

## Locals enjoy party in park

It was an overcast day on Sunday, but with the weather holding its own and not raining, Cinco de Mayo in Bird City had nearly 150 people show up for good authentic Mexican food and games.

Many locals and visitors stopped in the Van Doren Park shelter house and enjoyed a meal of chicken mole, a dish with over 100 ingredients including chocolate! Frijoles soup (bean), tostadas, and sopapillas (a cinnamon pastry.) In addition, horchata, a rice and cinnamon drink.

After the meal, the children gathered around piñatas and knocked the stuffing right out of them. Candy flew everywhere! It was a time of celebration with friends and family.



LUIS REYNOSO TAKES a good whack at the pinata during Sunday's Cinco de Mayo party as the rest look on and wait for a turn.  
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## City amends budget, pool will open

By Linda Schneider  
dublinls@hotmail.com

After several months of discussions and negotiations, Bird City City Council was able to start the process of acquiring the responsibility for operating the public pool from the Recreation Commission. The opening day of the pool is scheduled for Memorial weekend.

During the May meeting, Mayor Troy Burr told the council members the Recreation Commission was not going to accept a contracted agreement concerning the dispersal of funds for this season. He continued by saying the city had to move ahead with an amended budget to allow the pool to be opened for this summer.

Phyllis Carson, city treasurer, presented the members with the amended budget of \$30,000 taken from the city's general fund. Motion carried to approve the amended budget. This would allow the city to accept funds from the Recreation Commission as income and use it as needed. The council then moved ahead to begin the clean up and repair of the pool and pool house.

Mayor Burr discussed a motion to allow the Pool Operation Committee, comprised of Councilmen Ray

Magnani and Wade Carmichael, and Jane Young, to have a spending limit to begin the work on the pool. Motion carried to allow a \$3,000 spending limit.

"This would allow the committee to begin work without having to wait for council approval until next month's meeting," said Mayor Burr.

First on the list of things to do is purchase a hot water heater for the pool house. Councilman Carmichael reported a water heater could cost approximately \$950. Next, was the removal of the rubber mat in the pool house and replace with non-skid paint. He said it was a safety issue and by removing the rubber mat, mold would not be able to grow as easily.

Councilman Magnani suggested having volunteers help with cleaning up the pool and the members thought it was a good idea.

"It would be a good idea to have the swim team help," said Councilman Sager.

Mayor Burr said that if funds should run out before the swim season is over, the pool may have to close earlier than expected; however, he did not believe it would be sooner than August.

## Road work delayed

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkans.com

Road construction on K-27 from U.S. 36 to the Nebraska-Kansas state line, which was supposed to start in May, has been delayed.

Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said that the contractor will be working on a stretch of highway near Phillipsburg which will take

approximately 30 days depending upon weather conditions. He estimates work to begin in Cheyenne County sometime in June.

The job is to be completed within 60 working days so it looks like there will be highway construction during wheat harvest time. This could cause some delays as there are no detours scheduled.

## Cheylin begins the process of selecting new superintendent

By Linda Schneider  
dublinls@hotmail.com

Last Thursday, Mike Lucas, McPherson and Jacobson search firm, Smith Center, met with community members and school staff to establish a search criteria for the Cheylin superintendent/principal. The new superintendent is scheduled to start July 1.

For more than an hour, Mr. Lucas discussed the process needed to find the right leader for the Cheylin School. He told the group that his firm, McPherson and Jacobson, is committed to getting the job done. He added he would be presenting 12 candidates to the board members in a later meeting.

"We are doing this search for free and charging only for advertising and my travel expenses," said Mr. Lucas. "And we are here to assist the board members in selecting a great leader that will bring your community together."

Mr. Lucas opened the floor with questions from a group of approximately 10 people by asking, "What are some of the things you would like to see in the superintendent?"

Here were some of the answers: good leader, visible in the community, outgoing, good communication with staff, stu-

dents and community and help with volunteering.

Gerald Pochop, McDonald, suggested the superintendent attend community functions such as church services/potlucks, Community Club, and McDonald Area Development meetings.

Mr. Lucas mentioned the employment pool was very good and Cheylin had many good benefits such as a district-owned home and the four-day school week.

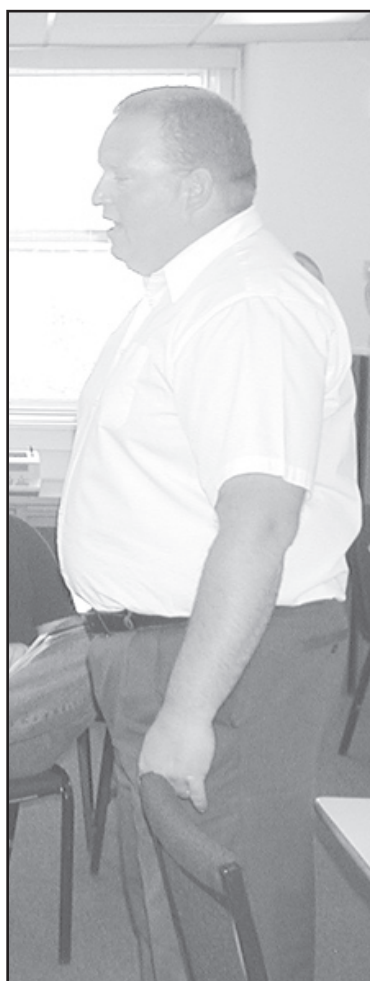
He added that once the board had selected the potential candidates for interviewing, which started on Monday, their spouses are encouraged to come along and meet with the Cheylin students and staff.

Cathy Domsch, Century II Development Foundation executive director, offered to entertain the spouses during the interviews.

Several volunteers from the community will be on hand during the interviewing and will submit a written report on what they thought of the candidates.

"The selection is ultimately up to the board members, but your input is greatly needed," said Mr. Lucas.

**Three candidates selected**  
An update since the meeting found three candidates selected by the board in the interviewing process which started on Tuesday.



MIKE LUCAS TALKING with citizens about the selection procedure.

## Replacing signs begins May 1

A county road signing project to replace the advanced warning railroad signs and cross-buck signs along the Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado Railroad is planned. The railroad tracks running through Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Rawlins and Cheyenne counties will begin in May.

The Kansas Department of Transportation office in Phillipsburg reported Fulsom Brothers of Cedar Vale, is the primary contractor in charge of the \$152,283 job. The

project is jointly funded by Kansas transportation department and the Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado Railroad. Work will be completed by the end of July, weather permitting.

The project will update the signage with high reflectivity sheeting and improve both day and night-time visibility for travelers who encounter roadway/rail intersections.

"The project will not affect traffic, but we did want the public to be aware of the work

that will take place along all the county at-grade crossings as well as the towns along the route," said area engineer Harold Schleicher, of the Phillipsburg office.

According to Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit organization which works to raise awareness of at-grade railroad safety practices in all 50 states - drivers should "Always Expect A Train," and pay attention to the signs which alerts drivers of at-grade highway crossings.



JACOB WHITE GETS A TWIRL from his prom date, Amanda Walden, during the promenade Saturday evening. For more prom pictures and story, see page 6

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider