



FANS OF THE CHEYLIN COUGARS were able to get a glimpse of their favorite team on Friday. During the soap scrimmage game the players get to try out their skills, Caleb Keltz #12, hands the football to one of his team mates. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

New school year, new students, new staff

By Linda Schneider
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Cheylin opened its school doors on Aug. 18, with a student count of 134. The numbers are down from 143 for the 2007-08 ending school year. Jane Young, district clerk, says the exact number of students who have

enrolled for 2008-09 will be announced the end of September.

After attending school half days for two weeks, the kindergarten class is now going full-days Tuesday through Thursday.

Cheylin school has also seen a change in the staff for this

new year. Not only Superintendent William Porter, but several new faces in the classrooms. Cristi Antholz is teaching the fifth grade, Janice Churchwell is teaching language/math for ninth graders, Kale Schields is teaching sixth grade and Jeremy Stefan, P.E./health.

The school held its first open house on Aug. 25 with an ice cream social that followed. Parents and students filled the hallways as they made their way to the different classrooms to meet with teachers.

The Cougar high school football team along with the

volleyball team held a soap scrimmage last Friday. The volleyball team played their first game on Tuesday and has two games today (Thursday), both in the Cheylin gym. The high school football team will play on Friday at Haxton. The junior high football team will play

their first game today (Thursday) at home.

The Cheylin cheer squad and dance team will be having a lot of school pep rallies to cheer and support the Cougars.

Sept. 19, Cheylin will be having homecoming activities and playing against Wauneta.

Council approves payment for pool expenses

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City Council quorum was met for the September meeting; however, at the request of Councilwoman Deb Smith the approval of the August meeting minutes were tabled until next month because Councilman Frank Serrano was the only member from the last meeting to attend the present meeting.

Pool expenses

Mayor Troy Burr read a letter from Cheylin Recreation Commission requesting \$673.96, the expenses for the pool, paint and supplies used. This request was based on an agreement between the city and the commission to share expenses. The commission wrote that they had agreed not to charge the city for half the labor expense, which was part of the agreement.

Tabetha Ketzner, city clerk,

asked where the payment would come from because the pool fund was over budgeted. Mayor Burr said that payment would be from the city general funds.

Craig White, city maintenance, asked about the labor agreement the city had with the Commission. The reason was that city maintenance had spent a few days working on the pool.

Mayor Burr said that taxpayers' money goes to the Recreation Commission and the agreement was the city would do structural repair and provide water at no cost to the Commission. The city and Commission jointly share the supplies, replacement of filter and heater, winterizing the pool and jointly obtain liability insurance.

Mr. White said that he just did not thoroughly understand the labor agreement. Mayor

Burr said that the city was able to do the work and should without keeping track of hours. Councilwoman Smith said that the city was probably getting the better end of the deal. They approved to pay the bill.

Terrorist insurance

The council discussed the payment of the annual Traveler's Insurance of \$12,851 to Wright Insurance Company. This raised the coverage by \$75,000 and dropped the premium by \$133.

The coverage included the \$89 premium for terrorist insurance but, did the council want to continue with the coverage. While Bird City may not be a terrorist target, Mayor Burr mentioned that a terrorist act could include the city's water system. They approved to pay the insurance.

Building permits

Two building permits were approved by the council. Darlene Burr for remodeling family residence by putting up an awning over the backyard porch. Canda Orten, approved to remodel existing structure by putting in a driveway and sidewalk.

Tree contamination

The recent concern of over spraying tree with herbicides was addressed at the meeting. County Extension agent, Joe Leibbrandt, responded to a request by the city to answer a concern by Councilman Serrano of the possibility of over spray by city maintenance.

Mr. Leibbrandt reported from his findings that the damage done to the local trees was caused largely by hot and dry weather such as leaf scorch. In addition, ironchlorosis due to iron deficiencies and witch broom were identified as problems.

Miller and Associates

The council tabled a payment request from Miller and Associates for contracted work done on the waste water lagoon for the month of August until Chris Miller, owner of Miller and Associates, attends a council meeting and brings the members up-to-date on the construction progress.

Council purchases

The council approved purchase of a Rhino 1540 hydraulic blade for moving snow and dirt from Ken Gerdes for \$2,500 with a \$1,000 trade-in for the old blade. In addition, \$10,000 was approved to purchase gravel for city streets, size of gravel to be at Craig White's discretion.

Councilman White reported that a local resident had offered the city the use of his airless painter to try before buying one. Council members agreed to hold the purchase until later.

