

# Council talks about incentive plan

**By Melinda Basnett**  
Bird City City Council met for the meeting on Monday evening with three members present to make a quorum and mayor Larry Henry. Members recognized Cathy Domsch from the Park Committee. She gave members an update on the park project and asked the council for their preferences on the grass that is to be seeded in where the bare spots are. The council voted to share the cost of the grass seed 50/50 with the Park Committee and expressed the wish that a fescue blend be planted instead of buffalo grass. Mrs. Domsch told the council that

a \$10,000 grant for more playground equipment had been received, and planned to order the equipment as soon as possible. More swings, toddler swings and moving the tornado slide to the new area were discussed. The Park Committee sent a letter to the city asking for help in the park for some of the things still to be done like; trimming trees, picking up rocks in the areas to be seeded with grass, cleaning the shelter house and watering. Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development Corporation, addressed the council members to

inform them of the new County Incentive Plan approved by the commissioners. Councilwoman Deb Smith questioned the tax abatement part of the plan, stating that the county would be losing 75 percent of the tax money that they are already collecting on a property if someone leased the building under the incentive plan. Mrs. Smith also questioned whether the abatement could be added back on if the business closed within the three-year abatement period. Other questions were asked about the lease assistance and roadwork assistance parts of

the plan. The fact that the plan doesn't do anything to help existing businesses who are struggling to keep open was brought up. Mrs. Redding said she would take these concerns back to her board, but the commissioners had already approved it, and she just wanted to let the council know what was available. Mayor Henry reported that he had attended the Cheyenne County Biological Emergency Plan meeting, and found the city is responsible for having a plan in place in case of an emergency. He also asked the council for their ap-

proval of recommending Ed Carson to the Housing Authority Board. Sheriff Troy Gardner, and deputy Tom Raile were present to give their monthly activity report, then Sheriff Gardner asked for a 10 minute executive session to discuss personnel. No decisions were made. Two building permits were discussed and approved. City clerk's items included a new printer needed to print the water bills. The old one was not able to be fixed. Members approved city clerk, Jana Diers to purchase one in the medium price range that could be serviced locally as well as state-

ments that would work with it. Court software was discussed. After July 1 all convictions must be sent in electronically. Mrs. Diers is checking on options to deal with the matter. The agreement with the housing for budget billing was discussed, as well as adopting a resolution for the franchise of Cebridge Cable that was bought out by Eagle Communications. Three applications for summer-time help were reviewed and voted upon. It was approved to hire Alicia Beeson for 320 hours at \$8 per hour.

# Bird City man pleads guilty to changed count

**By Karen Krien**  
A Bird City man plead guilty to a misdemeanor and ends up paying a \$1,000 fine and court costs after leading officers on a high speed chase and holding officers at bay at his home south of Bird City in August. Vertie Bolyard, 70, Bird City, was in Cheyenne County District Court on May 11 where a plea agreement was reached between the defendant and the Cheyenne County Attorney, Justin Barrett. Bolyard had been charged with two counts of criminal threat, severity level 9 person felonies; one count aggravated assault, severity level 7 person felony; and one count of fleeing or attempting to elude the police, a severity level 9 person felony. The criminal threat and assault charges stemmed from incidents to the Cheyenne County Sheriff with Bolyard's estranged wife Rose, who lives in Bird City. The two counts of criminal threat and aggravated assault against Bolyard were dismissed when the victims' situations made it difficult to proceed. The plea agreement said the charges were dropped with prejudice. The count of fleeing or attempting to elude police officers was dropped from a felony to a Class B non-person misdemeanor. Under the agreement Bolyard pled guilty to the amended count and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,000 and court costs of \$117. Bolyard led county law officers on a high-speed chase on country roads south of Bird City on Aug 8.

Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County Sheriff, said Bolyard took off after being told during a traffic stop that he was under arrest for a domestic violence situation with his wife Rose. He was reported to have been going at least 80 miles per hour on dirt roads while he was being followed by police officers. He stopped at his home nine miles south of Bird City. For the next seven hours, the officers tried to contact him by phone. They staked out near his home and Bolyard was reported going in and out of his house and sitting on his lawn mower. About 24 officers of the Kansas Highway Patrol Special Response Team made contact with Bolyard, and he turned himself in and was taken to the Sherman County Bastille. Once the team members arrived a team of four to six were dropped behind a tree line on the north side of the property about 4 p.m. Mountain Time. They moved into position to be able to see the house and surrounding buildings. An hour later a second group of Special Response Team members were taken to the house followed by Cheyenne County Sheriff, State Patrol Officers and Sherman County Sheriff and Undersheriff. The officers could see Bolyard outside of his house, and he went out by a shed to the west of the house. About 30 minutes after the second team and officers went down Country Road 28, it was reported the team had arrested Bolyard near the tree line.

# Resolution gives county permission for extermination

**By Karen Krien**  
A resolution to control prairie dogs in the county was adopted at the May 31 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. All township trustees will be sent a letter asking them to attend the June 15 meeting at 9 a.m. for a hearing. If anyone has a concern about the resolution or about the usage of township funds to pay for prairie dog extermination, they are asked to attend the meeting. The resolution was drawn up because prairie dogs were moving onto pasture lands where they were not wanted. The pastures are next to those occupied by many prairie dogs and the landowner has not taken serious moves to get rid of the animals. The resolution will give the commissioners permission to send a qualified person to specified pastures to get rid of the prairie dogs. The person will be able to buy the poison, equipment and materials to get rid of the dogs. But, before the extermination begins, the landowner(s) will be given a written notice that the prairie dogs do exist on the property and the landowner needs to make a diligent effort to get rid of them. Failure to use

the materials offered by the county or to make the effort to control the dogs within 15 days after the specified date on the notice will give the commissioners permission to send a qualified exterminator onto the property. If, after the 15-day notice, the exterminator is sent to get rid of the prairie dogs, then the landowner will receive a bill for all of the costs. The landowner will have 30 days to pay the bill and, if the landowner doesn't, the cost will be put on the tax rolls against the property. A landowner can come to the commissioners and tell them he wants the prairie dogs left on his land. But if the prairie dogs go across the line into the neighboring pasture, landowner will be considered not being diligent in keeping the prairie dogs contained on his land and will need to pay the costs for getting rid of the dogs on his neighbor's land. County attorney, Justin Barrett will find out more about the laws of township money, how it can be spent and who has the authority to spend it. Dan Schlittenhardt, prairie dog manager, approved of the resolution



Work continues near the Legion Memorial as the Gazebo is moved and the concrete pad where the tank rested is torn out.  
Times Staff Photo by Melinda Basnett

# St. Francis officer is oldest in the state

**By Karen Krien**  
Norvin Anderson, St. Francis law officer, has been declared the oldest, working officer in the state of Kansas by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. Troy Garner, sheriff, is now seeing if he is also the oldest working officer in the country. Officer Anderson started his career in 1969, 37 years ago. For the first two years, he was the city policeman working with Ray Lee, who was the sheriff. He then became the deputy sheriff and he and Sheriff Lee worked together until the sheriff retired in 1996. Officer Anderson continued to work in law enforcement and, today is working with Sheriff and St. Francis Chief of Police Troy Gardner. "He can work for me as long as he wants," said Chief Gardner. "He has lots of institutional knowledge, knows everybody, locations and is invaluable when it comes to what the other officers can learn from him." Officer Anderson said there have been a great deal of changes in the last 37 years, from technology, to the attitude of people. There was some drug use in 1969 but today, the illegal drugs have become "harder" drugs. "There is less respect for the law and more complaints about the law," he said. Sheriff Gardner said that Officer Anderson has a calming influence in all situations he deals with. "I'm always asking for advice on how to deal with situations," he said. In 1969, there was no backup help so he and the sheriff were on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was nothing unusual to get calls in the middle of the night and then get up the next day (if he had a chance to go to bed), and be at the office. The sheriff also noted that it took an understanding family and wife as he was out in the line of duty a lot of the times when other parents were at home with their families. Other changes through the years have been the changes in the law. He



SHERIFF TROY GARDNER, left, and deputy Sara Smith discuss business with officer Norvin Anderson.  
Times Staff Photo by Karen Krien

said what used to be a simple test for a person caught driving while intoxicated (DUI) has turned into extensive testing as well as piles of paperwork. "The girls in the office take care of most of the paperwork which makes it much easier for me," he said. There are now mandatory arrests for DUIs, domestic violence and fleeing and eluding. Fourteen weeks of training are required before a per-

son can become an officer; then 40 hours are needed each year. Through the years, Officer Anderson has seen a number of crimes, big and small, but in 1985, Daniel Remata, along with Lisa Dunn, James C. Hunter, Jr. and Mark Walter murdered their way across the area until stopped only miles north of Colby. They were considered one of the state's most notorious killers. Sheriff Lee and Officer Anderson

were helping officers track the killers down and were the second officers on the scene. The state patrolman killed Walter. It was a killing spree that will not soon be forgotten. Officer Anderson said he plans to continue working. He also noted there is little crime in Cheyenne County and he likes the people. "We're proud to have him with us," Sheriff Gardner said. Officer Anderson smiled and said, "Troy is a good man!"