

Company seeks city's permission

The main focus of the March 7 Bird City Council meeting was a request from Verizon asking permission to install a 60-foot wide, 199-foot tall tower on private property at 2016 Rd 28. Construction is to be done this summer and taking 6-8 weeks to complete.

Of concern to Wade Carmichael was, in allowing Verizon to do this; he said, Bird City already has a tower that was constructed last year, and he doesn't want our little town to be known as "antenna city." By allowing one more tower it might open the door to other providers.

Of major concern to council members was its location which is one-fourth mile inside the city limits and adjacent to the west side of the airport. Fears are a 199-foot tower might present a problem to planes flying in the dark.

Federal Aviation Administration can approve a height lower, but it cannot exceed 199 feet. This height would be taller than the water tower, 7-feet taller than the elevator, and 70-foot taller than Viaro's tower.

Mayor Burr was concerned as to whether Verizon had consulted with Rod Young as to any airport interference. A phone call to Mr. Young confirmed he was not aware of Verizon's plans.

Since the tower is to be in the city limits and the airport is outside the city limits Bird City does not have any say as to the airport effects, so council members made the decision to table the permit application until they can look further into the matter with the airport.

Thresher show water bill

Rod Klepper, treasurer for the Thresher show, checked with DeAnza Ambrosier, clerk, and Brad Schneider, city superintendent, as to why the Thresher show grounds water bill was so high during the winter months as they are not using any water. Two of the last months billed were double what had previously been charged.

Since they did not need water at this time, Mr. Schneider shut the water off, and found out this also shut the water off at the Carson's residence. Brad is still investigating as to the cause of the problem.

Building permits

Two permits were approved for remodeling existing structures.

Shannon Ambrosier requested permission to add a 80- by 35-foot structure to a building by the water tower. The addition will have a roof and white painted metal siding. A water meter will be needed.

Dawn Miller from Dawns Designs purchased a small house at 118 W Second to gain a more spacious beauty shop. She requested a permit to remodel the interior part of the house. Plans are to do the work themselves, with a goal of January of 2013 for completing the remodeling job.

Couple seeks funds for meal program

Last month Rod Klepper and Dan Carson started a Meals on Wheels program for Bird City and McDonald. Mr. Klepper has resigned from his position, and with the absence of Dan Carson who was in Africa, Bill and Susan Chomer were delivering the meals. In the process Susan located several individuals who could use the meals, but can't afford to pay for them.

Both Bill and Susan attended the city council meeting on March 7, in hopes they could get some financial help from the city to broaden the perspective of the Meals on Wheels program.

Both of them had worked with the program for over a decade in Colorado.

The program was basically formed to provide hot meals to handicapped and/or low income individuals who can't afford to

Equipment

Dennis Wright is training five new firemen and is in need of new radios. A radio is needed for the fire truck, and they are short 2-3 more.

At the present time the fire department only has a couple pagers and some old equipment. Since the firemen work in the fields and are not all in town, they need to be able to communicate with each other. The radios are the best means of being able to do this.

Mr. Burr said, they would have to see if they could shuffle things around to provide funds as, we can't spend more than we've already said we would spend. Previous equipment purchased has been ordered and is still being delivered.

Swimming pool

During the first three Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings plans have been made for benefit meals before the meetings to raise funds for special projects.

Rod Klepper plans on using one of the benefits to raise funds to purchase a sun shade for the pool. First to shade the decking, and eventually replace the wooden one with a fabric shade over the kiddie pool.

Mr. Schneider is getting ready to do the cement and deck work needed at the pool.

Old business

Mr. Schneider said he is pleased with the new city maintenance truck recently purchased for him. He had purchased new side boards and located a toolbox at Bumper to Bumper for \$600. He didn't check any where else as he prefers keeping the business in Cheyenne County. Paint is needed to paint the side boards and other miscellaneous items. Council members approved up to \$700 for these items.

Many comments have been made on the new lighting at Bird Ave. and U.S. 36. Mr. Schneider reported these new bulbs only cost the city \$22 per month to operate.

Streets

Last year the city paid out \$1,500 to seal streets that had large cracks, and they are still cracking. Mr. Schneider told Dennis Wright about a street sealing machine he located on the website selling for \$1,800 - \$2,200.

It works with pallets taking 2-3 hours to melt and could seal more cracks at a cheaper price than what they paid last year.

This machine seals up to 3-inch cracks, and instead of paying a contractor they would only have to hire an extra worker for 2-3 weeks to cover the complete city. The decision on the equipment was put on hold until next month.

