

Harvest is in full swing

By Karen Krien

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The first frost covered much of Cheyenne County last week. The leaves are turning and starting to fall. Out in the fields, combines are moving as they harvest the fall crops.

Fall harvest in northwest Kansas, along with Cheyenne County, has been progressing ahead of normal, said Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist. This has greatly been influenced by the warm, dry weather that the area has been experiencing for the last several weeks.

Charlie Nipps, south of St. Francis, said he has been harvesting soybeans but hasn't gotten to the corn yet. However, he said this year's yields have been "wonderful - record yields." The soybeans were averaging between 65 and 71 bushels to the acre. While he hasn't started harvesting, he said the corn is looking like 225 to 250 bushels per acre.

"It's been a good year," he said. Dick Bursch was finishing up harvesting a field of corn north of Bird City. He said the yields have

been good.

According to Kansas Ag Statistics, in Northwest Kansas, 77 percent of corn has been harvested. Across the state, 89 percent of the corn has been harvested.

This is far ahead of last year's 43 percent and a 5-year average of 67 percent of harvested corn acres, Falk said.

Overall yields have been good and were helped by early season rainfall. However, the dry spell since the first part of August in many parts of the county have caused some lower yields and test weights on dryland corn, from inhibited grain-fill later in the season.

The great harvest weather, Falk said, has caused some concerns with drilling wheat. Sporadic rain events have helped some wheat develop a thick stand. There is also a great deal of wheat that has spotty stands and some wheat seed is in the ground waiting rain to germinate.

The Kansas Ag Statistics reports 97 percent of the wheat has been drilled in northwest Kansas, but only 68 percent has emerged.



BURSCH FARMS were finishing up a field of corn north of Bird City.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Water pipe breaks causing city councilmen headaches

By Norma Martinez

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The main discussion at the Bird City City Council meeting on Oct. 4 was the water pipes breakage, and the problem of skunks (see separate article.) Both issues are causing headaches for council members.

The water pipes are breaking due to the age and deterioration caused from the years of organic matter that has settled in the pipes. The pipes have rusted and decayed and have become weak. They eventually burst just from the pressure.

Brad Schneider, city supervisor, and his crew are repairing them as quick as they can. They have repaired the pipes on Burr and Fifth going to the park, and still have one to finish fixing on the north side of the maintenance shop on Third and Cave Ave.

This last week the crew re-did the whole block of Seventh Street from Rod Young's shop east. This was done at a cost of \$3,500. Mr. Schneider just needs to put in the meter barrel, and is waiting for the dirt to settle before packing it down.

Mayor Burr has been checking into developing a plan to replace all the water lines. He said they need to get going on a strategic plan now. The city needs to find out how much it is going to cost, and then decide if they need to get a bond, a 5-year plan, or what to obtain the money needed to get going on the matter as soon as possible.

Public comments

Shirley Statley asked the city to maintain her alley as it is the only way to get access to her

house at 214 W. Sixth. There are many deep holes, she said, and there are several people who come down the alley to get to her house. One specific person is elderly and it is not safe for her to walk down it.

Mayor Burr told her the city does not maintain alley's unless there is a real problem. Your's, he said, is an exception because you have no access to your home except thru the alley.

Mr. Schneider said that the crew does put sand in the holes she is referring to but the rain washes it out. Possibly they could fill them with some heavier gravel instead of the sand, but somehow they would find a way to alleviate the problem.

Building permits

Living Water Fellowship wants to enlarge their fellowship hall and has requested permission to get a business permit to do a 55- by 19- by 6-foot addition to the back of their church. This addition would be added to the south side with access from the alley. Hal Sager, councilman, said he has no problem with it as long as the 16-foot height gives plenty of clearance to the wire maintained by Midwest Energy.

Roy Shrader ask for a permit for a carport addition to the shop on North Ketchem. Both permits were approved.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen said he had nothing to report, only minor incidences were handled. Mayor Burr asked him what had been done about the problem with the motorcyclists racing in the streets. The sheriff said they didn't know if it was because of the newspaper report or possibly

school had started to distract the guilty parties from racing in the streets but it has stopped.

