

Council seeks to build and repair city

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City Council is on the move and ready to make changes in the community. Much of the evening's Monday meeting concerned building and repairing community and residential property.

Wade Carmichael, council member, was wanting to move forward with addressing Luciano's property for demolition. Kari Gilliland, city attorney, spelled out the procedure which included:

- Craig White, city maintenance, must first make a determination about the property.
- A letter is submitted to the city clerk and city council votes on resolution that states the property should be condemn.
- Then it is published in the newspaper.
- The owner has 30 to 90 days to respond and then the city can proceed.

The council approved the hiring of Adams, Browns, Baron and Ball for \$4,800 to audit Bird City for three years in compliance with requirements in receiving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Waste water lagoon

The council approved to pay Miller and Associates the amount of \$243,290.66 for the construction done on the waste water lagoon in May. The amount of \$116,000 will be paid by the CDBG and \$127,290.66 will be paid from the revolving fund.

In addition, the council approved to pay Miller and Associates for construction inspection for \$1,729.65, coming from the revolving fund.

The intersection at the waste water lagoon was brought up again as whether a stop or a yield sign should be placed there. The council agreed to wait until the section of the lagoon was removed that would allow traffic to be seen coming from the south and from the east.

Building permit

The council approved William Johnson's request for a fence, contingent on Craig White following up with what Mr. Johnson's fence material will be.

Park improvements

Wade Carmichael, parks and recreation, made several requests for improvements in the park. One was to replace the bathroom door signs made with a durable material such as metal. He wants to put a message center mounted between the bathroom doors. Mayor Troy Burr asked what kind of messages. Mr. Carmichael suggested a map of the park and public announcements. Deb Smith, council member, strongly suggested against the public announcements since Hometown Market already has a bulletin board and it could become unsightly.

Mr. Carmichael reported that several families have already donated for a children's picnic table, three or four benches and the message center.

Mayor Burr clarified donations made for the park, or other community projects, are given directly to the city and put in a Memorial Fund.

Mr. Carmichael added that all the money, whether private or from Century II Development Foundation, goes into the city funding first then dispersed.

Mayor Burr reported that the

Wheat Field Day set for Wednesday

The wheat looks good in some areas of the county while, in other areas, the drought has taken its toll. Find out just how bad or good it is, what types of wheat are best for the area and what's new in the wheat field on Wednesday, June 11.

The Cheyenne County Wheat Field Day will be held starting at 5:30 p.m. at the field plot located 4 miles south of Wheeler on K-27, they 1/4 mile west on Road J. The plot belongs to the Junior Small family.

Community Club had purchased the new tables and chairs for the park shelter house. They want to know what to do with the old furniture.

Frank Serrano, council member, suggested taking it to the Thresher Show grounds. Mayor Burr thought the furniture was not in great condition and should be taken to the landfill. Mr. Carmichael wanted to know what the table and chairs looked like and reminded the council it was to be approved first. He added he was sure the furniture was fine.

Street improvements

Mr. Carmichael brought up an issue of the intersection of 5th Street and Burr, the southwest corner is a blind section. Loren White, council member, said there is a hedge that obstructs the traffic in either direction.

Craig White reported trying to contact a company that does street sealing that was referred by Chris Miller only to find the number disconnected. He will contact Mr. Miller for another referral.

Mayor Burr pointed out that the city is budgeted for \$22,000 to do the job and for Craig to keep that in mind when looking. Craig reported he has designated June to be street repair month.

Purchasing equipment

Loren said that he has been looking around for an airless paint sprayer for painting projects around the city. The council approved \$500 to buy one.

The council approved the purchase of an asphalt saw for \$2,105. It was brought up that the Steele brand asphalt saw would be able to handle any street project as well as street curbs.

Council approved the purchase four new skid loader tires from Frontier Ag for \$245 each.

New city personnel

The council approved for Ray Magnani, Deb Smith and Mayor Burr to form a committee and proceed with interviewing applications for the position of city clerk. Jana Diers has put in her resignation and will be leaving in August. Mrs. Diers said that she would stay long enough to train the new clerk. The selections will be brought before the council for final approval.

