



Kayla Stately lounges on the water at the Bird City swimming pool as the temperatures rise. Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Shelter options being researched

The March 28 tornado that hit near Bird City caused the city council and others to start thinking about preparations in case there was another tornado which would hit city.

Mayor Troy Burr reported that he had talked with Dave Hickert about the storm shelter needed at the emergency building. Mr. Hickert had found a steel structure measuring 7- by 10- by 30-foot that is designed for approximately 60 people. The shelter is supposed to withstand winds up to 320 miles per hour.

He had received a cost on three of the shelters (one for the hous-

ing authority and two for the emergency building) delivered and installed for \$108,000.

Plans for the generator which will switch on automatically when power is lost and run off natural gas is \$12,500. Finishing the training room inside the building is estimated at \$50,000. Funding for these projects are being sought.

Mayor Burr told council members that he felt that the shelter at the housing needed to be kept separate from the emergency projects and that some part of the community needs to begin funding possibly the city council by budgeting \$5,000.

Special ceremony set for Flag Day at county museum

Flag Day will be celebrated at the Cheyenne County Museum at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 14. Festivities will include having ice cream cones served from the old ice cream parlor in the museum.

At dusk, a flag-burning ceremony will be conducted. Everyone is encouraged to bring old and tattered flags to The Herald office or call Elmer Kellner, (785) 332-2950. It is necessary to have the flags a day earlier (June 13) for the burning.

The Cheyenne County Historical Society is hosting the affair. All residents of Cheyenne County and visitors are invited to attend.

At the unspoken center of the celebration will be the flag itself. Not many may remember that at the base of the flag pole at the museum rests a bronze plaque that reads, "A gift to the citizens of St. Francis, Kansas, to commemorate their Centennial 1888-1988 in memory of Alfred P. Fossett."

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the first



claim for a Flag Day celebration was from Hartford, Conn., during the summer of 1861; and by "the late 1800s, schools all over the United States held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities."

Boston Public Library reports that Flag Day celebrations began in the late 19th century, with the 1889 school program of George Bolch, who ran a kindergarten for poor children in New York City. This program is generally cited by various sources as the first such event.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 should be observed as Flag Day.

Alumni banquet deemed successful

The Bird City Legion Hall was elaborately decorated like a junior/senior prom for the Bird City Alumni banquet that was held in Bird City on May 26.

The theme of the evening was Thru the Years in "Record Time" with honored classes from 1937-47-57-67. There were 158 people attending the steak dinner catered by Deanna Nelsen and Avis Hazuka. Members of the Go-Getters 4-H club served the meal.

Dinner music was provided by Dan Harris and acting as Master of Ceremonies was Ernie Ketzner.

Host and hostesses were Gary and Merilee Leach, Derald and Greta Sawyer.

Entertainment was by The High Country Chorus from Denver who are ranked in the top five of Sweet Adeline's nationwide. Kay Chapman Davis, graduating class of 1957, is a member of the Chorus.

There were two teachers present;

Mr. Charles Stone and the Darrel Schallenbergers.

People that traveled the farthest were: Brad & Dorothy Rambat and Ron Miller, Seattle, Wash., Jerry (Hamm) Meyers, Medford, Ore., Sandra (Shahan) Doughty, Austin, Tex., Phyllis (Erickson) McConnell, Peoria, Ariz.

The earliest graduates from the Class of 1931 were: Doris Byers Lane, Denver, Colo., and Maude (Murray) Elliott - Bird City

2007 Alumni Committee was: Class 1937 - Louise (Gleason) Sawyer, 1947 - ErvaGene (Alden) DeAragon & Louis Gipe, 1957 - Sheryll (Bressler) Behn & Kay (Chapman) Davis, 1967 - Deanna (Gerver) Nelsen & Candy (Childers) Glasco

2008 Alumni Committee is: Class 1938 - Vivian Seymour & Vada Burkhalter, 1948 - Joan Smith, 1958 - Sherry Krien & Sherry Carmichael, 1968 - Linda Rogers & Joyce Moore.

Fly-in held Saturday

By Karen Krien

The 25th Stearman Fly-In has been set for Saturday and Sunday at the airport in St. Francis.

