

Rec Commission in financial trouble

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City Council was approached by the Cheylin Recreation Commission members who were seeking financial help. At the Monday meeting, the Council also decided to implement a Prosecutor's Charitable Trust, deal with the need of a noise ordinance and other business.

Several members of the Rec Commission were at the meeting to ask the city for money. Tina Sager acted as spokesperson before the council and stated that in the last six years income has not met expenses for the Rec Commission.

"The Rec Commission has continued to go in the hole," Mrs. Sager said.

The Rec Commission operates on tax-generated funds which pass through the Cheylin

School District. Based on 1 mill, the Rec Commission receives \$22,749 a year to lease and operate the city-owned pool and provide for several sports teams.

The city was not able to offer assistance for operating costs, noting they did not have funds available. They did offer to make several repairs to the pool such as repair the main water line to the facility that froze last winter

and maintenance on the pool heater.

Under the lease agreement, the city is responsible for one-half of the costs for pumps, filters and the heater. They are solely responsible for structural repairs and, under the agreement, provide the water at no cost to the Rec Commission.

The Council told the Rec Commission that if they approached them before they submit

their budget in August, perhaps they could help them with funds later on.

The mayor asked if the Rec Commission would still be able to open the pool at the end of May.

"I think we can," Mrs. Sager said.

The Rec Commission will have an open meeting at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 8 at the
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Wildlife group's members explain intentions

By Karen Krien

Three members of the Cheyenne County Wildlife Board explained what the club's intentions were as far as helping fix up the exhibit buildings at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

Hal Sager, Tim Stimbart and Gordon Ross, all Wildlife board members, told the commissioners at the Friday meeting that there had obviously been some misunderstandings and misinformation at prior commissioner meetings. Mr. Sager said that they wanted the commissioners to know where they (the organization) stood.

First of all, the organization did not plan to furnish all the materials but they did want to help. The members had started a fund for Wildlife member projects.

In prior meetings, the matter of serving alcohol had been brought up and Mr. Sager said that they would be willing to give funds to help with the remodeling whether alcohol could be served or not.

The commissioners said they had tabled the matter because they still had questions and, now that members of the Wildlife organization were present, maybe these questions could be answered. The commissioners said that the county attorney was also supposed to bring some answers but he wasn't at the

meeting.

The members said they were not against remodeling or helping with the remodeling but they wanted to know what the plans for remodeling were. They wanted to know what the commissioners were going to do about the upkeep of the building.

Tim Raile, commissioner, said that the commissioners do not micro manage the fair board (the fair board sets the fees and rules for renting buildings on the grounds) but also noted that everyone (commissioners and fair board members) needed to be on the same line.

