

## Prairie dog control to wait until fall

### Prairie dogs

The last day to control prairie dogs with the chemical bait Rozol was Thursday, March 15.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners had received calls from ranchers who were wanting their dogs baited and they talked with Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, at their meeting on Thursday.

The supervisor said he had been treating dogs at the Dan Busse farm and he was finishing up. Because the deadline was that day, he was unable to treat any more until October.

Commissioner Ray Lee said that since the last meeting, he had received a call from Dale Faylor about having his dogs treated but Mr. Schlittenhardt said Mr. Faylor had never called him. He said he couldn't have done it anyway because he was tied up at the Busse farm.

They asked if Mr. Schlittenhardt could call for an extension because several years ago, an extension had been made. Mr. Schlittenhardt said that the person who was called at that time is no longer in the same position. He said he could call but

thought it would be a "miracle" if an extension was granted.

Farmers can do their own baiting with chemicals but they need to be certified. There is also a treated grain that farmers can spread but Mr. Schlittenhardt said that if the prairie dog eats some and does not die, he will never eat it again. The grain is only about 75-percent effective and there is also a matter that birds might pick up the treated grain.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he had heard that there was another bait used in Colorado but

Mr. Schlittenhardt said the label on that product read the same as Rozol, it was not labeled as prairie dog bait. He also said the bait stations some farmers use are considered illegal.

This year, Mr. Schlittenhardt said the snow had hampered the progress of baiting the dogs. Commissioner Beikman said that even with the snow, he thought the work could have started earlier. Hopefully, Mr. Schlittenhardt can be out as soon as he can in the fall.

Commissioner Lee asked that the supervisor call Mr. Faylor. Com-

missioner Beikman said that someone, probably Mr. Schlittenhardt, needed to follow-up on the letters previously sent to those having prairie dog problems.

### Pickup

Supervisor Schlittenhardt had another bid for a 2008 Ford pickup from Yost Ford-Mercury. He had a bid for a four-door pickup at the last meeting and this bid was for a two-door pickup. He noted that the difference was only \$2,200. The pickup he wants to trade in is 10-years-old and, if divided by the number of years, that would only amount

to \$220 difference a year.

He told the commissioners that he would like a pickup with a back seat where he could put his briefcase and other equipment instead of putting it on the front seat beside him. When he has to make a quick stop, the stuff slides on the floor.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked if the old pickup could be used in the road and bridge department. Mr. Schlittenhardt said that one of the doors doesn't shut and it will need a new clutch and other repairs. No decision was made.

## Airport decisions need to be made

### By Karen Krien

Work on the airport runway and the lack of attendance at Airport Authority meetings was the main concern of Dave Yost, Authority member.

He told the Cheyenne County Commissioners at the Thursday meeting that there hadn't been a quorum at the last meeting and there were some important decisions to be made. He wondered if the number of people needed to vote could be changed to a lower number.

The commissioners agreed that there needed to be four people at the meeting as there were seven board members. However, maybe some of the board could be replaced.

Mr. Yost said that he thought that part of the board were either not in the area or were too busy. He said they were community minded and good guys but they have a lot of things going on. However, he really felt that there needed to be a full board at the meetings.

"We are dealing with a \$1.8 million project and it is important that people show up," he said.

The commissioners said letters were sent out when appointments to the Airport Authority were made. The letters asked that those not wanting to serve on the board should let the commissioners know so another appointment could be made. No responses to the letters had been received.

They discussed several people who might be interested and some calls will be made.

### Grant received

Mr. Yost said the airport had received a grant for \$35,000 to fill the cracks on the runway and other maintenance. He said that it is a 90-10 grant and the county is responsible for 10 percent or \$3,500. The Authority has the money to pay the 10 percent.

He pointed out that the airport

is a tremendous community asset and it is important that this work is done. He asked that the board continue to set aside \$22,000 each year because by the time the airport grants are received and the county has paid for its share, it will be needed.

The commissioners reminded Mr. Yost that they will be working on next year's budget in June.

### Hanger roof

The discussion then turned to the roof of the hanger at the airport. Mr. Yost said the tar paper on the top of the curved cement roof is going bad. They had two bids for repairing the roof but wanted to see if there was a less expensive way of fixing it.

He said that they might have enough money right now to go with one of the bids they have but he thought they would run short before the runway updates are done.

### New apron condition

The new apron (airport parking for visiting planes) has some problems. There was an official inspection of the apron on Tuesday and he asked that the county attorney be present.

There had been some test samples pulled from the asphalt but there was a question as to who had taken the samples. If the samples were to be sent to different places for testing, Mr. Yost thought that the samples should have, been split so equal comparisons could be made.

### Pay phone

Lastly, the board would like to take out the pay phone at the airport. Today, almost everyone carries a cell phone and the pay phone is costing \$35 a month.

If there is no rule that states there is a need for the pay phone at the airport, the board agreed to get rid of it.



