

## Three new members take council seat

By Casey McCormick

Although it was "out with the old" and "in with the new," Bird City plowed forward in city government.

Out-going city council people, Canda Orten, Wade Carmichael and president Ned Smith accepted plaques and retired their positions to newly-elected board members Troy Burr, Loren White and Frank Serrano. After the oath of office these men took their seats of representation. Mr. Burr was nominated and confirmed as the president of the council.

On Monday's agenda were topics concerning building permits, city maintenance and personnel, public safety and resident concerns.

Wes Herdt requested placing a mobile home on his property at First and Ketcham. This was approved pending permits being pulled. Ted Partch was given permission to build a white fence on his property.

City maintenance issues included plans for summer upkeep of city property, street maintenance and mosquito control. The council awarded the contract to mow, fer-

tilize and spray the park and other grass areas to K-Lawn, Bird City. No decision was made concerning hiring summer help.

Street upkeep came up and the council decided to buy more chip seal. In addition, the new street sweeper was commended for collecting extra road gravel which can be transferred to areas of need in town. Mosquito control was brought up by Larry Henry and two types of control were looked at. One is the use of solid poison which must be introduced to the insect at its larva stage, which could be diffi-

cult. The other option is to fog or spray areas which has the drawback of over spray. The council chose to table this issue for now.

Public safety items were the notification of the new owners of the old movie theater to act promptly on the deteriorating back wall of the structure. County commissioner Jane Brubaker addressed the council with a request to consider a different county wide law enforcement structure. Although a great deal of conversation was given to this item more time and information will be needed before the council

can consider change.

Two residents approached the council with personal concerns. One shared continued thoughts on the problem of snow and ice in the street in front of the post office. Also she felt she was not being given proper consideration by the council and presented a petition against the mayor's suggestion of building a mall to remove the problem.

In addition she thought the laws concerning individuals with disabilities were being broken by the city's actions. Mayor David Hickert

assured her that his mall suggestion was only that — a suggestion, and that the disability laws concern a lack of access rather than the quality of access. The council offered to contact the new postmaster to see if she would help in having the snow moved to a different location than in front of the building.

The other resident voice concerns about the quality of pavement gravel on Second Street. The council said they were familiar with the issue and that actions are in the works to upgrade the street in that location.

## Horse shortage questioned

By Leslie Hill

Cheyenne County Fair Board members discussed at the Thursday meeting the matter that there were not as many horses at last year's fair as in the past.

Members reported they had been questioned about why there was just a few horses at fair last year. President Dick Bursch had asked that some of the horse exhibitors people come to the meeting so they could discuss it. Sue Zimelman, horse project leader was present representing the 4-H horse projects members.

She explained that a few years ago the horses gave up showing on Thursday mornings for the swine and agreed to show on Wednesday mornings instead. In making this change, those showing horses need to be in at the fair grounds on Tuesday morning.

With the sizes of the pens, which are small, she said it was hard on the horses. So the board allowed the horses to be released Friday evening at 6 p.m.,

Barrel racing

Shawna Blanka and Deb Christy, both of St. Francis, were present to discuss the fee charged for the barrel racing event which will be held July 3 and 4. Mrs. Blanka said that if the board charges \$125 to non-profit organizations, gymkhana organizations and others will not be

able to pay and then the facility will deteriorate.

Mrs. Blanka said that since it was an overnight event that participants usually pay \$5 per stall per night and they are willing to pay this fee. The barrel racing events that are held at night are responsible for reading the meter and paying the electric bill. Fred Mosley had asked about renting the arena to hold a roping event and also felt that the \$125 fee was a little high.

President Bursch said he would go to the commissioners and discuss what they should charge, as their concern was not making money. However, the insurance went up and the commissioners need to make sure that they are covering the cost of that.

Correction

Dale Weeks was present representing the extension council. It was published last month in the *St. Francis Herald* that Casey Johnson, extension agent, had been asked by 4-H'ers if there was to be a class for panoramic and contact prints. This was for open class competition, not 4-H. Mr. Weeks also informed the board that they still needed three trophy sponsors and nine superintendents. Stephanie Schafer will get the fair board a complete list once they have everything lined up.

## Area churches celebrate Easter

The churches of Bird City are more active than usual as they observe the Easter season. Here are just a few happenings, contact churches directly to see what else is going on.

Cantata performance

*Majesty*, an Easter Cantata, performed by Wesleyan Community Choir will be held at the Wesleyan Community Church at 7:30 p.m. Palm Sunday (April 13). All are welcome. The cantata will, also, be done Easter morning.

Community sunrise service

The Bird City Ministerial Alliance will hold a community sunrise service at 6:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 20. The service will be held at the Thresher show grounds. The service is to celebrate, as one body of believers, the resurrection

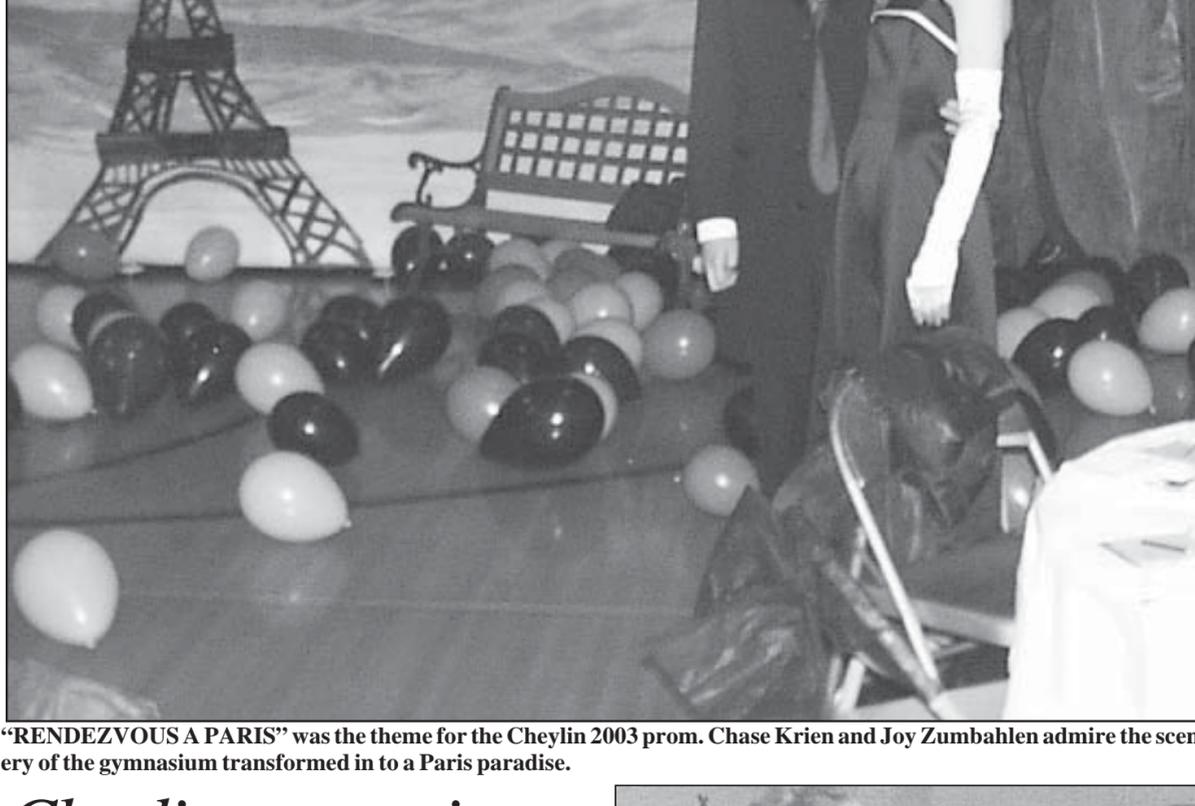
of Christ.

As part of the service there will be a community choir performing two special numbers and leading the worshippers in songs as well. Rehearsal dates and times have not been set up yet, but will be announced soon. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this special event.

For more information please contact Doug Mason at 785-734-2739.

Easter Schedule for IUMC

Immanuel United Methodist Church will hold a Good Friday service on April 18 at 6:00 pm. The church will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20 with a worship service starting at 8:00 am following the community sunrise service. The breakfast and the services are open to the public.



"RENDEZVOUS A PARIS" was the theme for the Cheylin 2003 prom. Chase Krien and Joy Zumbahlen admire the scenery of the gymnasium transformed in to a Paris paradise.

## Cheylin gymnasium transformed into Paris

By Casey McCormick

For the students of Cheylin High School, it was as if they had been transported to Paris on Saturday night. The prom theme of "Rendezvous a Paris" came to life as the high school gymnasium was decorated with sidewalk cafes, a bridge over a stream and a large replica of the Eiffel Tower.