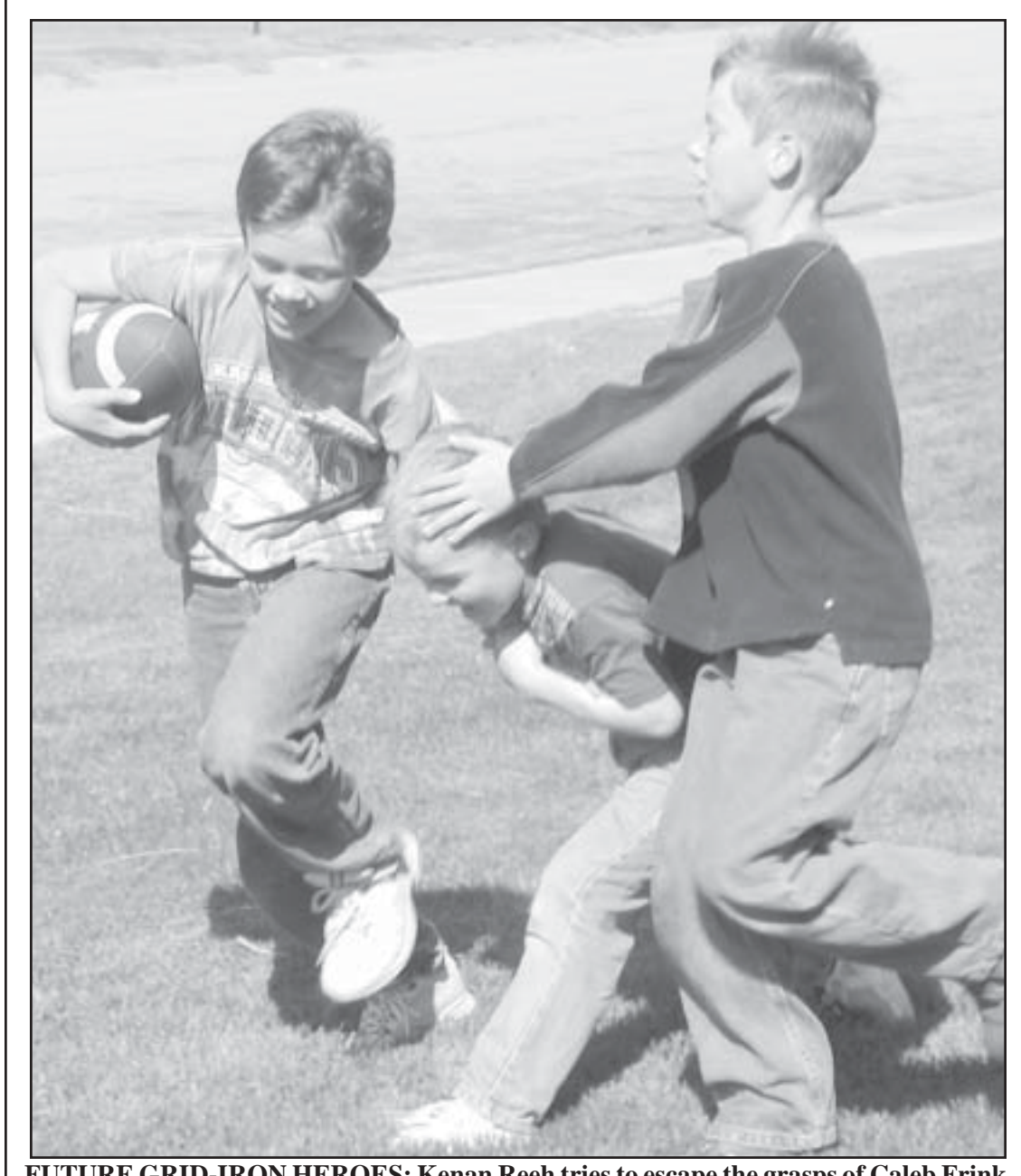
Again, the members of the Wildlife organization emphasized that liquor was not the issue.

Commissioner Raile asked if, when the fair board/commissioners do decide to remodel, could they come to the Cheyenne County Wildlife members and ask for funds.

"Yes, we are still part of Cheyenne County and we want to help," Mr. Sager said.

"I think if plans are made, there are a lot of people and organizations who will help — there are a lot of 4-H'ers who have gone through there."

Ron Krien, commissioner, added that there are a lot of questions about
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FUTURE GRID-IRON HEROES: Kenan Reeh tries to escape the grasps of Caleb Frink (center) and Grant Shrader. The boys found the grass in front of the elementary school perfect for an after school football game.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Tickets to pay for trust

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City Council has adopted a new policy which deals with speeding motorists and provides scholarship money for Cheylin graduates.