**SECOND GRADER Haleigh Rucker concentrates on her work despite the spring-like weather outside her classroom.**

*Times Staff Photo by Melinda Basnett*

## Wildlife benefit promises night of good food and prizes

### By Karen Krien

Every year, hunters and fishermen as well as others interested in the outdoor sports gather for the Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet. It will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Bird City Legion hall on Friday. The auction will begin at 8:15 p.m. Besides a dinner of prime rib with all the trimmings, there will be drawings and door prizes awarded.

Some of the items auctioned off will include a Remington Over/Under shotgun, Henry 22 youth lever action, .270 cal. Howa Bolt Action, 870 20 ga. youth Remington, 870 3 1/2-inch 12 ga. Remington, 20 ga. Charles Daily Over/Under shotgun, .22 long rifle Henry Levor action, .17 HMR pistol, and a .17 HMR bolt action Marlin.

There will be numerous other prizes for young and old.

To encourage membership, those joining with their paid membership will enjoy the free prime rib meal along with the banquet activities.

To purchase a ticket to the banquet and auction, stop at Bumper To Bumper, or Owens True Value in St. Francis; Heritage Corner in Bird City; or contact any Cheyenne County Wildlife member.

### What the organization does

Cheyenne County Wildlife is active in the county and the money used from the banquet and auction help with cost-share tree plantings, stock trout in Keller Pond. The organization also gives four scholarships to graduating students.

This year, the members saw the great need to feed the pheasants,

quail and other wildlife during the weeks of cold, snowy weather. Led by Bob Bixler, Hal Sager first provided grain for the birds, asking that people come pick up the grain and spread it in areas where there were pheasants. Later, Tim Burr, St. Francis Equity manager, saw to it that grain was in the barrels. Others helping with the project were Lance Long, Matt Smull, Chris Braclin and Tim Stimbert. Quail Unlimited also helped pay for the grain.

The Wildlife organization's clubhouse south of St. Francis was once again the place where hunters could bring the deer to be tested for chronic wasting disease. Samples were taken and sent to the K-State labs. Francis O'Leary, member, said no disease had been found in the samples sent in from Cheyenne County.

## Health fair is coming

From Monday, March 26, through Thursday, March 29, will be a good time to get that check up you have been putting off. The check ups and the tests will all be performed with great cost savings.

Cheyenne County Hospital will be holding its spring health and lab fair during the week but appointments are needed for the exams. However, they are not needed for blood draws.

The fair will include laboratory testing Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Male (prostate) and female (pap smear) exams will be Tuesday through Thursday by appointment.

The laboratory work will include a complete metabolic panel, a lipid panel, thyroid stimulating hormone and an optional prostate specific antigen for men.

The complete metabolic panel, known as a "CMP," will give information about electrolytes, sugar (glucose), calcium, kidney functions and liver function.

The "lipid panel" will tell cholesterol levels. These will include the "HDL" (good), "LDL" (bad) cholesterol and "VLDL" (bad). Maybe it would be best said as the good, the bad and the ugly!

The thyroid stimulating hormone, known as a "TSH," will tell if there is a thyroid disorder. This is a common disorder that is usually easily controlled by medication.

The prostate specific antigen, known as a "PSA," can track some prostate abnormalities.

For more accurate glucose and lipid panel, please fast after the evening meal prior to the lab work, however, drinking water is permissible.

See related ad for more details. For further questions regarding the health fair, contact the Cheyenne County Hospital, 785-332-2104 or the Cheyenne County Clinic at 785-332-2682.

## 4-H Days planned

At 5 p.m. on Friday evening, the Cheyenne County 4-H Club Days will be held at the St. Francis Community High School. County 4-H'ers will participate in demonstrations, project talks, vocals, skits and much more, showcasing the youths' abilities in various different activities.

On Saturday, the Cheyenne County 4-H'ers Favorite Food Show will be held also at the high school in the cafeteria. The judging will begin at 2 p.m. with the 4-H'ers interviewed by the judge. The judge will ask them about their choices for their table, the menu and food preparation. This is a fun event for the youth to not only show their cooking skills, but also their ideas, originality and talent.

That same evening from 5 until 7 p.m. in the cafeteria, the 4-H Family Fun Night will be held. There will be displays promoting different 4-H projects, games, activities, fun and prizes.

Everyone is welcome to join the fun and learn more about what 4-H has to offer.

Those having questions should call the Cheyenne County Extension Office at 785-332-3171.

## Check out the Bird City Times website

[www.nwkansas.com/BCwebpages/bcmain.html](http://www.nwkansas.com/BCwebpages/bcmain.html)



**JUNIOR CLASS members Josh Garner, Lincoln Pochop, Sam Hengen, and Chris Basnett run the grill for the National Honor Society basketball games held Friday night.**



**Kelsey Miller looks for an opportunity to pass or shoot the ball during the National Honor Society games.**