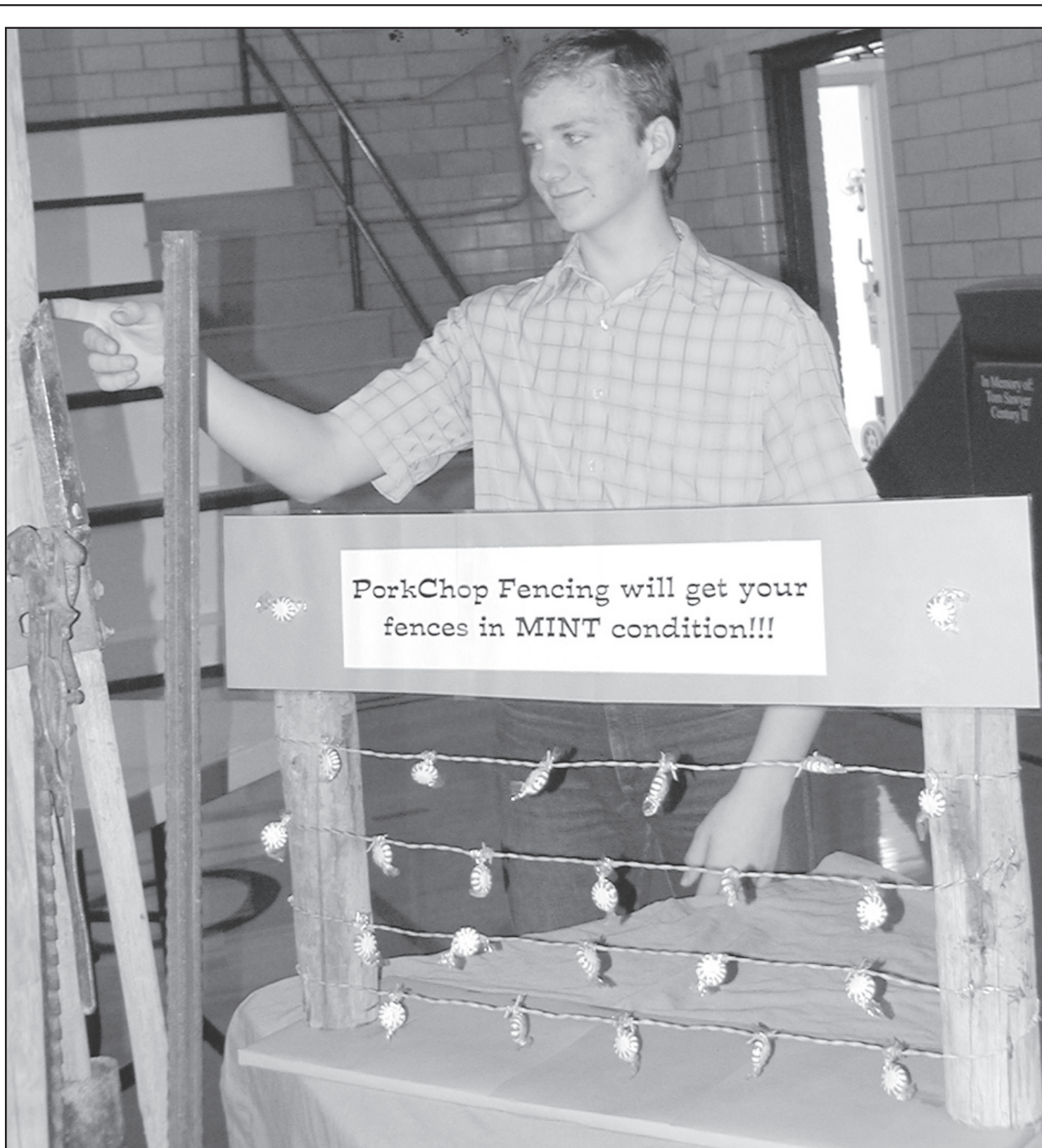
Mr. Schneider said he had talked to Chris Miller about the replacement of the old water lines. Mr. Miller said grant money was available and will check into the grant.

pay for these meals.

The present program for the Bird City/McDonalds area is only providing a free delivery service for those who can afford to pay for their meals.

Mr. Burr said the city is not responsible for providing funds, they are to provide water, sewer, streets, and that type of services to the city.

Ms. Chomer told him they were basically looking for suggestions as to how to obtain the necessary funds. She said in Colorado the Meals on Wheels is a government sponsored program. Council members tried to offer them some suggestions on where to look for these funds. Several options were suggested. Frank Serrano suggested that St. Francis has a Meals on Wheels program and they should check with them to see how they run their program.



SHAWN POCHOP displays his PorkChop Fencing during the Cheylin Entrepreneurship Fair held in Bird City on Tuesday.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Residents return to nursing home

By Karen Krien

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They're coming home!

The first two former residents arrived at the Good Samaritan Village on Monday. Owen Morrow and Bob Morrell received the red-carpet treatment as they entered the Village after living in the Goodland Good Samaritan nursing home since Oct. 19 fire.

The west wing of the nursing home has been renovated and will have 22 beds available for residents. The nurses' old break room will now be used as an office for the director of nurses, Janet Siegfried; social services director, Sherri Hilt; and Jeff Paulsen, administrator. Resident rooms on the south end of the wing have been turned into a temporary kitchen, dining and therapy rooms.

The Good Samaritan Society plans to turn a portion of the burned middle area into a dining room and a corridor will run the length of the wing, once again connecting the kitchen, lounge and therapy rooms on the east. By the first of May, the temporary dining, kitchen and therapy will be changed back to resident rooms adding beds for 10 more residents, making the total 32.

The fire

The Village fire on Oct. 19 could have been devastating, said Jeff Paulsen, administrator, had it not been for the calm command of Mrs. Siegfried.

Mr. Paulsen was out of town attending a Society meeting when the fire started. Mrs. Siegfried said lunch had just ended and the fire marshal had walked in shortly before. He and Dennis Merklin, maintenance man, were getting ready to do some inspections. Insulation work was being done by contractors when one of the men called out that there was a fire in the attic.

Cathy Loop, activities director, pulled the fire alarm and Mrs. Siegfried announced that it was not a drill. The fire marshal timed the removal of the patients at 4 minutes.

If there is a good time to have a fire, this might have been it. Mrs. Siegfried said most of the residents were still in their wheelchairs



WELCOME HOME — Administrator Jeff Paulsen (right) shakes Owen Morrow's hand as he returns to the Good Samaritan Village on Monday. Janet Siegfried and Deb Gohl were also on hand.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

from lunch, and the next round of staff was coming on duty. The day was a warm autumn day so the residents were moved outside without coats.

Drills are mandatory and Mrs. Siegfried said they always carried out the drills, even the state tornado drills.

Mrs. Siegfried made a call to the school and within minutes, the school's activity bus was at the Village to take residents back to the high school gym. Emergency medical personnel on site, clinic and hospital personnel, and other people were showing up to help wherever they could, and Village staff, whether they were scheduled to work or not, were there.

Everything went like it was supposed to, Mrs. Siegfried said. No residents were hurt, not even a skin tear. Two residents went to the hospital because it was better for them, Mrs. Siegfried said. The rest of the residents were taken to the high school gym.

It wasn't until after she had reached the gym did she think about getting ahold of the Good Samaritan Society. Somehow, she said, the society personnel

had gotten the high school phone number and she had a call waiting from them.

The society was concerned about many things but, everything had been taken care of - from making sure the medical carts were there, to the charts and treatments.

The concern and help from people in both communities was fantastic, she said.

We arrived at the high school around 3:30 p.m., she said, and all the residents had been placed in different facilities by 6:30.

Getting ready

On Friday, many of the staff were on hand, getting the facility ready for the first two patients. The floors were swept, people were working at desks, answering phones, and lining up last minute items needed.

The cooks had a trial run which had worked well (food is prepared in the east kitchen, then brought by carts to the west wing). Deb Gohl, kitchen manager, said the first meal for residents would be glazed meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans and ice cream.

Mr. Paulsen said 41 of the original 60 staff will be returning.

Full-time staff will have four 8-hour days, part-time staff would have three 8-hour days.

The staff is excited to be back to work, Mrs. Siegfried said. However, it will be important that hours are kept to a minimum as 22 residents are not enough to make the facility pay for itself. It will help when there are 32 residents but, it is still not the 48 residents that lived at the home before the fire.

Mrs. Siegfried is hoping the county will agree to take over the nursing home, leasing it to the Good Samaritan Society. The society, she said, has invested a lot in equipment and knows all the state and federal rules and regulations. The aides have handheld electronic charting devices and the nurses are scheduled to have them by this summer. There are new phone and computer systems as well as patient lifts and all the furniture.

While Mrs. Siegfried is hoping there will never be another fire at the Village, Mr. Paulsen said he is confident she would handle the situation well again. "She is a hero!" he concluded.