



CHANGING CINTIA'S SHOES from flat to high heels before her first dance by her father, Ramon Navarro is just one of the many traditional steps that she will go through during the evening for her Quinceañera, her coming out party.

Time staff photo by Linda Schneider

Family and friends join the celebration

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All Hispanic girls look forward to this day. For most, their parents have been planning the day since their birth. It is the "Quinceañera," the coming out party for a 15-year-old girl.

The Quinceañera is a ceremony that the Hispanic community brings from Mexico to the United States which celebrates a young girl's journey from childhood to maturity. On Saturday, friends and family were invited to celebrate the transition with Cintia Navarro and her family in Bird City.

In the weeks before her party, there were many preparations. While most of the planning was done by Cintia's parents, Ramon and Maxima Navarro, many relatives were earnestly involved with providing special gifts, helping with food preparations, and helping with expenses.

The Quinceañera celebration starts with a Catholic Mass and ends with a dance. Nevertheless, it is more than a celebration; it is traditional and every gift she receives will have some way of saying she is turning 15 and is no longer a child.

The Catholic Mass was the renewal of her baptismal and confirmation. The priest blessed

her forthcoming adult life which included the continuation of her dedication to the church. Following mass, Cintia and her court went to the American Legion hall for the reception and dance.

Cintia's chose her court from her closest friends and consists of seven young girls called damas and six young men called chabemplán, and Joe Aguirre, her escorte was dressed in a white suit. Including Cintia, there were 15 in the group and they were all dressed elegantly in evening dresses and suits with ties.

After the dinner, the celebration continued with members of her family giving her items to represent her passage to maturity. There was a necklace given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Aguirre; a tiara; a ring to symbolize the circle of life given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Ramirez; a doll to represent the last of the things of a child; and the changing of the shoes.

The ceremony of the changing of the shoes was done by her father, Señor Navarro, and he changes her flat shoes to her first high heels. This tradition has changed over the years, since young girls are wearing heels sooner; but its symbolism was still part of the ceremony.

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QUINCEANERA CINTIA DANCES with her escort, Joe Aguirre, while her court dances the "Mariposas" waltz around her.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheylin teams are only teams to place in seventh and eighth grade division

On Jan. 23, the Cheylin seventh and eighth graders completed in the 2008 Freedom League Scholars' Bowl held at Grinnell.

The Cheylin teams had quite an accomplishment as they were the only league school to place in both the seventh- and eighth-grade divisions. Other leagues schools competing, besides Cheylin were: Wallace County, Weskan, Triplains, Grinnell/Wheatland, Greeley County, Golden Plains and Brewster.

The Cheylin seventh-

grade team, consisting of Stephanie Busse, Josh Keltz, Tyler Michaelis, Adam Orten, Kenan Reeh and Jessie Smith, captured second place overall in the league and received a second-place team plaque and individual silver medals.

All team members scored points in the meet with Stephanie earning 260 points out of the total team points of 465. Stephanie had a high-point game of 60 points.

The Cheylin eighth-grade team, consisting of Wil Orten, Ethan Young and Clint Burns,

took third place and received individual bronze medals. Wil was the point scoring leader with 260 individual points, with Ethan contributing 130 points out of the team total of 415 points for the meet. Wil had a high-point game of 70 points.

Both teams had five wins and two losses in league play.

Last meet of the season

On Jan. 28, the Junior High Scholars' Bowl teams had their last meet of the season at Goodland. Cheylin was the only 1A school in attendance.

Both teams were able to win 50 percent of their games.

"They didn't place but put in a very strong showing against larger schools," said Marjean Zumbahlen, junior high Scholars' Bowl coach.

For the eighth grade, Wil scored 180 total points, followed by Ethan with 120. Ethan had the high game with 40 points.

For the seventh grade, Stephanie had 170 points for the meet and a high game of 30 points.

Board votes to allow changes to card policy

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After the approving the monthly consented agenda, the meeting opened with students Lincoln Pochop and Kaedra Dixon addressing the members on the topic of the Cheylin High School Card Incentive Program.