Unfinished business

Discussion was held on providing a handicapped entrance to the senior center. It was decided that there was a handicap entrance on the corner which was only a few feet away from the center, and that would be close enough to gain proper access to the center with little inconvenience to the handicapped.

In other business

• A request was submitted from the Community Development Building Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$8,900 for the demo completion of the Gipe and Schneider buildings.

• The Bird City Housing Authority requested the appointment of Wonetta Statley and Dana Wright to serve on the Housing Authority Board.

• Commissioner Sager, who is in charge of street surfacing, suggested that something needs to be done to winterize the manholes for the winter, especially on the main street and in front of the school, as these are the most dangerous spots.

• Kevin Berens, city attorney, presented two Uniform Public Occupants Codes that were adopted. They are Uniform Public Offense Code 2010, and Standard Traffic Ordinance 2010.

• City Clerk DeAnza Ambrosier said she will be gone Oct. 25-29 and she needs to find a replacement for her in the office, or the city council office will have to be closed for this week.



FIREMEN RESPOND to a fire at the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village on Tuesday afternoon.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Fire causes evacuation at Good Samaritan Village

By Karen Krien

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About 1:30 on Tuesday afternoon, smoke was evident at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. The staff called 911 and began moving residents out of the building. Within 15 minutes, all residents were safely out.

Workers had been putting insulation in the attic of the facility and it was suspected that there might have been something that went wrong but there are no confirming reports.

The fire apparently started in the attic of the facility toward the east end and spread through the attic and down the walls.

Firemen, emergency medical technicians and law officers were on the scene almost immediately.

Residents had been moved to the north and west sides of the building. One of the staff remarked that it was a nice day so they could be moved outside.

At one point, the wind changed direction and residents on the north side were moved to the east end. It was a community effort as people arrived to help move the residents and records, and gather needed supplies.

Ambulances from around the area arrived to help move residents. The St. Francis Indian bus was used as a vehicle to move people who were able to walk and climb the steps.

The high school gym was opened up and residents were moved in. Doctors and nurses arrived to help the Village staff

with any medical problems, to take vitals and reassure residents that they were going to be OK.

The school staff and students showed up with water and snacks. The students were talking to residents, others were helping load and unload equipment while others were running errands as needed.

Many of the residents were able to be moved to nursing homes in Goodland, Atwood, Wray, Benkelman and Sharon Springs. Others were able to go home with relatives until a place could be found for them.

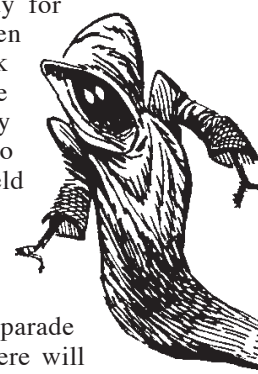
At the time the paper went to press, details on the fire and damage to the facility were unknown.

Annual spook parade is set

It is that time of year for everyone to get ready for the annual Halloween soup supper and spook parade hosted by the Bird City Community Club (there is no change). It will be held Sunday, Oct. 31, in the Legion hall.

Supper will be served from 5 to 6:30 with the spook parade starting at 6 p.m. There will be a special treat for every child that is in costume and in the parade.

Come enjoy soup, see all the ghosts and goblins and enjoy the evening.



Groups team up to gather items for servicemen

In just four weeks the American Legion Auxiliary and the Lawn Ridge 4-H club will again gather items...many items...and money like they have in the past years to bring some joy to service personnel in the war zones.

Residents all know it is tough going for them but they continue to do a great job in keeping American's safe, so open your hearts and pocketbooks to bring them a bit of packaged love from home by sending as many Christmas boxes as possible again.

Children can make cards, write letters or make it a class project to be a part of this program.

"Let's make it the best year ever," said coordinators, Hulda Dorsch and Christy Wurm.