



VANCE CHURCHWELL keeps a steady pace during Cheylin's first track meet on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



COMING AROUND THE CURVE, Kenan Reeh takes long running strides at the track meet held at Cheylin.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Four coaches, four expertises, one great team

By Colleen Shrader

These past few weeks have been busy for the young athletes of Cheylin middle and high school. Preparing for their first track meet, the coaches have been even busier. There are four coaches this season with each concentrating on one certain area.

Officially, Jolene Reeh and Max Keltz are the middle school coaches while the high school coaches are Morgan Grippin and Bobbie Walden. However, during practices all four help the athletes.

Coach Grippin specializes in the running and hurdling events at practice, but he is very knowledgeable on all aspects of track.

"He oversees it all," said Bobbie Walden, assistant coach.

Morgan is a Great Bend High School and Fort Hays State University graduate. He currently resides in Goodland with his wife and two young boys.

Teaching at Cheylin grades kindergarten through grade 12 is something Mr. Grippin has always enjoyed. In his high

school days, he ran hurdles for the Great Bend team in which he was successful. As a coach, he has had one two Cheylin athletes break school records and one qualify for State.

Other sports that he has coached include Cheylin high school basketball, fourth, fifth and sixth grades Great Bend and Hays basketball teams, and Cheylin junior high football.

Fourth year Cheylin track coach, Morgan Grippin said, "I am excited for the upcoming season. We have a lot of kids who do a lot of different events, should be a competitive year."

Assistant high school coach, Mrs. Walden specializes in statistics, timing, and running. At track meets, a person is sure to find Coach Walden with a clipboard and pencil as she keeps track of measurements, distances and times. This is her fourth year as assistant track coach. She has also coached junior high cheer for five years and high school for four.

As some may know, Mrs. Walden has lived in many different states including Indiana,

Florida, Tennessee, Kansas, and her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. At Louisville, Mrs. Walden attended a large school and had a graduating class of 400 students.

"I didn't participate in sports because of the large tryouts and always felt like I missed out on things," she said.

Mrs. Walden found a different look at things when moving to Bird City in 1993 with her husband Tony Walden and two children, Mandie and Chris.

Coach Walden has worked at Cheylin schools for five years as a para. Her past jobs include working for Kay Jewelers in Kentucky and Tennessee as an assistant manager and working in management at a clothing chain called Brooks Fashions.

Coach Walden is excited about the track season ahead.

"I have enjoyed coaching Cheer and Track and being with the kids, she said. "Track is always fun and we are looking forward to a successful year."

Coach Reeh's specialty has always been in jumping both as a coach and in her past. Mrs.

Reeh's past is full of successful track memories as she began running track at Iola High School as a sophomore and participated in the Kansas State Indoor and Outdoor track meets her junior and senior years. In high school Mrs. Reeh also started varsity basketball her junior and senior years as the team won the league title both years and ran cross country her senior year. After graduating from Iola, she attended Allen County Community College in Iola, running track as a college freshman.

Mrs. Reeh participated in track at Kansas State University her sophomore through senior years of college as a pentathlete. She ran individual events in the 100- and 400-meter hurdles, high jump, long jump and relays. Manhattan was Jolene's home while attended KSU and then later made Bartlesville Okla., was home. She also lived in Georgetown, Colo., before moving to Rawlins County.

After graduating from college, Mrs. Reeh was a high school business teacher for 3

years before marrying her husband, Bob Reeh. She helped on the family farm and rented out the ground.

Today, she is a substitute teacher at Cheylin kindergarten through grade 12 and a middle school track coach.

"I have always loved track and field, and look forward to my second year of coaching at Cheylin," Coach Reeh said. "I like the way we separate into areas of our expertise with me working with the jumpers and hurdlers with both middle school and high school. I think that Coaches Grippin, Walden, Keltz, and I work well together. I get inspired by Coaches Kendall Cahoj and Nick Ketzner. They are also new coaches (this past school year) with lots of enthusiasm. They have many great ideas for Cheylin athletes."

At practice, the throwers can be found with Coach Keltz. Max Keltz has always enjoyed working with the throwers throughout the last two years. When first starting coaching, Mr. Keltz worked with all events



for the junior high. This year actually marks 8 years of track coaching and 19 years of working at the school for Keltz.

In his past, Mr. Keltz graduated from Labette County High School and Kansas State University with a master in agricultural education. He also attended Coffeyville Community College.

Coach Keltz says, "I see some talent and ability with all of the athletes. I see some older kids that could qualify for state and I believe the junior high athletes will make a good challenge for the league title."

## Commissioners are asked to consider raising allotment

By Karen Krien

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The hospital administrator, as well as three members of the hospital board, asked the commissioners to consider raising the amount of money allotted to the board. The commissioners listened to the request, then asked that the administrator list exactly what the board was asking for and then the amount will be considered when the budget is set.

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, and board members, Traci Neitzel, Joy Anderegg and Jerry Toler, met with the commissioners Monday morning. The board has been receiving \$525,000 a year for the last 12 years. Now, considering the inflation rate over that time, they figured that they could be receiving \$750,000. However, all they are asking for is \$650,000, which is \$125,000 more than they are now getting.

He said that the board has been sensitive to the ag condition through the years and that was one reason why they hadn't

asked for additional money.

Mr. Lacy said the money received from the county is considered "board funds" and is used as needed. He said that the hospital and board has been able to weather shortfalls in reimbursements such as when the hospital was underpaid by the medicare program but noted that the board has control of the money.

He talked about establishing a limit for the funded depreciation, noting that it is a useful fund and could help the board to never be in a position that they ask for general obligation bonds.

Mr. Lacy said that the board is seeking grant funding to remodel the kitchen and tax credits to finish the labor/deliver room. He said that the fire marshal sited the east basement doorway for being to short. However, did not demand it be fixed immediately. Mr. Lacy said the cement steps are in poor condition and if they are fixed, the door will need to be raised. There is a parking problem around the hospital and the east side of the

lot could be used for additional parking. This project could possibly be included in the kitchen remodel grant.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, talked about county valuations going down instead of going up, pointing out that the grassland in the state has been classified as wasteland instead of pastureland. The also talked about when the gas and oil wells might bring the valuation up, although no one had any answers.

Mr. Lacy said that the tax valuation in homes where there is a hospital and clinic is significantly higher. He added that not only does the hospital now have two physicians but they have also taken on the county health office.

Andy Beikman, chairman, said he had heard a number of people saying that they think the hospital is going in the right direction. He asked for the board's request in writing and turned into the commissioners before they started working on the budget.



PATTY GERVER taking advantage of the free tax preparation service provided by Johnene Cheney to everyone 60 years and older.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Seniors get free tax service

By Linda Schneider  
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Every Tuesday until April 15, Johnene Cheney, certified to practice before the IRS, will be at both the Bird City and McDonald Senior Centers to help seniors with their tax preparation.

With 25 years experience specializing in individual and small businesses Federal and State income tax returns, Ms.

Cheney has recently been given a grant through the McDonald Area Development Endowment Foundation to assist senior citizens in preparing their 1040A forms to receive the maximum returns from their taxes.

This is the first year that this service has been made available to anyone 60 years old and older, and it is free.

"It is very important to file your taxes this year because if

you do not, you will not receive that extra money from the Economic Stimulus Rebate," said Ms. Cheney

To find out more about the Economic Stimulus Payment schedule and calculate your rebate, go to the website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

