



City looks for reason for lost water

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City City Council discussed water meter repairs, a designated parking spot for the sheriff's department and other business at their regular meeting on Monday.

City employees are still baffled by the continued loss of water from the city system. However they may have helped the problem by replac-

ing four water meters that were damaged due to winter freeze.

"Normally (the damaged meters) would be found when the water flows up from the meter pit," said Sam Beeson, the head of the Bird City Maintenance Department.

"But these leaked out the bottom," Mr. Beeson said.

He and Darryl Miller replaced the four meters and shut the water off

to a home. The maintenance department will take the next meter reading on April 18 with hopes that their efforts have helped to slow water loss.

Cheyenne County Deputy Sheriff, Jeff Moser, gave his monthly report to the council and requested that a parking spot be designated for sheriff department parking at city hall. During funerals and some

church services vehicles have been taking all of the parking area in front of the building. Deputy Moser voiced concerns about transferring prisoners from a patrol car to the city hall.

The council agreed to have a parking spot identified for sheriff department parking only.

Officer Moser told the council that he had had "a busy month"

with the shut down of a meth lab along with other activities. The deputy sheriff will be in Hutchinson from early May until August 17 for officer training. During his absence the Cheyenne County Sheriff and Undersheriff will provide law enforcement for Bird City.

In Other Business
In other business:

• The city will be focusing on street repairs. Moisture would help the work but they will soon move forward with patch and fill work and are planning on placing a speed bump on Park Street near Cave in response to a resident's complaint concerning speeding vehicles.

• The mayor, Dave Hickert, will

See CITY on Page 5

Easter egg hunts planned for Saturday

By Casey McCormick

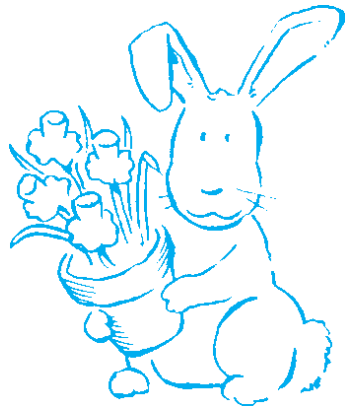
The Bird City City Park and the McDonald school ground are the places to be on Saturday for the city's annual Easter Egg Hunts.

Both hunts are open to children, from preschool to fourth grade. News of the hunts have spread so many out-of-town hunters are expected.

The McDonald event will begin at 10 a.m. and the Bird City hunt will have registration at 10 a.m. with the hunt at 10:30 a.m.

McDonald Area Development is sponsoring their hunt while the Bird City Community Club hosts theirs.

"We always have special gifts and a drawing," said organizer Wendy Richmeier of Bird City. "And the Easter Bunny will be a



special guest."

The weather forecast looks good for Saturday but in the event of inclement weather the Bird City hunt will be moved to the Cheylin Elementary gym.

"It will be a great day to hunt eggs," said Mrs. Richmeier.

Blood drive Friday; donors are needed

The American Red Cross will be collecting blood from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday at the Bird City Community Blood Drive at the American Legion Hall.

The American Red Cross is asking all those people who have thought about becoming a blood donor, but just have not taken the time to step forward.

New donors are those who have been out of the system for a few years or those who are coming out for the first time. Everyone must have their your photo identification..

Many restrictions have been

lifted in the past few years:

• If you have been cancer free for at least 5 years you may be eligible again.

• Many of the medications you are taking do not disqualify you.

• Diabetes is acceptable if you have it under control.

Many have thought they couldn't donate but they might be surprised! Everyone is urged to come to the Blood Drive on Friday and become a blood donor.

For an appointment call 1-800-448-3543. Walk-in donors are always welcome.

Road to Nebraska closing on April 19

Bird City residents and others traveling to and from Benkelman will need to find a different road after April 19 when the K-161 is closed for the construction of a bridge. It will remain closed for six months or until late October.

The Kansas Department of Transportation will close K-161 at the U.S.36/K-161 junction north of Bird City to U.S. 34 in Nebraska, just south of Benkelman. The contractors, L&M Contractors, Great Bend, can begin the dirt work and removal of the Big Timber Creek Bridge. The project is expected to cost \$798,036.

The bridge, which will be replaced is located 9.5 miles north of U.S. 36 and is located at the bottom of a series of curves on the south and a tall hill and curve to

the north.

An official detour has been designated which will direct travelers west on U.S. 36 to K-27, then north to U.S. 34, and east on U.S. 34.

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, reported that the county crew has been graveling 25 miles of roads in that area for the last two years in preparation for the detour but noted that these roads are for local travel only.

The detour will be a long drive out of the way for those people planning to use the highway.

For more information on the K-161 detour, contact Tom Hein, Kansas Department of Transportation public involvement liaison at 785/877-5652 ext. 205 or by email at tom.hein@ksdot.org>tom.hein@ksdot.org.

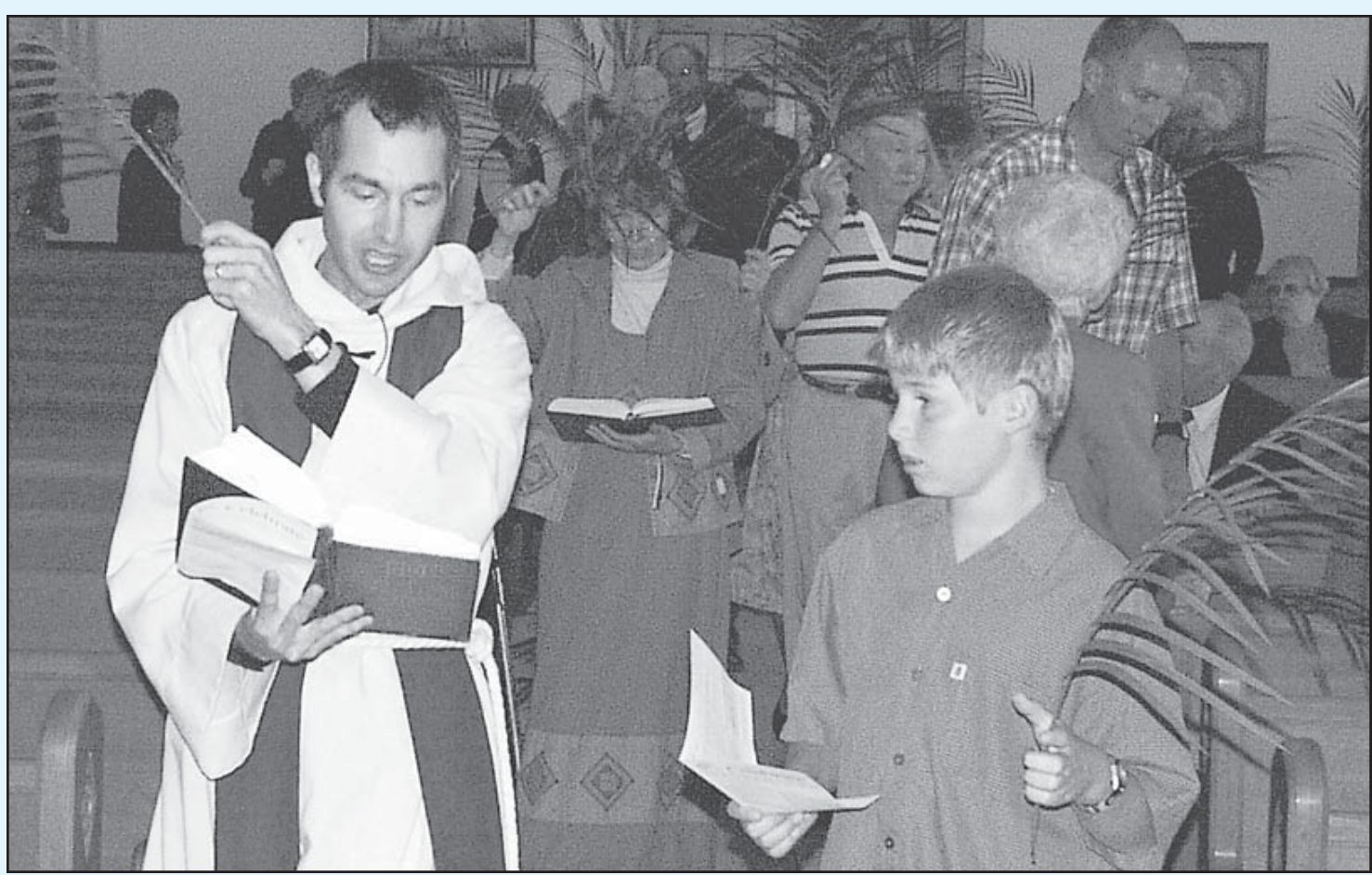
March pleasant but dry

Spring is here and the temperatures for the month of March indicate that nice weather is on the way.

Troy Burr, Bird City's weather observer, reported that the high temperature for the month was 87.6 degrees on March 19 To show what a range of temperatures the month had, the low was 20 degrees on March 19.

It was a dry month. Weather observer Burr said the moisture for the month was only .23 inches with snow fall for the month at .05 inches. The total snow fall for the year is 15.5 inches.

The highest wind gust for the month was 42.7 miles per hours on March 1. The lowest wind chill was recorded at -3.1 degrees, also on the first of the month.



PASTOR RON ROBERTS AND ETHAN YOUNG lead members of St. John Lutheran Church as they carry palms in celebration, one week before Easter.

Churches observe season

By Casey McCormick

The Easter season was celebrated in Bird City as all churches observed Palm Sunday. Some participated in a traditional "palm procession" as part of their services.

The five churches will come together for an Easter Sunday sunrise service to be held at the Thresher Show Grounds on the east side of town. People interested in attending should plan on meeting in front of the old church around 6:30 a.m.

Following the sunrise service the St. John Lutheran church will host a breakfast for the general public.

Each church will conduct Easter services at their respective locations. Afterwards many families plan on Easter Egg hunts and Sunday dinners.



WALKER JANICKE, JACOB BRUBAKER AND GRANT SHRADER are among the children who participated in the palm processional at the Immanuel United Methodist Church on Palm Sunday.

Times staff photos by Casey McCormick

Commissioners will leave billing as is

By Karen Krien

All three commissioners agreed to let the ambulance bookkeeper do the ambulance billing as she has been doing and not turn it over to the hospital. The decision was made at the March 30 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners.

The ambulance billing has been on the commissioners' agenda for several months after Medicare had refused to pay for some ambulance runs. Janelle Bowers, ambulance bookkeeper, had said that she had put the emergency medical technicians' reasons down on the report but there had been more reasons for the runs. During this time, the hospital administrator said the hospital's billing department would do the billing for \$6 per run which the commissioners felt was a reasonable price. However, before turning over the billing to the hospital, the commissioners felt they needed to know more about how the ambulance billing work and what were the duties of the ambulance bookkeeper.

Commissioners Ron Krien and Tim Raile had talked to Mrs. Bowers earlier but commissioner Jane Brubaker had been unable to until just before the March 30 meeting. She said she had spent four hours

Department gets new phones

By Karen Krien

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring asked the commissioners to approve a cell phone plan. The plan is "Touch-To-Talk" phones which operate much like walkie-talkies and they would also change the plan to a National Freedom plan. If they purchased three phones on a 2-year plan, the phones would cost \$99 for the first two and the third phone would cost \$49. The plan would also include more minutes and would still cost less than the plan the sheriff's office is on now.

Commissioner Raile questioned if this type of phone was actually needed as they had hand-held radios. The sheriff said that the phone is always with him where the radios are not.

Also, they are less bulky to carry and use. He said the city police is also looking into purchasing the phones and they would all be able to communicate. The commissioners approved the purchase.

The board cautioned Sheriff Dankenbring to watch his budget closely. They were specifically concerned about the overtime put in by the undersheriff, dispatcher and the deputy sheriff. Sheriff Dankenbring said the overtime was earned because of a series of circumstances and would not happen very often.

Courthouse maintenance

Carl Williams, maintenance man, said the bid from Pete Jensen for cement work on the proposed parking area on the northwest side of the courthouse was no longer

valid and it was suggested that new bids be let. Mr. Jensen had suggested that Mr. Williams talk to either Ron Krien and Troy Porter. Mr. Krien, who is also a commissioner, said he was not interested in doing the project.

Mr. Williams asked about timer for the new sprinkler system on the east and south of the building. He had a bid from Lampe Hardware for \$1,125 but questioned if the timer should be placed on the outside or the inside of the building. The commissioners suggested that the timer be placed inside.

Mr. Williams also said the air conditioners needed to be cleaned and some maintenance done. The commissioners said to

See COUNTY on Page 5

with Mrs. Bowers and had then found out exactly what the hospital would be doing for \$6. It was her consensus that the billing be left in the hands of the ambulance bookkeeper — that she was doing her job

well and was continuing to improve on collections from Medicare/Medicaid, insurance and individuals.

The other two commissioners also agreed to leave the billing as it was.

The ambulance contractual obligations (money not collected) for the month of March were \$1,168. It was noted that the bookkeeper had sent bills for \$5,057 and \$3,888 had been brought in.

Few Sears homes still stand in area

At the end of World War I, skilled labor and lumber were needed to build homes, not only for the soldiers coming back from the war but there was also a steady stream of immigrants coming through Ellis Island. In 1918 analysts estimated that one to two million homes were needed immediately and the homes needed to be modestly priced.

At that time Sears & Roebuck had already been working with the wave of foreigners by advertising "Write your order in any language" as the company had translators to read and write in all languages. It was no wonder that they started putting the "Modern Homes" in their catalogs. Not only could people order anything from clothing to household goods, but they could also order their own house.

Pre-cut lumber in the house kits made skilled carpentry unnecessary and solved the problem of lumber shortages. They offered 90 different house designs, as well as plans for chicken houses, outhouses and garages. The kits were shipped by rail car and a typical house could fit into two boxcars. It would take about six weeks to assemble all of the lumber together. Every piece of framing lumber for a Sears house

was numbered at the factory for assembly at the construction site.

Sears had already begun offering mortgage loans in 1911. All the person needed was to pick out their home and apply for the loan. The easy payment plan was a plus but even better was the fact that the application only had the person answer a few questions. There was only one financial question and that was "What is your vocation?"

Archie Palmer one of Cheyenne County's residents, ordered a Sears home in 1927. It was shipped to Haigler on the train and it cost around \$1,800. Mr. Palmer and his family assembled the house and lived at Haigler until about 1937. Then they decided they wanted to live out in the country so they moved their home with them.

The moving process was done by a team of horses and trailer. After they arrived at the site they greased the planks with oil and slid the house, inch by inch, onto the foundation.

The Cheyenne County Trail Ride that is held every second Sunday in October will be riding by this old house. It should be a rare treat for people to view.



A SEARS HOUSE built by Archie Palmer and family nears ruin outside of Haigler, Nebraska.

Times staff photo by Margaret Bucholtz

City

Continued from Page 1

design two proclamations. The first is to recognize April as Fair Housing Month in Bird City and the other is to make May 1, City Wide Clean Up Day. This comes from a request by PRIDE and the city will also provide the city dump truck for loading and if the city tractor is needed, it will be available with a city employee to operate it.

• Chris Doyle's proposal to lay a concrete slab for the city was accepted at \$2,650. Originally Ken Krien made a bid but no longer cared to take the project. The 20-by-25-foot pad will be located at First and Ketchum and is needed for the city to store chip seal which cannot come into contact with dirt to be useful.

• The council adopted a new ordinance concerning house trailers being parked in town. In order to accommodate harvesters and visitors, a 30-day grace period will be allowed and a second 30-day permit will be required for \$5. This will be broken into six - five-day increments that can be used during a 12-month period.

