



BATTER UP — Coach Clayton Janicke uses the pitching machine to help the boys with their batting practice.

C-team baseball season starts

The Bird City C-team baseball team has begun their season. This year's head coach Clayton Janicke and assistants, Tony Vandike, Vance Churchwell, and Walker Janicke, have started practicing at the McDonald baseball field.

The team players are, C.J. Antholz, Jacob Brubaker, Kevin Estrada, Devon Janicke, Jordan Janicke, Ivan Kemp, Reece Leonard, Shawn Pochop and Isaac Rol-sales.

Friday will be the Cougar players first game, the team will travel to Atwood and the game will start at 7 p.m.



PRACTICING HIS SWING is Reece Leonard with the help of Vance Churchwell.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

Alumni Day in McDonald has fewer than usual

The McDonald Alumni Day was held on Sunday, in the McDonald school gymnasium. The crowd was smaller than usual, but everyone attending had a great time and plan to return in 2010. Gilbert and Janice Antholz were at the registration desk and welcomed each one as they entered.

Brent Benkelman of the 50-year class, welcomed everyone before Pastor Adams of the Federated Church gave the meal blessing.

The honored class of 50 years led the way to the food-laden tables in the cafeteria. Tea and coffee were provided by the Alumni Association.

The table decorations by the Garden Club had a patriotic theme with festive balloons at each table. Potted plants on each table were given as door prizes.

After dinner, the classes were introduced beginning with the 50-year class. Members and

spouses were introduced by Brent Benkelman.

On Saturday, the class had a party at Two Lee's which they shared with the 40-year class. Those attending were Phyllis (Draper) Bexley, Marilyn (Johnson) Berkly, Dale Berkly, and Priscilla Antholz, and Karlyne Atchison. Albert Antholz joined the class for dinner.

The 40-year class members who joined the group were Bretz and husband of Dighton, Julius Tracy and wife of Sidney, Neb., Marty (Moreland) and husband Larry Ketter of Goodland, Robert Ellen of Gypsum, Maureen (Reeh) BeDillion and husband, Niles, of Denver, Colo., Diane (Wilkins) Moro of Milford, N. H., Brenda (Gaines) and husband, J.B. Loker, Les Loker and wife, Tish, and Doug Downing and wife, Margaret of McCook, Neb. At the dinner, those attending were introduced by Diane Moro.

Don Antholz introduced the 60-

year class. Only four were present, Don Antholz, Ed Cahoj, LaVena Thompson, and Ila Shepard.

George Banister introduced the 45-year class. They were George Banister, Margaret Crist, Lynette Seymour, and Larry Wilkens.

The oldest class alumni attending were Blanche (Knapp) Phifer, class of 1935, and Frieda (Antholz) Black, class of 1936.

Virgie Burk had a table set up with information about how to write a history for the new Rawlins County History book. She encouraged everyone to participate.

As always, everyone attending had a great day including the delicious meal and all the visiting with classmates and old friends.

The 15-year class of Cheylin high school was invited to the home of Kasey Sabatka on the Kacirek farm where they enjoyed a cook-out and dance hosted by Kasey Sabatka and Brock Ketzner.

Celebration of park to be held

By Karen Krien
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The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Sawhill Park will be held starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday. In honor of the occasion, there will be a patriotic ceremony and the launch of 75 balloons to mark the 75th birthday of the park.

It will also be an opportunity to raise money to repair the band shell. Considerable damage has been caused by water and people will be able to look in and see what needs to be done. They will also be able to view some of the artwork on the walls painted by Howard T. Sawhill, one of the originators of the park.

Mayor, Scott Schultz, will speak to the group in the band shell. A program, sponsored by the Music Club, will feature local talent: St. Francis Singers; Tema Trumbo, piano; Once Again Sound Band; Heartland Harmony; Smestad Musical Group; Silver and Strings; Whitmore Family; Prairie Chicks; Cooks' Girls Dancers; and Wild

Rose Poet.

From 2:30 to 4:30, youth will sell homemade ice cream, lemonade, iced tea, cookies, brownies and Rice Krispies treats.

At 5 p.m., Lions Club members will serve a hamburger meal.

(It's not too late to donate \$25 so you will have a balloon in the launch.)

