



HARVEST CREWS are showing up in the area waiting for the wheat to ripen so they can begin harvesting before heading on to North Dakota.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

## Harvesters wait for wheat fields to ripen

Bird City camping spots are full with harvesters ready to go for that first truck load of wheat. Workers from Jensen Farms in Ankeny, Iowa, have set up camp on the thresher show grounds. Seven men and one female chef

arrived last week with their service truck containing fuel and extra parts, two semi trucks and three combines.

The crew just finished harvesting south of Wichita last week, and are sitting around relaxing

and waiting for word that the wheat is ripe and ready to go in Cheyenne County. After they are finished here they will move on to North Dakota to harvest soybeans and corn.

They have been coming to the

area for the last 15 years, starting out working for Vertie Bolyard's son, Lance, just south of Bird City. Aaron Schneckloth is the manager in charge until Ryan Jensen returns from Iowa where he went to attend a wedding. Mr. Schneckloth

just recently talked to Mr. Bolyard who said his wheat should be ready in just a few days.

Mr. Schneckloth said Cheyenne County's wheat is the best he has seen between Wichita and Bird City. "It stands good a' tall."

Sunday evening's rain produced small-sized hail, but it wasn't big or strong enough to damage the wheat. He feels, in spite of it being a sort of a hard year for crops, what he has seen here is good. Two years ago was the best.



FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE students participated in a board game called 'Bank Account' during the third annual Entrepreneurship Camp coordinated by Sydney Busse, Bird City Century II summer intern. Times photo by Darci Schields

## Students attend entrepreneurship camp

By Sydney Busse

Over the past two weeks, Cheylin junior high and elementary school students had the opportunity to learn more about this concept, and have some fun in the process at camps sponsored by the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

Entrepreneurship is defined as: "The assumption of risk and responsibility in designing and implementing a business strategy or

starting a business."

June 15 and 16 saw the fifth to eighth grade camp, where the kids learned about entrepreneurship, money management, and the basics of writing a business plan. They also played a (surprisingly fun) game called Bank Account, a monopoly-style board game designed to teach kids how to write checks and balance their account.

An energetic bunch of second through fourth graders made the

camp on June 21 an exciting learning experience. Entrepreneurship is a heady concept to present to a group so young, but the kids seemed to soak it up, and were excited to discuss ideas of businesses that they could start, even at their age.

As any elementary teacher knows, kids focus best when learning involves a game, so the younger bunch played a lot of games to help them learn about entrepreneurship

and basic business principles.

Sydney Busse, Foundation summer intern, and Shandi Roesener, Community Development Program officer, coordinated the event, and a definite perk of their jobs included spending the few fun days of camp learning and playing with the kids.

With all of the excitement and innovative ideas the kids presented, it looks like Bird City is in the good hands of the next generation of young entrepreneurs.

## Thirty projects selected for aviation funding

Thirty projects that will enhance safety and service at public use airports in the state have been selected for funding under the 2012 Kansas Airport Improvement Program. Bird City and St. Francis also received funding.

Eight communities in Northwest Kansas, including Quinter - where Kansas Department of Transportation director Ed Young recently announced the projects - will receive some of the \$3.54 million in funding for the projects made possible by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature last May.

With local funds of approximately \$714,000, the total infrastructure investment will be \$4.25 million.

The following Northwest Kansas communities and their grant award amounts are: Bird City - Airfield maintenance equipment, \$15,750; St. Francis - Repair and seal ramp and taxiways, \$36,000; Colby - Upgrade airport weather observation system, \$36,537; Lucas - Repair and seal airfield pavements, \$29,412; Norton - Replace beacon, \$26,550; Quinter - Site selection study, \$38,000; Smith Center - Airspace protection planning, \$31,616; Trego County/Wa-

Keeney - Design runway reconstruction, \$37,620 and reconstruct and widen runway, \$1,200,000 (two projects).

"Last year we released a study that showed Kansas airports support more than 47,000 jobs, generate \$2.3 billion in payroll and produce \$10.4 billion in on-airport economic activity," said Mr. Young. "With that kind of impact, it's not only important to maintain our aviation infrastructure, but to ensure that our investments match the needs of our system plan."

The projects will address maintenance, runway, facility and

equipment needs at airports in Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 114 project applications for projects totaling approximately \$31.6 million. Both the applications and the total requested funding were the most ever received by the department.

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs, up to a maximum of 50 percent based on population.

## Fourth celebration planned in Sainty

By Karen Krien

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After months of planning, one of the biggest Fourth of July celebrations will be held in St. Francis on Monday. Instead of the usual 25 to 30 minutes of fireworks, there will be 50 minutes and they will be accompanied by patriotic music.

The fireworks display will be paid for by donations.

The support from the entire community has been wonderful - from the youngest to the oldest, said Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators. Farmers, children, businesses, organizations and individuals have given to the fund. In fact, he said, the Methodist Thrift Store gave \$1,000.

### Triathlon

To start the day, there will be a triathlon starting at the St. Francis swimming pool. Those participating have already started training. See article elsewhere for the details of the race.

### Kids' parade

At 10 a.m., the Red, White and Blue Kids' Parade will take place around Sawhill Park. The parade will be for children sixth grade and under and includes decorated trikes, bikes, wagons and individuals. However, it should be noted that no motorized vehicles will be allowed.

### Kids' games

From 10:15 to noon, there will be games for kids in the park. Prizes will be awarded.

Starting at 11 a.m., the All American Hog Dog meal will be served at Sawhill Park. This is sponsored by the St. Francis high school junior class as one of their money-making projects.

### Happy Birthday Kansas

The activities do not end there. From 2 to 4 at the museum, there will be a "Happy 150th Kansas Birthday" celebration and cake, ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

### Volleyball tourney

Also in the afternoon, from 1:30 to 5:30, there will be a volleyball tournament at the St. Francis swimming pool. People are urged to get their teams lined up.

### Evening activities

Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, of the July Fourth celebration, said many people are taking advantage of the sup-

### Fourth of July schedule

- 6:30 a.m.-Triathlon registration.
- 7 a.m.-First race starts.
- 10 a.m.-Kids' parade, Sawhill Park.
- 10:15-noon-Games in Sawhill Park.
- 11 a.m.-All-American Hotdog Feed, park.
- 1:30-5:30 p.m.-Volleyball Tourney, swimming pool.
- 2-4 p.m.-Happy Birthday Kansas museum.
- 8 p.m.-Evening activities begin on U.S. 36.
- 8:30 p.m. - Karaoke, Roger Neitzel parking lot.
- Dark-Fireworks begin.

per hour to hold barbecues in their yards. There will also be food vendors at the Parkhill Restaurant and Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning parking lot north of Parkhill. Besides the Girl Scouts cookies and cupcakes, and the Shriner's Candy Wagon, the St. Francis Community Church will be selling slices of watermelon.

To add to the entertainment and excitement, Randy Smestad will start the music. At 8:30, in the Neitzel parking lot, Amy Reiger has organized a Karaoke contest. There will be two microphones for individuals and groups to perform with. People can also bring their favorite song on a CD, I-Pod or I-Phone.

Then the fireworks will begin! People can bring their chairs or blankets to the area north of the Good Samaritan Village to watch the fireworks. (Don't forget the bug spray.) For the first 650 people, Brenda Johnson, Hometown Market, will be passing out favors.

Parking can be found on College and Francis streets as well as at the sale barn and other commercial lots.

The July Fourth celebration is being funded with donations. Money can be left at the Hilltop General Store, Parkhill, Majestic Service and Upton Market.

For more information contact Mr. Neitzel at 785-332-2277.