• The city is looking at two bids for the replacement of the front door of the city hall. They are considering designs and cost from the

proposals given by Colby Glass and McCook Glass and Mirror. The existing frame around the door is beyond repair and must be replaced.

• FCS Services contract with the city was renewed. Last year FCS provided lawn and maintenance for the city park and other city property with grass.

• A building permit was granted for Frontier Equity for a 40x8x8-foot semi-box, temporary structure. The building is needed to store used tires so they will not be outdoors and a breeding area for mosquitoes.

• Three prospective members for the Bird City Library Board were approved. The new members will be Marcia Hickert, Helen Frisbie and Bud Frisbie.

• A resident complained by the telephone to the city about having difficulties disposing of grass clippings. The Cheyenne County Landfill has been ordered by the state to not accept grass clippings and the local garbage service won't take them either. The matter was discussed but no decision was made.

"People will do as they see fit," said Mayor Hickert, "as long as it is within the law."

This Is The Place

By Carol Redding

Cheyenne County

Development Corporation

Residents of Cheyenne County have always been inventive folks.

Have you watched a farmer try to get the gizmo and the do-hickey to work together better? That piece of equipment usually works just fine when all the tinkering is done; the

original design was probably improved.

Did you know that in 1905, a person in Bird City invented and patented the field tile design and system to drain fields in wet climates? No doubt there were other good inventions that were never even patented, too.

Cheyenne County currently has several other companies manufacturing useful products. Your idea could be the next successful business venture in the county. You also have the opportunity to make history with your ideas and products.

Cheyenne County has so much to offer. Think about what could be done to bring jobs and families to our area. The Cheyenne County Development Corporation is always eager to hear your ideas, and will help wherever it can. Contact the coordinator, Susan Hobrock, at the office in the lower level of the courthouse, or call her at (785) 332-3508, or (888) 735-2444.

Outdoors With Chuck

By Chuck Kribs

Catfish! I love catching catfish! I'll fish for anything and do, but I do love fishing cats.

Each year, we go to our place in Baja, Mexico, and spend time on the water for sailfish, marlin, dorado and tuna, and I really do enjoy that. BUT down deep (pun) I am a dedicated cat fisherman.

Some years ago, on my way to Alaska, I heard of a river in Northern Saskatchewan, called the "Bloodvein" which was supposed to be full of BIG channel cats. I took a 600-mile detour to get there and it was worth it. A big channel on almost every cast out of a cold rushing river. It doesn't get much better than that!!



County

Continued from Page 1

get a bid and if the bid was reasonable, have the work done before the equipment is needed.

Grants and pagers

St. Francis Fire Chief George Harper had brought in a Declaration of Participation for the Firefighters Relief Fund which was signed by Commissioner Raile. He also brought the commissioners information on grants they were pursuing.

The fire chief had been to a prior meeting to discuss the purchase of new pagers for the department. The old pagers are 14 years old and many of them were in need of repair. The costs of the radios were \$7,671 from Prairie States, an Imperial, Neb., company; and \$8,514 from the KN Colby. Chief Harper said Prairie States gave better service when repairs needed to be made but the commissioners didn't think there would be that much needed service and wondered if the service off balanced the \$800 extra? They also wondered if the Bird City firemen needed new pagers but Chief Harper said they used radios instead of pagers so didn't think they needed any.

After considerable discussion, the commissioners told the fire chief to choose the company he felt the most comfortable with. The money to pay for the pagers will be taken out of the 911 Fund.

In other business

In other business:

• The board appointed Dave Yost, Ron Loudon and Ken Krien, all Airport Authority Board members, to serve on the Consultant Selection Committee for the airport's Master Plan.

• The Working Women's ad which will feature women in the courthouse was approved.

• The commissioners asked about the inventory, including the computer programs, in the judge's room. The county clerk said the judge had found a box of software.

• Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the closing of K161 for bridge repair (see related article). He also talked about the work the crew is doing. Commissioner Raile asked that some sort of standard be written and approved for the width of country roads, especially the main traveled roads.

