



THE TRACTORS are lined up and waiting for the thresher show to start.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Thresher show begins today

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show begins today, Thursday, at the thresher show grounds east of Bird City. The show will wind down Sunday with church service at 9 a.m. at the Neville Church on the grounds.

Through Saturday visitors will find the antique steam engines in action, threshing, plowing, corn shelling and wood sawing. The parade of cars and tractors will be held each

day at 1:15 p.m. Earlier, the parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment is held at 10:45.

The new Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed and she will be crowned. The 2010 Thresher Queen, Kathleen O'Neal, will retire and her doll will be displayed in the Eggers Building with the other former queen dolls. The princess, Kaitlin Figgins, will be on hand throughout the show to throw

in the first bundle of wheat to be threshed.

On Friday, the Heart City Heart Warmers will be entertaining following the meal at the Legion hall. The Cheylin Golf Team barbecue will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday. The antique tractor pull will start at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Activities

Kite flying will be held each day at 2:30 p.m. Everyone, young and

old, is encouraged to bring their kite to the grounds. There should be some great kite flying.

There are numerous other activities for the kids and adults. The kid's favorite is the tug-o'-war with the little steam engine which starts at 1 p.m.

People are welcome to visit the many buildings filled with articles used in the past. There will be demonstrations, new items to

see and other activities. The swap meet will be held on the grounds. This is an attraction that draws collectors looking for certain items.

A fun run will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Visit the buildings

The Thresher Show special section was inserted in the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald* last week. It was delivered to subscribers throughout the United

States. Extra copies are available at the show grounds and *The Herald* office in St. Francis.

The president of the Threshers Association is Lonnie Coon, vice president is Ken Beougher. They have been working with the many volunteers who make the Thresher show a success each year.

For more information, contact Lonnie at 785-890-3514 or Ken, 785-734-2555.

New minister for church delivers sermon on July 10

By Norma Martinez

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The United Methodist Church of Bird City has a new minister.

Pastor Tom Bailey officially replaced Becky Davison on July 1, but his first Sunday service wasn't until July 10. Repairs and updating were being done on the parsonage which postponed his moving until this was completed.

Coming from a church in Olathe with a congregation of 1,800 and a city of 129,000 people to Bird City was a big change for him. The Bird City church has 34 registered members and 44 constituents; these are members who regularly attend but do no wish to join. The register shows 150 attendees.

This is not going to be a big adjustment to him as, in the past, he was in Piper where the Speedway is. This town had 300 residents and only two churches so the membership was 150.

My biggest adaptation here, he said, has been going from high tech communication to a transmitter from an elevator tower.

When they hooked up his television, he asked the technician for High Definition TV, and was told, "We don't have it."

While growing up he and Debby Bailey, his future wife, lived next door to each other in a small town in Wyoming, and played in the sandbox together. Debby's father, the town doctor, delivered him, and he adds, "But not from sin."

Besides growing up together they both graduated from the University of Wyoming. He completed court reporting school in Denver, Colo. and Debby taught elementary school.

Pastor Tom was raised in a home by Christian parents as an active Methodist. Debby was raised by Christian parents as an active charter member of the Presbyterian church. They were united in marriage on June 22, 1975.

They have two sons and a daughter-in-law. Their oldest son Drew, age 30, and his wife, Sara, live in Cordova, Tenn. Drew works as a senior global operations dispatcher at Fed Ex headquarters. Sara is a commercial airline pilot with Delta Airlines. Their son Philip, age 27, graduated from high school in Piper and now lives in Laramie where he attends the University of Wyoming.

For 30 years, Pastor Tom worked as an official court reporter for district judges in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, while Debby taught school in those states.

During his court reporting times



PASTOR TOM and his wife Debby were found on their front porch having coffee. They welcome people to stop by. He enjoys the porch so much that he installed a fan for comfort.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

he served as an officer in various states and national court reporting associations. He and Debby also owned an international court reporter supplies business.

Pastor Tom started theology courses in 1993 and for five years took courses through Duke University's School Course of Study Summer Program. For two years he attended Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, and finished his seminary work at Duke University School's Advanced Course of Study in Durham, N.C.

During this time Debby attended the University of Northern Colorado and earned her Master's in Special Education with an emphasis on deaf and hard-of-hearing. Debby taught deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Olathe School District while Tom pastored at churches in Midwest and Casper, Wyo.

In 1999 they moved to Kansas City, here he pastored churches at Stephens United Methodist Church in Piper and Easton United Methodist Church in Easton. He was also chaplain for Cushing Hospital and Hospice of Leavenworth County in Leavenworth. In 2003 he was appointed to Grace United Methodist Church in Olathe, where he served as associate pastor of pastoral care for 8 years.

Debby retired from special education in 1995 and worked as an activities director for a retirement community, and a paraprofessional in De Soto for the past three years. While with Pastor Tom at Easton, Debby organized the church's bell and chime choir. At Grace, she or-

ganized and trained volunteers for "Sacred Journey," a bedside vigil ministry to persons at the end of life.

Since its inaugural opening weekend in 2001, Pastor Tom worked for the International Speedway Corporation and NASCAR officials on race weekends at the Kansas Speedway.

That out-of-the-box experience, unusual for a pastor, derives from Tom's interest of racing a fast go-kart on a professional circuit during college days that paid for his college tuition and books. At the Kansas Speedway, Tom's six-person crew of United Methodist men maintained rooftop security above the grandstand where Tom also led a popular worship service for track employees on the roof at sunrise.

When asked about his rewarding experiences from pastoring churches, he quickly said, "Helping people live so they are not afraid to die." With Hospice, he worked with death a lot, and said with death there is an experience that can be frightening.

"We don't plan to die, and I love to help them feel comfortable about it," he said.

In the past he taught the course on "planning your funeral so others don't have to." One of his interests in future plans is possibly forming a Grief Support Group.

People can find him by calling the church, and always in the pulpit at the Methodist Church at 10:55 for worship services. Sunday school starts at 10 a.m. during the summer and 9:30 in the winter.



THRESHER QUEEN is the one sitting on the tractor.

Queen will be announced

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show is here! And the Thresher Queen will be announced today (Thursday) at 1:15 p.m. in front of the grandstand.

There have been people studying the photos and reading the clues which have appeared in the *Herald* and *Times* for the last three

weeks. There is one more clue before the new queen is announced:

The 2011 Thresher Queen was no stranger in the harvest fields. The photo this week shows her driving the tractor pulling the combine. There was no air-conditioned cab, she said, but she was thankful for the shade of the

umbrella.

As the 2010 queen, Kathleen O'Neal, retired from her royalty after a happy year, she will present the new queen. Everyone is urged to stop by the thresher grounds and meet her on Thursday at 1:15 p.m. There will be a program and the queen will reveal her story.

Election scheduled Tuesday

By Karen Krien

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A special election will be held on Tuesday. Voters will be marking their ballot either "yes" or "no" for having tax money used for subsidizing the expenses and upkeep of the Good Samaritan Village. The question asked is "Shall the county of Cheyenne County levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged?"

The advanced voting booth is up in the clerk's office in the courthouse. As of Tuesday, there had been 51 people voting.

In the resolution which ran the same time as the question in the May 19 *Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, essentially, it gives the commissioners control to make the best decisions for the county.

They pointed out that, with the Village making a profit, which it was during May, there would probably never be the need to use the full 6 mills but it was put there as a safety measure.

If the vote is "yes," then the Good Samaritan Society has indicated they will sell the nursing home and apartments including surrounding property to the county for \$1. However, the Aug. 2 special election has nothing to do with ownership or additional building.

In last week's *Herald* and *Times* article, Kari Gilliland, county attorney, said the proposal is a vote for having long-term care in the county.

If the vote passes, the commissioners will then need to make the decision of owning the nursing

home but, because of inadequate information from the Society, they need to be able to address the needs of the Village one step at a time.

There were two public meetings this week. One on Monday in Bird City, and the other on Tuesday in St. Francis. Both meetings were well attended and the Community Builders, who organized the meetings, hoped the people received the needed information to make an informed decision on voting in the special election.

A followup of the Bird City meeting is located elsewhere in this issue. The meeting in St. Francis on Tuesday evening was after the papers had been put to bed.

We hope everyone comes out to vote, said Tom Keller, Foundation chairman.

Teenage boy injured Sunday

A Bird City 17-year-old boy was injured in a one-vehicle accident early Sunday morning. The wreck happened about 2 miles west of Bird City on U.S. 36.

Dalton Magnani was traveling eastbound when the pickup he was driving went onto the south shoulder, crossed both lanes of traffic and overturned several

times before stopping on its top in the north ditch.

The Kansas Highway Patrol worked the accident and reported that Magnani was wearing a seat belt. He was airlifted to a Denver hospital and there was no official report on his condition on Tuesday.

In conjunction with the acci-

dent, two people were arrested: one for hosting a party where alcoholic beverages were being served to minors and the other was arrested for contributing alcohol to a minor.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen said the matter concerning minors in possession of alcohol is under investigation.