Mr. Magnani, personnel committee, reported that Brad Schneider has completed the 90-day probation as of June 10. Craig mentioned that he and Mr. Schneider worked well together and he had no complaints.

The council approved hiring Mr. Schneider as permanent city maintenance receiving benefits.

Other Items

The issue of the missing bulk water was still a hot discussion. Wade mentioned millions of gallons were missing. It was suggested that it might be a glitch in the computer. Since Jana Diers, city clerk, was absent from the meeting; council would wait for her return to get more information. Craig said that he would put a new lock at the bulk water station until matter is cleared up.

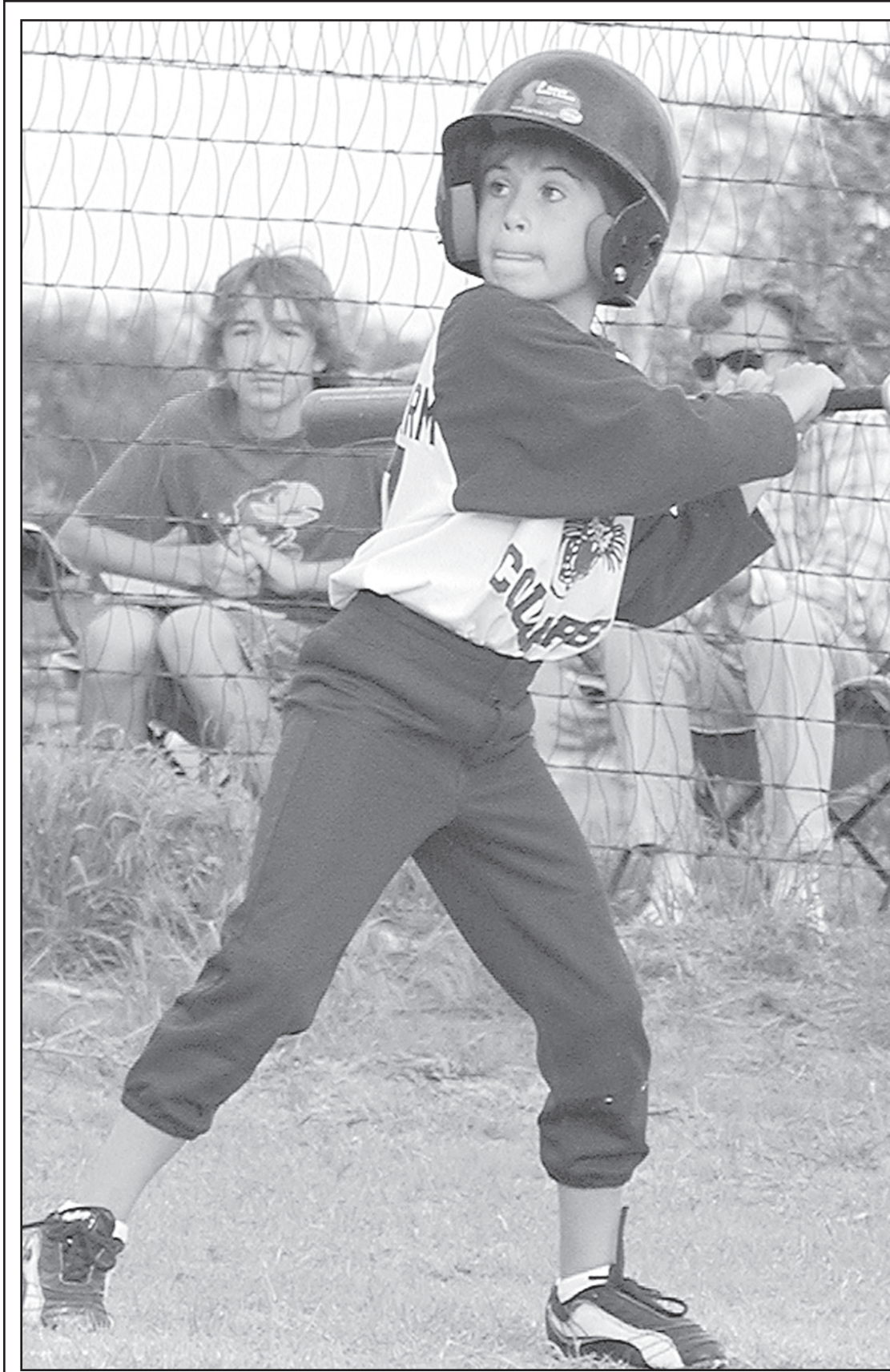
Loren wanted to know if the city was interested in sharing a storage unit with the Fire Station and Century II. Mrs. Gilliland asked if it was to clean up or for inventory.

