

Grain bins are filling up

Wheat harvest began last week and is in full swing after a few wet days.

On Sunday, Bird City had nearly one inch of rain that stopped the harvest. With the fields too wet, all the farmers could do is wait until warmer days so that the fields could be dry enough



for the combines and trucks to get the grain cut and into the bins at Frontier Ag.

"The rain was welcomed, but it did slow down the harvest," said Tim Burr, co-manager, Frontier Ag.

With the weather warmer and dryer on Monday, the trucks were back in the fields and lining up to dump their load at the grain bins.



ONE OF THE FIRST FIELDS in the Bird City area to be cut was Eda Connett's field. Stock Custom Harvesting did the cutting for Mrs. Connett.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Council moves forward with improvement grant

In the near future, Bird City property owners, if deemed eligible, may have the opportunity to fix up their homes.

During the Bird City Council meeting, Mayor Troy Burr said the he has spoken with Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, and is proceeding with the application for a 2009 rehabilitation grant. The grant will give property owners the

opportunity to fix up their homes, providing up to \$18,000 for improvements in eligible homes.

The council chose the southeast corner of town, east of Bird Ave. and south Fourth Street as the targeted area. The list consisted of 79 homes and of those, 39 homes maybe eligible.

The application requires publication in the local newspaper July 24 and a public meeting that must be

done in August to meet the deadline. The application must target what is for rehab, what will be demolished, and will include addresses and house numbers. If the city is approved for the grant, certain criteria will have to be met before receiving the allotted money.

The property owners must apply, not renters. Inspection of the home will be made to make sure there is no lead-base paint or asbestos.

Home improvements could include shingles, siding, windows, roof, and exterior. Improvements could go interior under certain circumstances, such as handicap, electrical wiring, etc.

The question came up - what if the property owner needs \$25,000, could property owner put in the \$7,000 and still qualify for the \$18,000?

Wade Carmichael, council mem-

ber, said Ms. Griffey said it has been done in the past and he would check on it, but he did not think it was allowed any longer.

The other stipulation for the grant is that the owner must live in the house for three years or repay a prorated amount. However, if owner does lives in the home three years, the money does not have to be paid back.

Mr. Carmichael also mentioned

that the grant would include demolitions of which there were six or seven in the targeted area. In addition, the amount of the grants is contingent upon inspections of said properties by Troy Burr, Wade Carmichael and Deb Smith

Mayor Burr said that \$18,000 would not do a complete remodeling of a home, but would be able to do siding or something else.

Former resident dies in accident

Former resident, Connie (Glasco) Huxman was killed in a motorcycle accident on Wednesday, July 2. She was the daughter of Glenn and Millie Glasco, Bird City.

She and her husband, Ron, both seasoned motorcyclists, were on a trip going through a small town south of Tulsa, Okla., when a car stopped in front of them. As they were stopping, the vehicle behind them slammed into their motorcycle, sandwiching them between the two vehicles. Both were thrown off the cycle.

Mrs. Huxman, 58, died as a result of the accident. Mr. Huxman is doing well.

Mrs. Huxman was a 1968 graduate of Bird City High School. She enjoyed working with horses and one of her greatest joys was being

active in her home church.

Donna Wright, a good friend, said Connie was a wonderful and caring person inside and out.

She was an engineer coordinator at Excel Industries, Hesston. A longtime Moundridge area resident, she was a member of the Hesston Mennonite Brethren Church.

She is survived by her husband; daughters Tasha and Tracy as well as a granddaughter and her brother, Lynn of Bird City.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, July 9, at the Hesston Mennonite Brethren Church, Hesston.

Memorial donations may be given to the Harvey County Homeless Shelter in care of the Moundridge Funeral Home, P.O. Box 410, Moundridge, KS 67107.

Missing bulk water is still a mystery

At the city council meeting on July 1, Frank Serrano, Utilities Committee, asked about the water loss from the water bulk station. The water loss has been an issue for several months.

Deb Smith, council member, asked if there was a water hydrant leaking and had the water tower been secured?

Craig White, city maintenance, said the door has not been secured. He said he could put a lock on it immediately if the council chooses, but that was not something the council wanted to do at the last meeting.

Mayor Troy Burr mentioned that he was under the impression the lock was going to be changed last month. Mrs. Smith suggested that the locks be changed and the key would be at the city hall and could be signed out with a \$50 deposit. She went on to say the keys should not be floating around without the clerk knowing about it.

The main concern was where

the water going and the accuracy of the token system. Is one token buying just the right amount of water or more?

In addition, the council talked about establishing a system of monitoring the usage of the bulk water. It has been the honor system up to now to fill out the water usage tickets. They questioned about it being a computer glitch? Jana Diers, city clerk, said that she had ruled that out before she brought the matter before the council.

Talk around the table went to having a \$50 deposit on key upon signing it out and the person would get the deposit back upon returning the key. Furthermore, letters would be sent out to people who use the bulk water on a regular basis to give them a 30-day grace period.

Ray Magnani, council member, suggested the keys be stamped with "Do not duplicate" to prevent more keys being made. They agreed to change locks and have keys at \$50 deposit to be taken effect Aug. 1.

Concern shown over pool

Troy Burr, Bird City Mayor, and Brad Schneider, city maintenance, went to a Recreation Committee meeting concerning the swimming pool. The consensus was that Mr. Schneider would take care of the mechanical needs and oversee the chemicals.

Craig White, city maintenance, reported that the pump motor has been replaced twice and there is still trouble with it. "It is nonsense for the pump to go down every week and

need repair — that is money out the window," he said.

Mr. White went on to say Mr. Schneider has ideas about keeping the pool operational and they need to ask him to the next Recreation Committee meeting.

Mayor Burr asked if the swim season could be completed without shutting down the pool? He went on to say that if we had to shut it down two weeks early to get the pool ready for next year's season, that is acceptable.



CATCH THE READING BUG program was a success with the kids. Last Friday ended the summer program with a trip to the park and a sack lunch. Above, Phoenix Clemans and Jackson Boyson are all smiles as they go down the slide. Right, Soledad Bermudez and Danielle Frink have some fun blowing bubbles.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider



Kids have fun reading

The Bird City Public Library's summer program "Catch the Reading Bug", was a success and the storyteller, Sydney Busse, entertained 25 children with stories about bugs.

The coordinators, Tammi Carmichael and Amy Hendricks, along with the other volunteers, Jacob Brubaker, Craig Busse, Teryn Carmichael, Ty Carmichael, Ruben Razo and Jessie Smith, kept the kids busy with many hands-on projects. They made their very own bug boxes and magnifying glasses to be used on their Backyard Safari, along with ladybugs that could be found all over the library, and butterflies that they could

launch into the air.

Due to a grant from Century II Development Foundation, Chad Beach, an entertainer from Salina kicked off the four-week program on June 7, with his "Bug Juice Jamboree." The kids and their families enjoyed his music. Over 80 people braved the weather that day and came to watch his show.

Each week was a great turn out and on July 4, the children met at the library for one more good story before venturing off to the Bird City Park for a fun picnic.

In the end, the program encouraged everyone to take time and enjoy a book from the local library!

Thresher Show is coming July 31

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show is coming up on Thursday, July 31, lasting until Saturday, Aug. 2. There will be many activities held during the four days but one of the highlights is the announcement of the Thresher Queen, which is kept a secret until Thursday of the show.

The 2008 Thresher Queen when she was 6 months old. She speaks of the following memories:

"The area had large areas of native grass," she said. "Six of our near neighbor's homes were sod houses."

The Queen and her family lived a long distance from town in those days. However, a post office and cream station were in a joining county. A nearby country school and church were

incentives to settle here.

"We had more than one trail road and sometimes crossed a neighbor's prairie land to get to town in our Model-T Ford car," she said. "There was considerable open range with no fences."

Workhorses, cattle, hogs and chickens helped provide income for the family. She remembers helping her mother raise 300 chickens a year. They were hatched under settin' hens, not in an incubator.

She remembers sod being broken with a horse and plow, a steam engine and oil-pull tractor and plow.

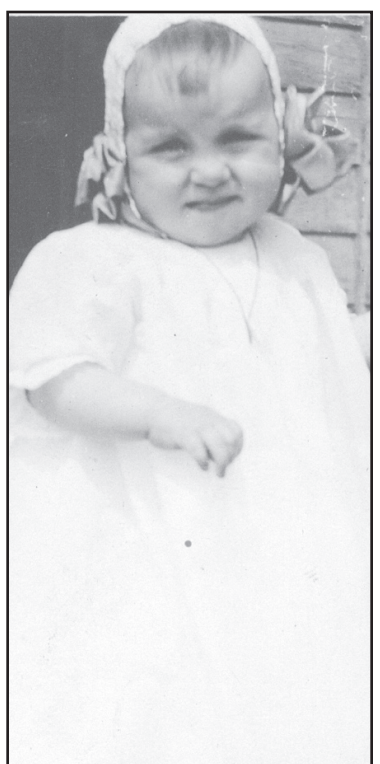
"I remember the thresher machines with their headers and horses with harnesses," she said. "Kinfolk came to visit and see the action. With 21 people in our home, my aunt baked

bread daily."

At threshing time, the cooks in cook shacks came to the family home to buy milk, cream and eggs. A neighbor, who lived 5 miles away, moved a cook shack across the road from their home to live in while he broke a large field of sod to farm, and it sat there several years.

The cook shack had a large block cook stove in the north end and glass windows in the kitchen area. There were only screens with fold down shutters or shades the length of the side. There were fold-down tables and benches on each side of cook shack with an aisle in middle and washstand on small porch at south end.

Can you guess who the Thresher Queen is? Look for more of her story in the coming weeks.



Guess who the 2008 Thresher Queen is.