Student incentive cards are issued to students who have made some positive accomplishments such as raising their grades, proper behavior and attendance requirements from the previous nine weeks. With the cards, come special school privileges.

The students wanted to make an addendum to the present incentive card policy that certain absences would not penalize the student's card. Specifically, absences related to education-based events that are un-sponsored by the school, or a student who is driven to the event by someone other than a faculty member.

The discussion opened with concern over liability for the students and the school's responsibility if something were to happen.

Rod Young, board member, expressed concern that limits should be put in place so that the privilege of going to these events would not be misused.

"Why can't it be done?" asked Hal Antholz, president. "What they are asking for is for the absences not count against their card. They are still going to go to these events regardless."

After much discussion, the question of liability was directed to James Milliken, city attorney, who said there could be a possibility of liability if an incident does occur, but has not seen such a case yet.

Superintendent David Zumbahlen suggested adding an addendum to the Cheylin High School Card Incentive Program to say that students can go to scholarship interviews/testing and seminars with an unsponsored driver and the absences will not count on their incentive cards provided they follow the school requirements for above mentioned events and provide the documents proving attendance.

Mr. Young expressed concern over limits being put in place. The discussion then was about the card being a privilege that is earned and can be taken away if the student abuses it. Superintendent Zumbahlen added, "If the policy addendum

proves to be a problem, the policy can be changed. Effective immediately." Motion carried to add addendum.

Action items

Vanessa Antholz, Kaedra Dixon and Colleen Shrader were commended for being selected to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-Academic team.

Motion was carried to disapprove the request made by Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Binning to allow Rawlins County school bus to enter the district beyond statutory limits to pick up their children.

Marjean Zumbahlen's resignation as sixth grade teacher was accepted.

Anita Pochop's resignation from the concession stand that will be in affect for the next school year was accepted.

Fuel

Farm diesel fuel lock-in price for the diesel school was brought to the board for discussion. The Coop is setting the price at \$2.90 without taxes. It could be set for nine or three months at a time.

The discussion turned to fuel usage in the past and what it could be in the future. Mr. Young pointed out that the surcharge on delivery of the fuel was not locked in. There was further discussion on looking more into the matter; no action was taken.

Information items

Some of the items discussed were:

- Superintendent Zumbahlen reported the school continues to improve on the website. He wants parents and students to have an easier access to class lessons.

- A preliminary draft of next year's school calendar was presented to the board. The board will bring suggestions to March's meeting.

- The board looked over plans for a potential summer project that is the McDonald cafeteria.

- "Before the plans can become legal, there needs to be an architect to sign the plans," the superintendent said. The board agreed to hire an architect to proceed.

- Jan Busse, board member, wanted clarification on the school's nepotism policy. Superintendent's Zumbahlen explained that the policy was made so that family members, or family by marriage, cannot be hired by the board for a non-

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State official plans to visit St. Francis

Congressman Jerry Moran will visit Cheyenne County during his annual Big First Listening Tour. He will be in St. Francis at Main Street Coffee, 216 W. Washington, from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21. All area residents are urged to attend.

Congressman Moran is visiting communities in each of the 69 counties of the First Congressional District. During the tour, the congressman will travel more than 5,000 miles to visit with area residents and learn about issues important to Kansans.

Cheylin to play 1A Regional games

Cheylin will be involved in the 1A basketball Regionals to be held in Tribune/Greeley County the week of Feb. 18.

This is a seven-team bracket and other schools involved besides Greeley County and Cheylin are Brewster, St. Francis, Wallace County/Sharon Springs, Weskan and Triplains.

The Cougars begin play on Monday and the Lady Cougars on Tuesday. Teams will not be seeded until after the newspaper's deadline with information being

available at the school. The first games will be played at the site of the team with the better record.

The top two teams in the Regional tournament will advance to two different sub-state tournaments the following week at the Colby Community Building or Hays-Felton Middle School in Hays.

The Substate winners will advance to the State tournament at Hays at the Fort Hays State University Coliseum on March 5 through March 8.