

## Unique idea for tower presented

The water tower in Bird City needs repainted and it is estimated that the cost to paint it gray will be around \$18,000. Tom Bailey, pastor of Immanuel United Methodist Church, and Cathy Domsch, executive director, Century II, presented a new and unique plan for repainting the tower at the Monday city council meeting.

Pastor Tom asked the question, "What do Sesame Street's Big Bird and television's Extreme Makeover have in common with Bird City?"

The answer was, "Why not paint it to look like a bird house?"

It could be what makes Bird City a stopping point as people come to see the "World's largest bird house," he said. "Come to Bird City and see the world's largest birdhouse!"

The plan presented was to wrap the water tower with a vinyl wrap to look like a giant bird house. Vinyl typically outlasts paint and is less prone to fading.

It was suggested that the design of the giant birdhouse could be opened to international competition with an award for the chosen design.

So, now, what does Sesame Street have to do with Bird City's water tower? Perhaps, he said, Sesame Street's Big Bird could be invited for the celebration and the unveiling of the water tower. We could have a huge crowd in Bird City, he said.

And Extreme Makeover? Steve Hess, World Class Graphics and Displays, does all the interior graphics for Extreme

Makeover's Home Edition television show, Pastor Tom said. His company, based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a leader among companies that do custom wrap projects of city buses, buildings and water towers.

DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, gave the 1921 blueprints of the water tower to Pastor Tom. Copies of the blueprints along with digital photos of the water tower were sent to Mr. Hess. He estimated that the cost of the project would be from \$21,000 to \$25,000.

The cost would include wrapping the tower from the catwalk to the bottom of the roof. Once the design is approved, it would take about two weeks to print, laminate and install.

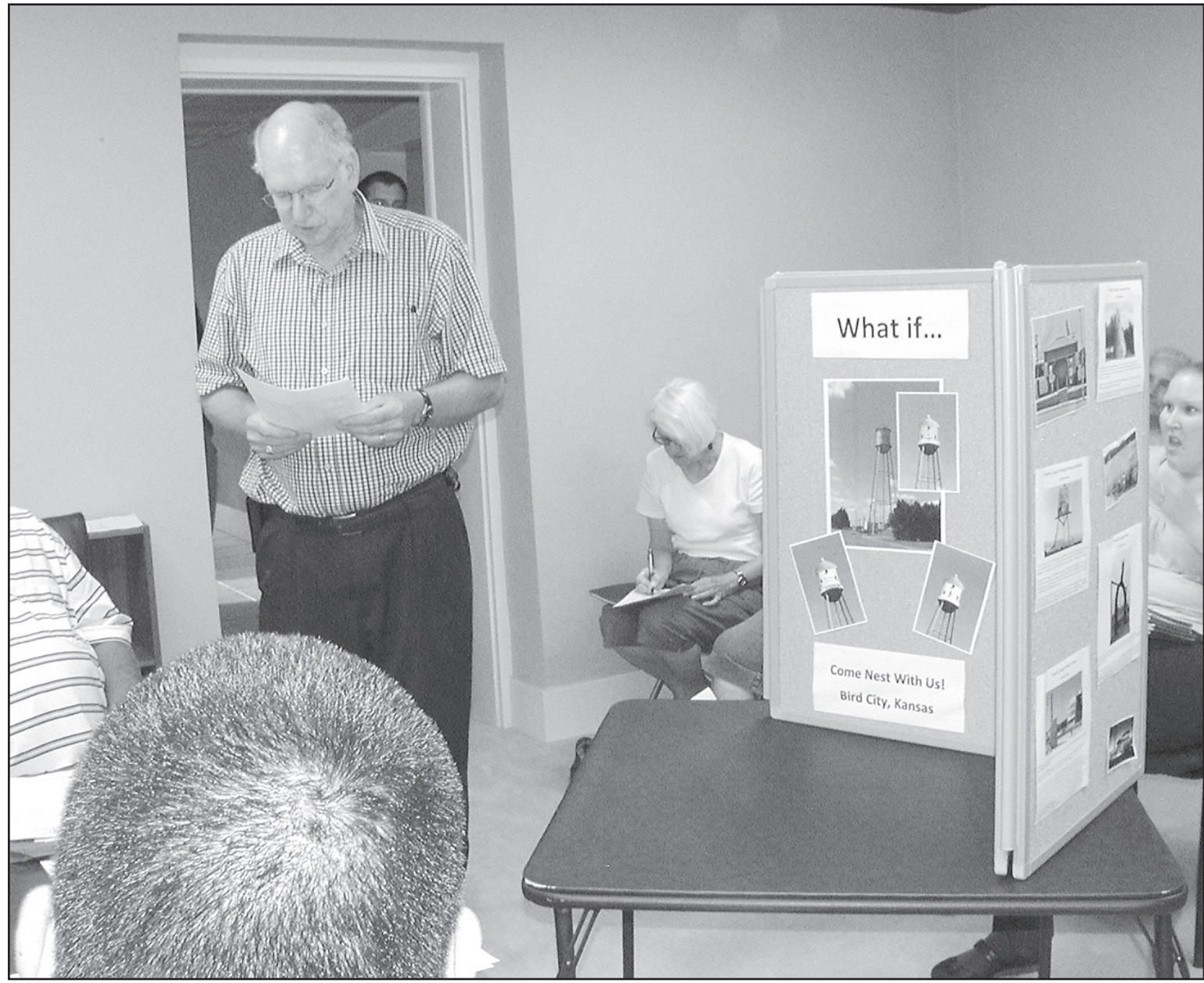
### Opportunities

Once the water tower is transformed into a giant birdhouse, it could draw people from far and near to see the unusual and whimsical.

While in the city, they would eat at local restaurants, look over the community, visit souvenir shops selling replicas of the water tower, birdhouses, bird stationery, post cards, key rings, paperweights, feeders, seed, T-shirts and Christmas ornaments, just to mention a few.

We might even see the corner cafe and soda fountain reopen for business, he said.

The Bird City City Council and Bird City Century II have the opportunity to put Bird City on the map, he said. This project idea will come from the community and will instill city pride.



PASTOR Tom Bailey presented his plan to put Bird City on the map by turning the water tower into a huge bird house.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Board fills positions for school year

By Norma Martinez  
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Filling positions was on the agenda when the Cheylin Board of Education met on June 18.

The replacement for the second grade teacher and coaching positions have been filled for the new school year with the exception of the Junior High boys' basketball coach.

During the first part of the meeting a 15 minute executive session was called to meet with Jolene Reeh, track coach for review of the season.

Emily Bolen's resignation as second grade teacher was approved. She will be working as the Title One director at Sharon Springs Elementary School.

Hannah Louderbaugh was hired to take Mrs. Bolen's position as second grade teacher.

Miss Louderbaugh is a former Cheylin School graduate, and just completed her teaching degree from Kansas State University. She is the daughter of George and Dixie Louderbaugh of McDonald.

Ashley Gasper has been hired as the junior high girls basketball coach. Ms. Gasper lives in St. Francis.

### Sale of McDonald school

The board authorized the sale of the McDonald High School building located at 504 Ottawa

Street. Leroy and Ella Enfield purchased this property for a price of \$19,000. At the present time it has only been used as a storage facility. Bruce Bolen, superintendent, was pleased with the sale as it will put funds back into the school budget by cutting down on insurance and also provide tax revenue for the city of McDonald.

The money from the McDonald sale will provide the revenue to purchase and install a keyless entry system from Rod's Locksmith Shop St. Francis. This consists of 58 locks in the elementary, high school, McDonald gym and Wellness Center. Mr. Bolen said they chose Rod's Locksmith to do the work as he is a local Cheyenne County merchant and will keep the revenue in the area.

The locks and system are made by Cyber Lock and consist of electronic locking mechanisms allowing entrance to the main doors, offices and classrooms. Each teacher will have a key fob similar to a car electronic key that will allow entry to their classroom and the entrance doors only. Only two master keys will be computer programmed to allow access to all 58 doors. "Randy will be happy," Mr Bolen says, "as he will be losing weight by having

only one key instead of the present two full sets of keys he presently has to carry."

Each key fob will be computerized to register every time they are used, and can be tracked as to whose key is used in the case entry problems should arise.

The cost of the key and programming is approximately \$150. When the Wellness Center is finished those who wish to have keys will be required to pay a deposit of \$100 for a key fob. These will only be issued to those who prove to be responsible enough to abide by the rules set for the Wellness Center use, and not allow the use of the keys by minors without their accompaniment.

The total cost of this project by Rod's Locksmith Shop is \$17,621. Concerns were brought up by some of the board members that some folks might think this is a lot of money to be spending due to the fact of the tight budget last year.

"At the present time," Mr. Bolen said, "there is no way of tracking who has keys or how many are even out."

The board decided the lock changes were necessary for building security measures. The sale of the McDonald facility provides funds they did not expect to have so it will not be cut-

ting into the school budget by using these funds to pay for this project.

### Summer projects

The summer and custodial service workers have been working on the following projects this summer: cleaning lockers and carpets, scrubbing and waxing the kitchen and gym floors, and other small projects.

Work is to be done on repairing the sidewalk and fixing the leaks in the science room, girls' bathroom and home economics room. These leaks are a result of the sloping north-east sidewalk causing water to run into the outside walls and running into the rooms when it rains.

Rod Klepper is planning a couple of community work days to finish siding the Wellness Center and the interior walls. The electric wiring, sheet rock finishing, and other interior projects are to be contracted out to businesses.

Executive sessions were conducted for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, student issues and negotiations. No motions or decisions were made on any of these matters and will be discussed further during the July 9 board meeting at 7 p.m.

## Queen will reign at thresher show

Each year, the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association honors the women of the past by selecting a queen who will reign during the show.

This tradition was started by Hope Bressler, with Adda Koken being the first queen in 1973.

A committee selects a woman whose identity remains a mystery until the day of her crowning, which is on the first day of the show.

The first of four clues of the 2012 Thresher Queen appears in this week and the following weeks until the thresher show opens.

This year's queen was born in Cheyenne County at home in the country. She had an older sister to welcome her into the family and later, more siblings joined them.

There will be another clue located in next week's issues of the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald*.

The 59th Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show will be held July 26 through 28 at the thresher show grounds east of Bird City. The Thresher Queen



2013 Thresher Queen

will be crowned at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 26.

The week of July 23, the Thresher Show special section will be inserted in the *Times Herald*. It will be full of information and history of the show. Be sure to check out this special section.

## New system implemented

Cheyenne County 911, in conjunction with Cheyenne County Emergency Management, is implementing the Nex-Tech Total Notify Emergency alert system.

The TotalNotify Emergency Alert System has the ability to send telephone notifications to Cheyenne County residents in the event of an emergency. Emergency notifications are delivered to your home phone number, but can also be delivered via cell phones, text message, and e-mail if the information is provided.

If you do not have a home phone but utilize a cell phone, enter your cell phone number in the primary phone number field, said Jennifer Padgett, county communications director. By entering your cell phone we will be able to

notify you directly should there be an emergency in your neighborhood or surrounding area. If there is no phone number tied to the physical address of your home we cannot guarantee that we will be able to reach you immediately if an emergency should arise.

All information obtained is strictly confidential and will be used for emergency notifications only.

If you live anywhere within Cheyenne County you can sign up for local emergency alerts. Its quick and easy!

We are in the beginning stages of implementing the mass notification system, said Mrs. Padgett, and it will be tied to your 911 home or business address. You will receive tornado emergency alerts.

Go to the following link

to sign up! <http://alert.totalnotify.com/Public/Signup>

There is a link to the sign up website listed on the Cheyenne County homepage at [www.cheyennecounty.org](http://www.cheyennecounty.org)

Please contact Cheyenne County Dispatch, 785-332-8822, or Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service, 785-332-8888, if you need assistance in signing up.

We can help you!!! she said.

### Tip

A helpful tip for signing up:

- Enter your house number and password, select submit, and there will be a drop down list of addresses that you are able to choose from.



The ground was broken on May 25, for the two double apartment units to be constructed for the new Senior Housing Duplex Development. Paxton Building Services from Goodland is shown doing the dirt work.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez