

City Council holds meeting

By Norma Martinez
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During the Sept. 4, City Council meeting Brad Schneider, superintendent, was asked for a report on the work being done to the ditch at the intersection of Bird Ave. and U.S. 36. He said the culvert under Bird Ave. was full of mud, and he and Russell Jackson with the assistance of Roy Shrader and his back hoe dug it out. The three of them with the supervision of Councilman Hal Sager, then lined the ditch with rocks to contain the dirt. He said, "All we need now is to get four to five more loads of rock to finish this project."

Mr. Schneider also reported the west water meter for the Legion hall will be discontinued and he would need to dig it out in front of the grocery store, or Dawn Petty's place to replace the three quarter line with a one inch line.

Digging will be required to be done in front of William Malone's place, at 419 E. 5th Street to put in a new water barrel. With only a gate valve the water cannot be turned off.

Schneider also said he was going to call Doug Guenther to see when he can come out to test the water hydrants, and he would be flushing the sewer system soon.

Building permits

Three building permits were presented. Brent Whittington/Kathy Ritchey's permit was denied as submitted due to the length of time requested, and the building materials were not listed.

Hal Sager requested a permit, for breaking out and replacing an identical cement driveway. His permit was approved.

Living Water requested a permit to extend and replace some curbing in front of their building. Work is to be done by Shaw Construction. Councilman Sager is to check with them to make sure the curb is to be replaced just as it is now and if that is the case, their permit is approved.

Burn ban

Mayor Burr and Councilman Sager both said the burn ban cannot be released due to the lack of sufficient rain. Hal Sager suggested "a per permit" permission be

issued, to those who purchase a permit, once it has been determined the requesting party is responsible enough to properly tend to the fire. Mr. Sager volunteered to personally check the area to make sure it is safe to burn. The requirement would be to have a water hose available and the fire attended until the fire is completely out.

Attorney Kevin Berens said, "This would put a lot of responsibility on the person who authorized the per permit. Mr. Sager said, "I am willing to take that responsibility." Mayor Burr was in agreement to allow these permits on a temporary basis for the month of September. Mayor Burr and Councilman Sager will work on the executive policy modification to make this change. Fireworks will still not be allowed.

Tree removals

A home owner has been contacted for the second time for non-compliance to resolve a nuisance abatement on several dead trees needing to be removed and others trimmed. Resolution 12-01 Nuisance Abatement was drawn up and approved on this property.

Several sealed bids were presented for the removal of four trees and trimming of two trees on First Street. Bid was awarded to; "Get a Switch" out of Hill City, for \$1,900.

The trimming of several trees at the city park with guidance from Councilman Carmichael, was awarded to Joseph Melton with J&M Construction for \$1,500.

Insurance renewal

Donna Wright with Wright Insurance presented next year's insurance contract for Bird City. Council members approved the bid, but requested Kevin Berens go through the policy and see if any changes should be made.

Girl scouts

The Bird City Girl Scout troop is meeting in the Boy Scout Hut and asked permission to paint the inside. Request was approved, and Troy Burr agreed for the city to buy four gallons of paint to spruce the hut up.

This report was partially taken from the unapproved city council minutes.



HAVING FUN on the steeple web at the park with the group from the summer reading program were Alex Dart, left, Colton McCarty, top, and Jackson Boyson, right.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Students complete reading program

At the end of school before the summer break, Cheylin School presented a Summer Reading Challenge to the first through sixth grades. With the reading program, students were given reading challenges according to their reading levels.

Students going into first grade this year were to read 10 books with their parents help. Third grade students were to read five books, of which at least two of them were to be at their reading level.

Twenty-one students completed this challenge and returned their sheets signed by their parents at the beginning of school. They were:

Kinley Havel and Harley McPherson, kindergarteners; Jackson Boyson, Taos Dale, Matthew Hendricks, Brady Ketzner, Logan McCarty and Connor McPherson, first graders; Isabelle Gabaldon, second grader; Christian Gabaldon, Nellie Hesper, Dylan Ketzner and Grace Wright, third graders; Soledad Bermudez, Alex Dart, Gus Hesper, and Colton McCarty, fourth graders; Kaylynn Hendricks, and Jayden Boyson, fifth graders; and Granite Bock was the only sixth grader.

