

Century II involved in many areas, 2006 projects reviewed

Bird City has been involved in many community and business development projects the past year. Some of the projects and endeavors we may see become a reality, others we may not.

These that do not have to be viewed as failures, but as learning experiences. Have you ever heard the phrase, try and try again? How do we know what would work if we do not try?

The VanDoren Park Project is one that many donors and volunteers have made the vision of this project become a reality. The support is evident when you walk the walking trail - 265 sections have names or quotes on them. Donations and grants received from Bird City Century II Development Foundation, Sunflower Foundation, Kansas Health Foundation, Bacon Family Foundation and Dane G. Hansen Foundation will help create a beautiful place in the community for family reunions, community festivals and activities and daily outings.

Bird City will soon be welcoming friends and family with a new sign and flagpoles at its entrance, with the help of local funding and volunteers.

The Social Rehabilitation Services Call Center was a big project that the Bird City community worked on this year. Even though Bird City was not a chosen community for the project, one of the vendors that visited with Bird City as a potential partner may be interested in Bird City for a different project. This is another opportunity that may bring additional employment opportunities at some point in the future. This experience laid the groundwork and opened doors that would not have been opened if we would not have tried.

Bird City Dairy, owned and oper-

ated by Clay McCarty and Mike McCarty, will be placed on public notice Jan. 11. After 30 days, Kansas Department of Health and Environment should grant approval and groundbreaking can begin. The area should see many benefits during the construction of the facility with construction crews of 20-40 people renting homes and RV spots, eating out, buying groceries, and fueling trucks. The construction of the dairy will take approximately seven months from groundbreaking to milking. After a few months of operation Bird City Dairy will be open to the public for tours and the owners will host an open house for all to attend.

Where marketing is done via internet and trade shows, businesses such as Bird City Bird Seed do not rely on the local market to survive. The owners of this business, Noel and Tabetha Ketzner, have the entrepreneurial spirit that allowed them to make the Bird City area their home, to raise their kids, and make a living. The success of this and other similar businesses will hopefully open the eyes of others that have the desire to live in a small community and have the dream of owning their own business. Their dream can come true with the right business, a strong marketing and business plan, and a strong work ethic. This holiday season, Tabetha debuted with her snowman and wreath on QVC, the home shopping channel. Viewed in over 92 million households, Tabetha sold over 2,000 items in 6 minutes.

Bird City is now part of the e-world with the new Bird City website, www.birdcity.com. Businesses, organizations and residents are asked to view the site and submit any suggestions, changes or corrections. Cathy Domsch, executive

director of the Bird City Century II Development Foundation, stated that additional pictures and information will be added as time allows, and asks that if anyone is interested in being a contributing photographer or writer, to please do so through the contact page or contact her directly, especially any stories or pictures of the last snow storm or community activities.

Bird City residents had the opportunity to participate in three town hall meetings last year to give their input on community issues. These comments created the goals and objectives outlined in the Bird City Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will soon be finalized and available to everyone for review via the website, as are the First Impressions report, the Business Retention and Expansion Survey, and Community Assessment. This Strategic Plan will give city council and community organizations a guideline for completing community projects for the next five years.

The Bird City clerk, Jana Diers, has established a suggestion box at city hall.

"The city of Bird City is interested in your thoughts. If you have serious and constructive ideas to improve Bird City, raise the moral of the town or just need to get something off your chest, write your thoughts on paper and drop them off at City Hall in the suggestion box," stated Mrs. Diers.

Each month the city clerk will collect the suggestions and have them available for city council to act on or just for "FYI." People can either put their name on the suggestion or remain anonymous.

For additional information on any community projects, feel free to contact Mrs. Diers at 785-734-2616, or Mrs. Domsch at 785-734-2556.

Fair board has January meeting

Ten members of the Cheyenne County Fair Board met on Thursday night and chose "Winds of Change" as the theme of the 2007 fair parade.

President Dick Bursch said he has also hired the janitors for the fair. Bill Erhman, representing the Amusement Authority, said that the members of the Authority will help with a janitor's salary again this year.

Resignation

Ernie Ketzner resigned from the fair board to accept the position of county commissioner. President Bursch thanked Mr. Ketzner for his many years of service as a fairboard member.

Barbecue

Tye Faulkender, Extension director, ask the board why the decision was made to open the fair to food vendors? The response from the board was the free-will barbecue had lost money every year and with more vendors there will be more people involved and the vendor fees will increase revenue. Mr. Faulkender was concerned that bringing in vendors outside the community would lose the hometown atmosphere. The board said they would approve all vendors before contracts are signed.

