



THE BOYS ARE GETTING READY! Chris Walden (31) runs the ball, Sam Hengen (16) blocks Heath Antholz (35) during the soap scrimmage held on Friday night. The first game will be Friday night against Trenton at Trenton, Neb.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Dairy to increase students school

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

The Bird City dairy will be bringing 19 to 20 workers to the town. They fill vacant houses, pay utilities and buy groceries and fuel, but more importantly, there will be around 20 new students in the Cheylin Schools.

David Zumbahlen, Cheylin superintendent and principal, said there were 145 students enrolled last year. Sixteen seniors graduated and they will be replaced by about half as many kindergartners.

Last year's state aid was \$4,316 per student amounting to \$591,292. With 16 fewer students and only

eight to 10 students entering kindergarten, the school would have been down \$43,000.

However, this year, with the extra students and an additional \$58 per student allotted by the state, the school finances will be looking much better. There is also an additional \$4,374 added for each teacher certified in English as a second language. Three teachers, Dennis and Rose Hengen and Susan Jensen, are taking the course from Emporia State University.

Mr. Zumbahlen said he came to Bird City in 1997 and the enrollment was 199. It has gone down each year, he said.

"Unless there are jobs, the kids will go elsewhere," he said.

The school in Rexford was having the same problem with low enrollment until 1999 when the McCarty dairy was built there. The Golden Plains Schools had seven Hispanic students the first year and, last year, there were 19 Hispanic students.

The Cheylin School Board and administration have prepared a "patron's room," getting ready for the Hispanic students and their families. The room will have computers and access to the Internet, along with printed materials on English as a second language, Mr.

Zumbahlen said. The Century II Foundation, which helped bring the dairy to town, gave \$9,000 to help furnish and overhaul the room.

Mr. Zumbahlen said that the room can be used for all people in Bird City, not just Hispanics. It also will be used for one-on-one assistance, helping parents and students to learn English.

Cathy Domsch, Century II director, said that having more students in the school is one of the main reasons for bringing in the dairy.

"If we don't have a school, it is hard for a town to survive," she said.

No increase in city budget

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

The budget for the city of Bird City was published in the July 26 issue of the *Bird City Times*. The proposed expenditures at the bottom of the budget caused people to become concerned and many attended the Aug. 6 city council meeting.

Phyllis Carson, treasurer, explained that the only tax money collected would be the top two figures in the Ad Valorem Tax column which showed \$87,061 for the General Fund and \$5,803 for the Library. The total was \$92,864.

Last year, \$87,061 was collected for the General Fund and \$5,864 for the Library.

People at the meeting were concerned because it showed the proposed 2007 expenditures for the water and sewer was \$275,800. Looking at the city of Bird City budget on page 9, it showed that the council moved \$65,000 from last year to this

year, making that total \$276,800 but, this money does not come from taxes.

Mrs. Carson said that the production and distribution (gas, electricity, salaries and sewer operation) expenses are taken out of the water and sewer fund.

From January to June, it had cost the city \$34,127 for these expenses and, barring no unforeseen expenses, it will cost the city around \$78,000 for 2007.

People pay for the operation for water and sewer on their utility bills. Jana Diers, city clerk, said an average water, sewer, recycling and landfill cost per household is \$31. There are approximately 285 households in Bird City. With the new dairy coming in, the city council is planning on additional households to help with operational costs. Mrs. Diers said the minimum water charge (2,000 gallons or less) is \$14 per month. The minimum sewer bill is \$14 per month.

Lifeline service available

The Cheyenne County Hospital is taking over Lifeline from the Cheyenne County Care Outreach.

The Lifeline Care Partner telephone enables the user to call for help 24-hours-a-day by pressing the personal help button. People with the service will also be provided with a small device that they wear around their neck or a bracelet which, when the button is pressed, will activate the Lifeline help.

This service allows elderly people to continue to live at home, knowing that help is readily available. If an ambulance is needed then it will be contacted.

Telephone functions include large, high-contrast pushbuttons for easy dialing, lighted keypad for night-time use and a speakerphone for hands-free conversation. The range of the buttons is throughout the house and out into the yard, approximately 200 feet. A range test is done at the time of installation.

The hospital will continue offering the same Lifeline service to the community as it has been in the past.



LIFELINE EQUIPMENT is now in the Cheyenne County Hospital. Those looking at the equipment are Millie Glasco, Ryan Murray, Shawna Blanka and Mary Ruth Burkett.

The Cheyenne County Care Outreach operated this service for 20 years. In 1987, Glenn Glasco, along with help from the community churches and a 50/50 grant from the Methodist Ministry Funds in Wichita, started Lifeline in the county. In 1996, Millie Glasco began helping Mr. Glasco and became the system installer.

The difference in the service will be that now hospital employees will be installing new units and doing service calls on the existing units. The billing will be done by the hospital and the payments will be made to the hospital.

The monthly fee for a Lifeline phone is \$30. A one-time installation fee of \$50 is charged for the new

units. Anyone interested in having Lifeline installed in their home should contact the hospital and ask for Shawna.

"We are pleased to be able to continue to offer this service to the community, as we feel it is a benefit to the citizens in our community," Shawna Blanka said.

Churches celebrate joint services in park

Sunday, Aug. 19, there was a joint worship service of Immanuel United Methodist Church and St. John Lutheran Church in the Bird City Park. About 80 people came out on a beautiful morning to worship.

There was a teacher dedication with the following teachers being recognized: Amy Hendricks, Sharon Hendricks, Merlie Leach, Merle and Laurie Leonard, Barb Waters, Sherry Carmichael, Gary and Jane Brubaker, Tammi

Carmichael, Jan Busse, Robert Bell, Dan Harris, and Loren White.

A collection was taken for the Cheyenne County Food Pantry with \$145.77 was collected.

A potluck was then held in the Shelter house with wonderful food. Kids from 5 to 50 played a relay game that involved running, removing shoes, blowing up balloons, popping balloons, chewing gum, putting shoes back on, and blowing bubbles.

The day was enjoyed by all.