Thursday, Bruce Bolen, superintendent, bused the students to the Bird City Diner for their ice cream, then to the park for a fun

time during their recess time. This gave them ample opportunity to work off the sugar energy from the ice cream by playing on the slide, steeple netting and swinging.

Tish Havel assisted Mr. Bolin on the outing. She is the new Title I coordinator and teaches junior high English.

Mrs. Havel graduated from St. Francis Community High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education with a minor in English from Fort Hays State University. She also earned a master's degree in teaching at St. Mary College.

Mrs. Havel worked with Cheylin

staff as an education consultant. While working with them she said she could see the staff and administration truly cared about their students and community, and that played a big part in her decision to teach at Cheylin.

Tish and her husband Grant Havel live in St. Francis where she keeps busy in her spare time helping her three children, Frank, age 13, Bob, 11, and daughter Kinley, 7, who are involved in 4-H and other activities. She enjoys gardening and reading.

She is looking forward to the year as a teacher, and says she feels fortunate to be working in the district.



T-N-T CAR WASH has new owners and is ready to handle your dirty vehicles.

Area couple purchases Bird City businesses

Several months ago, Todd and Tracy Neitzel became the new owners of a multi-business operation in Bird City. The property, located along U.S. 36 is now known as T-N-T Car Wash, Storage Units and RV Park.

The Neitzel's have spent the summer cleaning up the property and making improvements.

The car wash was first on their agenda. "Our goal was to have a quality car wash with all components in good working order," said Mrs. Neitzel.

The nine lot RV park was cleaned and landscaped. New hookups and solar lighting was installed. The RV park has sewer, water and electric hook ups and some sites have cement pads. There are new picnic tables and swings, for customers to use and enjoy.

"We have had some very pleased customers. We are looking forward to having many more customers during the fall harvest and hunting season," said Mrs. Neitzel.

Eight small storage units and 26 large

storage units are also located on the property. The larger units are 8x20 with a garage door entrance. The small units are old motel rooms that have been renovated into storage facilities. Most of the units are full at this time.

The former Right Motel is currently being renovated into apartments, which have already been rented. A new roof is planned for the future.

"We are glad to be in Bird City and to keep these businesses going" Mrs. Neitzel said.

Todd and Tracy are 4th generation farmers in Cheyenne County and own a farm south of Wheeler. In addition to farming, they raise pheasants and have other ventures within the community. The recent purchase of a small feed yard will only add to their diversified life style.

Todd and Tracy have two boys, Colton and Cutter, who are in grade school in St. Francis.

For more information concerning T-N-T Car Wash, Storage Units and RV Park, call Tracy at 785-734-7100.



TRACY NEITZEL empties the money in the bill changer at the car wash.
Times staff photos by Karen Krien

City needs those surveys returned soon

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The first half hour of the Sept. 4, City Council Meeting was devoted to a public hearing conducted by Steve Hanson for the City Development Building Grant. Before submitting this grant the city needs to come up with 51 percent Low to Moderate Income homes, or 220 such homes to qualify for this grant. The established funds needed are, \$640,000 of which the city needs to come up with \$320,000.

City Clerk, DeAnza Ambrosier sent out a survey to all the Bird City residents, and just a few have returned the survey. The city needs to have 51 percent of them returned in order to qualify for applying for this grant. It was suggested that the council members and workers go to the homes and offer to help the residents fill out their surveys. If you need help with this, call city hall at 734-2616 to arrange for a council member to help you, as it is important they are returned.

Mr. Hansen stressed the city must calculate the hours spent on past leaks, and have a complete documentation as to all the repaired water leaks, hours spent, and time involved on future leaks. He also suggested city workers need to take pictures of these breaks. The final date for completion of this information is set for September 27.

David Blau reported on the Kansas Inter-Agency Committee meeting and reminded council members of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, public hearing. He said, these funds will replace the 2-inch water pipes with 6 inch line on four blocks on Burr Avenue, new meters and eleven isolation valves will be installed to help locate problem areas. These valves will also eliminate the need to turn off the water for the whole city when there is a water leak. The grant will also include the cost of repairing the streets after they are installed, and painting the water tower.

Councilman Wade Carmichael asked how much the loan would cost each resident, and it was reported it would be \$6.63 per month. His concern, he said, is, "We need to be more careful not to add too much more on the residents."

Hearing was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Next public hearing will be conducted on Sept. 17, at 8 p.m.