

Bird City preparing for July 4 celebration

By Norma Martinez
bc.times@nwkansas.com

Summer weather is well on its way with temperatures already in the high 80's and 90's. With the rain we have received everything has greened up and removed the fire hazard threat. This has got everyone looking forward to the fourth of July and the Thresher Show at the end of August. The City of Bird City Council, Thresher Association, Community Club, Churches, Century II and residents are busy making plans for hosting the fourth annual Cheyenne County July Fourth Celebration at the park, American Legion Hall and Thresher show grounds.

Excitement is being stirred from seeing the schedule posted in all the Cheyenne County business' windows and the banners with flags waving in the wind along the highway.

Lots of fun events are planned for the day. The fire department will begin the day at 9:30 a.m. by giving fire truck rides from the fire house and horse drawn wagon rides from the front of the Bird City Library. Rides will be offered to all ages. No one will be refused because they are too young or too old.

Events have been scheduled throughout the day to keep everyone involved. Time has been scheduled giving everyone an opportunity to gather and rest with family and friends from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Then everyone will gather at the Thresher Show grounds to tour the Old Sod House, Country Church and School. Concession stands will be set up with plenty of finger type foods to satisfy the munchies. One thousand finger lights have been ordered for the Boy Scouts

and Girl Scouts to sell to light up the grounds. DJ music will be set up with an open microphone. After announcements are made everyone will join together to sing the National Anthem. At 9:45 p.m. the final part of the day will end with forty-five minutes of continuous spectacular fireworks and patriotic music.

Throughout the weeks of June residents will be busy decorating their houses for the Patriotic yard decorating contest. During the morning of the fourth Cindy Burr and two of her selected judges will tour the neighborhoods and select their two choices of best decorated houses and yards. The winners will be announced in the evening and winners will be awarded \$50 in Bird City Bucks to spend at the business of their choice.

During the day folks can have fun driving around the town to see all the patriotic displays and have a little fun in guessing which ones they think should be the winners. The American Legion and Thresher Association is sponsoring a large city wide display of American Flags.

Van Doren Park will draw lots of outside visitors for the Horseshoe Tournament being held at 10:00 a.m. The kids will be the focus at 11:30 a.m. for the Red, White and Blue Kids Parade. An all-American hot dog meal will be available in the Shelter House for \$6. At noon the Hot Dog Eating Contest will be conducted. Two divisions will be awarded prizes. The youth division will be for eighth graders and younger and the Adult division will be for ninth graders and older.

To keep cool the swimming pool will be open for free swimming from 11:00 to 5:00 p.m. Everyone will be offered a chance to cool



RODNEY NEITZEL AND KIRBY KRIEN put the Cheyenne County July Fourth Celebration sign up to welcome visitors to Bird City.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

off in the air-conditioned Legion Hall for a Patriotic Sing-A-Long at 1:30 p.m. and cake and ice cream social from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Start making all your plans for

decorating your houses, and kids get your trikes, bikes, wagons decorated for the Red, White and Blue parade around the park. Spread the word to all your

relatives and friends and invite them to come and display their red, white, and blue to join or watch the horseshoe tournaments and make plans to come to Bird

City and join in with all the fun. For more information you can check things out at www.birdcity.com or Facebook "Get Bird City".



SATURDAY AFTER CLOSING, the parking lot of the Bird City Diner was filled up with two large trucks hauling natural gas compressors and four pilot cars escorting the trucks from Marshall, Texas, to the oil fields in Douglas, Wyo. The compressors are 16 feet 4 inches wide, 15 feet 4 inches tall, 117 feet long and weighing 250,000 pounds each.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Relay set for Saturday

Beginning at noon on Saturday, teams will begin walking around Sawhill Park to begin the 12 hour vigil to earn money to cure cancer. This year's new time, from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. allows several more teams to enter and participate.

The Christian Church youth team will be serving lunch at the park, and the Cheyenne Shrine Club will have the Candy Wagon open at 11 a.m. with cool drinks and the usual snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy. During the afternoon several activities are planned. There will be a Silent Auction of donated items. To bid on items at a Silent Auction, choose the item, put your name down on the list beside it with your bid. During the time between 12 p.m. and 8 p.m., anyone can bid more by writing it below your bid. So be sure to check back often to see where your bid stands. The highest bid at 8 p.m. wins the right to purchase the item at that time.

Between 2 and 4 p.m., the committee will lead several games the public and the teams can play at a

small charge, including a bounce house, sponge toss, ring toss, and bean bag. A new activity this year is a PIE BAKING CONTEST. The public is invited to bake and bring your best pies at 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and they will be judged by some of the survivors. Dust off your rolling pin and come show who is the champion baker in the county. This is for the novice to the experienced baker.

Survivors should arrive by 5:45 p.m. to register for a free meal prepared by Pam and Jim Bolin, The Hobo Shack. The public is invited also for a free-will offering. All proceeds from this and the Cheyenne Shrine Club's Candy Wagon will be donated to the Relay for Life. The Survivor's lap will begin at 7 p.m., with the Caregiver's Lap to follow, then the team. Entertainment beginning with a Zumba class by Killy Lampe will follow in the bandshell.

The Luminaries will be sold at the park from noon until dusk, when the ceremony will be held in the bandshell. This is always a very heartfelt ceremony as we

remember those who did not survive cancer, and honor those survivors who are 'FINISHING THE FIGHT,' which is the theme for this year's relay.

Pat Rose, chairman, says "Come out to our Relay and help prove that Cheyenne County puts on one of the finest Relays in the State."

At 12:30 a.m., after the relay, the Cheyenne theater will run a movie, Godzilla. They will charge admission, but anyone who donated to the Relay at the Theater will receive free popcorn. Enjoy this extra activity to end our Cheyenne County Relay for Life. Thanks to all the merchants and individuals who have donated time, money, and merchandise to our Relay.

The grade school children were given luminary bags to decorate and these will be placed in a special spot and will be lit at the luminary ceremony also. Make sure to stop and look at these "special" bags.

Music will be provided all day by Randy Smestad, DJ.

Time Schedule for 2014 American Cancer Relay for Life

Place: Sawhill Park
Time: 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.

12 p.m. Teams report and start walking their laps around the park.

Lunch of sloppy joes, potato salad, chips and dessert by Christian Church youth team.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Committee-led games for all.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. pie-baking contest. Bring pies to be judged by cancer survivors.

5:45 p.m. Survivors come to register for free supper.

6 p.m. Public invited to barbeque in the park, free-will donation.

7 p.m. Survivor's lap, followed by caregivers lap, team lap followed by entertainment in bandshell.

8 p.m. Final bids in and Silent Auction results announced and items sold to highest bidders, in bandshell.

Dusk: Luminaria service in bandshell.

12 a.m. Closing ceremonies.

12:30 a.m. Movie and Cheyenne Theater Godzilla.

Former Senator visits Cheyenne County voters

Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis Public Library saw over 80 people crowded into the back meeting room when Senator Bob Dole visited last Friday.

The Russell native has made several trips to complete his Kansas tour to thank his supporters and visit with friends. Dole spent nearly 36 years in Congress. He

was the Senate majority leader for 11 years before stepping down in 1996 to run as the Republican nominee for president against Bill Clinton.

Mr. Dole made sure to thank his long time friend Bonnie Cram for all she has done over the years. He also took time to take pictures and visit with all the veterans that were in the audience before he left.



NORM DORSCH visits with Senator Bob Dole at the St. Francis Public Library. Senator Bob Dole took time to visit with every veteran that was present at the meeting. Mr. Dorsch was recognized as a World War II Veteran.

Times staff photo by Mande Miller