



## Council gets park project update and meets undersheriff

By Melinda Basnett

The Bird City Council met on Friday instead of their regular Monday meeting because some of the members would be out of town.

On the public agenda Cathy Domsch and Wade Carmichael updated the council members on the park project and the information on moving the tank to its new site in the park.

Mrs. Domsch reported that she had contacted the department of defense and got the criteria for moving the tank. Certain dimensions for the concrete slab must be followed and a color photo after the tank is in place must be submitted. The presence of the tank in the park will not increase the city's insurance but they are encouraged to put up signs stating they are not responsible for accidents, and to discourage children from climbing on the tank. The tank will still be subject to periodic inspections by the Department of Defense to see that it is maintained properly. The recent coat of paint was mandatory after it was inspected.

Jim Williams, Bird City resident, spoke to the council concerning his property taxes. Mr. Williams says he is being assessed for street paving done bordering his property over 10 years ago.

"My deed reads free and clear," Mr. Williams said. "I feel I am not responsible for these charges."

Charges for the paving could be paid all at once or over a 10 year period, but somehow four years worth of the assessments were skipped by

the county, possibly due to a change of personnel.

"Somehow this wasn't put on the tax roll like it should have been, we will need to investigate what happened," councilman Troy Burr said.

Mr. Williams hoped the council would forgive the charges because he did not own the property at that time.

Mayor Larry Henry asked the council members if they thought the city should temporarily stop issuing burn permits. He was concerned about the fire danger due to the extreme dry conditions. He asked if the county had issued a burn ban yet.

"If they follow the rules (purchasing a permit, calling in and notifying dispatch when burning, etc.) and be cautious, I think it will be all right," councilman Frank Serrano said.

### Sheriff's report

County Sheriff Troy Gardner attended the meeting to give the activity report and to also introduce Tom Raile as the new undersheriff to be living in Bird City. He will take the place of Mark Davidson.

The council welcomed Mr. Raile and also expressed their regret at Mr. Davidson's departure. The sheriff's report contained seven paper services and seven parking citations. He explained that the parking citations were issued after a number of complaints of people parking in front of the post office during auctions at the Legion Hall. He said announcements were made multiple times during the auction, and after a time violators were ticketed. There

were two speeding tickets issued, two domestic disturbances, two four-wheeler warnings, one theft report, one transport, and one ambulance assist.

### Sewer project

Progress on the sewer project was discussed. Some council members expressed concern that the public is not clear on the current sewer plant condition and the need to replace the system. More ways to inform the public was discussed.

The council has received seven responses on the request for qualifications to hire an engineer for the project.

"We need to set up procedures for dealing with these responses and get them narrowed down so we can set up interviews," Mayor Henry said.

Action should be taken quickly due to deadlines for grant funding. One of the applicants was present and encourage the council to contact the grant writer before establishing a procedure for dealing with the qualifications to make sure that whatever procedure they follow will not be detrimental to qualifying for the grant.

Sewer fee increases to a level with the state average was also discussed. More information is needed to determine how big of an increase is needed. Funds raised by the increase will give the city the equity to seek matching funds for the project.

Personnel Committee member Troy Burr asked the council for a 10 minute executive session to discuss personnel and then the meeting adjourned.



LOOKING TO PASS — Jacob Brubaker takes part in the annual Cheylin National Honor Society Basketball games. Mary Anne Orten and Derek Vandike try to intercept.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

## Burn-ban resolution adopted for county residents

By Karen Krien

For the past month, the Cheyenne County Commissioners have been talking about adopting a burn-ban resolution but they kept hoping it would rain.

However, recently, a pasture north of St. Francis was burned after the owners burned some trees

and brush. It had snowed but the snow quickly melted and a wind caused some of the smoldering embers to fire up again.

Last week, a fire north which started north of Eckley in Yuma County, Colo., burned approximately 23,000 acres and injured four firefighters. Strong winds fueled the

fire which spread about 10-miles wide.

Students and faculty from Wray High School and the Wray Grade School were evacuated on the chance that the fire could jump the highway and continue on its path of destruction. The hospital in Wray was put on standby to evacuate.

Early Monday morning, Cheyenne Commissioners Andy Beikman and Jane Brubaker met and agreed to sign the burn-ban resolution.

No open burning not only means the burning of trash is banned but also the burning of fields, pastures, fence rows, any grassland or

ditches, campfires, warming fires and charcoal grill fires. This resolution does not apply within the city limits of Bird City or St. Francis.

Anyone violating this resolution will be charged \$500 and can even go to jail.

On Tuesday, there was a fire alert for the plains of Colorado which

could also include the bordering Kansas counties.

Meteorologists reported the combination of low humidity, gusty winds and above-average temperatures, combined with tender dry vegetation, warranted extremely high fire danger.



Jason Smith Scott Smith

## Bird City pair wins contest

By Karen Krien

There were 168 pounds of fish caught at the annual fishing contest held by the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization on Feb. 26. The contest was held at Keller Pond, northwest of St. Francis.

Winning the contest was the Bird City team of Scott Smith and Jason Smith who caught 10 fish for a total of 15.25 pounds. Jason also hauled in the only tag fish of the four placed in the pond.

Taking second place were Harold Tygart and Tim Stimbert. Their 10 pounds of fish weighed 13.50 pounds. Matt Smull and Tyler Lauer had 12.50 pounds of fish, taking third place. Chris Bracelin and Cade Bracelin had 12.50 pounds for fourth place.

Hal Sager, coordinator of the contest, said there were 27 two-people teams entered and six of the teams caught their limit of 10 fish. In all, there were 115 fish caught.

"We had a tremendous day and a good turnout," Mr. Sager said. "The weather was great fishing weather."

While the contest is for all ages, Mr. Sager said the kids who turned out to fish had a lot of fun.



ROY SHRADER HELPS Joey McCormick at the fishing contest held at Keller Pond.

Times Staff photo by Casey McCormick

"There were 500 pounds of fish put in the pond and there are still plenty of fish out there,"

Mr. Sager said.

People are encouraged to go fish the trout out of the pond

while the weather is cool as trout do not survive in warmer temperatures.

## Don't wait to put nitrogen on wheat

By Jeanne Falk,  
K-State Research and Extension  
Multi-County Agronomist

Moisture over the winter has been marginal to nonexistent, which is causing many farmers to scratch their heads and wonder whether it is worth topdressing nitrogen on their wheat fields. If nitrogen is not applied, potential wheat yields will likely be reduced. Spring could have normal rainfall and temperatures, but the wheat will be unable to achieve higher potential yields due to lack of nitrogen.

Typically, the biggest yield response to nitrogen with wheat is where the nitrogen is in the root zone before jointing, according to Dale Leikam, soil nutrient specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

According to Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist, if nitrogen is delayed until moisture is received, sufficient nitrogen may not be available to wheat at jointing. If the wheat does not have enough nitrogen, it will abort some tillers while promoting other tillers; therefore, decreasing the amount of tillers in the field.

So when is wheat going to joint? There is no one specific date for the area. Initiation of jointing is related to the weather, wheat variety, and when it was planted. A bitterly cold winter and cool spring will delay jointing, while in a mild winter and spring, jointing will likely start earlier than normal.

As for wheat varieties, some varieties, like Jagger, tend to start jointing earlier than others. Realistically, however, we suspect jointing will start earlier than normal. Therefore, farmers need to apply

additional nitrogen to wheat no later than mid-March for northwest Kansas. An additional 30 to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen topdressed has the potential to increase wheat yields by 15 to 25 bushels per acre.

So what happens if we apply nitrogen now and don't get a rain for a while to get the nitrogen into the soil?

If rains do not come until after the wheat has jointed, will the topdressed nitrogen still have impacts on yields?

Leikam said that in most cases the answer is yes.

"Even though we would prefer to have the nitrogen into the root zone before jointing, nitrogen can still increase yields on nitrogen-deficient wheat, if it is taken up as late as the boot stage."

About half of the total nitrogen used by wheat is in the plant by the early boot stage. Nitrogen taken up at the boot stage will not increase tiller numbers or maximum potential head size, but can increase kernel weight and help maintain potential kernel numbers per spikelet.

Many producers like to wait as long as possible to apply a nitrogen so they can add a herbicide with it. This combination is a good way to minimize trips across the field.

However, by waiting to put herbicides on wheat in mid-April, the opportunity to maximize wheat yields with additional nitrogen will have slipped away with only a marginal increase in yield received from the additional nitrogen.

For more help with topdressing wheat or fertilizer rates, please contact your local Extension office.