



ALEXIS WEISHAPL trains for the first track meet scheduled this Thursday.  
Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Cheylin begins track season



The Cheylin Ladies Track team has been busily preparing for their first meet of the season, this Thursday. There are four ladies that will represent Cheylin in this. They are returning track members: Sara Moore, Tiffany Antholz and two new freshmen; Samantha Beeson and Alexis Weishapl.

Sara Moore concentrates her efforts in the field events, and hopes to make it to State in Wichita, again this year. She went to State and competed in the discus. She also does shot put and javelin. Tiffany Antholz, is a junior and she is do-

ing both field events, shot put and javelin, as well as running an open 400 and 100.

Samantha Beeson is going to participate in the long jump and javelin and discus throw. She is very eager and anxious for the first meet. Alexis Weishapl is an incoming freshman, as well, and she is planning on running long distance events and doing long jump.

Coach Mary said, "We have been practicing for three weeks now, and it will be exciting to participate in the first meet, at home!"

## Club Clips

### McDonald Garden Club

The McDonald Town and Country Garden Club met on Wednesday, March 10, in the home of Betty Binning with Margaret Rhodes as co-hostess.

Joan Tongish opened the meeting and welcomed Donna Binning and her new baby, Bianca Dawn, and presented Donna a gift certificate to the Garden Center.

Vivian Curry led the prayer, closing with an "Irish Blessing." Roll call "My Favorite Shade Tree" was answered by 14 members. Reports were given. Correspondence included thank you notes from the family of Rita Antholz, and from Joan Harper. A letter was read from Jim Strine, and a notice of a display of table settings in Goodland from May 3 to May 31.

Helen Frisbie brought seeds and planting media for starting the wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Regional States. Everyone is to report on their progress at the April

meeting.

Betty gave an interesting lesson on "Trees Today for Life Tomorrow." In the arrangement of the month "Green with Envy" Margaret Rhodes used driftwood and amaryllis leaves for her line material, leaves from Ivy and a plant from her yard "Mugwort" for the greenery. Her center of focus was an amaryllis bloom she had hybridized herself. The large bloom was a salmon color streaked with white, which Margaret had hybridized from red and a pink amaryllis. Needless to say, they were all "Green with Envy" and wishing they had Margaret's knowledge.

The next meeting will be on April 14 at the home of Helen Frisbie in Bird City. It will be the Arbor Day program, and the Cheylin fourth grade will help with the program. Jim Strine of the Forestry Department will be a guest of the club.

### McDonald Senior Citizens

Phyllis Wingfield greeted 47 Senior citizens and Health Nurse. Sharon Horinek, to the April 5 meeting of the McDonald Senior Citizens. She welcomed Rev. John Horinek and his wife from Salt Lake City, Utah and asked him to say the meal blessing.

Vivian Curry read a poem for this month. The tables were lovely decorated in an Easter theme with Bunnies and Easter candy eggs. Lucky people with a special sticker on their napkin were given the bunnies. Phyllis thanked Myrtle Hazuka for crocheting the bunnies. Each place setting had a little beaded bunny rabbit made by Phyllis Wingfield.

After lunch Bingo was played with Helen Peters and Betty Lewis sharing the blackout game.

At the business meeting Phyllis thanked everyone who helped with

### American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary met on Friday, April 2, 2004. There were 12 members present.

We enjoyed group singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "My Faith Looks Up To Thee."

For the program, we were reminded about the sacrifices that the American Troops are giving for this country. We realize how much they give in order for us to

have the freedoms that we enjoy and the moral standards upon which this great country was founded.

At the close of the meeting, we had a good time of visiting while we ate the delicious refreshments served by Mary Dorsch.

The next meeting will be on May 7. We will have election of officers on that day.

On March 22, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman released the interim final rule for Conservation Innovation Grants and announced that \$15 million will be available to fund selected grant proposals. The interim rule has now been published in the Federal Register and Request for Proposals for Conservation Innovation Grants are due by May 28.

"This program provides a great opportunity to promote conservation technologies and stimulate innovative approaches to environmental enhancement and protection on working lands," Ms. Veneman said. "Farmers and ranchers will benefit by having new technologies to protect the environment and comply with federal, state and local regulations."

The 2002 Farm Bill established these grants as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The interim final rule will be published in the Federal Register soon with a request for

public comments. At the same time, NRCS will announce the nationwide grant competition through a request for proposals that also will be published in the Federal Register and on the federal government's eGrant website at <http://www.grants.gov>

This grant program also will engage other sectors, such as states and the conservation and philanthropic communities, to help develop, test, implement and transfer innovative environmental solutions. It will provide opportunities for public-private partnerships to accelerate technology transfer and implementation of promising technologies and approaches.

Conservation Innovation Grant proposals will be accepted from eligible governmental or nongovernmental organizations and individuals for innovative single or multi-year projects involving producers who qualify for EQIP. The grants will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Project

proposals may address areas such as market-based pollution credit trading, agricultural conservation systems, carbon sequestration and reduction of applied nutrients.

The interim final rule describes a national competition and a corresponding state-level competition. For fiscal year 2004, only the national competition will be available. In future years, each NRCS state conservationist may implement a separate state-level competition. Funding availability for the distinct state-level competitions will be announced through public notices, separately from the national program.

Selected applicants may re-

ceive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost. An exception allows for beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers, tribes and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain a higher percentage of project matching funds from in-kind contributions. The federal contribution may not exceed \$1 million for a single project.

Additional information on Conservation Innovation Grants is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>

## Bird City News

Guests of Maude Elliott Thursday through Monday were Bill Elliott of Amarillo, Texas; Bob and Becky Babcock of Castle Pines, Colo., Brady Riviere of Highlands Ranch, Colo., was a brief caller on Friday, he came to

get his boat which was stored in Maudes Quonset.



# Join Margaret for the



Margaret McCutcheon

## Tuesday, April 13

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