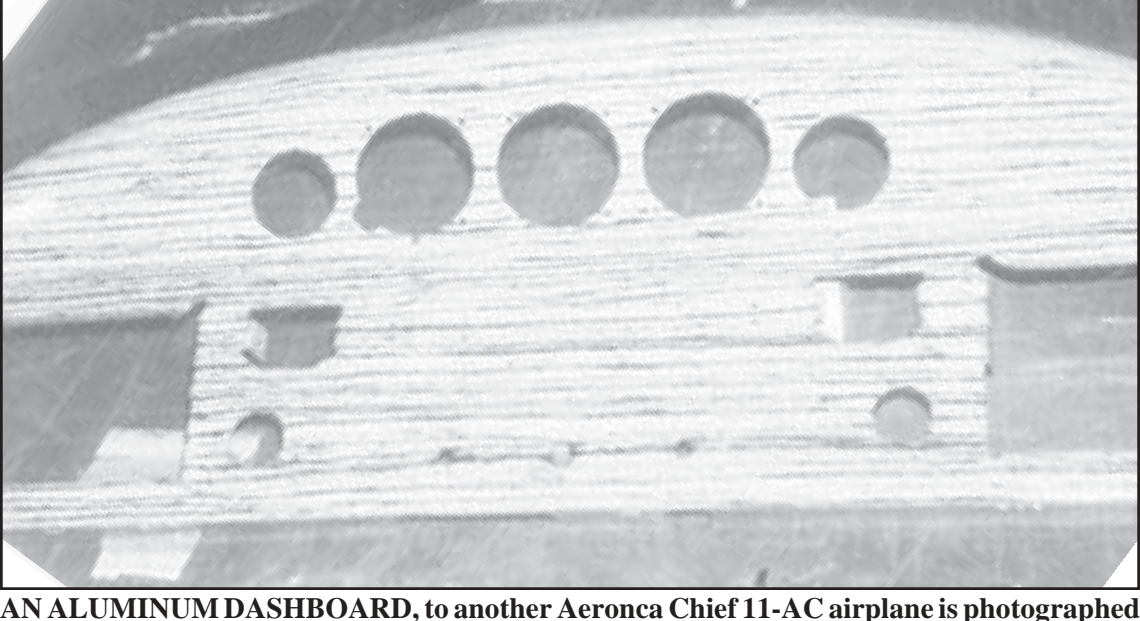
City attorney Leslie Beims presented her plan for the Prosecutor's Charitable Trust at the Monday evening meeting. The council members were quick to accept the policy.

Under current procedures a driver apprehended for speeding in Bird City is given a ticket, made subject to court costs and fines and the violation is placed on their driving record.

What Mrs. Beims offered is a chance for the motorist to avoid the possibility of higher insurance premiums. If the driver is not an habitual offender and the offense is not extreme, for instance 98 miles per hour in town, the person would be given the choice of making a donation to the trust fund.

The motorist would still pay for their fines and court costs but with the contribution their violation would be lowered to that of a non-moving offense. Therefore it would not go on their driving record.

The trust would be used for scholarships for one to up to three
See TRUST on Page 7



AN ALUMINUM DASHBOARD, to another Aeronca Chief 11-AC airplane is photographed before going to a customer.

Photo courtesy of Hot Brush

Designer's work takes off

By Casey McCormick

A Bird City sign maker has become part of an award winning team. His inventive design on an airplane dashboard helped in the restoration of aircraft that has won several awards.

Mike Boyson's work can be seen throughout northwest Kansas. The owner and operator of Hot Brush has put his unique artwork on signs and vehicles in this area for over 30 years.

His aircraft artwork is now traveling around the country and being judged at airshows.

Paul Gould of Sardinia, Ohio, contacted Mr. Boyson and made an unusual request. He needed a dashboard to be created for a 1946 Aeronca Chief 11-AC airplane.

Mr. Boyson went to work designing the dashboard to look exactly like the wooden original. He tested and tried several different methods to duplicate the texture and style from the wood panel.



MIKE BOYSON of Hot Brush Professional Lettering has been perfecting his trade for 30 years.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

resident Rod Young, who knows his way around aircraft as a crop duster by trade. Mr. Young was able to fill the empty holes in the Chief's aluminum dashboard.

Back in Sardinia, Mr. Gould completed the restoration of the plane. The project had begun in December of 1995 and the plane took off again on Feb. 26, 2001.

Renamed the "Millennium Chief," the plane and pilot Gould, first competed in the EEA Air Venture 2001 show in Oshkosh, Wis. There the Millennium Chief was

awarded the Silver Lindy award for Vintage Reserve Grand Champion Classic.

In 2002, Mr. Gould flew his plane to Lakeland, Fla., for the Sun'n Fun Fly-In. Again the Millennium Chief was recognized, earning the Grand Champion honor.

"I am plugging your professional wood grain craftsmanship to everyone who wants to restore their instrument panel to original," Mr. Gould said.

