

Director urges farmers to spray noxious weeds

By Karen Krien

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It was hot and dry. Not much grew well except for the noxious weeds including Canada and musk thistle as well as bind weed.

Dave Flemming, county noxious weed director, reported there are some problems in low areas, especially along creeks and in draws. These areas are hard to reach with regular spraying equipment. He is suggesting that farmers consider aerial spraying of weeds in these areas.

Fall, he said, is the best time of year for spraying thistles. When the leaves fall off the trees, the aerial application becomes safer for pilots and more effective for killing the noxious weeds.

By the time the county weed department contacts the landowner in the spring telling them that they have a noxious weed problem, the weed seeds will have been ahead of the game scattering billions of seeds to settle in and start new plants.

Mr. Flemming, at the Monday county commissioners' meeting, said he has already contacted farmers having land along Cherry Creek wanting to

have that area sprayed again. It was sprayed two years ago. Ideally, Mr. Flemming said, the area should be sprayed two fall seasons in a row, that will take care of the seeds and plants missed by the first spraying.

The cost of aerial spraying is between \$15 and \$18 per acre depending on the county's cost-share policies. Milestone is the chemical used to rid areas of thistles.

Farmers and ranchers need to take a look at their land and assess the noxious weed problem. Noxious weeds are illegal and can be a problem to the landowner as well as their neighbors.

If the noxious weeds get out of hand, the county, by law, can come on to the land and spray the weeds, then send the bill to the landowner. If the landowner refuses to pay, he or she will have the cost of the spraying added on to their property taxes.

It is best, Mr. Flemming said, to control the weeds as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For more information, call the public works office at 785-332-8840 and talk to Dave or Ed Garner.



THANKSGIVING TURKEYS — Vernetta Haack and Hulda Dorsch help first graders decorate turkey feathers for the senior center decorations.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

First graders attend birthday party

Morgan Kauten and her first graders attended the senior center birthday celebration and decorated feathers to make a turkey decoration for the center's Thanksgiving display.

Several senior ladies assisted the children with the project.

Ian Taylor from St. Francis's first grade did not have school, so he joined the Cheylin stu-

dents as a guest. He is the great-grandson to Darlene Burr.

They all enjoyed ice cream cones before returning to school.



BRAD SCHNEIDER and Russell Jackson are filling in the holes at the Legion hall with brick as a temporary fill in.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Brick pavers laid for walkway

By Norma Martinez

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City workers, Brad Schneider and Russell Jackson were taking advantage of the warmer weather and putting brick pavers in the walkway from the Legion hall. This walkway goes from the fire exit door on the east front side of the Legion hall and out to the curb. The pavers look much nicer than what they talked about doing during the Oct. 1 city council meeting.

Superintendent Schneider reported when the city workers bored a water line under Fourth Street for the Legion hall, they ran into rock and had to dig more than they thought was needed in order to cap the line. Century II is planning on replacing that portion of sidewalk in the near future.

He did not want to replace the sidewalk, but needs to fill in the spot. He was asking the council members for suggestions on a temporary replacement of this portion of the side walk.

Mr. Schneider suggested they have Shaw Construction fill the hole in with thin cement, Mayor Burr suggested they just fill it in with dirt and gravel then covering it with plywood. Shannon Ambrosier said, the Co-op just re-did an area with a dirt/rock mix and the city might get some of this from them. He and Mr. Schneider will work something out.

Laying these bricks out is a solution to the problem on a temporary basis.

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City council members discuss amount of money being spent

By Norma Martinez

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During the Oct. 1 Bird City City Council meeting a great deal of discussion was held on money spent.

The first discussion was conducted during the warrants approval. Councilman Shannon Ambrosier questioned a charge to Frontier Ag for repairing a four-wheeler tire. The city does not own this four-wheeler and he did not feel the city should be responsible for the charge of \$31.26. It was agreed upon that the city was not responsible.

Dennis Wright asked about the charge of \$250 for a saw blade.

It seems to me the city has recently purchased quite a few saw blades, he said, and at \$250 each they should last longer than that.

Brad Schneider, city supervisor, explained that Bruce Nichols from McDonald had borrowed the saw and mentioned the possibility of paying for the blades. City clerk, DeAnza Ambrosier was instructed to send the city of McDonald a bill for the purchase of one blade at the cost of \$250.

Mayor Troy Burr presented a spreadsheet showing the money paid out on extra labor during the past six months. This amounted to \$14,597 including the hiring of a temporary summer maintenance employee. His concerns were in the amount paid to Roy's Construction for the use of his backhoe.

"I realize we're spending the money, but I just don't feel like he's overcharging us," said Hal Sager, councilman. "Roy is always down in the holes working, he is conscientious and does a great job for the city."

Mayor Burr suggested looking into purchasing a backhoe for the city.

Then the city would have to hire another person to operate the backhoe, Mr. Sager said, because they need someone to be down in the hole, and someone to give instructions to the operator.

Mr. Ambrosier said the problem is with the council not knowing what is going on. He said he would like to know what is being done and how much the project is going

to cost before the maintenance department starts the project.

"For instance," he said, "I had no idea that ditch (at U.S. 36 and Bird Ave.) was going to cost \$5,000."

If he had known this, he said, it would have been put out for bids.

Frank Serano agreed. "Roy's Carpentry is a good choice when we need him, but only when we need him — not just out of convenience."

Mr. Serrano said he's seen the city backhoe dig through a frozen street close to his house and he knows it can be done.

Dennis Wright, councilman, feels if maintenance feels Roy's Construction services are needed at \$30 per hour, he should just be hired to do the digging and not do anything else.

Mayor Burr asked the council if they wished to proceed with the way they are doing things now, or make any changes. Ambrosier said, he thought the council should follow its policy of putting projects out for bid. There was no further discussion.

Official enrollment is down several students

Sept. 20 marked the date when all schools were to turn in their official enrollment.

Superintendent Bruce Bolen reported that the Cheylin school had 121.5 students which was down 17 from last year's enrollment of 138.5 students.

This week, he said, there were three new students enrolling but it was too late to count them in the official enrollment.

There is a three-way tie for the classes with the most students. The senior class, along with seventh and first grade classes, have 12 students in each class. The smallest class is the fifth grade class where there are six students.

St. Francis schools

The St. Francis schools also found a drop in students.

At the Oct. 11 St. Francis school

board meeting, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, reported that the school was down three students when he sent the official numbers in to the state.

This, he said, was much better than he had expected.

The official enrollment last year showed the St. Francis schools with 286 students, which was 10 less than the year before. When school started this year, there were 15 less students than last year. However, when the official tally was made, there were 283 students, down three from last year.

Principal Scott Carmichael said, had the official report been made one day later when new students enrolled, the school would have had the same number as last year's.



DERICK BURGER from South Africa is working the corn harvest as a break from accounting.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez