



NEW OWNERS — Robert and Sherry Cherry check out their inventory at Big Ed's.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Restaurant has new owners; still serving the same steaks

By Casey McCormick

Big Ed's Steakhouse in Bird City is continuing its tradition of bringing some of the best steaks in the state to its tables. However, the operation is being carried on by new owners, Robert and Sherry Cherry. "It has a pretty neat history," Mr. Cherry said, "but it is still Big Ed's Steakhouse."

Big Ed's started 21 years ago when Ed Thomas purchased the building and began serving steaks in what was an old pool hall. The next owner was Richard Upchurch, who continued to improve Big Ed's for the last 14 years.

Mr. Cherry first came to this area in the mid 1990s to hunt and discovered the landmark restaurant. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cherry are avid hunters and they kept making trips to northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska.

Museum gets grant for genealogy center

The Historical Research and Genealogy Center project is moving forward. A grant which would fund the purchase of a computer, printer, wireless network, microfilm reader-printer (Data ScanPro 400) and backup software will be submitted in May. In addition a projector and laptop for programs and presentations would be purchased with grant money.

The microfilm reader, scanner, printer will move the Museum of Cheyenne County into the 21st century. It would allow the museum to serve the community and families connected to Cheyenne County in a much broader way. This project definitely supports the mission of this society "To bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Cheyenne County — Understanding the history of our state and nation promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage."

In addition to the Genealogy Center project, plans are being made to paint and make repairs to Ye Olde Country Church. The church is really

"We fell in love with the rural area," said Mrs. Cherry.

In June of 2004 the Cherrys decided to retire from their Denver careers. Mr. Cherry sold his custom woodworking shop and Mrs. Cherry left her job as a manager for a communications company.

"Our five-year-plan was to buy a sailboat and take off to see the world," Mrs. Cherry said.

After a little over a year they had sailed over much of the Gulf Coast, Florida Keys and the Bahamas. They took along a favorite companion, Ernie, Mr. Cherry's black Lab hunting dog.

The "five-year-plan" changed when their daughter, Shayla, needed their help with her swimming pool business in southwest Florida. But the Cherrys longed for the rural lifestyle of Kansas and Nebraska.

A friend, Brent Flanders, let them

know that Faye Cooper's farm, on the northern edge of Sherman County, was available.

When they retired, the Cherrys had stored some of their belongings with Mr. Upchurch at the Bird City Storage. Mr. Cherry asked Mr. Upchurch if any businesses were for sale in the area.

"I'm ready to sell Big Ed's," Mr. Upchurch said.

Although the Cherrys were a little hesitant about taking over the business, they soon were glad they did.

"It's been better than we expected," said Mrs. Cherry. "It's the people here that make the difference. They are friendly and make you feel welcome."

The couple knew they had a good thing when they took over Big Ed's and they want customers to know that it will remain same.

"It's the same Big Ed's," Mr. Cherry said. "It's the same seasoning, same meat, same staff... nothing has changed."

There is one change. Big Ed's now offers a pork tenderloin sandwich along with a full selection of steaks.

Big Ed's is located on Bressler Ave. in Bird City. It is open Monday through Saturday, with the grill operating from 5 to 10 p.m. The phone number is 785-734-2475.

in need of some "tender loving care" at this time. Donations toward any of the society's projects are always accepted with appreciation. It is our county and our history that are being preserved.

Council approves the bid for replacement of grass

By Melinda Basnett

Tina Sager met with Bird City Council members on Monday night to discuss bids she had received for the replacement of the grass and a sprinkler system at the swimming pool. Approval was given to the bid by Power Service Center of Ludell for \$2,957. The motion approved contained the condition that the city will pay one sixth share of the costs if funding for two thirds could be obtained. The Recreation Commission will pay the other one sixth share.

Expenses for painting the building at the pool were also approved in a motion made to pay one half the cost of labor and supplies to paint the outside and the hallway and shower rooms. Estimated costs of the project will be approximately \$1,500.

Other business

In other business:

• Midwest Energy is scheduled to be at city hall on April 4 to interview

applicants for the Bird City position as per their franchise agreement.

• A suggestion from the suggestion box was shared with the council. Someone would like to see the neon sign on the top of city hall restored. It is estimated that the last time the sign was in working order was in the 1960s. Someone will check into the costs and also the costs of possibly repainting the sign.