Planes, skydivers and balloons will start arriving on Friday night. If the weather is permitting, the sky will be filled with skydivers before they land on the practice football field located on College Street.

Early Saturday and Sunday mornings, the hot-air balloons will take to the sky, floating over the countryside. The actual time for liftoff is 7 a.m. but again, a lot depends upon the weather conditions.

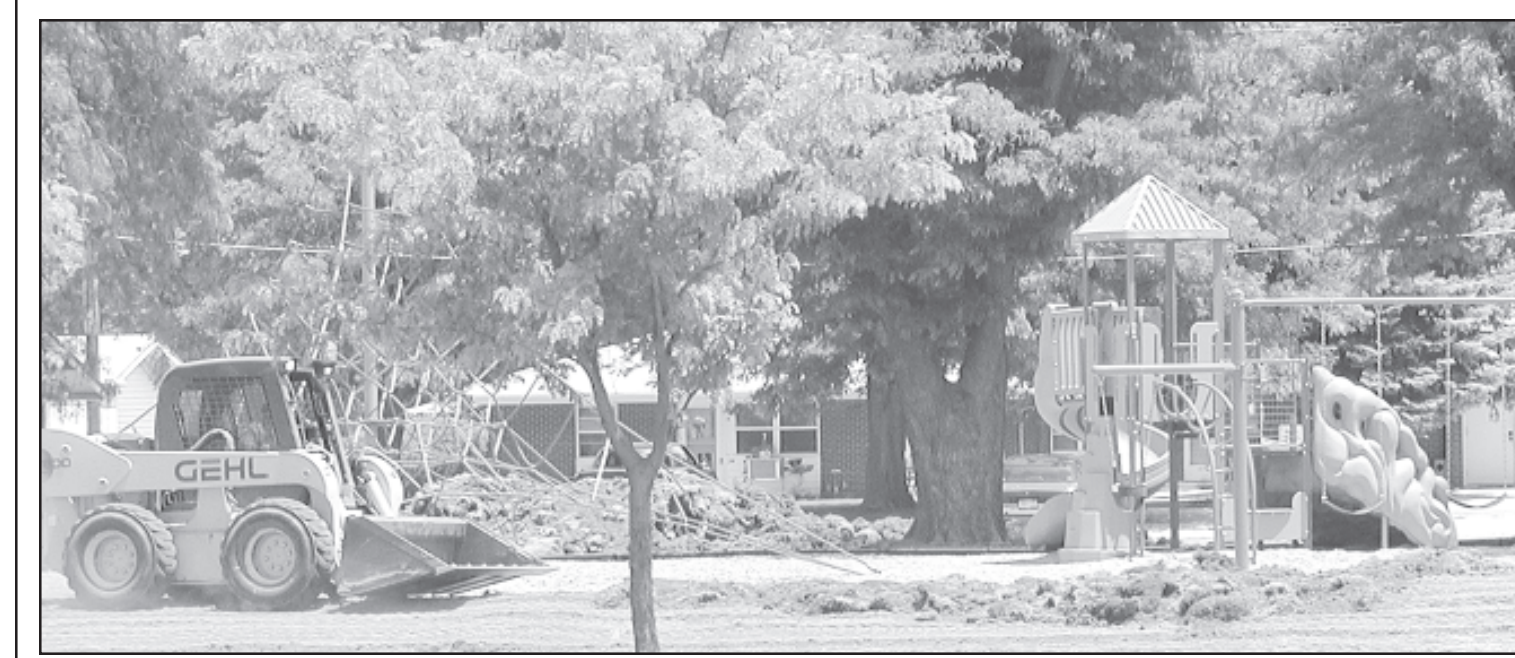
Robert Grace, coordinator of the event, said he is expecting more balloons this year.

Throughout the two-day event,

there will be the vintage World War II open cockpit Stearmans on display as well as many other aircraft. There will be some parachute jumps but no tandem jumps this year.

Breakfast and lunch will be available on the grounds and there are several different refreshment stands. There will be transportation to see all the planes for those who might have difficulty walking the distance.

There is no admission to the show and there is shade and benches to sit on but people are asked to bring their sunscreen, leashes for their dogs, and, if they plan to be at the airport for most of the day, they might like to bring their lawn chair.



