

Cougars hold annual scrimmage

By Colleen Shrader

Friday, Aug. 24, the Cheylin Cougars held the annual soap scrimmage. The scrimmage has always been a way of letting the community see a little glimpse of what the Cougars have to offer for the year, and it was noted that there is some major potential in effect and there is a large Cougar crowd to back them up.

Coach Alicia Beeson and coach Max Keltz expressed their excitement for the upcoming season.

"The kids are working hard with a good attitude," said Coach Keltz. "We should improve on last year's record and become stronger as the year progresses."

During the scrimmage the football team was split up into two sides. Lance Leonard, Sam Hengen, Jayden Cahoj, Chris Walden, Heath

Antholz, Mitchell Jensen, Lincoln Pochop, Hudson Louderbaugh, Erick Estrada and Craig Busse made up the blue team. Their opponents for the night on the white team were Lamar Adams, Caleb Keltz, Rex Weishapl, Jacob White, Jacob Diers, Jamie Adams, Jay Hewitt, Jarod Cahoj, Max Hengen, Nick Els and Adrian Garcia.

Winning the game for the night was the blue team 16 to 8. The boys had fun, but had to cut it short after the third quarter due to injuries. The Booster Club, who has always been a huge support in the school, made a great meal for everyone to enjoy and the turnout was great.

The Lady Cougars held a practice during the Soap Scrimmage to make their chances of injury before their tournament the next day slimmer.



LORI JANICKE talks to Governor Sebelius on Wednesday during the breakfast held at the Cheyenne County fair grounds. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Members vote to request funds from revolving loan

By Melinda Basnett
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Bird City's City Council met for their regular meeting on Tuesday evening because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday.

Members voted to approved to request funds from the revolving loan to pay for design services supplied by Miller and Associates on the sewer facility. The Community Development Block Grant money has not been released from the state yet.

Donna Wright, Wright Insurance, supplied members with copies of the city's insurance policy and was available to answer any questions. She said that it was at the same rate as last year.

Newly appointed sheriff, Craig Van Allen, told council members that he hoped that county law enforcement would continue to go smoothly for the next month until it is decided whether the city of St. Francis and the county sheriff's department would continue to operate as one.

These changes come about with the departure of Troy Gardner, who was the chief of police in St. Francis as well as the county sheriff. Sheriff Van Allen said he also plans to hire at least one deputy, as there are only two full-time officers in the department at this time.

It was decided to go ahead and sign the agreement between the Sedgwick County, Shawnee

County and the City of Bird City to cooperate in the execution of the Ranson House resolution. This will provide first time buyers with some incentives if they purchase a home in Bird City.

Council members voted to donate \$750 to the Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence program. The council recognizes that there is a need for the service within the county.

Mayor Troy Burr appointed Wonetta Stately for a term for the Resident on Board position at the Housing Authority.

An ordinance to allow all terrain vehicles (four-wheelers) within the city limits was discussed. As of July 1, state legislation makes it illegal to

operate a four-wheeler within the city limits and on county roads as well.

Council members were supplied with an example ordinance stating that only licensed drivers could operate such a machine in the city. A younger person could drive a four-wheeler if an adult was in immediate supervision. Some members recognized that such machines are used for paper routes, mowing or traveling from place to place for farm work. The ordinance was tabled until next month so members would have time to think about the provisions needed.

However, until an ordinance is in place, state law makes it illegal to operate all terrain vehicles in the

city. Bids for park spraying and mowing were discussed and the bid from Pro Lawn for mowing the fescue grass was accepted and the bid from FCS Services for spraying was approved.

Information was given on an updated housing list. The list and map of the housing is for emergency services so they will be more informed when responding to an emergency.

The Henry Hickert building that now houses Heritage Corner Cafe was approved for the National Register of Historical Places.

A motion was made and the council voted to approve a request of funds from the revolving loan to

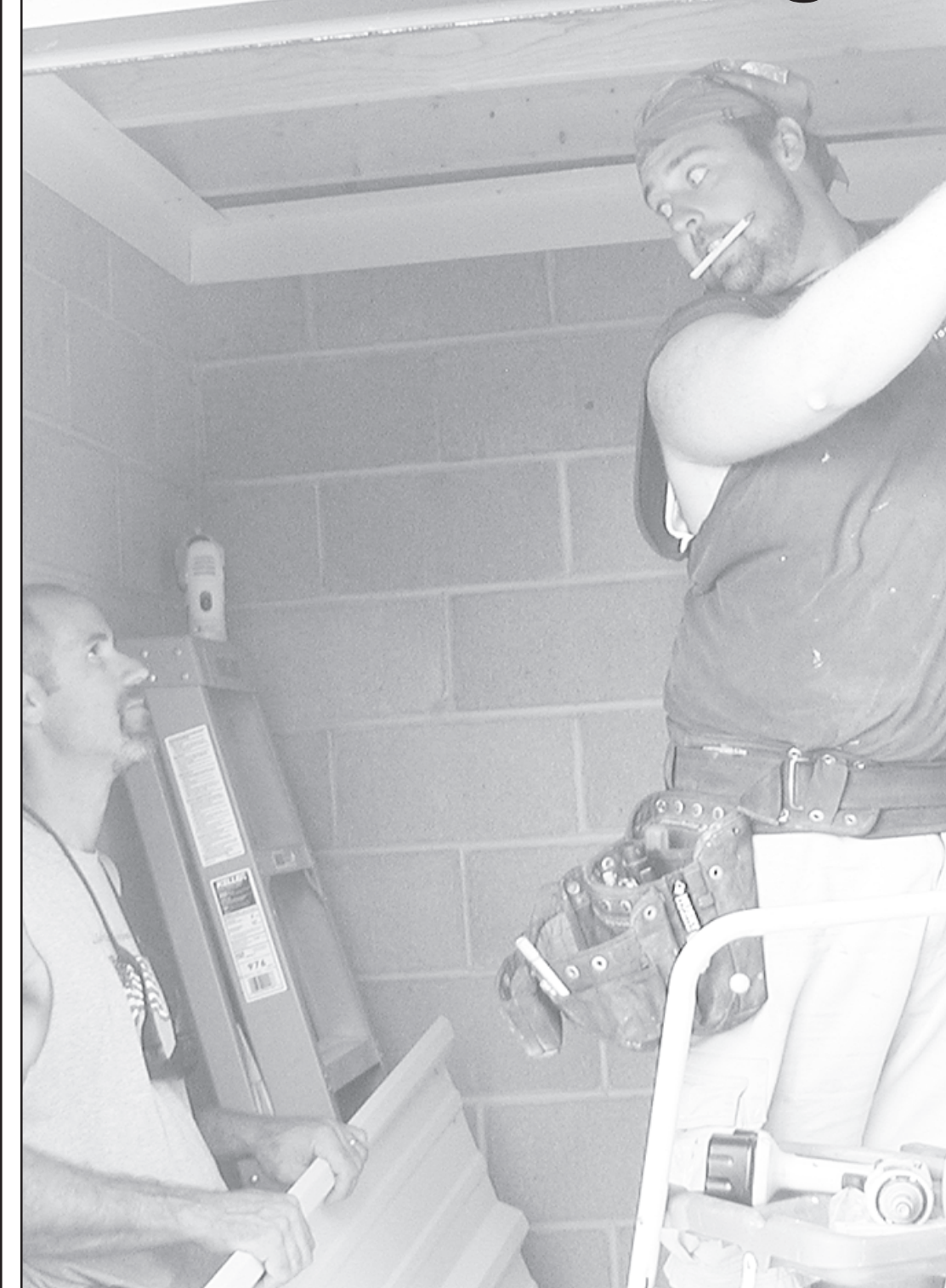
purchase the property on which the new sewer facility will be located.

Sam Beeson, city employee, gave a report on the recent inspections of the sanitary and water facilities. The well at the water tower must be plugged and the council agreed to hire B's in Goodland to do the work. A meter must be installed in a well near the park and Sam agreed to check into getting the old one fixed or purchasing another.

A building permit for C. R. Interest LLC for remodeling and painting of the exterior on their business at 215 S. Bird Ave. was approved.

Councilman Ray Magnani called a 30 minute executive session to discuss personnel at the end of the meeting.

Cows are coming!!



