

First grader spends spring break working

First grader, Brady Ketzner spent his spring break getting an early start toward learning the ropes of clerking in a grocery store. This knowledge could help him a great deal in establishing his business years down the road when he is old enough to participate in the Entrepreneurship Fair.

This has not only been a fun experience for him, he said, but he was able to put his math skills with counting money and weighing out produce to the test.

Brenda Johnson at Hometown Market was teaching him the ins and outs of being a grocery checker.

"I am amazed at all the skills Kauten Morgan the first grade teacher has taught her children in counting money, and other skills for grocery clerking," she said.

BRADY KETZNER is finalizing the cash transaction for Russell Jackson's purchase while Brenda Johnson and Austin Cobb observe his correctness.

Times photo by Norma Martinez



DISCARDED DENIM 'Comfort Covers' are presented to the Methodist ladies. Shirley Statley, center, and Donna Johnson, right, presented one of the covers.

Bird City ladies recycle old jeans in comfort covers

Discarded denim has been recycled into "Comfort Covers." Ladies of Bird City's Immanuel United Methodist Church take swatches of denim they sew into small quilt-like blankets called "comfort covers."

Dennis Becking of Options recently met with Donna Johnson, Shirley Statley and Pastor Tom and Debby Bailey of Bird City to receive a trunk-load of comfort covers the ladies had assembled.

The ladies recently donated a large quantity of comfort covers to Options, an agency offering free assistance to individuals and families of all ages who experience domestic and/or sexual abuse.

Options work with individuals to develop helping plans based on their needs. All services

are confidential and offer non-judgmental support.

Options' services include 24-hour crisis intervention, one-on-one counseling, personal advocacy, support groups, safety planning, safe shelter, community referrals and public education programs. Serving 18 Counties in Northwest Kansas, Options maintain offices in Colby and Hays and may be reached at 800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055.

The ladies in Bird City are in need of additional volunteers to cut up jeans, mark and cut out squares, pin and stitch the squares. Most of their work is done in their own homes on their own time. Helpers may be of any age. To help, call 785-734-2430 or 785-734-2719.

Recycling fees and sorting discussed at March meeting

By Norma Martinea
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The cost of recycling has been on the agenda for both the February and March city council meetings. During the March 4 meeting, DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, presented the original Cost Recycling Cost Share contract made between Bird City and St. Francis, dated May 2, 2005.

Both of the city clerks, she said, were unaware of the details specifying the contract was to be reviewed every December. The contract reads Bird City is to pay St. Francis a monthly fee of \$135 plus the revenue generated from a 50-cent recycling fee on each water meter. Bird City has been paying a flat fee of \$271.

Going back three years showed a difference of \$300 being paid to St. Francis. This led to the February discussion of the increasing cost to Bird City for recycling.

The increase in cost is due to an increase in volume of recycling and labor for employees to sort and remove the un-recyclable items from the bins that are

being left by residents.

Maintenance superintendent, Brad Schneider feels having larger bins would hold more volume. He's been unable to contact Roger Jensen asking for more bins, but will try again and ask him if larger bins were available.

Councilman Hal Sager asked Mr. Schneider to keep track of the time he is spending on recycling so they could get a better idea on labor costs for recycling.

During last month's meeting Mr. Schneider was asked to put signs on the bins to help direct people to the right bins and eliminate the time being consumed by maintenance in sorting the bins. This has not been done as he was trying to figure out how to make the signs. Councilman Dennis Wright suggested he print the recycling symbol off the internet and write the identification number on the symbol.

The signs could then be laminated and placed on the bins to correctly identify the different grades of plastic for

the bins.

One of the main items having to be sorted is the plastics as there are two grades. The No. 1 plastic containers consist of soda bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing bottles, and other containers marked with a "1" in the chasing arrow sign located on the bottom of the containers. Only green and clear containers are accepted. Please rinse clean and remove lids.

There are two different types of No. 2 plastics, colored and natural. Natural are the color of milk jugs and consist of milk jugs, butter tubs, detergent bottles, and other containers marked with a "2" in the chasing arrow sign on the bottom. Colored containers go in a different bin. Please rinse clean, remove the lids and flatten if possible. Motor oil containers are not accepted.

Phone directories, paperback books and gift wrap should go in the bin with the chipboard which is single layer cardboard, egg cartons, cereal boxes, and cake boxes. The plastic and waxy liners need to be removed.

Grocery bags are to be placed with the corrugated cardboard boxes. Greasy and wax covered boxes are not accepted. Staples do not need to be removed, but they should be folded flat.

Glass bottle/jars (food and beverage quality only) clear, amber (brown), or green can be combined together, but need to be rinsed clean. No other glass is accepted.

Beverage cans are the only aluminum that is accepted.

Steel cans need to be rinsed; labels do not have to be removed. No paint or aerosol cans are accepted.

For a more detailed list of recycling materials that are accepted brochures are available in city clerk's office.

Sheriff's report

Cheyenne County Sheriff Cody Beeson explained the jail charges for incarcerating individuals would be the responsibility of the city to pay but would be reimbursed by the offender if found guilty.

He discussed plans to work with the Kansas Division of Wildlife and Parks for a solution

to the skunk problems in town. This, he said, is a problem he would rather be proactive than reactive with. Skunk traps can be provided by contacting the sheriff's department.

After receiving a complaint on a dog at large, Mrs. Ambrosier asked Sheriff Beeson to explain the proper procedure of handling a dog at-large complaint. He explained the enforcement of these complaints have been difficult for Bird City because they do not have a kennel. Generally a verbal warning is given for a first violation and a ticket is issued for further offenses.

The city's dog ordinance states dog owners are to purchase city dog licenses from the city clerk for a fee of \$5. The dogs must wear the metal tags with a number on it and if found not wearing this tag should be impounded. Owners or caretakers will be fined a \$1 per day for their keep.

If the dog is not claimed in five or more days the dog can be sold or humanely destroyed. Any proceeds from the sale will

be retained for the dogs care during confinement.

Any dog considered to be vicious by nature, bites, continuously snaps or kills any domestic fowl must be kept in appropriate enclosures for a period of 10 days. These complaints must be investigated by chief of police or his assistant. If the owner fails to keep the dog confined or chained he will be found guilty of a violation and fined \$10 per day for each day such dog has run loose after the order to confine or chain was issued.

Any dog is deemed as running at large if it is not on a leash and running off his owners premises and the owner or responsible party shall be fined a fee of no more than \$25.

Pit bull dogs, pit bull terriers or with characteristics as being predominantly of the breeds of bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, American terrier, are unlawful to be kept in the city limits of Bird City.