

Moooo over — we're here!



WE'RE HERE — The cows began arriving on Tuesday at the dairy. Milking started on Thursday and will be producing 8,000 to 9,000 gallons of milk a day.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Bird City Dairy begins milking

By Karen Krien

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It's up and running!!!

The cows began arriving last Tuesday and the milking started Thursday evening at the Bird City Dairy. Located two miles east of Bird City, the dairy will be producing about 8,000 to 9,000 gallons of milk a day.

The operation is one of two owned by Tom and Judy McCarty and their sons, Clay, Ken and Mike. Mike will be managing the

Bird City Dairy. They also own the Rexford Dairy.

The dairy brings around 20 jobs to the county and farmers will be selling the dairy about 6,000 tons of alfalfa each year. It also increases Bird City's population and helps the Cheylin Schools. However, the entire county is expected to benefit from the new dairy industry.

The dairy has close to 2,000 cows and, eventually, will have 3,200.

The huge barn is impressive. It is a 920-foot "free stall" building and will hold up to 2,000 cattle. There are also two holding pens to house the other cattle.

The operation will turn over about one-third of the herd each year because of health issues, milk production and reproduction, Mike McCarty said, but they have their own heifer replacement program.

"As we move forward, having our own replacement program

gives more control and less risk for disease," he said, adding that knowing the genetics of the cattle can help improve the herd.

The milking parlor, equipped to milk 60 cows at a time, will run 24 hours a day. Two 6,400-gallon stainless steel tanks will hold milk. A special-needs building is north of the main buildings, where the McCarty will take care of their own veterinary work, a commodity barn to store corn and feed and a shop for equipment repairs and a scale.

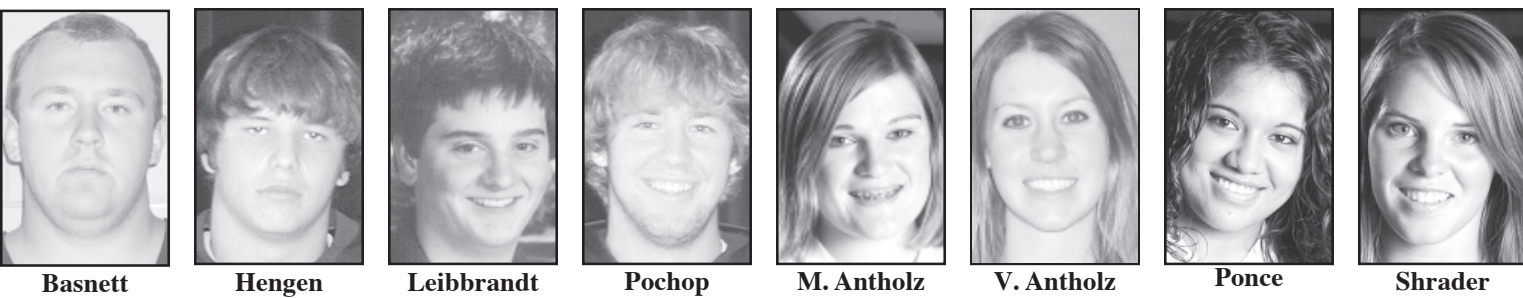
The way the operation is set up, there should be little odor. Mr. McCarty said the liquid manure will be managed in a three-stage gravity separation system, starting with a sand separation area. From there, the waste water flows into a series of settling basins where the solids are retained. Finally, the liquid will flow into a 53-million-gallon lagoon storage area.

Mr. McCarty and his wife Amy have moved to Bird City. They have two boys, Logan, 2, and

Colton, 4.

Mr. McCarty said he and his brothers are the fourth generation dairy farmers. They came to Rexford from Pennsylvania seven years ago. He said the country and milking business there are much the same as it is in Cheyenne County, except for the increasing urban development back east.

"Cheyenne County is a great area with good people," Mr. McCarty said. "We are excited to be here."



Basnett

Hengen

Leibbrandt

Pochop

M. Antholz

V. Antholz

Ponce

Shrader

Cougars prepare for Homecoming games

Cheylin students are enjoying a variety of Homecoming activities this week. Each day has been special and some of the students are wearing some strange clothing like togas, swim wear over clothing complete with flippers, just to name a few.

Tonight (Thursday) is the crowning of the new Homecoming King and Queen. Candidates this year are: Mindy Antholz,

Vanessa Antholz, Chris Basnett, Sam Hengen, Taylor Leibbrandt, Lincoln Pochop, Blancha Ponce and Colleen Shrader.

Following a barbecue provided by First National Bank and Peoples State Bank, between 6 and 7:30 p.m., there will be a parade and skits in front of the grandstand at the football field. The pep rally and bonfire will start at 8 p.m. All entries such as floats, banners, skits, and songs

are encouraged.

Friday is the Booster Club barbecue starting at 6 p.m. at the football field followed by the Cougars taking on Tribune/Greeley County at 7:30 p.m. The Cougar Ladies meet Heartland Christian/Colby, at 5:30 on the Cougar's home court.

Saturday, the Homecoming student dance will end an exciting week. The music will start at 8 and end at 11 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Emergency technicians needed for the county

By Karen Krien

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The shortage of emergency medical technicians has been an ongoing problem in Bird City. When they met on Friday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners were told that there is a basic training class for technicians being held in Goodland in the very near future.

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, said the cost is \$1,000 per person plus the mileage. Those wanting to take

the class need to keep in mind that they must be at least 18 years old to take the test.

For more information or to take the class, contact Mrs. Bowers at 785-332-8888.

The commissioners talked about those who do not fulfill their obligation to serve as a tech for two years after passing the test. There are several who have taken the class at the county's expense and then left the area. No decision was made but the commissioners agreed that this needed to stop

and, if a person does not fulfill their obligation, they should reimburse the county.

Mrs. Bowers was concerned about the lack of emergency medical technicians in the Bird City area. She said the majority of the technicians are farmers and will be in the fields until after the crops are planted and harvested. She was given permission to be in Bird City one day a week to help cover calls when they come in.

New radios

Mrs. Bowers said the depart-

ment needs three new radios as they are old and two cannot be repaired. She also needs one or two more at the ambulance barn in case one of the other radios go down.

The commissioners thought there was money in the 911 fund but suggested that she talk to Gary Rogers, emergency manager, about the purchase. He will not order them for her but needs to know what she will be getting.

Insurance adjustments for August were \$2,367 which the commissioners signed off on.

Commissioners discuss need for dairy turning lane

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday to discuss a proposal for a turning lane at the Bird City Dairy, east of Bird City. It may take some time but everyone appeared to be in favor of the lane.

Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II Foundation director, had originally made the appointment with the commissioners to have them sign a letter of concern for a turning lane on U.S. 36 by the new Bird City Dairy. She said the cows had arrived and they had started milking at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13.

Before the meeting, she had talked to Chriss McDiffett, Kansas Department of Transportation district engineer, who had a possible solution for the problem. He realized there would be high traffic in that area and Mrs. Domsch pointed out that this is also a route that school buses travel. If it is foggy or the dust is blowing, causing a vision problem, there could be a serious accident. Mr. McDiffett said there would be an asphalt company coming to Rawlins County next year. If the county crew could build up areas

on either side of the highway where the turning lane would be located, it was possible that the work could be done much sooner. If not, it would probably be 2011 before it would be put on the state's plan.

Mrs. Domsch said what she needed was verbal support. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said he would talk to Mr. McDiffett and see what is needed. He noted that finding enough dirt to do the work could be a problem. Mr. Flemming said the highway also needs to be widened on the west as the way the highway lays, there is a sharp turn which is difficult for the trucks turning on to the highway.

They talked about erecting highway signs warning people of the truck traffic. Mr. Flemming will contact Bill Lee, supervisor for the Cheyenne County Highway Department. The commissioners also discussed having a flashing light across the highway. No decision was made but they are also wanting to prevent any accidents if possible.

Mr. Flemming will report back on the matter at the next commissioners' meeting.