Miscellaneous items

Ending the meeting, council members:

- Approved a city resolution to have two signatures on city checks.

- Accepted the bid of \$487 for Carmichael Roofing to repair the roof on Well 4.

- Approved proceeding with a bi-yearly city newsletter. Postage cost was approved.

- Learned there was 11 percent water loss for August, 10 percent loss is good and 15 percent and over loss is not good.

- Approved the price of \$2.28 per gallon for 1,000 gallons of propane for various propane needs.

- Approved advertising sealed bids on pipe and motor from Well 4.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 6.

One year later and thriving

Second Beginnings thrift store held its one-year anniversary sale on Friday and Saturday.

Cindy Burr, owner and operator, was on hand to offer customers special prices on end of the summer clothes and other items. For \$10, the customer could fill a grocery sack with goodies from around the store.

The sale was primarily to commemorate Second Beginnings' first year in business and make way for fall and winter items.

Second Beginnings is a for profit business, but throughout the year have made donations to various organizations and for community events. Mrs. Burr has donated denim jeans to the United Methodists Comfort Ministry who then make quilts. She also supports, through donations, local projects like the American Legion Auxiliary, SOS, Cheylin Music and Drama departments, Santa Day and Christmas food boxes.

"It is through the generous support from the community, whether donating or buying items that makes this work," said Cindy. "And the help from the volunteers who have been with me since opening day, Bonnie Burr, Diane Krebs, Cheryl Weishapl and Marlene Young."



SECOND BEGINNINGS thrift store pays special attention to clean and neat displays. Maria Olivares from St. Francis takes advantage of the special anniversary sale going on Saturday.

Nurse takes county job

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Health Department has a new county health nurse.

At the Aug. 28 hospital board meeting, administrator, Les Lacy, said Mila Bandel, R.N., had accepted the position of county health nurse. She will begin on Sept. 5.

Mr. Lacy said Mrs. Bandel is excited about the job and has many plans. He noted that there is the Emergency Preparedness responsibilities handled by that department that are very important as well.

Working 24 hours a week, she will be dividing time between St. Francis and Bird City. She will be re-assessing needs in the county.

Mr. Lacy said there had been some extensive work to get the PanFlu and Emergency Preparedness work plans completed in a timely fashion.

The administrator said that Lori Bunjes, LPN, had joined the hospital staff and will be pursuing a registered nurse degree. Dana Rose is a certified nurses aide who will take on some aide and ward clerk duties. She is also interested in going on to nursing school.

He noted that Darrel Reed, lab technician, will be in school through December but when he has completed his training, he will be the only certified ul-

trasound technician in the area. This will permit a full range of ultrasound services at the hospital.

Laura Robins has been hired as a receptionist/admissions clerk, filling the job vacated by Susanne Todd. Melissa Hoyes came from Kansas City to fill a registered nurse position. Tim Koger, radiology technician, has been hired to fill a position in the radiology department.

Mr. Lacy said there have been more patients staying in the hospital in August. The outpatient volume has also improved over past months. He noted that on Aug. 27, there had been 11 patients in the hospital as well as nine surgeries. It was an extremely busy time, he said.

Golf tournament

The hospital-sponsored "Swing Fore Your Health" golf tournament will be held Sunday. Mr. Lacy said Heidi Tice, Shawna Blanka and Mila Bandel have been the organizers of the tournament this year but also noted that there are others who have helped.

He encouraged the board to come out to the tournament. The money earned from the tournament will go toward needed major kitchen appliances. After more than 50 years, the hospital's kitchen needs to be remodeled and updated to improve work flow and ease of sanitation.

Board member, Traci Neitzel and Jane Young, said they would be glad to help but they didn't play golf. Other members indicated they would also be there.

Report on conference

Recently, Mr. Lacy, along with board members, Joy Anderson and Jerry Toler, attended the 2008 Perspective in Rural Healthcare Board and Executive Educational Conference in Greeley, Colo. Mr. Toler noted that in the next couple of years, there will be challenges to keep up with Medicare. In the last 11 years, Medicare has increased its pay 23 percent but costs have risen 48 percent. He added that less than 1 percent is paid to critical access hospitals, which is what the county hospital is classified.

In other business

In other business:

- The shore power receptacle for the MRI truck had been installed.

- Kathy Hertel, director of materials management, reported on the department. (See related article.)

Next meeting

The next meeting has been set for 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, in the clinic basement, St. Francis. Tenille Lee, director of nurses, will talk about purchasing/leasing EKG monitors for the hospital.