



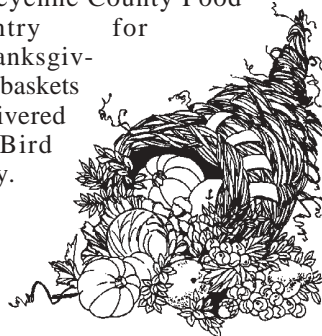
## Teens plan drive

The Bird City Teens For Christ will be conducting a food drive on Wednesday, Nov. 9. The drive will be very limited in time and territory so a few directions are necessary. The drive will start at 7:30 p.m. and end by 8:15 p.m.

People wishing to donate should have their non-perishable donations sitting on their front porch, clearly in view of the road. The youth will be driving by each home within the city limits and picking up what they find. It will be helpful to have porch lights turned on.

Anybody living outside of the city limits who would like to donate can bring their donation to the United Methodist Church kitchen. Please mark them as "Food Drive Donations."

All food donations will go to the Cheyenne County Food Pantry for Thanksgiving baskets delivered in Bird City.



THE REGULAR CHEERLEADERS HAVE some competition from these imposters! In the name of fun and school spirit seniors Cole Williams, Kelly Ray Simmonds, Jay Poore, Tyler Knapp and Chase Krien put on a good show at the bon-fire pep rally the night before the Cougars last home game against Wallace County.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Collection of tax credits for hospital underway

A year ago, the Cheyenne County Hospital was granted 70 percent Kansas Income Tax credits of donations up to \$300,000 which will be used for installing a heat and air conditioning system in the old part of the hospital. As of Monday, the amount raised in actual money and pledges is \$82,840. That leaves \$17,66 yet to be raised.

"We still have until Dec. 31 and the project is underway, so we need

to complete the fund raising," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator.

The new addition on the west end of the hospital is going up and work on the air and heat system is in its early stages fore the existing building.

The heating and air conditioning system in the old part of the facility was a component of the original hospital project that was defeated in November 2000. This piece was cut out to be certain the

remaining critical issues would have a chance of passing the general obligation bond election last April.

Administrator Lacy pointed out that replacing the heating and air conditioning after the remodeling project would require a repeat of some of the construction that will take place during the current project. He said that replacement of the 50-year-old system really needs to be done with the current

project.

The hospital board and administration are actively seeking donations for the project which brings donors the reward of 70 percent Kansas Income Tax credits but a lot more work needs to be done. Administrator Lacy is quick to point out that Robert Van Allen has been making contacts to help the project along.

Adminsitratior Lacy believes the hospital's goals can be

reached by making a sufficient number of contacts both locally and out-of-town. He points out that the drought has been a huge factor in the ability of county residents to participate. At the same time, he believes that if people will participate even at the minimum \$250 level (he is quick to add that more would be better), the goal is attainable.

"This project is critical and these tax credits are too good of a

deal. Failure is not an option!" Administrator Lacy said.

The project was originally supposed to include erecting a drive-through ambulance entrance on the rear of the old facility. However, when the bids came in, they were higher than the architect's estimates so the new ambulance entrance was put on hold and it is possible that the project will be done with either grant funding or state sales tax dollars in the future

## Cafe closes down

By Casey McCormick

Bird City has said farewell to a local business and popular gathering spot. The Blue Bird Cafe recently shut its doors.

"Closing the Blue Bird Cafe has been one of the hardest things I've had to do," said owner-operator Peggy Horinek. "The five years of running it has had a lot of fun, sweat and tears."

Mrs. Horinek has had her share of tough times lately. The former editor of the *Bird City Times* had to leave that post last year to put all of her efforts into the care of her husband Dennis, who was suffering from cancer, and keeping the Blue Bird Cafe performing at its high standard.

Mr. Horinek passed away. Mrs. Horinek's plans were to keep her business going despite her loss. Unfortunately the loan that she and Mr. Horinek signed five years ago came due and she was unable to qualify for a new loan.

"With the restaurant being my only income and left with huge medical bills and other expenses, closing the restaurant is my only choice," Mrs. Horinek said.

The Blue Bird Cafe was a favorite of locals for both good food and a place the sit and visit. The oval counter in the center of the main entrance room was where the local farmers and men folk would meet to discuss the weather and crops over a cup of coffee and fresh popped pop corn while the ladies chatted at the outer tables. In the larger dining room to the east, families and friends joined after Sunday services for a deli-



PEGGY HORINEK CLOSES the doors at the Blue Bird Cafe, a favorite gathering spot for locals for five years.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

icious meal.

"You miss the restaurant and I miss all of you. You were my wonderful customers and also my friends," Mrs. Horinek said.

She has no intention of leaving this area which she loves. Mrs. Horinek has taken employment at

the Dairy King and Cheyenne Bowl in St. Francis and hopes to see many of her customers there.

She still owns the restaurant building and hopefully the cafe will open again soon under new ownership.

## 4-H'ers banquet is Sunday

Cheyenne County 4-H'ers and those who have supported them throughout the year will be meeting for the annual 4-H Achievement and Businessmen's Appreciation Banquet at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday at the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria.

The banquet is a way to give 4-H'ers the opportunity to personally thank people for their support. The Cheyenne County 4-H Council and 4-H families will provide the meal.

Dan O'Brien, area director, will be speaking on the importance of the Program Development Committee in the coming year, county extension finances and other organizational issues. The results of the extension council election will be revealed with three members being elected from each of the four different areas. They will serve two terms and will be working with those who came onto the board last year.

Those planning to attend the banquet on Sunday should contact Stephanie Schafer, extension office professional, on or before Oct. 31 by calling 785-332-3171.



SCHOOL COUNSELOR ANITA BURON gave an informative speech Monday.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Parent-teacher group holds event

By Casey McCormick

Everyone can remember a bully from when they were in school. Although school bullying is not a new occurrence, the importance of addressing the subject was presented at the Cheylin School's parent-teacher organization's, Achieving the Best for your Child, speaker night on Monday.

Anita Burton, the Cheylin School's counselor, was the guest speaker. She gave an informative and entertaining presentation on school bullying.

Using national studies to back up her findings, Mrs. Burton spoke of how bullying touches all students.

"About one in seven school children have either been a bully or a victim," she said. "And, 14 percent (of students) are bullies or victims now and then, 9 percent are regularly victimized and 65-70 percent are not affected."

This 65-70 percent are aware of the bullying but choose not to get involved.

Due to recent acts of school violence which have been a direct result of bullying, school officials are concerned. After the tragedy at Columbine High School in a Denver suburb a few years ago, experts now realize that an incident like that could occur anywhere.

"It was thought that only inner city schools were at risk," said Mrs. Burton. "But now there are only two types of schools—the ones where violence has occurred and the ones where it hasn't, yet."

This is not to say that metal detectors are needed at Cheylin schools but there is a need to recognize bullying and avoid the damage it can cause.

"We can build a child for a positive," said Mrs. Burton. "And let them know we care."