Work on the park project is going quickly. City employee Craig White moves soil in preparation for the installation of the underground sprinklers that will be installed before the new grass is planted. Times Staff photos by Melinda Basnett

Mayor appoints councilman Wade Carmichael to fill vacant position

By Melinda Basnett

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Mayor Troy Burr began Monday's meeting of the Bird City City Council by appointing Wade Carmichael to the empty seat created when Scott Smith resigned. After Mr. Carmichael was sworn into office, the council had a busy agenda.

New business

Jerry Toler introduced himself to the council as the new owner of The Bargain Corner antique shop and informed them that he planned to open June 5 and keep regular hours Tuesday through Saturday.

Domestic Violence Service

Carol Redding, representing the Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence Service, said that in 2006, there were eight victims from Cheyenne County served and that contributions from the city and county had been irregular.

Cheyenne County has a safe house and one volunteer, while the main office in Hays has one full-time and one half-time employee

plus numerous volunteers in other counties.

The service asked for a \$750 per year contribution to help maintain the funding for the safe houses, transportation of victims, and training for law enforcement.

"When we have a domestic case, we always refer the victims to the service. They are always very responsive and the packets they provide are very helpful," sheriff Troy Gardner said.

Development Corporation

David Butler, director of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, ask the council to consider increasing their budgeted amount of support for the group.

The current yearly operating budget for the Cheyenne County Development Corporation is \$18,000. They hope to double that in 2008 and triple it over the next three years. Bird City currently gives \$2,000 per year to help the group with promoting the county and its attractions.

Historical Society tour

Dee Dorsch ask the council members for permission for the Cheyenne County Historical Society to include city hall in their upcoming July 10 tour of WPA projects in the county. City clerk, Jana Diers, said she had no problem being available to let the tour group in and council members gave their approval.

Building permits

Building permits were approved for: Alan Oster - to construct fencing on two sides of his house as a windbreak; Amy and Mike McCarty - to remodel and add an 8-by 12-foot mudroom on the south side of their home. Michelle Allen submitted a building permit to install a 14- by 70-foot mobile home on the property she purchased on the corner of Curry and Bressler streets. This permit was also approved.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Troy Gardner reported 116 hours of service in Bird City for the past month. He also told members that his would like to obtain another deputy and asked the council if they would consider increasing

the amount budgeted for the law enforcement agreement to assist with the expense of the new officer.

He asked about internet service possibilities when they open the Bird City law enforcement's office up at city hall. If the city changed to a wireless internet service, would the deputy be able to share the service?

Mr. Gardner offered to speak to the St. Francis City Council about the possibility of Bird City sharing in the cost of a pound license. Currently lost animals are often brought to city hall and the city clerk uses a kennel to hold them until their owners can be found. This isn't really feasible after hours or on weekends.

Other business

In other business:
• Council members discussed ways to dispose of the trees that were removed from the area where the living snow fence was planted.

Past meeting minutes showed that Hal Sager was in charge of eliminating the pile with a deadline of June 1. The stipulation of any infestation

of rodents would call for the immediate removal of the woodpile.

The council agreed that the deadline had passed and the city should remove the remainder of the trees as soon as they could. Different ideas were brought to discussion and the council voted to have city employees haul them to the old city dump where they could possibly be burned at a later time.

• Mayor Burr appointed Bill Martinez to the vacant spot on the Housing Authority Board. A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) for the Authority was received and put on hold until next month, pending more information.

• An Emergency Water Supply Plan was approved by council members.

• Information to the council told about the changed process for applying for grants from Century II. Applications need to be in by the first of the month and will be considered throughout the month.

• A letter was received from Frontier Ag, telling that the co-operative

will no longer provide propane delivery services. The council decided to change their service to the St. Francis route.

• Committee reports included an update from Wade Carmichael on the progress of the park. The area where the bluegrass will be planted is being tilled up and the underground sprinkler system will be installed before the bluegrass will be planted. Trenching for the lights has begun. The buffalo grass needs to be sprayed.

• Councilwoman Deb Smith requested that the curbs and handicap areas be painted as soon as possible.

Executive session

An executive session was called for Daryl Miller to discuss pay scale. A committee was formed to create a pay scale when the meeting reconvened and they will report back to the council at the next meeting.

Special meeting

A special meeting will be scheduled for next year's budget.