recently advanced and passed along his field notes to his replacement. In the notes, Mr. Flemming said, "the 40 mile per hour zones should be at the (Bird City) city limit signs." The engineer did not realize how far out of town the sign was posted to the east of Bird City, not realizing it was a great distance from the main intersection.

Mr. Flemming did admit that there might be an issue of west bound trucks coming down the hill into town and having difficulty reaching the speed change and still observing the "No Jake Brake" posting. But he felt comfortable that the current placement of speed limits do conform to Kansas Department of Transportation requirements.

## College Sports

One of Cheylin's 2003 graduates, Amanda Poore, is making tracks on the FHSU track team. After her 3rd meet, she was ranked 4th at nationals in high jump, qualifying by an extra inch. She also made opening spot on the 4x400m relay team as the anchor and only freshman. Others on the team are Ashley Latham, Triplains, Junior, Angela Funk, Senior, Holly Farenback, Ness City, Senior and Amanda Poore, Cheylin, Freshmen. She competed in the high jump and the 4x400m relay at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships this past weekend

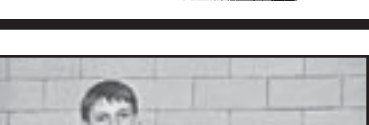
in Golden, Colo. at the School of Mines campus. She jumped 5'7 1/2" and placed first and her relay team came in second with a time of 4.03.53 with Amanda having a personal split time of 61 seconds. Amanda started out slow this year, but has risen through the ranks. In her first meet at K-State, she tied 7th in high jump. At her second meet in Lincoln, she tied 6th in high jump. Her third meet was at Kearney where she placed first with a jump of 5'7 1/2" in high jump, first in the 4x400m relay and 2nd in the 400m run. At her fourth meet held in Hays, she again placed first at 5'4" in the high jump and second in the 400m run. Her last meet, held in Kearney, she held onto her first place title in high jump with a jump of 5'7" and first place in the 4x400m relay with a personal split time of 62 seconds. She passed on running the 400m run as the other runners scratched and she wasn't allowed to run.



Poore

This past week Amanda's coach, Coach Weber, informed her that she has been chosen to participate in the Multi's for the outdoor track season starting in April. This consists of 6 separate events that will be done together to form the one large Multi event. The events Amanda will participate in are the high jump, long jump, 200m run, 800m run, the javelin throw and the shot put. Her coach said she has the

upper and lower body strength and they are now working on her form for the field events. Amanda is very excited about these upcoming events and is continuing to hit the weight room and track. Her next major indoor track meet will be in Boston, MA and then the outdoor track season will begin in April. Some of her outdoor meets will be held in Hays, Emporia, Kansas University, Des Moines, IA, and the NCAA II National Championships in Edwards, Ill.



## School Menu

March 8 - March 10  
Monday: breakfast: waffles, sausage link, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: chili soup, crackers, salad bar, cinnamon rolls, fruit, milk  
Tuesday: breakfast: ham casserole, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: cheese raviolis with spaghetti sauce, salad bar, bread, fruit, milk  
Wednesday: breakfast: cook's choice, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, salad bar, fruit, milk  
Thursday: SPRING BREAK!

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Nearly everything in the community is at a standstill this first day of March. Roads are ice-packed, but no one is complaining. Everyone is so grateful for the beautiful rainfall that came Sunday, they are willing to stay inside. Leap Year 2004 will be remembered as it brought much needed moisture. Also it was the night the electricity was out for four hours. Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison visited the Atwood Good Samaritan on Wednesday visiting with Wayne Harper, Mildred Knapp

and Wilbur Hartman. Kent Banister took Amelia Banister to St. Francis on Sunday where she visited her sister and other friends in the Good Samaritan Village. Vivian Curry and Joan Tongish were guests of Mike and Diana Tongish to the K.C. Fish Fry on Friday night. Doug and Mary Tongish and Jamie, Mikayla and Katie Cody were Saturday visitors of Joan Tongish to celebrate her birthday. Barney Kacirek of Denver was a

weekend guest of Tessa Davis. Lisa, Rod and Josh Johnson and Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson drove to McCook on Saturday to attend the movie "The Passion of Christ." Betty Knapp spent from Monday to Saturday in Strasburg, Colo., with Doris Martin. She took Zelda Knapp to Denver for doctor's appointments and then brought her home on Saturday. Vera Kacirek was a Saturday afternoon visitor of Zelda Knapp.

