

## Group meets Friday night

The Cheyenne Initiative Association Forum will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday in the cafeteria at the St. Francis Community High School. There are four goals to be discussed:

1) Mobilizing local leaders. Building a skilled and increasing inclusive leadership group with a capacity to improve and sustain the community.

2) Energize entrepreneurs. This is a way to build local business and create jobs.

3) Engage and attract young people. Retaining and attracting youth and young families that are involved in community leadership.

4) Capture wealth transfer. Acting now to capture a portion of the wealth that will transfer between generations, and to hold these assets as community endowed funds. The next 10 years are critical because the wealth transfer will peak for many rural communities due to the age of the population.

Starting in small group discussions, people will be focusing on the different county assets and needs. Following the group discussions, the assets and needs will be considered by all those in attendance.

Tom Keller, chairman, said everyone will be given the opportunity to present their ideas and concerns. The outcome of the evening will be a proven method of focusing on and addressing the major issues selected by those present.

Input from the forum will be used

to update the county's strategic plan.

The forum will be led by outside professionals from the Ogallala Commons organization. Everyone will be given the opportunity to volunteer to work on the selected projects developed from the forum.

### What is the Cheyenne Initiative Association

The Cheyenne Initiative Association, along with Rawlins and Norton counties, are participating in the High Plains Regional Cluster. The Cluster is facilitated by Ogallala Commons, a resource development network for creating thriving communities in the High Plains — Ogallala Aquifer region.

Also participating in the Cheyenne Initiative Association are: The commissioners, cities of Bird City and St. Francis, Bird City Century II Development Foundation, Cheyenne County Economic Development, St. Francis Community Foundation and New Generation Fund, Bird City and St. Francis Ministerial Alliance, St. Francis and Cheylin school districts, Cheyenne County Hospital, Good Samaritan Village and Bird City Community Club.

Officers of the core team are: Mr. Keller, chairman; Dan Carson, vice chairman; Cathy Domsch, secretary; Dara Carmichael, treasurer. Other members are: Troy Burr, Susan Dinkel, Kari Gilliland, Roger Jensen, Ernie Ketzner, Norman Morrow, Rick Reeser, Scott Schultz and Ned Smith.

## Voters to cast their ballots for election

By Karen Krien

The general election will be held Tuesday for seats on the St. Francis and Cheylin school boards as well as the St. Francis City and Bird City city council. Also to be on the ballot will be place where people can vote for members on the Sunflower Extension District Number 6.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In St. Francis, the only at Peace Lutheran Church, College Street; in Bird City, at the American Legion Hall, West Fourth Street. People can also vote early in the county clerk's office in the courthouse. Terry Miller, election officer, said the voting booth in his office has been set up and voters will be able to cast their ballots there until noon on Monday.

There are four people running for a seat on the St. Francis City Council but only two seats are vacant. Those running are incumbents Dale Weeks and Roger Jensen along with Bud Erskin and Bruce Roelfs. Scott Schultz is running for another term as mayor.

There are no races for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Education. Incumbents are Bonnie Zwegardt, District 1, position 1; John Knodel,

District 3, position 3; and Member At Large, Sherry Weeks. The new candidate is Dr. Mary Beth Miller who will be filling the seat of Cliff Raile.

### Bird City

In Bird City, there are three seats up for election and four people running. They include incumbents Ray Magnani, Frank Serrano and Loren White. Hal Sager has also thrown his name in the hat.

Cheylin Board of Education has three open positions. There is a race in District 2, position 4 where both Dale Hazuka and Belinda Serrano have filed. Others running for seats on the Cheylin school board are David Frisbie, District 1, position 5; and Lori Janicke, District 2, position 2.

### Extension board

The Sunflower Extension District Number 6 needs two people from Cheyenne County to fill seats on the board. Randy Rueb's name will be on the ballot. However, there will be a blank for another person on the ballot. Voters will need to fill in the blank. John Hendricks, Bird City, had agreed to fill the vacancy but was too late to register to get on the ballot. If people are looking for a name, Mr. Hendricks could be the other representative.



Bird City, St. Francis and Benkelman fire departments worked together to fight this house fire on Thursday.

Times Staff Photo by Casey McCormick

## House destroyed by fire

By Casey McCormick

Disaster struck as fire consumed the farm house of Tommy Herring on Thursday afternoon, March 22. Three area fire departments responded although the home was gutted by the flames.

Fire departments from Bird City, St. Francis and Benkelman arrived at the property, located near the Republican River and less than a mile from the Nebraska line. Bird City and Benkelman firemen fought the blaze while St. Francis backed them up.

The two story, stucco building soon became fully engulfed. About 12 residents were safely evacuated. Many rounds of ammunition, stored in the structure, exploded as the firemen and members of the St. Francis Sheriff's Department worked the fire.

The walls remained standing after the fire, but the house was a total loss.

Bird City Fire Chief, Dave Hickert, was pleased with the new inter-local agreement that allows the Benkelman firemen to respond with the Cheyenne County departments.

"Since the agreement, this is the third time we've worked together," Chief Hickert said, "We had two grass fires and now this house."



The Roberson family were residents of this house before it burned down on Thursday. Cheylin's Junior High students are holding a bake sale to raise funds for classmate Samantha Roberson and her family. Other donations are also being collected. The house was a total loss and the family has lost everything.

Times photo by Derek Marrow

## Meet the candidates seeking your vote in Tuesday's election

By Melinda Bassett

Next Tuesday voters will go to the polls to choose representatives of themselves for the city council as well as the school board. This week each candidate is featured so voters will know a little more about their choices.

### Frank Serrano

Seeking a second term re-election, Mr. Serrano likes being involved in the community and hopes to continue to serve the people.

Mr. Serrano was born in Ft. Collins, Colo., and he ran a security company in Colorado from 1987-2001. He moved to Bird City in 1997. He now operates FCS Services, a lawn care business, as well as selling corn burning stoves. Mr. Serrano is a volunteer fireman as well as a Cheyenne County deputy. He and his wife Belinda have two boys, Jacob and John

### Loren White

Also seeking a second term, Mr. White says he has really enjoyed serving the people and would like

to continue doing so.

Besides farming, Loren is very community minded. He and his wife Wendy serve as emergency medical technicians and volunteer firefighters. He is very active in many things involving their three sons, Lucius, Jacob, and Jeremiah including Teens For Christ, and many school activities.

### Ray Magnani

Ray Magnani was appointed to the council in October by Mayor Troy Burr to fill his position when he was sworn in as mayor upon Larry Henry's resignation in August.

He likes the position and hopes to continue serving.

Ray grew up locally and so did his wife Carrie. They are in the process of starting a new cleaning business

in Bird City. They have two children, Dalton and Danae.

### Hal Sager

When asked what made him run for election, Hal Sager said "I am tired of no one listening to the people and what they want."

Since deciding to run, Mr. Sager has attended all the council meetings to get a feel for what decisions the council is facing and to be informed about them.

Mr. Sager has lived in the community most of his life. He served two years in the military and attended Fort Hays State University for one year of college.

He and his wife Judy have two grown sons, Chad and Michael. He was partner in McDougal-Sager Grain for a number of years. He has served as fire chief, city police, and emergency medical technician for the people of Bird City. He hopes to be able to listen to citizens and follow their wishes in what they want for their town.

### David Frisbie

Mr. Frisbie is seeking to serve another term on the Cheylin Board of Education. David grew up in the McDonald area and was a member of the third class to graduate from Cheylin. A successful area farmer and rancher, he and his wife Sandy have six children enrolled in Cheylin: Danny, Eddie, Ally, Tommy, Jesse and Josie.

"I feel very strongly about Cheylin and would like to see the district continue," Mr. Frisbie said. "We have to get the most we can with the taxpayers' money, which means giving the students the best education possible with the resources available."

### Lori Janicke

Lori Janicke is taking the place of Kerby Krien on the board. She grew up in the Bird City area, and has lived in the district most of her life. She has a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Kansas and worked as a social

worker until the birth of her first child. Her and her husband Clayton are area farmers and avid motorcross enthusiasts. Both have taught or coached at different times at Cheylin.

"After I began substituting last year, I thought maybe I could be a go-between from the classrooms to the board," Mrs. Janicke said. "Subbing has given me a glimpse of some of the challenges of the classroom."

They have three boys enrolled as well, Walker, Jordan, and Devon.

### Dale Hazuka

Dale Hazuka is seeking election in the seat currently filled by Wade Carmichael.

Mr. Hazuka grew up in McDonald and is a Cheylin graduate. He attended K-State and is employed in the agricultural industry.



White



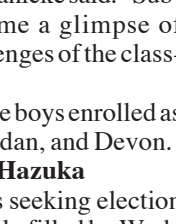
Sager



Frisbie



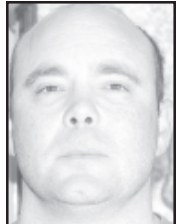
Janicke



Serrano



Hazuka



Magnani



Serrano