



DANCING TO THE SONG 'Devil With A Blue Dress On', Amanda Walden captures the 2009 Cheyenne County Young Miss title.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Bird City girl wins Young Miss title

By Karen Krien
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Bird City girl, Amanda Walden, took home the title of 2009 Cheyenne County Young Miss at Saturday's program. She was one of 11 girls performing.

Held in the school auditorium in St. Francis, the first runner up was Andrea Holzwarth, St. Francis; second runner up was Courtney Douthit, St. Francis, and third was Sydney Busse, Bird City. Nikki Johnson, Bird City, was voted as the Contestant's Choice Award.

Each contestant was judged in the categories: Academics, Individual Interview, Performing Arts which was the talent they performed on Saturday evening, Endurance in the special presentation; and Grace and Elegance, as, in evening gowns, they were presented to the judges. The Academics category is worth 30 percent of the scoring.

Sydney earned the Academics award. Jami Pevler was presented the Individual Interview award. Andrea earned the Grace and Elegance award and the Endurance Award. Courtney dancing to "I Fought The Law," won the Performing Arts award.

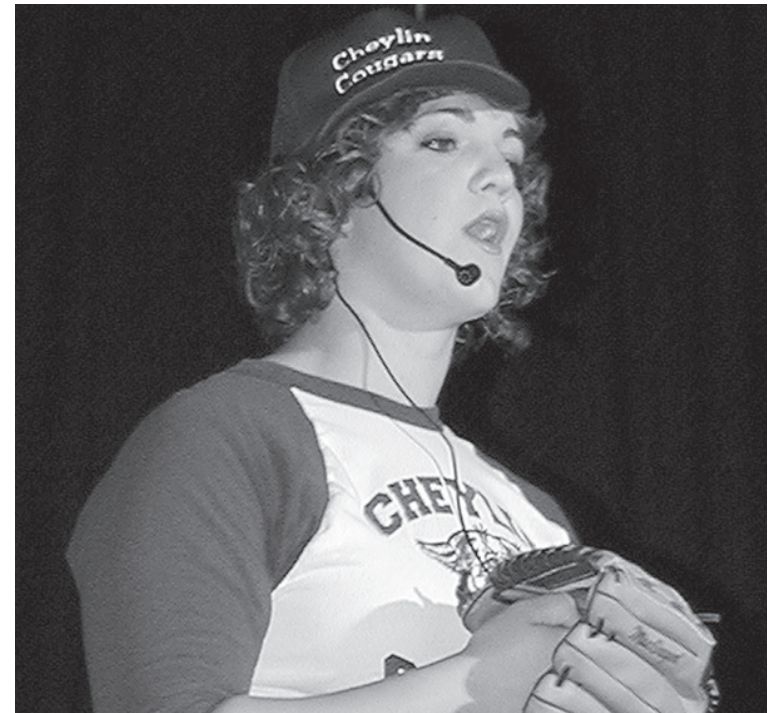
Others competing were Cara Hunt, Kimberly Voeller, Joni Pevler, Taylor Kennedy and Sarah Guthmiller.

The 2008 Cheyenne County Young Miss, Holly Keller, was introduced during the program and gave several special numbers. Emcees were David and Talley Morrow, who, with humor, helped keep the show moving.

During the intermission, a slide show presentation of the week's activities was shown.

There was a change in escorts during the Grace and Elegance part of the program. Young men escorting the contestants were Matt Raile, Trent Raile and Drew Zweggardt.

Judges for the Young Miss program were Amanda Weissbeck, Topeka; Richard Bartholomew, Benkelman; Mary Joe Cress, Sterling, Colo.; Lindsay Stamm, Benkelman; and Cindy Preston, Benkelman. The scholastic judges included a panel with educational backgrounds.



SINGING 'Take Me Out To The Ball Game' is Sydney Busse who was third runner up. Below, Nikki Johnson was voted the Contestant's Choice Award.

Times staff photos by Karen Krien



Vickie Cress, director of the Young Miss program, said the goal of the Cheyenne County Young Miss is to boost self-esteem, build character, encourage educational value, motivate creativity and stimulate competitiveness in college-bound senior girls. The contestants are also awarded numerous scholarships. The 2010 Cheyenne County Young Miss program has been set for the third weekend in June 2009. This year's juniors will be the participants.

Weeds, a concern

By Karen Krien
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The county noxious weed supervisor was concerned about bind weed in the county, especially south of Bird City.

Supervisor Dan Schlittenhardt said bind weed at the Gary and Deb Winters place was getting out of hand. He had sprayed the ditches last year but it is back again and it is coming from the land owned by the Winters. It is spreading from the ditch, over the road and to the opposite ditch.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said he had been accused of being rude and trespassing as Mr. Winters said he had been on his property to inspect the bind weed growth. Mr. Schlittenhardt said, that as county weed inspector, he has the right to go on property to check for noxious weeds (bind weed is considered "noxious"). He also said that Mr. Winters had received letters from the county attorney concerning prairie dogs but, when Mr. Schlittenhardt was out at the Winters' property, a dog ran across the road and they have made mounds on the roadside and in the ditch.

"He is uncooperative," Mr. Schlittenhardt said, noting that the Sherman County weed supervisor had the same problem on the Winters' land in that county.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said he had recently spent two hours spraying bind weed in that area. Commissioner Andy Beikman said to figure the hours he had spent in that area prior to this time. A letter from the county attorney will be sent to the Winters addressing the noxious weed problem.



THE COUGARS TAKE TIME out during a baseball game to get pep talks from Coaches Dan Carson and Tony Salcida.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cougars together again!



On Saturday and Sunday the Cheylin Cougar baseball tournament was held in Wauneta, Neb.

After two years of not having a baseball team, the Cougars were excited about playing together and winning. However, winning did not come for the young team at the weekend tournament. And the last game of the series against Wauneta was called off due to severe weather.

The players had improved greatly since their first practice in May. In addition, for the season, they won two and lost two, winning one game in a final strikeout pitch by Martin Veleta in the last inning against St. Francis.

For some of the players, this was the first year they had played baseball or been on a team. The youngest players were Kevin S-

trada and Christopher Antholz. Both of them showed team enthusiasm and eagerness to learn the game. They played in the outfield.

Blaine Burns and Martin Veleta were the team's regular pitchers and together they were voted Most Valuable Players for the season.

"The team played well together and I know Cheylin has not have a baseball team for two years. They showed improvement at every game," said Coach Tony Salcida.

Coach Dan Carson had the players try different positions to find their strengths. On first base, Jacob Brubaker proved to be quick with getting opponents out. He filled in for the catcher many times.

For much of the season, Connor Hazuka played the catcher's position. When the pitcher threw the ball, he did a good job of keeping it from going astray. Connor also was a relief pitcher and pitched a few innings.

Another relief pitcher, Casey Vandike, also played shortstop and assisted in the outfield as some of the players had no previous experience playing baseball.

"It was great to see some of the older and more experienced players give pep talks to the younger players," said Coach Linda Schneider.

It was teamwork for the outfielders, Reece Leonard and Ivan Kemp, who would cover second base when Derrick Vandike had to chase down a ball.

Letters sent to interested people

By Karen Krien
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The emergency medical service director reported that she had sent out 42 letters to people who might be interested in taking a first responder class. The announcement was made at the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.

Jannelle Bowers, director, said an informational meeting had been planned for Tuesday, July 1. She was hoping that some of those who had received letters would come to the meeting.

She said Mike Hanson is trained to teach the class. There is a chance, she said, that they might be able to get an educational grant which would pay \$320 per student. In return, the students taking the class will give one year of service back to the county.

She talked about having a railroad Medicare claim. In order to process the claim, she would need a different computer and program. She said Midwest Billing in Newton will bill \$50 per claim.

She said she had talked to personnel from Prairie State Radio about getting the base radio at the hospital fixed. There was one at the ambulance office but it was

very old. If it could be fixed, it would still need parts which might be next to impossible to get. The repairman said Prairie States has radios which are being traded in which will serve the purpose in receiving radio transmission while in the basement of the hospital. The commissioners asked her to get a price on one of the used radios.

Mrs. Bowers was given permission to attend a service director training workshop in Salina. She also asked to take Mr. Hanson and possibly another technician. The commissioners also approved for the cost of \$200 per person plus the mileage, rooms and meals.

Mrs. Bowers had submitted the 2009 ambulance department budget. She said when the commissioners review the figures, she, other technicians and Dr. Mary Beth Miller would like to be present. She said that she had also included what it would cost to have full-time technicians, noting that volunteers often have to drop their job and they lose their pay for that time. She said that Dr. Miller's idea is to keep the service of volunteers as it is presently.

Bird City Times
will be closed
on July 4th