## Extension Notes By Tye Falkender

**Manage Farm Stress To Stay Safe**  
Kansas farmers cope with more job stress than the average worker. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports that farming is one of the 10 most stressful occupations and one of the most dangerous occupations - with an accident rate second only to mining. "The combination of stress and daily work around powerful machinery and/or large animals in varying and unpredictable situations can lead to accidents," said John Slocombe, K-State Research and Extension Farm Safety Specialist. "The most effective way to counter farm stress is to recognize that some events can be stressful and to plan ways to deal with those stressors effectively - before

symptoms become severe." Stress can manifest itself as physical symptoms such as headaches or stomach problems, or as emotional symptoms through angry outbursts or depression. In most people, stress affects relationships with others and is often first noticed by someone other than the person experiencing it. Stress can also lead to action or behavior that results in a farm accident. Research shows that even under similar circumstances, farmers react differently to the amount of stress they experience, Slocombe said. This is because some farmers develop more effective coping strategies than others. With an extended dry weather pattern over much of the state again this year, stress levels among Kansas farmers may be reaching a criti-

cal level and so, too, the potential for an increase in farm accidents. Slocombe recommends the following tips for managing stress:  
• Recognize your personal symptoms and make a conscious decision to do something about them.  
• Eat nutritious foods daily. Just as machinery needs quality fuel, our bodies need nutritious food to function properly.  
• Keep machinery and equipment in good working condition. Eliminating potential breakdowns can minimize stressful events.  
• Talk about your stress with family or a close friend. If you have no one to turn to, call the Kansas Rural Family Helpline at 1-866-327-6578 for help and understanding.  
• Do something relaxing every day - even if it's just for a few minutes.

## Law

**Continued from Page 1**  
sas Bureau of Investigation to investigate Mrs. Jones' claims. A senior agent had looked at the evidence and stated the no crime had been committed, he said, so the KBI had nothing else to investigate.

She said she called the high school principal and he said that, while he does not want subpoenas delivered in the school, from now on he would be willing to send a student to the sheriff's office for a subpoena.

since no laws had been broken in the stop, she considered the matter closed for the time being. Commissioners invited any of the audience to come back, but noted that if they had a complaint with the law enforcement department, they hoped that they would address the complaint to the county attorney and/or the sheriff.

"Cheyenne County had outstanding law enforcement officers," the sheriff said. "Our goal is to keep the youth safe and alive and alcohol and drug free as possible." He also said that the county was privileged to have Undersheriff Flock and his family in the community. "He is willing to lay his life on the line for the people of Cheyenne County," the sheriff said. "If anyone has a complaint, fill out the complaint form and sign it."

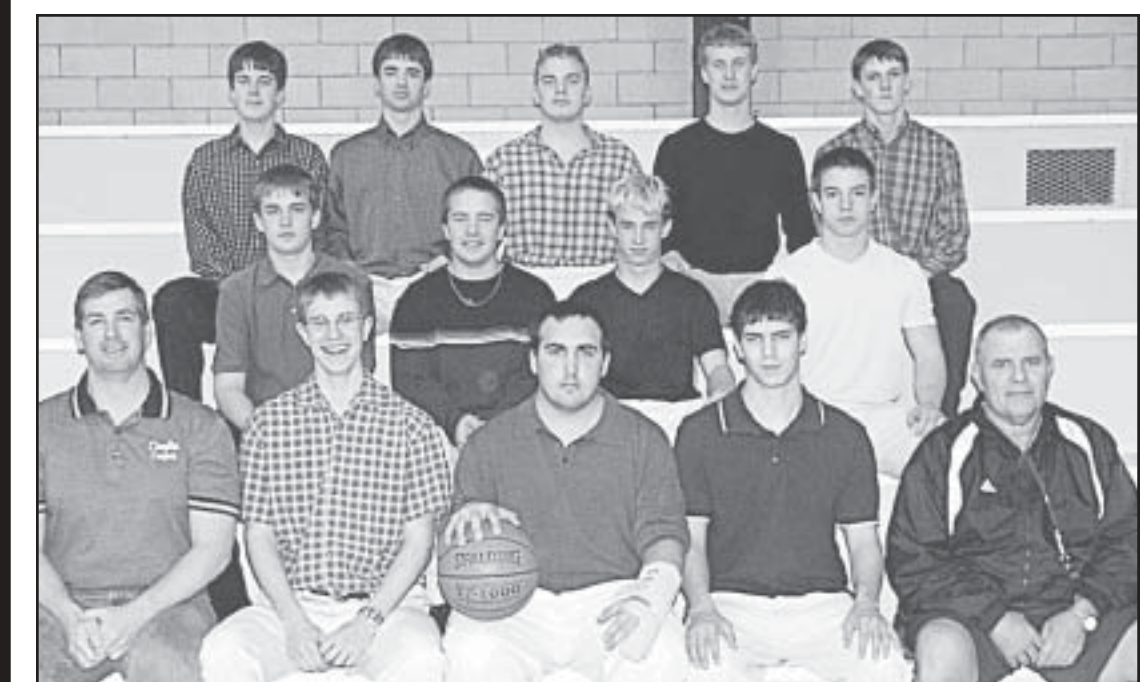
Commissioner Ron Krien said he had talked to a lot of people about this matter. Mr. Wright asked if anyone said they were afraid to come to the meeting. Mr. Krien said "no."