LEVIPOCHOP, owner of The Craftsman's Corner, and Greg Philpott are busy with the final stages of the dairy. The McCarty Dairy is set to begin operation on Sept. 10.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

County commissioners meet and close the budget hearing

By Karen Krien

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The county budget hearing was held at 9 a.m. on Friday with two county employees there to express concern about their department budget. The Cheyenne County Commissioners listened to what they had to say but went ahead and closed the hearing.

The county will be raising \$1,918,364 in taxes which is \$285,765 less than last year. At an earlier meeting, the commissioners agreed to republished the budget in order to bring county employees' wages up with employees in surrounding counties. It took an additional \$20,606 to pay the 30 people hired by the county.

At the Friday meeting, Justin Barrett, county attorney, had gathered facts from other counties. The Rawlins County attorney is paid \$14,000 more than Cheyenne County and in every court hearing, the lawyer of the opposition is making \$65 more an hour.

"You are pricing yourself out of ever being competitive," he said, adding that the figures hadn't increased in at least two terms.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that before Mr. Barrett had been elected, the county lawyer had been a local lawyer and had no costs for a legal secretary. He had also heard people saying that Mr. Barrett didn't make enough appearances in the attorney's office. Mr. Barrett said he was more accessible than when there was an attorney in town, pointing out that he has a cell phone, there is internet access and fax.

Mr. Barrett asked that they give the attorney assistant, Danielle Garner, a 2-percent raise and have her work 40 hours a week so she will be eligible for benefits. The commissioners later agreed to the request.

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, was concerned that the commissioners were not putting money into the department's equipment reserve

fund. Mr. Beikman said the commissioners are going to apply for a Community Development Building grant for an ambulance. Mrs. Bowers questioned what they would do if they didn't get the grant. She was told that very seldom is a request for an ambulance or fire truck turned down, especially if 25 percent of the money is put toward the cost.

She also asked about having money budgeted toward training. The commissioners said there has never been money put toward training; that it was taken out of the general fund if needed.

The budget hearing was closed with it standing as it was published in the Aug. 23 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

Weeds and prairie dogs

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog control manager, talked about prairie dog control again as well as bind-weed control. He said there is a farmer in the northern part of the county who hadn't controlled the weed. The Farm Service Agency had terminated the farmer's contract because he was doing nothing about controlling the weed and now he could have between 150 and 160 acres to spray.

The time to start baiting prairie dog with Rozal is October. They talked about private businesses who were baiting the dogs. They are not exactly sure what the cost is but thought it was approximately \$35 per acre which would guarantee getting rid of 75 to 90 percent of the dogs; for \$40, there would be a 99-percent guarantee. However, they were not sure about these figures and were not able to contact the person who they thought was doing the baiting.

The commissioners discussed who was responsible for paying for the baiting. Unless there is a prior agreement, the landowner is responsible. There is a prairie dog problem in the county and the commissioners agreed that they would continue

work on this problem.

Mr. Schlittenhardt was given permission to attend a meeting where he could be recertified.

In other business

In other business:

- Justin Barrett, county attorney, was asked about the county joining the "quad county task force." Mr. Barrett said he didn't feel that this force always handles cases the way the county wants to handle cases. He said he would find out more about it. Others involved in the task force are Thomas, Sherman, Wallace and Rawlins counties. Mr. Beikman said that if the commissioners are really interested in belonging to the force, they need to talk to other county commissioners and see how and if it would benefit the county.

- Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said he was in the process of applying for a grant that the county may or may not need. There will be no out-of-pocket costs.

There will be an exercise on a stand-alone plan for Bonny Reservoir. They will be exercising communication operations as if there is a flood. St. Francis is the first in line if a natural disaster such as this would happen. He said the Bureau of Reclamation owns the dam and its offices are in Nebraska.

- The commissioners signed the wage agreement for new deputy, John Lanz.

- Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, said the state has re-extended the time and there will be funding for the pandemic flu immunization until November.

- The commissioners wrote off bills that will not be collected.

- Pastor David Butler, Cheyenne County Development Corporation director, talked about the county incentive plan and both the director and the commissioners felt the plan needed to be redone.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Sept. 14 at the courthouse.