

Proposal divides city councilmen

By Linda Schneider
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For the last meeting of the year, the Bird City Council covered many important topics and updates. But the issue that divided the members was the topic and voting of the Small Business Development Center proposed by the Century II Development Center (see related story).

The council also asked for Brad Schneider, city supervisor, to report on the new city maintenance employee, Eric Bartels.

"He has been doing a good job, and I am happy with his work," said Mr. Schneider. "It has been just a week and I will keep you updated on him."

Community updates

Mayor Troy Burr reported to the council that the middle income housing construction project is moving right along, and if the weather would only be more cooperative, it would be completed soon.

He said the Century II Development Foundation has received several applicants and with one applicant approval.

Councilman Wade Carmichael asked if there might be a need for a advertising campaign, billboard, in the paper.

"I don't believe it is our responsibility — it is the Northwest Kansas Housing," said councilman, Frank Serrano.

It was discussed that as the date comes closer to finishing, the Northwest Kansas Housing may then start campaigning.

Councilman Loren White reported the Egger Building is complete except for the painting.

Also, the city water tower needs painting. Mr. Schneider said he would paint the Eggers Building walls, but would look for someone to paint the water tower.

Generators

Councilman White said the new generators for the lift station and fire house have not been completely installed. He said the generators and installations have been paid to Don Wright Electric.

Mr. Schneider told the council the lift station generator is installed, but not up and running. Council expressed concern with electrical outages occurring at both places.

Mayor Burr instructed Councilman White to contact Mr. Wright and request installation for both generators to be completed in 30 days.

Permits

A building permit was approved for Ted Partch to install a new water line from water meter to house on the southeast side of Ketchum and 7th street, in addition, approval for a cement loading area on curb for ADA accessibility.

Mr. Partch asked the council to establish the street width and curb location at above mentioned location. It was agreed to use the measurements of the southeast/west curbs and gutters at 7th Street and Penn.

All-terrain vehicle ordinance

Discussed was the ordinance to allow all-terrain vehicles and small utility trucks driven within the city limits.

Kevin Berens, city attorney, presented the revised ordinance for the council to approve; however, that was not to happen at this meeting.

The state law prohibits the driving of above mentioned vehicles, but a new ordinance by the state gives lo-

cal governments the option to vote them in and it is what the council members are trying to do.

The language of the ordinance is still under scrutiny and the members have asked Mr. Berens to revise and bring back to the next meeting.

Public water system

Mr. Schneider reported that all water samples have tested negative. One of the issues was the chlorine levels in the city water supply.

He reported that the chlorine had been incorrectly read due to the tester used. It was discovered that the readings were invalid because of the tester and was replaced. Now chlorine levels are correct.

"The site that had tested positive for coli form has been remedied," said Mr. Schneider.

He also reported to the council it was time to replace the old water meter; however, Councilman Loren White said most had just been replaced along with the new water billing system and there should be records.

Mr. Schneider said that part of the problem with the water records presently is that they have not been filed in a way that makes them easy to locate. He asked for assistance in developing a filing system for easy access.

Water loss

DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, reported there was a 58-percent water loss in November. Discussion followed concerning main line breaks, which Mr. Schneider said there were none and that several large pipe leaks have been fixed.

Mr. Schneider said that he has begun a complete inspection of all the city's water meters, looking for answers to the water loss. Other options to locating the water loss were discussed.

Rehabilitation grant

It was not a good report from Mrs. Ambrosier about the Community Development Block Grant the city recently received for a section of Bird City.

She said that she has received several applications only to find out that the Northwest Kansas Housing inspections that are required, far exceeds the \$18,000 limit for each applicant, which means that the homeowners would have to first complete their obligation before the grant money would kick in.

An example was a recent inspector's estimate was over \$30,000. Mayor Burr said it sure doesn't meet the idea of what thought to be a good opportunity for the community.

"I don't believe the house in this inspection is valued at \$30,000," said Mayor Burr.

Mrs. Ambrosier said the Northwest Kansas Housing appointed the inspector and he/she has the final say about the inspection estimates. She continued by saying that most of the applications would have to utilize the walk-away policy.

Recognition

The council commended Mr. Schneider on completing the studying and passing the tests for certification in water supply system and wastewater treatment facility operator.

Executive session

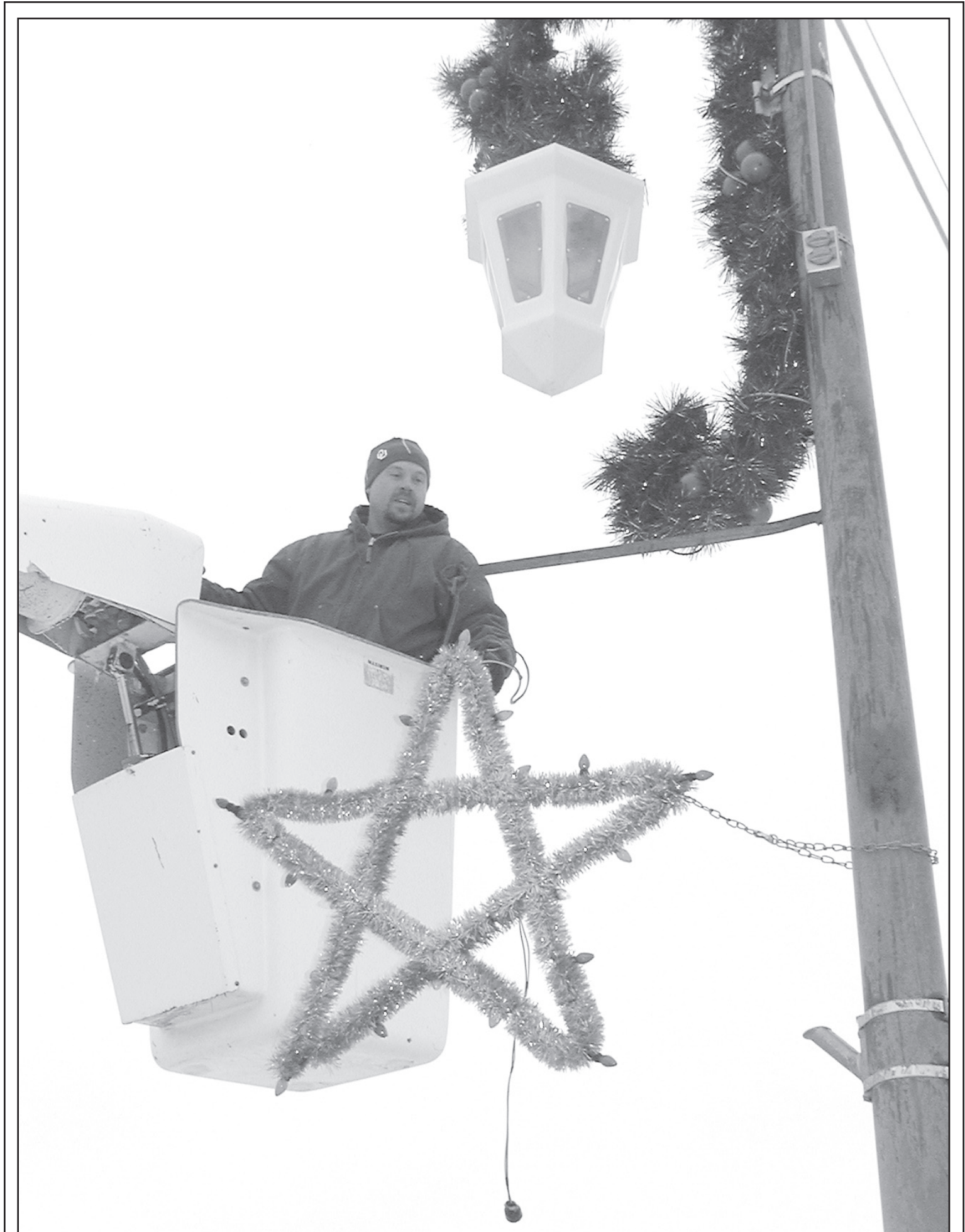
Executive session was called for personnel. Upon reconvening, council approved bonuses for Mr. Schneider for his certifications, \$500, and Mrs. Ambrosier for initiating training for city clerk, \$250.

the ABC Preschool supporters.

The person holding the second prize ticket will claim \$100 in scrip.

Throughout the last three weeks, customers have been collecting tickets with every \$10 they spend in participating businesses. So far, there have been five \$50 (scrip) Instant Giveaways claimed along with four business gifts.

In the Christmas On Us ads located on 1B, 2B and 3B in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, there are three ticket numbers, which, if the numbers are matched,



WHAT WOULD CHRISTMAS in Bird City be without the Wright family hanging all the decorations? Dennis Wright puts a star up on the post.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students receive eye test at school

Mila Bandel, RN, contracts out through the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley as the Cheylin School nurse every Monday during the school year. Mrs. Bandel is also the Cheyenne County health nurse.

Mrs. Bandel completes school vision testing for each Cheylin student. The health of eyes and good vision are important to the development of healthy children. Parents should know that their children could be having eye problems or may not be able to see well.

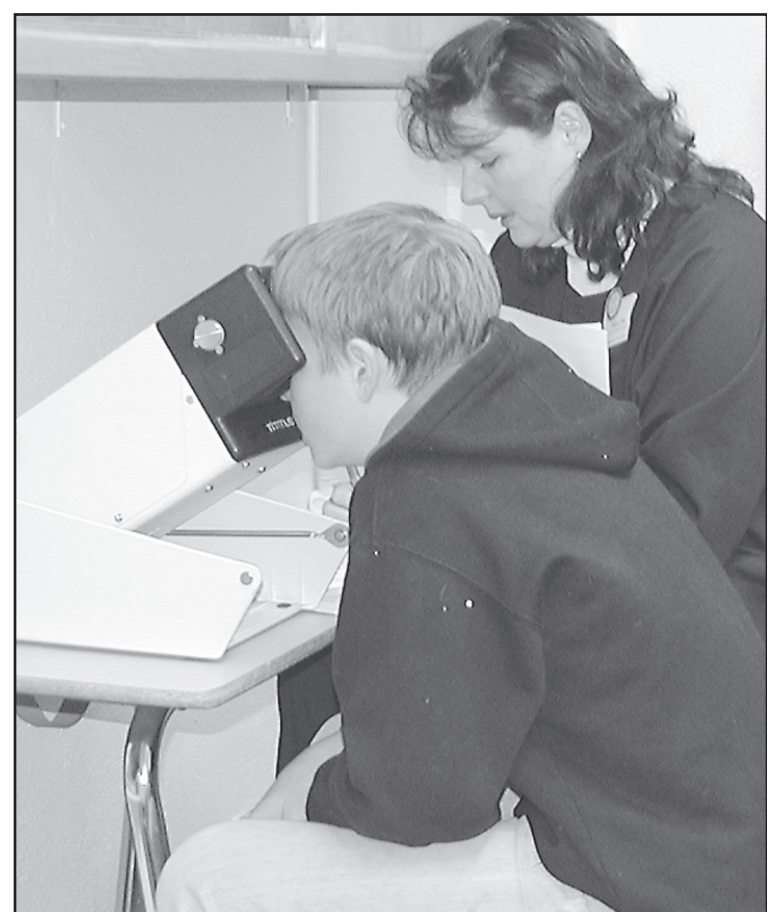
Without treatment, vision problems can affect a child's ability to learn. The school vision screening program assist parents/guardians to see if further vision evaluations with their optometrist are needed. Vision and hearing screening services offered through school nursing are sometimes the only way some families learn that their child has a sensory problem needing further evaluation.

Parents need to remember that

children need routine eye exams at the following stages of development—around the age of 3 1/2, kids should undergo eye health screenings and visual acuity tests, or tests that measure sharpness of vision and around the age of 5, their vision and eye alignment should be evaluated by their doctor. An eye doctor (optometrist) should examine those who fail either tests.

After the age of 5, further routine screenings should be done at school or the doctor's office or after the appearance of symptoms such as squinting or frequent headaches. A teacher will often realize the child is not seeing well in class. Kids who wear prescription glasses or contacts should have annual checkups to screen for vision changes.

Signs that a child may have vision problems included constant eye rubbing, extreme light sensitivity, poor visual tracking, and continuing redness or tearing. Once a child reaches school age,



CHECKING VISION — Caleb Frink has his eyes tested by Mila Bandel, RN.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

poor vision contributes to difficulty reading, an inability to see objects at a distance or on the black-

board, squinting, and even sitting too close to the television.

Christmas drawing scheduled for Monday in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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It has arrived!!! The Christmas On Us drawing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday and one lucky person will be taking home \$1,000 in scrip to spend in St. Francis participating businesses. The drawing will be held at the grade school

The drawing is held in conjunction with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's drawings and the St. Francis Christmas celebration which includes shopping, the Treasure Hunt and soup served by

the ABC Preschool supporters.

The person holding the second prize ticket will claim \$100 in scrip.

Throughout the last three weeks, customers have been collecting tickets with every \$10 they spend in participating businesses. So far, there have been five \$50 (scrip) Instant Giveaways claimed along with four business gifts.

In the Christmas On Us ads located on 1B, 2B and 3B in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, there are three ticket numbers, which, if the numbers are matched,

each ticket holder will win \$50 in scrip. There are eight numbers with "*" which designate there is a business gift waiting to be claimed.

Tickets

This is the last week to match your tickets with the numbers in the paper. People need to check the numbers early because the deadline for claiming them is noon on Monday. The ticket numbers are found in ads on the Christmas On Us pages in the B section of this issue. There are 11 numbers listed this week. — three without * and eight with *.

Those * tickets are drawn out after the winning tickets for scrip. They are a bonus and, if it were not for the business prizes, those * winners would not have received any prize.

The contest ends at noon on Monday. No more tickets will be given away and all prizes will need to be claimed.

Participating businesses

Without participating businesses, the Christmas On Us giveaway of \$1,500 total scrip would not be possible. Throughout the season,

customers have made purchases in St. Francis and, with every \$10 purchase, they were given a ticket. Last year, there were approximately 50,000 tickets given away and, take that times \$10 — there was around \$500,000 which stayed in St. Francis.

"On Monday, there will be a lucky person match their ticket with the ticket drawn, and they will have \$1,000 in scrip to spend for Christmas presents, buy groceries or make a special purchase," Mr. McCormick said.

Each week, merchants have advertised sales and specials in the Christmas On Us pages (1B, 2B and 3B).

Participating businesses in the Christmas On Us drawings are: Bier's Hometown Store; Bumper To Bumper, Hilltop General Store/Uptown Market, Majestic Service, Owens True Value, Parkhill Restaurant, Republican Valley Auto Supply, St. Francis Tire and Service, St. Francis Super's, Schultz's, The Saint Francis Herald, United Methodist Thrift Store.