Loren said it would probably be for seasonal equipment. The council approved.

The next meeting will be on July 7.

A meal, sponsored by the county grain dealers, will be held following the tour of the wheat plot, approximately 6:30 p.m., at Greenline Inc., at Wheeler.

Speakers at the field plot and at the dinner will be Jim Shroyer, K-State wheat specialist; Brian Olson, K-State northwest Kansas area agronomist; Dan O'Brien, K-State northwest Kansas area ag economist; and Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist.



BATTER UP! It was the first game of the season for the Cheylin Cougar C-team and Derek Vandike was the first batter up to the plate. The game was home at the McDonald baseball field and the team played well together. Even though they lost to the Atwood team, they did not lose

their spirit. At the end of the first game, the score was 13 to 1. In the second game, the score was 10 to 2. It was a great night for playing baseball and the next game is at 7 p.m. central time, Friday at Waunita, Neb.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Superintendent retires after 11 years

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After 11 years of being superintendent and kindergarten through grade 12 principal, David Zumbahlen is leaving Cheylin Schools. However, he is not retiring from working with students; he has accepted a position with Rock County School in Bassett, Neb., as their superintendent.

Born in Odell, Neb., to Joseph and Josephine Zumbahlen, David grew up working on the family farm and, like most farms; its main function was to provide for the family.

There were many chores to do, but the one that caught young David's heart was milking the cows. He wanted to prove to his father that he could do it and once he showed his dad, the job was his. David chuckles about starting at 5- or 6-years-old and having to milk the cows every day for years and they had 13 to 15 of them!

His mother, Josephine, was an elementary teacher and, like the teachers of that era, she received training in high school and taught right after graduation when she was 16 or 17. She taught until she married Joseph and started having children. When David was around 8- or 9-years-old, she went back to teaching.

When Joseph married Josephine, there were already two Josephines in his family, his mother and sister. In addition, his wife's mother was named Josephine!

The 1960s were turbulent times for America. The Vietnam War was going on, draft dodgers were going to Canada and war was protested.

When David graduated from high school in 1965, there were two choices a young man could make: continue with school either by going on to college or being

drafted into the military.

If attending college, student's grades were reported to the draft board. Furthermore, if the student flunked or dropped out of school, they were reported to the draft board to be drafted. David was a good student and a great athlete in college. In 1969, he was selected to the basketball all-star team and the team placed second in the state.

The year he graduated from college - 1969, due to a physical ailment revealed during his military physical, he was not inducted. He then chose to be a teacher because teachers were in great demand and the pay was good.

It was that same year that he met and married Marjean. She was also studying to become a teacher. She recently retired from Cheylin Schools after teaching there for 10 years. They have six daughters; Amy, Ann, and twins, Manda and Mindy and second set of twins, Jill and Joy.

Their first teaching job together was Sumner Eddyville Miller, just south of Broken Bow, Neb. Mr. Zumbahlen taught there for 14 years and then decided to go back to college to get a degree in education administration to become a superintendent/school principal.

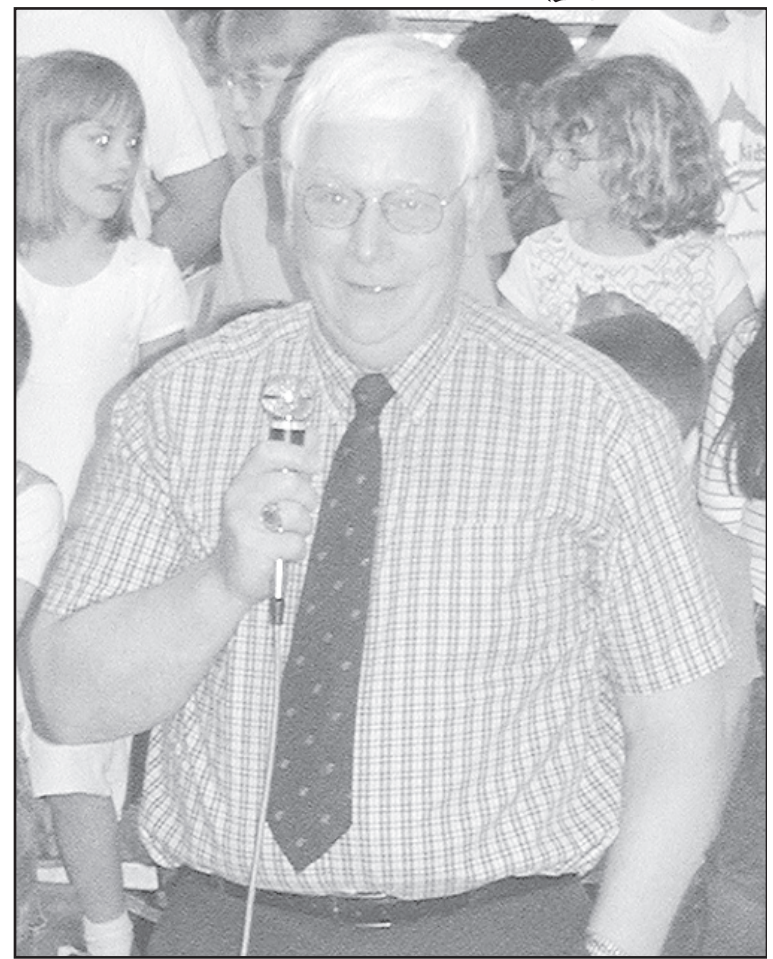
Mr. Zumbahlen enjoys being a superintendent.

"I like the variety and challenges my job brings every day," he said.

Over the years as a superintendent, Mr. Zumbahlen has seen the involvement of the legislative branch of the government as be-



Zumbahlen



DAVID ZUMBAHLEN speaks at the recent retirement party given by the community and students for Cheylin staff who are retiring this year.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

ing out of touch with the needs of the schools.

"They have taken away a lot of the local control from school boards and put into place a high priority on student population and that has really hurt the small town schools," said Mr. Zumbahlen. "If the numbers are not there, the funding is not there."

June is Mr. Zumbahlen's last month as superintendent of Cheylin School. While he has accepted a position in Bassett, it will not be all work and no recreation. He has already mapped out the 22 lakes that surround the area to do what he likes to do and that is fish. He also wants to catch up on gardening and hunting.

As the new superintendent of Rock County School, he will

oversee three schools within the district. Something he hopes that he might be able to bring from Cheylin is the Senior Citizen Dinner. This is a special dinner, started by elementary principal Larry Gerard several years ago, and is for the community seniors who continue to contribute even though many no longer have grandchildren in school.

He will also be taking with him something that has been his teaching philosophy,

"Each student comes to class with a cup to fill, some have a small cup and some have a large cup. Once the smaller cups are full, I would teach to fill the larger cups, in the process the smaller cups would run over," said David. Good luck David Zumbahlen.

Council seeking grants

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Attending the City Council meeting was Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, who brought information concerning two grants available that would target properties in the city limits that would either be demolished or repaired.

The discussion was lengthy and the council had many questions about the grants. One of the grants, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), is already being used by the city for the Waste Water Lagoon Project. This grant would give the city two options with residential property, 1) give owners the opportunity to apply for rehabilitation/repair grant of their occupied home of up to \$18,000 or 2) demolition of severely, deteriorated, vacant home.

The other grant, the Kansas Housing Resource Grant, will address homes that will be repaired by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards. Grant amount will be based on owner's income.

Ms. Griffey offered to assist the council in developing a viable grant, but applications for either grant have to be in by August 25. Frank Serrano, council member, suggested waiting for next year's deadline to give them more time. Ray Magnani, council member, wanted to get a foot in the door with an application this year.

The council is interested in the CDBG because it would give the city more options. However, because of the many issues, concerns and questions involved with the grants, the council decided to have further discussions after personal reflection on the matter.