Extension Council presents 2005 budget to Commissioners

By Karen Krien

It will soon be time for the county's 2005 budgets to be reviewed and set. Members of the Cheyenne County Extension Council and the area director presented the Council's proposed budget to the Cheyenne County Commissioners at the Friday meeting.

Members of the Cheyenne County Extension Council, Perry Keller, Randy Rueb, Treva Henry, Mary Shahan, Judy Sager and director Tye Faulkender, as well as Dan O'Brien, area director, handed the commissioners the Council's budget for next year. The group asked that the commissioners set aside \$65,000 in the budget for the Extension Council.

Last year, the Council had re-

quested \$72,000 from the county but had received only \$56,520 but this year, they had hired Extension Director Faulkender and would need additional funds.

Commissioner Tim Raile was concerned about the cash balance but it was explained that this money is kept in case of an emergency such as replacing equipment, repairs, an illness which would require hiring an extra person or any other unexpected costs.

The commissioners told the group that they were pleased with the detailed proposed budget—that in year's past, they had asked for this same type of report but had never received it.

Mr. Keller said they felt that they had hired a good person and a lot of

the problems seen in the last three years would be solved.

County Development report

Susan Hobrock, coordinator for the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, asked that the commissioners sign Resolution 04-03 and 04-04. The resolutions pertained to economic development and support within Cheyenne County. The resolutions were signed. The commissioners also signed a letter of support for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center grant process.

The commissioners commended Coordinator Hobrock for her work and looking into different types of businesses which might come to the county.

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Sheriff's officers report internet scam

By Karen Krien

An internet-related scam has hit St. Francis along with Colby, Norton, McCook and Wray. The sheriff is asking everyone who goes into a chat room, especially the Yahoo chat room, not give out personal information such as credit card numbers, pin numbers and personal identification including social security number and address.

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring and Jeff Moser, deputy, with the help of Carol Gamblin, dispatcher, have helped uncover two incidents in St. Francis which were using innocent residents as middle men to supposedly ship new, many of them expensive, goods to Nigeria.

Deputy Moser said the sheriff's office had received a complaint from the St. Francis person receiving the packages by UPS and through the mail on April 12. Officials said the goods in the packages had been paid for by credit card.

On April 22, officers received a similar report from a different person. This person had also been on the Yahoo chat line but this time, the person on the other line was proposing romantic interests and wanted to move to St. Francis within the next six months. The suspect asked that he start sending some of his "stuff" to victim's house and wanted the address. The victim thought he was joking but gave a friend's address.

A week later, the friend received a package. Instead of personal items like the victim had assumed would arrive, the package was filled with brand new items and the victim was asked to send the package to Nigeria using an enclosed shipping label. It was later discovered that the shipping label had been purchased with a fraudulent credit card.

In fact, all of the goods have been purchased with fraudulent credit
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Awards banquet May 11

By Casey McCormick

The Cheylin booster club is gearing up for the Cheylin High School Awards Banquet, to be held at the McDonald gym on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The booster club is one of the most active supporters of Cheylin students and the awards banquet is the highlight of the school year.

As always they will provide meat, drinks and paper products. But if you're coming you're invited to bring a side dish.

Join the booster club and Cheylin schools as they salute the area high school students.

SCAM

Continued from Page 1

cards. They come from places of businesses such as Newport News, Music Today, Columbia House, King Size, Lane Bryant, Coldwater Creek, Pro Activ Solution, Jessia London and La Redoute (a French company). Items include: video game players and games, shoes, expensive clothing, socks, CDs and DVDs.

The Cheyenne County Sheriff's office has \$1,858 in goods they are holding. UPS is holding two packages totaling \$850 and \$276 which had been mailed from St. Francis using the fraudulent shipping labels.

The UPS investigators are looking into the cases and Fed-Ex has been alerted.

Sheriff Dankenbring said he and Deputy Moser had checked with Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus which also handles the mailing of UPS packages. Jackie Evatt, employee, said that there are numerous papers which need to be filled out to get a package ready to send to Nigeria. It would take more than just a shipping label.