• The commissioners and Dick Bursch discussed the remodeling of the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Cheyenne County Wildlife would like to furnish the supplies but also want to be able to sell and serve more than 3.2 percent alcoholic beverages at their annual banquet. The commissioners tabled the matter until the next meeting or until the Wildlife members approach them.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on April 15 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

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Mailbox News

Ever wonder whether a postage stamp is worth 37 cents? If so, consider what might happen if private, for-profit companies were to take over mail delivery.

To maximize profit, they might charge as little as 37 cents only for delivery to heavily populated area where mail volume is high. Rural customers and inner-city residents across America might be forced to pay higher prices. Postal Service competitors already take this approach by applying surcharges to packages destined to residential and rural areas, where they incur increased costs.

Consider, too, that for 37 cents you get much more than just the delivery of one letter. Read what the Postal Service delivers, from A to Z:

Advisory council that involve customers who provide valuable feedback to improve postal services in your community.

Business centers that offer free consultations and advice to businesses.

Carrier Alert Program that features our letter carriers keeping a watchful eye on senior citizens.

Delivery to 138 million homes, businesses and Post Office Boxes, six days a week.

Easy Stamp services that allow you to purchase stamps via the web, by phone, automatic teller machines or fax.

Forwarding of letters and magazines (for a limited period) if you move.

Going to military addresses—the domestic 37 cent rate applies.

Holiday packaging tips and suggestions to ensure that gifts arrive picture perfect.

Inspection Service that protects your privacy and stamps out mail fraud.

Justice: a postmark applied by

the United States Postal Service to provide documentation that a legal brief was mailed by the deadline. Without such proof, parties may be required to hand-deliver documents to a court clerk.

Keeping America connected through numerous community letter-writing campaigns.

Letters picked up from your mailbox free of charge.

More than 38,000 locations where you can mail.

National Association of Letter Carriers that collects more than 70 million pounds of food annually for local food banks.

One-stop shopping at Postal Stores.

Price of a stamp that beats most industrialized nations; in Germany or Japan, for example, First-Class postage will cost you the equivalent of 50 to 60 cents.

Quality-93 percent of Americans approve of United States Postal Service services.

Rural carriers who provide a full range of services to customers.

Stamp collecting, a distinguished hobby practiced nationwide.

Tradition—more than 225 years of continuous service.

Universal service—First-Class at one price, no matter where you live.

Volunteerism—postal employees across America are volunteer firefighters, EMTs and tutors serving their communities.

Web site access to products and services at www.usps.com.

Xenia, Ohio—yeah, the Postal Service delivers there too!

Your letter, one of more than 200 billion pieces processed annually.

Zero percent dependence on tax dollars for operations.

Failed crop reports have new rules to follow

"New rules make it important to report failed crop acreage to the Farm Service Agency office," said Angie Berens, director of the local Farm Service Agency office.

"This is especially relevant to our county with all the failed wheat activity. If you are going to destroy your wheat, you must report it as failed acreage with our office prior to destruction," she said.

"In addition, if you are prevented from planting any crop, you must notify the Farm Service Agency office within 15 days after the final reporting date. In both instances, you will be asked to fill out a Notice of Loss form."

For additional information, producers should contact the Farm Service Agency at (785) 332-2183.

I Am A Country Newspaper ...

I am a country newspaper.

I am the friend of the family, the bringer of tidings from other friends; I speak to the home in the evening of summer's vine-clad porch or the glow of the winter's lamp.

I help to make this evening hour; I record the great and the small, the varied acts of the days and weeks that go to make up life.

I am for and of the home; I follow those who leave humble beginnings; whether they go to greatness or to the gutter, I take to them the thrill of old days, with wholesome messages.

I speak the language of the common man; my words are fitted to his understanding. My congregation is larger than that of any church in my town; my readers are more than those in the school. Young and old alike find in me stimulation, solace, comfort. I am the chronicler of man's existence.

I am the word of the week, the history of the year, the record of my community in the archives of state and nation.

I am the lives of my readers.

I am the country newspaper.

The Saint Francis Herald