Other business:

In other business:

- Jared Douthit, board member, said that the companies bidding on the chemicals to be used on the fairgrounds were waiting on 2007 prices.
- Clay Zimbelman, board mem-

ber, asked about the door that needs fixed on the exhibit building. Mr. Douthit said that Wade Krien is working on a bid.

Nick Ketzner, board member, moved that the fair board members be allowed to participate in the lawn mower race. After some discussion about the fact that fair board members have been participating in the fair entertainment for years, the motion died on the floor from the lack of a second.

Erika Lehman, board member, gave the Vendor Committee report. A copy of the rules were handed out

to all members to take home, read and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

President Bursch ask for volunteers to proof the fair book before printing. Ms. Lehman will select other members to help her with the job.

A thank you from Cummins Tool Company for the use of the exhibit building was read. The board was complimented on how nice the building was.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved Jan. 4 fair board meeting minutes.

Kansas Day activities are set for January 29

Kansas Day, Monday, Jan. 29, will be an exciting day in Bird City as Kansas celebrates its 134th birthday. There are only two counties in the state, Cheyenne and Shawnee, that officially hold Kansas Day festivities.

The theme for this year's Kansas Day is Orphan Trains of the Plains. Marilyn Holt, Abilene, will present the program of the Orphan Trains of Kansas. Ms. Holt is one of the speakers affiliated with the Kansas Humanities Council.

Kansas Day in Bird City was organized in 1930 by C. W. Tricket, a pioneer lady who was concerned about preserving Kansas heritage. Every year since, many residents have made this day special for Cheyenne County. Registration starts at 10 a.m. with a potluck dinner following at 11:30.

The Swinging Seniors will entertain with music during the lunch hour.

Along with Ms. Holt, the program will have children from Bird City's fourth and fifth grade. The third grade class of St. Francis will put on a short performance.

There will be a small group of singers who will present a song written by J.B. Roshong, who once lived in Cheyenne County. There will also be group singing of Kansas songs.

The eldest man and woman, the youngest child and the individuals who have traveled the farthest will be recognized.

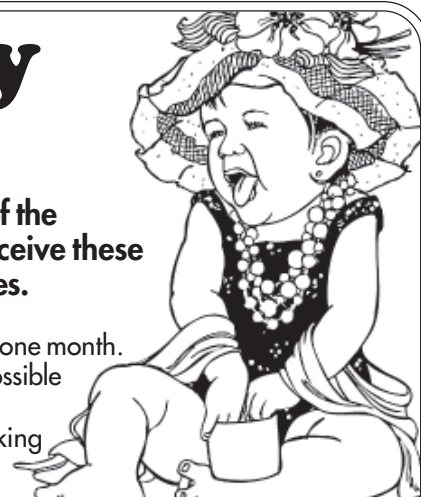
"We encourage all of you to attend the 78th annual Cheyenne County Kansas Day festivities in the Bird City American Legion Hall on Jan. 29," said Margaret Bucholtz, president of the Kansas Day Association.

First Baby Contest

We're celebrating the first special delivery of the Year 2007! The winning baby and parents will receive these bundles of gifts, courtesy of these businesses.

Parents Rules:

- The parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
- The Saint Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible after the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
- A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.



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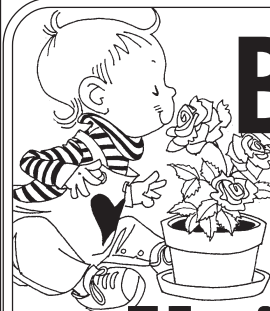
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Baby Gift



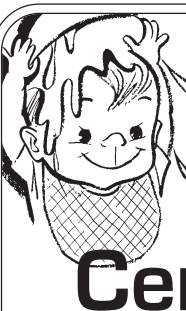
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Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants.

CCEAP Applications will be available starting Tuesday, December 26, 2006 at the following locations:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| St. Francis | |
| ☐ Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office | ☐ City Office |
| ☐ St. Francis Equity Co-op | |
| Bird City | |
| ☐ City Office | ☐ Frontier Equity |
| SRS Agents | |
| ☐ Goodland | ☐ Colby |

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P.O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

Program sponsored by: Priority Oil & Gas LLC and Energy Outreach Colorado