Band shell repairs

At just a glance, the band shell appears to be in good condition but, after a tour through the back interior, there are some obvious problems including water damage. The roof is in bad condition, the downspouts are missing and the drainage is poor. The plaster on the outside is actually contributing to the water damage, allowing water to seep between it and the original exterior brick walls. This has caused the lath, plaster walls and ceiling to crumble.

The four murals which were hand-painted by Mr. Sawhill have been damaged but they are not completely lost. There are plans to restore them but, until then, three high school students, Jacob Riedel, Tyler Larson and C.J. Douthit, will be replicating them on canvas or paper. Their works will be put on postcards and sold as another way of raising money for the band shell.

The balloons for the 75-balloon launch are also being offered for

\$25 each. While it will not be a great deal of money raised, Janet Carman, committee member, said every little bit helps.

Because the park is on the National Historic Register, it qualifies for a restoration grant of at least \$90,000. Since these are 80/20 matching grants, it is necessary to have 20 percent of the requested amount in hand before ever submitting the grant. The money raised at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, said Mrs. Carman, committee member, will go toward that 20 percent.

Dorothy Smestad, committee member, said the amount to match the grant is right at \$22,000 and they have already raised almost \$2,000 but it is a far cry from the money needed.

Everyone can get involved in supporting the restoration of the Sawhill Park Band Shell by attending the Jubilee which begins at 2 p.m. in the park. The event will begin with a patriotic ceremony and a 75-balloon salute. Entertainment in the band shell will follow. At 5 p.m., the Lions Club members will serve a hamburger meal.

To order a balloon for the launch, stop by any St. Francis bank. Your donation of \$25 will go into the restoration fund.

Join the 75th celebration and support this restoration effort, Mrs. Carman said.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Diane Moro of Medford, N. H., was a weekend guest of her brother, Duane Wilkens. They were Monday visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

R.J. and Susie Sabatka returned home on Monday evening from Manhattan after spending a few days with the children of Jon and Rachel Mallett who were vacationing in Hawaii.

Laddie and Vera Kacirek were Sunday afternoon visitors of Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka and children.

Jennifer, John and Lillie accompanied Vera to Benkelman to the cemetery.

Mike and Diana Tongish and Clinton Hopkins of Atwood and Doug Tongish of Goodland attended the Memorial services at the McDonald Cemetery on Monday and were dinner guests of Joan Tongish.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Fishier of Wichita were Friday afternoon visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson.

Nancy, Dave, and Alan Palozzi of Lakewood, Colo., were weekend

guests of Iris McIntosh and Myra Miller.

Herschel and Eunice Pickett of Parker, Colo., and Alan Pickett of Goodland were Monday guests of Betty Lewis.

Gilbert and Janice Antholz entertained on Monday with a Memorial Day picnic in their Quonset. Guests were the Craig Antholz family, the Hal Antholz family, Cort Antholz, Bud and Helen Frisbie, Babs Antholz, the Dave Hubbard family, Dan and Margie

Hubbard, Dorothy Rummel, Eleanor Swihart, Pastor Mark, Marilyn and Josh Adams, Jerry and Betty Knapp, Keith and Hulda Dorsch and Ron Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Vrbas of Acampo, Colo., were Friday night supper guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson left the McDonald Alumni dinner early so they could attend the birthday party for Lucy Pochop on her 90th birthday.

Student graduates

Madison Elizabeth Starns graduated cum laude from Andover High School on Sunday, May 17.

Honors included the Bernie Saggau Award for commitment to Andover High School and the athletic program for four years; the Dale Downing Sportsmanship Award to a senior female student who displayed superior sportsmanship qualities while participating in the school's athletic program; Andover High School Senior Athletic Award for cheerleading, basketball and track; and Outstanding Business/Computer Student Award for 2008 and 2009.

Maddie is a member of the National Honor Society and received the 2009 High School Heisman Award for scholarship, athletics and citizenship, which was presented by three former Heisman

Trophy winners. She was also voted most inspirational student by the senior class.

Maddie will attend Barton County Community College with a full cheerleading scholarship. She is the daughter of Russell and Marla Starns of Andover and the granddaughter of Mabel Carstens of Bird City.



Starns

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