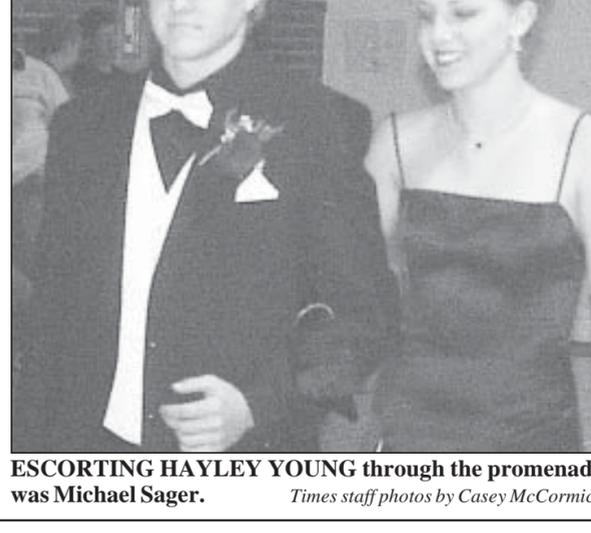
All the students showed up in formal attire for an exciting evening. The only disappointment was that the promenade had to be held in the elementary gym, due to inclement weather. But each couple and singles paraded

before a large crowd as many cameras captured the moment.

The promenade was followed by a sit-down supper in the high school gym served by underclassmen. After the meal the students danced until midnight then drove to St. Francis for an after-prom party at the bowling alley.

Some students still had energy for some private parties after that but all had a safe and fun time. The one problem was an overall case of "lack of sleep."

"The only thing you need to report about is 'sleep deprivation,'" said junior Jay Poore on Monday morning.



ESCORTING HAYLEY YOUNG through the promenade was Michael Sager.

Times staff photos by Casey McCormick



LOU WEBB remembers events past, thinking back to World War II.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## A glimpse of history thru the eyes of a Vet

By Casey McCormick

(This is the first installment of a three-part story to honor a veteran of WW II who lives in McDonald, Kansas.)

Louis "Lou" Allen Webb was born 85 years ago on April 2, 1918. His first years were spent in Jacksonville, Fla. The family jumped around a bit as he grew up. First to Petosky, Mich., (1921 to 1931) where his father worked a farm and Lou entered school. Then the family moved to Huntington Park, Calif., not far from Los Angeles and about 20 miles inland from Long Beach. Next came San Francisco followed by Coronado, Calif., in the southern part of the state. He graduated from high school in 1938.

One of the reasons his family was on the move was the difficulty many had with finding steady work during the Depression era. Besides

farming his father helped maintain yachts for millionaires and landed a diesel mechanic job in southern California. Even though Lou had graduated from high school, work was scarce so he reentered San Diego High School in 1938 for post-graduate work in radio operations and auto shop. This led to a vocational school for advanced radio repair classes. His was in San Diego when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and his radio skills would soon be needed by his country.

Civilian life ended for Lou during the second draft in September of 1941. The United States Army Air Force sent him to the Jefferson, Mo. Barracks outside of St. Louis on the banks of the Mississippi. Shortly thereafter he was shipped to Scott Field, Ill., for 24 weeks of radio school. In April, 1942, he joined the

93rd Bomb Group as a radio operator and was sent to Barksdale Air Force Base, Shreveport, La.,

During this period the Army Air Force was replacing the B-17 bombers with the more capable B-24 which could fly longer distances. Lou began many long plane rides over the southern United States and Gulf of Mexico as he and his fellow crew men got acquainted with their plane. During these test flights the pilots would fly about 10 hours day and night and he said he learned how not to use a radio, as they were practicing the art of not being detected.

The 93rd received orders to ship out and late in the summer of 1942 they headed to Great Britain and the war. But first Lou and his crew mates had to meet their new plane at Manchester, N.H. The B-24 arrived "with all the new goodies and

everything was state of the art," he said. It only had 25 flight hours when he met it and would fly for 350 more hours.

The serial number was 123666, the last three numbers Lou had heard were unlucky, but they named her "Hot Freight" and painted a boxcar with wings on her front. Then they left for Scotland via Nova Scotia. "Hot Freight" was loaded with bombs and ammunition and a crew of nine and lumbered off over the North Atlantic Ocean. They lost one plane in the formation somewhere over the waters but no one ever knew where or why. Lou worked both sides of the radio going across with no troubles. But troubles were waiting in Europe.

(Part 2 of this story will appear in the next edition of the *Bird City Times* and *The St. Francis Herald*.)