Deputy Moser said there were links to Pennsylvania, New York or Illinois. All phone numbers had been disconnected and the credit card, which was stolen had belonged to a person in Pennsylvania. It is possible that the goods never reach Nigeria but are intercepted at a certain point.

Sheriff Dankenbring said that

video game players, DVDs and VCRs are not compatible to the electrical currents in Nigeria so would not work in that country.

There are also numerous fictitious names used in the Yahoo chat room but those names revealed by the people in St. Francis included "Coolwude" and "tope4u."

Investigators have narrowed the head of the scam coming from the east coast but they will be hard to track down. UPS officials have also determined that there is no Nigeria address which is printed on the labels. People can no longer ship goods overseas with a credit card but need cash instead especially if the packages are going to Nigeria.

"Just be careful who you give any information to and, if you haven't done so, get your social security number off your driver's license — checks already have your address and with your social security number, criminals have all they need to get your money," Sheriff Dankenbring said.

When using your credit card on the internet, be sure it is a legitimate site. There are false store fronts. All these people need is a credit card number and the spending is the credit card's limit and the person whose name is on the card will have a big bill to pay.

BUDGET

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In other business

- In other business:
- Chris Bracelin, St. Francis, was temporarily appointed to Cemetery Board District 2.
- An Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspection report showed that the Cheyenne County Landfill site had no deficiencies.
- The commissioners adopted a Kansas Commissions Code of Ethics and a procurement policy which are both necessary is applying for or obtaining Community Development Block Grants.
- The clerk was approved to attend a meeting on voting changes.
- The commissioners agreed to move Karen Flemming, Bonnie Zwegardt and Deb Smith, from a two to a three classification, however, there will be no dollar change in pay with the change of classifications. The commissioners said they will look at a raise when they do the budgets.
- The commissioners approved pay applications eight and nine to Rhoads Construction for work on the hospital. The amounts were: eight-\$278,814 and nine-\$139,661.
- The ambulance bookkeeper had submitted the amount of the mandatory contract obligations (write-offs) amounting to \$3,544. The amount of money brought in by ambulance runs was not available.
- The commissioners approved 23.5 hours overtime for Jeff Moser, deputy sheriff.

• The commissioners talked about blowing dirt. Commissioners can contact a landowner if they see a problem or if a problem is reported to them. However, they wondered how long the landowner had before the commissioners could contact the county road and bridge department to take care of the problem. The matter was tabled with the understanding that if there was a danger and the landowners wasn't there immediately, the county could be called. The landowner would be charged for the work done.

• The location of the Food Pantry was once again discussed. Reva Pownell, coordinator, had asked if the commissioners had looked at the rooms previously used by Social Rehabilitation Service. Since the rooms were empty and on the basement floor, she thought it would be easier to house the Pantry there instead on the third floor in the old jail. The commissioners discussed building a wall, but, until they know what a new county attorney may require, they didn't want to do anything.

• Carl Williams, maintenance person, had the sprinklers connected to the northwest corner of the courthouse grounds and the prior problem of getting water to the area had been solved.

Next meeting

The next meeting was moved from May 14 to May 17. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

TRUST

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Cheylin graduates, depending on how much money had gone in during the year. 50 percent of the fund would go to scholarships, while another 25 percent would be used for equipment purchases for local law enforcement. The remaining 25 percent would stay in the trust.

This program is not unique to northwest Kansas as Sherman County has a similar system in place.

WILDLIFE

Continued from Page 1

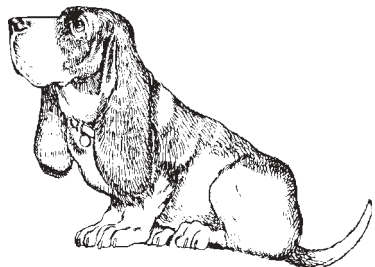
little things that still need to be worked out.

It was Commissioner Raile's feeling that remodeling the building was one issue while the matter of alcohol on the premises was another issue.

Everyone present agreed that getting the fair building back into good shape was the main concern and, just like the trees and scholarships the Wildlife organization plant and give, there is no guarantee that the trees will go nor the scholarships will be used to the full benefit.

The Wildlife board members ended by saying that, even if they gave money to help with the remodeling, they did not expect special privileges — they just wanted to help by donating money.