• A maintenance schedule is being designed for the park. Mayor Troy Burr is working with Century II to make sure that things are taken care of in a timely manner each year.

• Core testing was done on the ground proposed for the waste treatment facility this week and it will be 10-15 days before results are known. Surveyors are also doing preliminary work. The council moved to send a gift certificate to Smith Farms for the use of their tractor to assist with the core testing. The

testing equipment had to be pulled around the field after the 2 inches of rain received last week.

• Discussion was made on the emergency procedures during the tornados and the general consensus was that everything went well other than the need for a generator to run the emergency building for communications and siren. A shelter for emergency personnel was also discussed. Concerns for residents in the Housing Authority apartments was also expressed and will be looked into.

• An update on the Living Snow Fence was asked and the trees are to be planted mid-April.

• The motion was made to go into executive session to discuss personnel for 30 minutes. The session was extended an additional 20 minutes, and after reconvening, the council moved and approved to offer a Bird City maintenance position to Craig White with one member abstaining from the vote.

South McDonald News By Sandy Binning

Kathy and Debbie Banister attended the Regional Music Festival in Oberlin Saturday where Debbie received a I for her clarinet solo.

Steve and Diane Heiman of Belville were Saturday supper and overnight guests of the George Banister family. They also enjoyed Sunday dinner with the family.

Kathy Banister attended the bridal shower Sunday afternoon for Sara Moore at the Catholic church in Bird City.

Lynn and Rita Officer attended the Heartland Christian School Junior High and Senior High musical performance of "Story of Three

Trees" at the Mingo Bible Church Sunday evening.

Dennis Kramer of Mexico came home Thursday evening and will be here with Joe and Charlene for several weeks.

Lindon and Diane Montgomery visited Jeff and Ginger Montgomery, Erin and Jackson, in San Angelo, TX over Spring Break.

David Banister came home Thursday the 15th for Spring Break. He spent Sunday through Tuesday at Snowy Range, WY snowboarding with friends. He left for college at Hays Sunday.

Amanda Banister arrived home

for Spring Break Sunday the 18th. She left for New Mexico Wednesday, and returned to college in Topeka Sunday.

George, Kathy, and David Banister attended the Cheylin FFA Lamb Fry in McDonald Thursday evening.

JeriAnn Payne and children, Jeffery and Kathleen of Olathe, KS were Monday through Thursday guests of Garrett and Donna Binning, Porsha, Bianca, and Jazzmin. The girls had a good time with their cousins. They all enjoyed supper Wednesday at the Frosty Mug.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Reminder: The Easter Egg Hunt in McDonald will be Saturday, April 7 at 10:30 am. in the yard of Ray and Marlene Johnson. Kids from pre-school through fourth grade are welcome to participate. There are lots of eggs, so bring your baskets or pails and enjoy the morning.

Eleanor Swihart was a Monday morning visitor of Ruby Tracy.

Joan Tongish, Eleanor Swihart, and Betty Lewis accompanied Owen and Phyllis Wingfield to Colby Saturday to attend the Barbershop Quartet "When the Circus

Came to Town."

On Thursday Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson visited with Laddie Kacirek in the Atwood Hospital, and then were visitors of Agnes Reeh. They drove to Colby where they visited Lori Denny and family and to make acquaintance of their new granddaughter, Claire Denny.

Gracie, Tyler, and John Sabatka spent the weekend with their grandparents, R.J. and Susie Sabatka.

Barney Kacirek spent the weekend with his daughter, Tessa Davis. He was a Friday visitor of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hieman of Belleville, Kans. were Saturday afternoon visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

Norman and Linda House, Patrick and Lisa and sons all of Goodland were Sunday afternoon visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

April 11th, 2007

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

114 E. Washington, St. Francis

Western State Bank invites you and your family to their new Loan Production Office in St. Francis, Kansas.

Please come and meet Troy Hilt, Vice President /LPO Manager and Stephane Workman, Receptionist/Loan Secretary, as they celebrate their Grand Opening. Refreshments will be served.

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Paper Policy

Letters to the Editor

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to P.O. Box 1050; St. Francis, KS 67756.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.