



FOURTH GRADERS, (L) Arais Castillo, Haleigh Rucker and Jacqueline Chacon practice for their performance on Kansas Day.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Filing for seats come in slowly

By Karen Krien

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The deadline for filing for seats on Bird City or St. Francis city councils, Bird City mayor and Cheylin or St. Francis school boards is noon on Tuesday.

Terry Miller, county election officer, reported that those filing are coming in slowly. As of Tuesday, there has been no one filing for St. Francis City Council and Derrick Tice has filed for a seat on the St. Francis Board of Education;

In Bird City, no one has filed for the city council. On the board of education, Belinda Serrano, George Louderbaugh, Anita Pochop and Jim Cahoj have filed.

Cindy Burr has filed for a seat on the Sunflower Extension Board.

Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, said there has been a lot of interest shown in the election with people calling and picking up filing information. Again, she reminds those wanting to file that they have until Tuesday to do so.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be filled by the candidates with the most votes in the March 3 election.

To run for a seat on the city council, the candidate must live within the city limits.

School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidates running in a district, there will be a primary election on March 3, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.

City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are three city council seats up for election.

Those St. Francis members whose terms are up are: Rodney Bracelin, Natalie Knodel and Carla Lampe

Bird City — There are two seats on the city council plus the position of mayor up for election. The council positions are currently being served by Deb Smith and Wade Carmichael. Troy Burr is the mayor of Bird City.

Board of education

St. Francis — There are three seats up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. Positions and the people currently serving are: District 3, position 6, Pete Raile; District 1, position 4, Bruce Feikert; and District 2, position 5, Kelly Gienger.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board of Education has four seats up for election including District 1, position 1, George Louderbaugh; District 2, position 6, Doyle Bock; District 1, position 3, Don Orten (Mr. Orten was recently sworn in, replacing Anita Pochop) and Member At Large, Belinda Serrano.

Those positions up on the Sunflower Extension District 6 board are those of Cindy Burr and Penny Gienger.

How to file

Those filing will need to either pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures to the county clerk located in the courthouse. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

No withdrawing names

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

Bird City celebrates Kansas Day

Every year, Bird City and Topeka hold a Kansas Day celebration. This year is no exception.

The Bird City Legion Hall will be the site of the celebration. Registration begins at 10:30 and a potluck meal follows at noon. Entertainment will include performances by Cheylin and St. Francis students, the St. Francis Singers and the Swingin' Seniors.

The highlight of the day will be when Dr. Arnold Schofield, Kansas historian, speaks.

For those who might miss Kansas Day activities, he will also be at Ye Olde Country Church, St. Francis, that evening at 7. Dr. Schofield will speak to the Historical Society about the Kidder Massacre and Fort Wallace. Everyone interested is urged to attend this presentation.

History of Kansas Day in Bird City

Cheyenne County has celebrated Kansas Day since 1930.

The Mother's Circle of the Bird City Methodist Church organized the first celebration, a "Kansas Day Picnic" which turned into an all day affair. Again in 1931 the Bird City community celebrated Kansas Day with skits, dances, poems and songs.

Year by year the Kansas Day

Historian speaks at Kansas Day

Arnold W. Schofield, Kansas historian, will be the guest speaker at Cheyenne County's 80th Kansas Day observance in Bird City on Thursday, Jan. 29. He will also make presentations at local schools and at Ye Olde Country Church, St. Francis, for the Historical Society that same day.

Dr. Schofield was raised in Newton Upper Falls, Mass. He served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1966, and attended college on the GI-Bill. Currently he holds the position of superintendent of the Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site and Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Sites in Linn County.

Before joining the Kansas State Historical Society, Dr.

Schofield retired from 43 years of federal service that included 25 years as the historian and cultural resource specialist at Fort Scott National Historic Site. He is a frequent lecturer at universities and a public speaker on Westward Expansion, Kansas History and the Civil War.

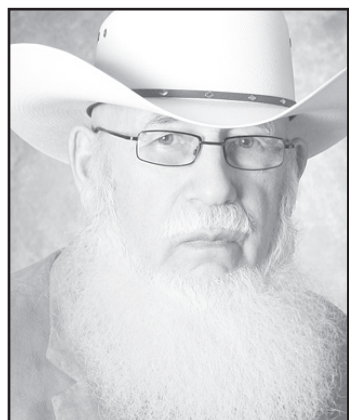
Dr. Schofield has been actively involved in Civil War Battlefield Preservation for more than 30 years and is one of the founders of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation that was established in 1999. To date the foundation has raised more than \$1,000,000 and purchased 306 acres of battlefield land. The objective of this foundation is to assist the state of Kansas in the preservation, protection and interpretation of the Mine Creek Battlefield.

celebration grew in popularity.

In 1935, a set of by-laws was accepted by the Kansas Day organization. The object was to promote and maintain the proper observance of Kansas Day in

Cheyenne County.

On Jan. 29, 1958, a blizzard struck Cheyenne County. This is the only time residents did not gather for the Kansas Day celebration. In 1971 the observance



Schofield

Dr. Schofield is married to Clara Martens who is the director of social services at Mercy Hospital. They and their son, Austin, live in Fort Scott with "Mr. Gritt's" their house cat.

Dr. Schofield will speak on Jan. 29 at the Legion Hall in Bird City. That evening at 7, he will be at Ye Olde Country Church to speak to the Historical Society about the Kidder Massacre and Fort Wallace. Everyone interested is urged to attend.

was moved to the Bird City Legion Hall. Kansas Day activities are still held there.

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## Cheylin hosts first meeting

By Linda Schneider  
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Community Coffee held its first meeting Wednesday, Jan. 14, with Superintendent Bill Porter on hand to answer questions.

The meeting was held in the Cheylin cafeteria and attendees were treated to cinnamon rolls and coffee.

Several topics were discussed such as the upcoming board of education election, the school's new website, school budget and home schoolers.

One of the first questions asked was "Is the new website up and running?" asked Jan Busse.

Superintendent Porter told the group that as of that morning, it was. He continued by saying that if parents were concerned about passwords, they could call Loretta Rucker, school secretary, for the information.

Mrs. Busse asked Superintendent Porter if it was possible to have the board of education meeting agenda available to interested people before the meeting. He told her that was something she could address before the board members and let them approve of it.

The group also discussed at length the upcoming board of education election. One concern was with four seats available, it would take time to get the new members up-to-date on all the activities going on at Cheylin.

Superintendent Porter talked about student enrollment and said that new students and students who have moved away have balanced out. Sylvia Hubbard asked about possible funding cuts. Superintendent Porter replied that, for this year, it is fine, but expect large funding cuts in the next school year, as much as \$90,000 possible.

Mrs. Hubbard suggested that by allowing home schooled students to attend part-time classes and be part of school sports, this may help in keeping the enrollment up. She added that Triplains School does allow home schoolers to participate.

"What do you project student enrollment over the next two to three years?" asked Rod Young.

Superintendent Porter replied that with the dairy migrant workers, it changes.

Dan Carson suggested having the local churches ask for

volunteers to help at the school. Superintendent Porter said that anyone could help, just get with the teachers and plan it.

Mr. Carson also brought up the fact that coaches need to know the exact time of home games. He added that typically, he knows the day and place, but not the time; could the schedule be uploaded on the website? In addition, Mr. Young asked if the board of education agenda could be uploaded onto the website. Superintendent Porter simply said he should ask the board members.

There were a lot of questions at the first Community Coffee meeting and many not answered. However, Superintendent Porter wrote down the questions he did not have an answer for and said he would look into them.

As the meeting closed, he told the group that he hopes to have one meeting per semester, so look forward to one in April or May.



DURING THE FIRST Community Coffee meeting, Superintendent Bill Porter (bottom left) listens as Gary Burbaker (top left), Sylvia Hubbard (top right), Jan Busse and Dan Carson ask questions and speak about concerns they have.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider