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BRIDGET POCHOP READS TO CHEYLIN PRE-SCHOOLERS, (left to right) Victor Hernandez, Talixa Weeter, Brady Ketzner, Logan McCarty, Tucker Burr, Phoenix Clemans and Jackson Boyson.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Teaching Cheylin preschool, a good fit

By Linda Schneider
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In the latter part of the 2007-2008 school year, Cheylin began a pre-school program with a grant from Century II Development Foundation. And with other grants from Century II, Cheylin has been able to continue with the pre-school class.

Bridget Pochop became the pre-school teacher after Darci Kehlbeck resigned as teacher last year.

Before taking the position, Mrs. Pochop was a bookkeeper at Peoples State Bank in McDonald for 5 years. She resigned to be more of a stay-at-home mom and work part time. Teaching pre-school at Cheylin was a good fit for her needs.

Mrs. Pochop is married to Levi and both are 1999 graduates of Cheylin High School. Mr. Pochop is a carpenter and operates his own business, The Craftsman's

Corner in McDonald. They have a daughter, Gabrielle, 2-years-old and are expecting a boy in November.

Mrs. Pochop received Associates in Arts degree at Colby Community College. She began going to Colby wanting to be a physical therapist, but it wasn't for her, she said, and made the decision to change to education. She is considering returning to college to earn a certificate in elementary

education and would like to continue teaching pre-school.

When the children arrive to her classroom, they are greeted by colorful posters, funny monkeys on the wall, the alphabet, and other fun and useful tools to help Mrs. Pochop create an atmosphere for building confidence and preparations for kindergarten.

She has one Hispanic student and a language translator, Blanca Ponce, a 2008 Cheylin graduate.

Together with the student, the language barrier is at a minimum and English is used more and more.

Mrs. Pochop's goals for the pre-school students are to prepare them with the skills to help them succeed in the future. Learning how to socialize with others, how to listen, share, and wait patiently are just a few important issues she works on with each student, as well as teaching

how to name colors, count to 20, and write their name.

"I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of their education and personal development," Mrs. Pochop said.

Her parents are Dave and Deb Flemming of Bird City. And Mrs. Pochop's sister, Misty Cole, assists with pre-school students. Mrs. Cole is married to Jeff and lives in Eaton, Colo., with their two sons.

Library gets memorial

The Bird City Public Library was honored to be the recipient of the Bette Partch Memorial money.

Bette and Rodney were weekly patrons at the library. They were generous donors when the library was built in 2000. She always had a cheerful greeting and uplifting remarks to the staff and library patrons. Bette enjoyed good literature and when she found a good book, she passed the information on to other readers as well as her high school and college friends. She was really enthralled with "The Mitford Series" and praised the author Jan Karon many times.

As Bette's health continued to deteriorate, Rodney would check out five to six books weekly for her to read. At Bette's death, she had three books checked out. A faithful reader to the end.

The library board will be discussing how to best use the memorial money. Whatever is done, it will be done with family approval. At the present time a total of \$1,765 has been received. A book, "The Last Song" by Nicholas Sparks, was donated in her memory. Sparks was one of Bette's favorite authors.

The family has graciously consented to have a showing of Bette's china painting at the library in the future. Hopefully this can be done in conjunction with a library open house.



COACH MAX KELTZ KEEPS the high school football team on the move during practice. The high school football and volleyball teams will have a soap scrimmage on Friday. The community is invited to a pre-game tailgate party hosted by the Booster Club, action begins at 5:30 p.m.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Dove season opens on Tuesday, buy license in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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Dove season will open Tuesday in Kansas. It is a split season with the first opening on Tuesday through Saturday, Oct. 31; then it will close for a couple of weeks and reopen Nov. 7 through 15.

Hunters can buy licenses at the clerk's office in the courthouse, at K-Store, Majestic Service, and Mobe's Archery, all in St. Francis. The licenses can also be bought online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Mourning doves and white-winged doves are migratory game birds and are federally regulated. The season for the

exotic doves, Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves, is open during this time but, also runs Nov. 20 through Feb. 28.

Rules require that shotguns be plugged to hold no more than three shells and the daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged dove is 15. No more than 30 can be possessed. There is no bag limit for Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves.

A Kansas hunting license and Harvest Information Stamp are required to hunt doves except for those Kansas residents younger than 16 or older than 65.

According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, mourning doves are one of the

most common bird species in North America. Kansas typically is noted for having one of the highest breeding numbers for mourning doves in the U.S.

Mourning doves nest in trees, shrubs, and on the ground in crop fields and grasslands. A mourning dove pair can produce up to three to four broods of two young per year in Kansas.

Although most mourning doves migrate south by October, many remain in Kansas throughout the fall and some throughout the winter. Kansas' dove harvest is in the top five in the U.S.

Doves in Kansas are primarily hunted in harvested grain fields (particularly sunflowers and

millet) and small water holes or windmill ponds in pastures.

Dove banding

Hunters are asked to look for leg bands on the mourning doves they shoot. The purpose of banding is to estimate annual survival rates, harvest rates and distribution of the harvest, as well as to refine techniques for a future dove-banding program. This date is necessary for understanding population trends and managing dove harvests.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials report that hunters are a critical link in the banding study. By checking all harvested doves for bands and reporting the banded

doves, hunters help biologists manage this important migratory game bird.

Because dove bands are small, hunters can easily overlook the bands so they are asked to carefully check all doves bagged. If they find a band, call 1-800-327-2263 or go to www.pwrc.usgs.gov. Hunters can keep the bands and will be provided with a certificate identifying the age, sex, date and location the bird was banded.

Baiting

It should be noted that baiting doves by placing grain out to intentionally attract birds is illegal for any migratory bird hunting.

More information

For more information about hunting places in Kansas and regulations, stop by the county clerk's office in the courthouse in St. Francis.

Upcoming hunting seasons
Other fall hunting seasons coming up include:

Fall Turkey season, archery and shotgun: Oct. 1-Dec. 1; Dec. 14-31; and Jan. 11-31.

Deer season: Youth and disability, Sept. 12-20; muzzle-loader only, Sept. 21-Oct. 4;

Archery, Sept. 21-Dec. 31; regular firearm, Dec. 2-Dec. 13.

Pheasant season: Nov. 14-Jan. 31.

Quail season: Nov. 14-Jan. 31.