



ON SATURDAY CHEYLIN ELEMENTARY students participated in a basketball fund raiser for the National Honor Society. Second and third graders, and fourth and fifth graders played full court games. Pictured with some of the players are referees Kaedra

Dixon and Lincoln Pochop. Vanessa Antholz was one of the announcers and Colleen Shrader coached second and third grade team.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Prepare for severe weather

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

It is March and for much of Kansas, it is severe storm month. Moreover, the Midwestern plains known for its flat lands, high winds and temperatures changes that can drop as much as 40 degrees overnight, make it just the right conditions for a tornado.

Tornados are violent and can appear without warning, but communities can prepare in advance to know what and what not to do when one does occur.

Every community has its own procedures, but the main consensus is communication and plenty of it is vital to making sure everyone is safe.

The Emergency Service team wants the public to be aware of some basic information that is important.

There will be a test of the tornado warning, lasting three to five minutes, and all-clear alarm in Bird City and McDonald at approximately 1

p.m. through 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11.

Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. A tornado watch means there is the possibility of a tornado in the area. A tornado warning is a tornado actually happening.

If there is an actual tornado warning, do not go out into the storm to get a look. This is very dangerous; there will probably be debris flying around and large hailstones. Go directly to the cellar or the place that has been designated as shelter.

If there is no underground shelter available, go to an interior room, lay down on the floor in the center of the room, and stay away from the corners; corners attract debris. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.

A vehicle, trailer or mobile home does not provide good protection. Plan with a neighbor who has a cellar or basement to have access or go to a building with a strong foundation, if possible.

The Lutheran and United Methodist churches in Bird City are open all the time, and each has a basement that is available to anyone who needs it.

"The McDonald Elementary school will be opened for residents who do not have a cellar or basement," said Bruce Nickel, city manager.

For the Housing Authority apartments in Bird City, there is no storm shelter designated at this time.

"Residents have been instructed to go into the bathroom and lay down as flat as possible in their bathtub," said Dana Wright, director.

If out in the open and no shelter is immediately available, quickly seek a low-lying area such as a ditch and lie flat in it. If nothing else, lie as flat to the ground as possible. Stay away from bridges and overpasses.

Be prepared, have some bottled water on hand. A battery-operated radio and flashlight are also good to have. Make sure the batteries are in

working order. Have the radio set to a local station for weather information. In addition, take a cell phone along. Blankets are good for children and elderly.

Parents, have a plan for your children who may be home alone, or make a plan with neighbors. Create a "calling tree." Have phone numbers on hand.

Pet owners should have an emergency pack of food and water for their animals.

Once the all-clear alarm has sounded, it is safe to venture out and only then. It is a good idea to check on next-door neighbors at this time, especially the elderly and people who live alone.

The highways are dangerous and only in extreme emergencies should they be traveled.

Power poles could be down and live electrical lines strewn across the road.

In addition, if power lines
See TORNADO Page 6

Spring your clocks ahead on Sunday

Spring is still several weeks away but, this year, people will be setting their clocks ahead a little earlier for Daylight Saving Time. Before going to bed Saturday night, people should plan to set their clocks ahead an hour or they might be late to church Sunday morning.

Daylight Saving Time actually begins on Sunday at 2 a.m. but most people will not be up at that hour and should take care of the clock changes a little earlier.

It will stay light longer in the evening which is nice for those working in the fields or playing golf. However, it will still be dark when many people, especially school kids, get ready for the day.

It would also be a good idea to get to bed an hour earlier

than usual or you'll end up losing an hour of sack time and it could take the whole week to catch up.

Daylight Saving Time will end Sunday, Nov. 2, right after Halloween, but for the next eight months it's time to take advantage of the extra time to get outside in the evening.

Change batteries/alarms

While changing the clocks, it is a good time to change the batteries in the smoke alarms rather than to wait until there is strange sound like a bird chirping or there is an emergency and the alarm doesn't go off. Firemen suggest that by changing the batteries, it could save a life.

If the alarm is old, it may be time to get a new one.

Council discusses city hire and lagoon project

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

The City Council meeting for February was short two members, Frank Serrano was ill and Ray Magnani was out of town, but the quorum was met for the meeting's decisions.

There were questions concerning the yearly premium payment for Workman's Compensation for 2008.

Jana Diers, city clerk, said the premium was underestimated for 2007 and this was due to increase in payroll. There is a bill for 2008 to compensating for that increase.

Mayor Troy Burr commented that because of the payroll differences over the past two years and audits about what is paid are yearly,

what was overpaid in 2008 will be returned in 2009. This discussion will continue at next meeting.

Sheriff report

Following the monthly report of duties performed, Mayor Burr asked Sheriff Craig Van Allen if the beer cans were still out there.

"They have diminished a bit, but there are still out there," said Sheriff Van Allen.

Sheriff Van Allen reported that there are still two officers training at the Academy, and one is graduating on Friday.

Mayor Burr stated that things are going good now, but with the weather change and school activities slowing down, the officers need to be alert to an increased in other activities.

Sheriff Van Allen asked Mrs. Diers about a recent increase in complaints about dog loose and she explained that the dog owner is unknown. In Bird City, there is no containment or pound for dogs and no way to secure a loose dog. St. Francis has containment, but does not allow outside communities to use it.

Mrs. Gilliland stated that it is possible for Bird City to build a containment/pound for loose animals. There was discussion on size, maintenance and fines.

Sheriff Van Allen said that dog-at-large fines are \$130 and in St. Francis there is a \$5 charge added each day the animal is in confinement. Mrs. Gilliland would look

See COUNCIL Page 6



LIONS CLUB MEMBER Owen Wingfield and Phyllis, his wife, talk about the nearly 75 years of community service the organization has done in McDonald.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Lions Club honors member

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

Their motto is "We Serve." The Lions Club is the largest international community service organization in the world. They have 1.4 million members in over 45,000 clubs, serving in 202 countries.

Started in Chicago by Melvin Jones in 1917, the Lions Clubs and its motto spread to other states and on May 22, 1931, the McDonald held its first meeting. In addition, on Feb. 2, 1934, Owen Wingfield became a member of the Lions Club.

Mr. Wingfield joined the club to get involved with the community. His father was also a Lion and encourage his son to join. At that time, the Lions were very active in providing services such as fund raisers,

collecting eye glasses for the needy, and city beautification.

During the 1940s through 1960s, the Kansas Lions Clubs had over 15,000 members statewide, with 1,500 members in the northwest corner. McDonald had between 50 and 65 members during the same period, quite a membership considering the population was approximately 500 residents.

Even though the club is a non-denominational or political organization, its members are known for their integrity and involvement with community matters. The McDonald club raised funds and supported bonds for their school.

Recently, the Lions Clubs have recognized their long-time members who have served in their

hometown clubs and communities for over 60 years and Owen Wingfield is one of them.

Mr. Wingfield has achieved 74 years with the McDonald Lions Club, this makes him the second longest serving Lion in Kansas and the sixth longest in the United States.

When there were four districts in the state, Mr. Wingfield also served as the Lions District Governor for Northwest Kansas charter from 1960 to 1961.

Now times have changed and membership has dropped. There are no longer four districts in the state, but two — the west and the east districts. Moreover, McDonald membership is

See LIONS Page 6

City cleanup part of 2008 plan

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

Cathy Domsch, Century II Development Foundation, attended the February city council meeting and talked about the 2008 annual plan of work.

One item of the plan she talked about was the business development scholarship that is available to people who are returning to Bird City once they receive their education.

Mrs. Domsch told the council that there is financial support for community cleanup projects. Later in the meeting, there was some discussion about how to proceed

with notifying owners of properties.

Deb Smith, council member, suggested that the city be divided in sections and prioritized, this would eliminate picking and choosing from one end of the town to another.

English as Second Language
Encouraging English as Second Language classes for Bird City are continuing at Colby Community College.

Mrs. Domsch said that the some community residents had formed an Assisted Living Taskforce to research if independent and assisted living housing was

feasible in Bird City.

Assisted living

Kari Gilliland, city attorney, mentioned that Rick Reeser has a tremendous amount of research on assisted living. Mrs. Domsch said that contacting Mr. Reeser was next on her list of people.

Recreation

On recreation activities, Mrs. Domsch talked about a task force for a community center and inspection on the community pool. Concerning the pool, she asked that the council start looking into the life of the pool. What repairs will be needed and how long

See 2008 Plan Page 6