**County**  
**Continued from Page 1**  
were delivered. (See related article.)  
• Commissioner Brubaker asked where money which fire departments receive from the Fireman's Relief Fund is deposited. No one seemed to know. The clerk said he would ask the county treasurer.  
• The commissioners noted that there were \$1,869 in contractual obligations (write-offs) listed on the emergency medical service budget last month. However, there were \$8,114 billed for ambulance services.  
• Commissioner Brubaker said she would plan to attend Kansas Association of Commissioners on April 14.

Mrs. Jones said she called the state attorney general's office, he they told her that the undersheriff was within the law when he delivered the subpoenas. "I'm not arguing that," she said. What she said she was concerned about was the time and place he delivered them and the fact that he had took her to his vehicle to fill out the forms. The dispatcher in Goodland said the stop took 11 minutes, she said. Mrs. Jones wanted to know why the undersheriff hadn't followed the girl to her home, which was only another five or six miles away, knocked on the door and told her parents that he had subpoenas to deliver to their daughter. "It looks bad for the sheriff's office and for the undersheriff," she said.

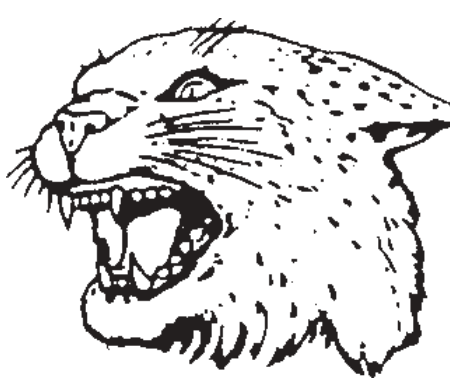
Mrs. Jones and Mr. Wright, in separate comments, reminded the sheriff and commissioners that elections were coming up and they could be replaced. Mr. Wright claimed that there had been 35 law officers in he county since 1997. Years ago, he said, the county had one law officer and one police car. Now, the county has three officers and three police cars and the county is wasting a lot of money. "We had a quiet little community," he said. "Why can't we keep it quiet?" County Attorney Kevin Berens stressed that if no formal complaint is made, neither he nor the sheriff can do anything about it. The commissioners pointed out that they had no control over the sheriff's department, since the sheriff is an elected official. They said,

**Next meeting**  
The next regular meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on March 15 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.



Back row, l to r: Nathan Ketzner, Jacob Jensen, David Banister, Josh Moyer, Brandon Gordon; middle row: Terry Jensen, Lucius White, Aaron Linner, Justin Antholz; front row: Asst. Coach Clayton Janicke, Andrew Marshall, Kelly Ray Simmonds, Alex Hengen, Head Coach Richard Martoglio.

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- Peoples State Bank
- Prairie Land Electric
- Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Assoc.
- Walden Farms
- Bradley & Barbara Waters
- Radean & Velda Wright



Back row, l to r: Zaiba Ahmed, Natasha Gordon, Jessica Marshall, Emily Holub, Aubrey Kehlbeck; middle row: Kori Underwood, Afton Krien, Rebecca Mason, Tiffany Antholz; front row: Shellie Felzien, Stephanie Hubbard, Hayley Krien, Sara Moore, Angela Brogan, Amanda Banister, Cristi Antholz. Not pictured: Head Coach Dennis Hengen and Asst. Coach Jackie Roesener.