The building at the fair grounds will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.



REC

Continued from Page 1

Cheylin High School library. They hope the public will come and offer ideas and suggestions to help out the Rec Commission.

City Attorney Leslie Beims presented a speeding ticket diversion policy to the council. The Prosecutor's Charitable Trust would allow drivers who have been cited for speeding an option. (See related story)

The council also discussed the need for putting a noise ordinance in the city books. Mrs. Beims said that other towns have "loud sound amplification" ordinances. The types of noise these ordinances cover are from muffler amplification devices to stereos which are being played too loud. The city attorney will draft an ordinance for the next meeting.

In Other Business

Chris Cisineros was at the meeting and requested that the city offer some land for a place where kids could ride motorcycles and other off-road vehicles. Mayor Dave Hickert said that a similar request had been made several years ago and the city ran into a problem with liability, even if the individual running the track did have insurance.

Mr. Cisineros also took exception to being stopped by Cheyenne County Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring, saying that he was being singled out for riding his dirt bike with his son in town. He felt other drivers were being treated more leniently.

The council agreed that all drivers of vehicles should be treated the same and obey traffic rules.

Darlene Bierbach was given a building permit for her planned fencing project.

Wade Carmichael talked to the council about the speed bumps that have recently been placed along Park Avenue. His farm headquarters are accessed along this street and he complained that the speed bumps are dif-

ficult to see and "some small cars have been bottoming out."

The council agreed to "tone them down a little bit."

The city is still working on a request to Century II and needs a little more cost definition on some items. Some of the proposed needs are a new front door for the city hall, a grinder for the sewage station, a sprinkler system for the park, four fire hydrants, tube heaters for the shop and a culvert along Bird Avenue.

They also want to give further thought to how much money the city can put in on each project.

Alicia Beeson was selected for the summer help position. She will work from June 1 to July 31 and will receive a 50 cents increase in pay.

Equipment Committee head, Loren White, asked if the city was ready for the mosquito season. Sam Beeson, city manager, said the sprayer was ready to go and that there are some pond biscuits still available from last year.

Park and Recreation Committee head, Wendy Richmeier said that the walls have been erected for the new bathrooms at the park. Also she will be meeting with the 4-H Go Getters Club to handle the park flower beds

again this year.

Councilman Frank Serrano proposed a new cellular phone system for the city which is less expensive for the city and should pay for itself in about two months. The council agreed to accept the new plan.

Sheriff Dankenbring addressed the council in the absence of Deputy Jeff Moser, who will be at the police academy until his Aug. 17 graduation. The sheriff told the council that he and undersheriff Cliff Flock would be covering Bird City in Deputy Moser's absence.

He presented the Project Child Safe program which offers free firearm locks to family gun owners. The locks will be handed out at an upcoming Fireman's carnival.

The city attorney stated that a more complete resolution needed to be developed for the street paving petitions. She will pull legal descriptions of properties and bring the resolution to the next meeting.

City Manager Beeson gave a report on the most recent water readings. Not as much water is being lost, thanks to changes made last month to water meters. He said the lost water is partly due to three fire hydrants that are in need of replacement.

South of McDonald by Sandy Binning

First Communion

Tori Sramek, Cameron Ginther, Kegan Carol and James Peterson celebrated their first communion Sunday morning, May 2 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood with Father Damien Richards presiding. Those attending an after church dinner at the home of Aaron and Lacy Sramek, Cole and Tori were Ivan and Mary Sramek, Lucille Sramek, Pat and Betty Finley, Brad and Jackie McDougal, Lee and Pam Vyzourek, Gene and Mary Leitner and Bob and Rose Bojarski.

Mickey and Brenda Weiser and family were Saturday guests of Henry and Eldon Cahoj.

George and Kathy Banister helped with the Cheylin After Prom Party in McDonald Saturday evening.

Tom and Kelly Dewey attended the wedding Nick Bowles and Tara Griffin in Colby Saturday afternoon.

Diane Shay and children and Charlene Kramer traveled to Manhattan Thursday to visit Dennis Kramer. They returned home Friday.

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Bird City Times

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