

## Grant report made public

The 2007 Bird City Century II Development Foundation's annual grant report has been completed and is ready for the public.

The Bird City Century II Development Foundation is classified as an organization exempt from federal income tax, supporting organizations, and is a non-profit corporation organized in the state of Kansas.

The Foundation is a community foundation, which represents an opportunity for all friends of the Bird City community to give, through philanthropy, back to the Bird City community to enhance and ensure the quality of life for present and future generations.

Twenty-four grants for the total of \$112,411 were awarded to various organizations and events through out 2007.

The Bird City Housing Authority received \$4,500 for new washers and dryers. The Bird City Alumni Association received a \$200 grant. The Cheylin Recreation Commission received \$1,972 for pool sprinklers and sod; \$463 for Hot Hoops basketball; \$2,000 for Bird City Golf Club, and \$1,300 for the sum-

mer weight-lifting program.

The library was awarded \$6,500 for a microfilm reader/printer. Tornado victims were given \$5,000 from a Disaster Recovery Grant. The Easter Egg Hunt was awarded \$147 and \$250 was for Santa Day.

The Cheylin School was awarded \$9,000 for a parent patron room, \$3,900 for preschool and \$3,500 for the school's website. Cheylin received a \$500 grant for an After Prom Party (Kansas Health Foundation Funds).

Each community church, Immanuel United Methodist, Living Water Fellowship, St. John Lutheran, St. Joseph Catholic and the Wesleyan, received a \$2,500 grant.

The Edgar and Mabel Robertson Scholarship awarded \$25,500, Colby Community College's Adult Education Program received \$1,000, American Legion Post 352, received \$3,879 for operational expenses.

The Tri-State Engine and Thresher Association, received \$30,000 for a Avery Steam Engine, and \$300 for entertainment.

## Airport grant update made

By Karen Krien

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Several years ago, the county was given a 95/5 matching grant to improve the Cheyenne County Airport. The grant will require the county to only pay 5 percent of the costs.

At the Monday morning commissioners' meeting, Dave Yost, Rick Rogers and Ron Loudon, all representing the Airport Authority, updated them on what the Federal Aviation Authority is telling them.

Future plans are to have the runway extended 25 feet, expanding it to 75-feet long. The airport runway is made of asphalt and, when the original plans were laid, the entire runway would be of asphalt.

However, last week, Mr. Yost received a call from Diane Hofer, with Olsson Associates engineering group, telling that there was a change. Instead of asphalt, the runway would be run out of concrete. The difference was in the price of asphalt as oil has tripled in price. Now, concrete was less expensive. There was also the fact that it is hard to get quality asphalt in this area.

The authority could see that concrete was a much better substitute as, with asphalt, they were having to seal, apply additional coats and, when there was cracking, the cracks had to be filled. Concrete would have less maintenance and would last much longer.

As plans stand now, the present asphalt will be milled. The runway will be made wider and the asphalt will be used as a base for the concrete.

The Authority was also told that the displaced threshold at the south end of the runway, which was originally not be used, will now be used

which will help in plane takeoffs.

The new cost will be \$1.9 million (it was almost the same cost with 4-inches of asphalt). The county's share will be \$95,000. Mr. Yost said he had looked back at the records, and in February 2006, the local share for the entire project had been \$111,000.

The price will also include new lights and having them installed. The Authority members compared the present lights to "candles," noting that they were not good lights and some of them didn't work.

The Federal Aviation Authority is wanting to start the runway project in August 2009 and there will be four to six months that the airport runway will be closed.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said that will mean going into the winter months and it may be too cold to pour cement. Mr. Yost thought that the company, which would come in to do the work, would have the equipment to pour the runway quickly.

The extension of the runway would not be done at the same time. Mr. Yost said he had been told that the projects are done in extensions, with only so much being done at a time. The commissioners were concerned that the government money may be stopped but Mr. Yost said that, once a project has started, they do not leave it unfinished.

The Authority was concerned that there would be the \$95,000 when it was needed. After checking the funds available and those budgeted, everyone agreed that there would be enough money.

"It would be crazy to quit the project now," Mr. Beikman said.



IT WAS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL at Cheylin and students, Sydney Busse, Jeremiah White and Jacob White, arrived bright and early to get started with classes. Let's wish every student much success in the new school year!

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Additional training for driving testers

By Karen Krien

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The treasurer told the commissioners at the Monday meeting that those giving driver's license tests are going to be required to take training.

Dolores Jenik, treasurer, said changes are being made in the state which will require those giving driver's licenses tests to take training. They will also need background checks. There are three people in her office which will need to take training. The nearest training place is Hays and it will cost \$600 for the training alone.

The county office can renew regular driver's licenses. However, to renew a commercial driver's license, people must travel to Colby and then it just takes a few minutes.

Mr. Beikman said that he thought it was OK to leave the driving tests in Colby but thought the renewals should be made in the county. He suggested everyone contact their legislators and tell them as much.

Mrs. Jenik said the costs for training will go up in the future. In the past, there has been no charge for giving the driving tests in the county — just the standard state charge. However, she said there were other counties which were charging or considering charging and she wondered if the commissioners would agree to a charge being put on testing here.

After discussion, they agreed to charge each person renewing their driver's license \$4, starting Jan. 1. The money will be kept in a separate fund and re-

lated expenses and trainings will come out of that fund.

### Ambulance department

Janelle Bowers, ambulance director, said the 7A ambulance was now back in service after having work on both the fuel pump and the aid conditioning.

Having enough emergency medical technicians was a concern. She told about a recent call in Bird City when only one technician answered. After a second call for additional Bird City technicians, another answered but, by that time, St. Francis technicians were on their way.

Mr. Beikman said he would rather have more technicians there than not have enough there.

Mrs. Bowers said when they advertised for the First Responder class, they had 10 people show interest but, when it came to attending the class, only four committed, and they were from St. Francis. She said that technicians are really needed in Bird City but, since they don't have many able to work in the summer months, she is depending upon St. Francis technicians to cover.

She said, at a government mandate, technicians will be required to wear high visibility clothing on runs. The clothing can be coveralls or vests. Since many technicians come from the job, many in the field or in greasy clothing, they preferred to wear coveralls. They will also have vests available for those who arrive without the proper clothing.

Mrs. Bowers reported that the write-off adjustments for July

were \$985. She also reported that the base radio is working at the hospital.

### Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Wendy Wallace and Bridgette Antholz, representing Big Brothers/Big Sisters, told they are forming a program in St. Francis. The organization is a mentoring program where youth are matched up to a big brother or sister. They meet with the kid once a week.

A program is already established in Bird City and is going well. They have had good cooperation in the Cheylin School system.

Their goal is to have 10 mentors in St. Francis. An ice cream social is scheduled in the near future.

Terry Miller, county clerk, said there is money in the Special Parks and Recreation Fund which would probably qualify for help with the program.

Justin Barrett, county attorney, had only good things to say about how the mentoring program had helped keep troubled kids out of foster homes and jail. He said he thought diversion funds would be a good use to help with the program.

### No decision was made.

### In other business

In other business: • Danielle Gardner, secretary for the county attorney, asked about using the sick-leave pool at the courthouse. The commissioners said she had not worked there as full-time for a whole year. It was something they needed to look into and tabled the matter.

• Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog supervisor, said Kevin Burkhalter, who farms north of Bird City, was working at eliminating

prairie dogs on his property. Mr. Schlittenhardt estimated there were 60 to 70 percent less dogs than there had been previously when Vernon Shrader had made a complaint.

He had also checked the progress Gary Winter had made with getting rid of bindweed on his property. There again, Mr. Schlittenhardt saw progress.

Mr. Schlittenhardt reported the department's truck had to have work done on it.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 29, in the commissioners' room located in the courthouse.

## Thinking about retirement

It is never too early to start thinking about retirement and an important first question may be, "When is the best time to start receiving retirement benefits?"

There is no best age for everyone and ultimately it is an individual choice. An informed decision about when to apply for benefits should be based on individual and family circumstances.

With that in mind, Social Security has published a new fact sheet to help in making the best decision. *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html).



CHEYLIN SCHOOL welcomes new district clerk, Jane Young. She and her husband, Rod, along with their children Hayley and Ethan have been actively involved in various Bird City community and school events.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider