

Commission worries about pool future

The Cheylin Recreation Commission is concerned that keeping the swimming pool open next year could be a problem. They agreed that the pool will remain open this summer but feel that operating the pool next summer is in extreme doubt.

The clerk had reported that the resolution for a mill levy of 25 percent increase was approved by the Cheylin School Board at the May meeting. However, the Commission does not expect to see that money until the 2005-2006 year. The Commission hopes to raise

money at fund-raising activities this summer. The first fund raiser will be an after-church dinner on June 27 in Bird City.

Members of the Commission expressed concern that the only way the pool can remain open next year, and in years to come, will be with

major changes in the financial support available.

All members were present at the meeting including Mary Moore, Anita Pochop, Tina Sager, Randy Miller and Levy Pochop.

A financial report was entered into the minutes for filing.

The summer baseball teams are in action with Max Keltz and Dennis Hengen sharing the duties of head coach and John Simmonds acting as assistant coach. The girls softball program is underway with Sara Hubbard as coach and Amanda Banister as assistant coach. Cristi

Antholz is the T-ball coach.

The swimming pool has new manager, Ann Burr. The swim team is being coached by Kori Underwood and Hayley Young and has already competed in two swim meets.

Money needed for theater seats

By Karen Krien

For several years, the Cheyenne Theater Committee has been investigating the types and costs of new seating for the theater. Earlier, the committee thought they had found some good used seats but the deal did not materialize so they began looking for new seats.

They found four different kinds of chairs which they approved. Three are a thick foam while the other has a thinner foam lining over molded plastic. Each of the four samples are upholstered in a material and some have arms which include a cup holder.

Three of the sample seats are placed in the lobby of the theater for people to sit and see which they prefer. The fourth seat is coming this week.

The present seats at the theater are around 50 years old. They are narrow, have springs in the cushions and, if the seats are located in areas where people generally sit, they are uncomfortable.

Bob Bixler, chairman of the Theater Committee, said younger people don't seem to mind the seats but if a person has back problems, is tall or is a little heavy, the seats become very uncomfortable before the movie is over.

The chairs cost \$150 each and it is estimated that the total cost for the chair replacement will be \$24,000. This figure does not include the balcony seating as this area is used only a few times a year.

The Theater Committee would gladly accept donations from individuals, groups, organizations and businesses. If the \$24,000 cannot be raised through donations, the cost of theater tickets may go up a little until there is enough money collected.

The Cheyenne Theater is owned by the city and the city pays for the utilities and upkeep of the building. In actuality, the city is providing a service to the residents of the county by keeping the ticket rates low enough so most people can afford to go to the movie, buy popcorn and pop and enjoy a night out. The Theater Committee wants to continue this service so the rates will not increase too much.

For more information about the theater seats or to donate money, stop by the city office and talk to Mary Lampe, city clerk, or mail a check made out and addressed to the Cheyenne Theater, P.O. Box 517, St. Francis, 67756. (Specify that the money is to be used for theater chairs.)

Alumni classmates share memories

The recent Bird City Cardinal Alumni reunion was a big success. For the high school graduates who have remained in town, moved back or who had to travel back, the banquet get-together was a special time to reunite.

The theme of the evening was "Remember When ...". Some of the Cardinals shared their thoughts:

- Noon dodge ball games.
- We did the operetta, "Jerry of Jericho Road," the only time in my life I sang solo.
- Running home for lunch ... watching Bugs Bunny in the school theater.
- Mrs. McPoullah would send me to the office for laughing at her.
- The school carnivals, floats and pep rallies in town.
- Play practices and Miss Gritten getting after us for not paying attention.
- The class of '56 went to Bandera, Texas, on a senior trip. Miss Gritten's plays: "The Little Minister" and "Wiensers on Wednesday," and I was the first girl student body president.
- Riding my motor scooter around town with others, like Ralph Downing.
- My brother and I brought our horses to high school and rode them over the noon hour.
- There was a big snow storm and I was boarding across the street from the school, I couldn't make it for class but I went to Laura Lee's

house several blocks away. We were called into the office about it.

- Good teachers, wonderful friends, the sports program and all we accomplished, being a member of the '53-54 football team.
- We collectively return to Bird City to renew and reminisce ... it's been outstanding.
- Being in the first class to graduate in the new gym in 1939.
- Isabelle and I were inseparable from 1941 to 1945.
- Being in musicals and plays, playing in the band and freezing our fingers while marching at football games.
- The place to park with your girl friend was the potato cellars.
- Beulah Cram was a wonderful home ec. teacher and sponsor.
- Someone put a live goat in the high school hall.
- Girl's basketball team played their fathers in a benefit game to raise money for new uniforms in 1973.
- Flat-top and Mohawk haircuts, "I kid you not" and "cool" was said often, bell bottom pants had kick pleats.
- Girls wore bobbie socks, circle skirts and white, buck shoes. Boys wore ivy league slacks, striped shirts and very thin ties. You were to be home by 11 o'clock, even on New Year's Eve. Cars parked on gypsy road.
- School assembly ... as freshmen we dressed up as we might be in 10 years. Brethower, our student body president, asked us questions. I dressed as an old farmer in bib overalls. He asked me about my wife.
- When I began high school I was 35 years-old. My youngest, Rex, was starting kindergarten and my oldest, Shryll, started high school.
- I don't remember much any more. Don't remember for sure what I had for breakfast this morning. That's what getting to be 91 years-old does.

(These quotes were provided by Donna Johnson who explains the last entry). "This last one was written by Doris Byers Lane and she modeled her 1920 era letter sweater in our style show. She stole the show because she is so trim and beautiful," said Mrs. Johnson.



VANCE CHURCHWELL POSITIONS himself under a pop fly during practice for his Summer Rec League baseball team. He and his teammates take advantage of the good baseball diamond in McDonald.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

When scholars and scientists look at previous cultures they study information to tell them about who these people were. They may dig up ancient tools or weapons, cooking utensils, bones, etc. The anthropologist and archeologist may look at the buildings they inhabited or used for religious purposes.

Basically they normally look at the day in and day out practices of what men and women of the past did for work and survival.

A while back I heard an argument by a scholar that more could be learned about a society by researching what they did in their free time rather than work time.

What we might see is what people chose to do rather than what they had to do.

I bring this up because of the many diversions that are available in this area. For instance, last weekend, I enjoyed the near constant drone of Stearman aircraft as they rose and landed in St. Francis during the 22nd Fly-in. Their bright colors against a clear, blue sky were a feast for the eyes.

But that was not the only event held over the weekend. Many boys and girls played baseball and softball in recreation leagues or competed in swim meets, and these games provided entertainment for family and friends who watched.

Some people chose to go to church, others tuned in the television for auto racing, basketball, golf or other sporting events.

People rode horses, tended to gardens and lawns or just sat on porches to while away some time.

With near perfect summer weather the possibilities of leisure activities seemed countless.

So when we are gone and future people look back on us, what do you suppose they will discover? It is hard to imagine what they will focus on with so much happening.

Several file for primary

By Karen Krien

Thursday was the last day for people to file for county positions up for election in the primary election. Terry Miller, county clerk, said there were a number of people filing, some at the last minute, and one has taken papers as an independent and, if he decides to run, will be on the general election ballot.

The registration books will close on July 19 so those needing to register will need to do so before then. The primary election is slated for Aug. 3.

There was no person filing for county attorney. At the Tuesday commissioners' meeting, the matter was discussed but they knew little about the matter. They were informed that the county attorney will need to be "qualified" and that one write-in vote will not be sufficient in electing a county attorney. What to do about a county attorney will be on the agenda in future meetings.

Official candidates who will be listed on the primary ballot include:

Magistrate judge, District 15: Robert VanAllen (R); Jolene R. Dodd (D); and William G. Fiedler Jr. (R).

County clerk: Terry Miller (R).

County treasurer: Dolores Jenik (R).

Register of deeds: Mary Morrow (R).

Sheriff: Edward Dankenbring Jr. (R); Gary D. Morris (R); Chuck Kribs (R).

Commissioner District 2: Kelly Morris (R); Ray Lee (R); Ronald R. Loudon (R); John L. Finley (R); Dale W. Patton (U) (will only be on the general ballot since he is unaffiliated.)

Commissioner District 3: Andrew Kent Beikman (R); Ron Krien (R).

Precinct Committeeman/Committeewoman: Steve G. Carpenter and Darla Kaye Dible, both Bird City Township.

May brings dry heat

Summer is here with the arrival of warmer temperatures. May saw only a bit over an inch of much needed moisture and a high temperature just below 100 degrees.

Troy Burr, Bird City's weather observer, reported that the high temperature for the month was 99.8 degrees on May 5. To show what a range of temperatures the month had, the low was 29.9 degrees on May 14.

Weather observer Burr said the moisture for the month was 1.06 inch with no snow fall for the month.

The highest wind gust for the month was 44.9 miles per hour on May 29. The lowest wind chill was recorded at 13.3 degrees on May 13.

Department given grant

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts has announced \$165,000 in grants were awarded to several Kansas fire departments to improve homeland security. Among those departments receiving grants was the Bird City Fire Department which will receive \$4,905 for fire operations and firefighter safety.

Senator Roberts said that the funds would be vital to improve firefighting efforts and first responder needs in rural Kansas.

"It's imperative to support our local fire departments," he said.

The funds are awarded by the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under the United States Department of Homeland Security.

