



THE COUGAR FOOTBALL TEAM mix it up during the soap scrimmage exposition game on Friday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cougars come out to play

Last Friday, the Cheylin Cougar high school football and volleyball teams played the soap scrimmage exposition game for the Bird City community.

Before the game, the Booster Club hosted a barbecue and food drive for the local food pantry.

This year's volleyball coaching staff includes Cristi Antholz, head coach; Kendal Cahoj, assis-

tant coach, and manager Nakita Schneider.

High school volleyball players for 2009 are Cassie Rucker, Teryn Carmichael, Naomi Reeh, Whitney Churchwell, Samantha Lampe, Ana Ponce, Iliana Reynoso, Stephanie Busse, Jessie Smith, and Forrest Burr.

The high school football coaching staff includes Max Keltz, head

coach; Dennis Hengen and Jeremy Stefan, assistant coaches. Managers are Danny Frisbie, Elizabeth Keltz and Rachel Keltz.

The players are Lance Leonard, Caleb Keltz, Wil Orten, Dalton Magnani, Sean Smith, Jeremiah White, Kenan Reeh, Chris Walden, Adam Orten, Heath Churchwell, Heath Antholz, Jared Cahoj, Mitchel Jensen,

Grant Shrader, Ruben Razo, Max Hengen, Joshua Keltz, Jesus Ramirez, Hudson Louderbaugh, Craig Busse, Ethan Young, Austin Cobb, Austin Manners, and Adrian Garcia.

Both the football and volleyball players displayed good team and individual skills and the crowd saw some great games played.



ANA PONCE GETS under a setup for a good spike during the soap scrimmage on Friday. Times photo by Linda Schneider

Golf course will close for lack of funds

By Linda Schneider
dublinls@hotmail.com

In its day, the Bird City Golf Course would host annual tournaments to over 100 participants and boast of having 75 to 80 paying members. Today the golf course is in dire need of financial help to keep from closing down.

In 1927, H.W. "Hank" Hickert, separated 96 acres out of his sheep pasture, and for the love of the game of golf, he and several of his cronies created a place where they could come together for a day away from the cares of the world and business.

For over 80 years, Bird City Golf Course has given golfers the opportunity for single and team competition. In addition, with membership, minimal green fees and volunteer grounds keepers, the golf course was able to stay open and remain a favorite spot for local players. However, it has been 15 years since the golf course has had a tournament played on it and few visitors to its 11-holes sand greens.

Dennis Hengen, Cheylin golf coach, still uses the course for team practice and does not want to see it closed down. Last year, the golf team went to state competition for the first time since 1983 and the team placed fifth.

"The golf course is a great thing for the community," Coach Hengen said.

"But it needs the sand greens oiled and younger volunteers to maintain the grounds and equipment."

Coach Hengen and the golf team do get out and help with some of the work, however, regular grounds mauling, machinery repair, and weed spraying is necessary.

The present grounds keepers are Charlie Merklin, Lee Amsberry, Demi Shahan and Hal Sager. Both Mr. Amsberry and Mr. Shahan have been participating in golf course membership, grounds upkeep since the 1980s, and want to see younger workers take over the project.

"This is a community project and I want to see the course stay open," Mr. Shahan said "Golf is a sport that a person can compete in for life. And I want to see Cheylin students be able to continue to use it."

The property has stayed in the Hickert family, and Dave Hickert is more concerned about keeping the golf course opened than having it closed down.

"There is no chance of losing it (golf course) because rent is not paid, rent paid is for taxes owed," said Mr. Hickert. "And I do not have any plans to farm the land if it does shut down."

Today (Thursday), there will be a pancake feed at the American Legion Hall and a free-will donation to help with the repairs, rent and other incidentals needed to keep the Bird City Golf Course open.



BIRD CITY RESIDENTS SHOWED UP for a couple of work days at George Bandomir's home to repair and replace his roof. It was a team effort with workers on the roof hammering, workers on the ground sawing and preparing supplies, and workers stopping by with lunch to keep it going smoothly.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Commissioners agree not to give keys to city officers

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansan.com

At the Aug. 15 meeting, the Cheyenne County Commissioners discussed giving a key to the St. Francis city policemen so they could come and talk to the dispatchers after the courthouse closed. They also talked about exchanging keys so the sheriff's officers could use the city's holding facility for keeping prisoners overnight.

However, at the Monday meeting, the commissioners agreed that, because of liability and security reasons, no keys would be exchanged.

"What it boils down to is the question, does this key have anything to do with keeping the law?" said Andy Beikman, commissioner. "Common sense is the key word."

There were several reasons for no

keys but the main discussion was around the issue of security.

First of all, no one but dispatchers and the sheriff are allowed in the 911 dispatch office. That is not a rule made by the county dispatcher or sheriff, but is a federal law, sheriff Craig Van Allen said.

The information is highly sensitive and personal, he said. If it were to fall into the wrong person's hands, it could be dangerous. Homeland Security information comes through the office and is not to be released. There is a fine up to \$15,000 if information gets out.

The dispatchers had met and expressed their concerns. They did not like the idea of someone having a key and coming up unannounced in the middle of the

night.

At the Aug. 15 meeting, the commissioners talked about installing a security camera at the handicap entrance of the courthouse and what the cost would be.

The security camera would be focused only on who is at the door, they pointed out. From there on, another door could be opened and they would never know it. By releasing the opening of the door, they were responsible for anything and everything in the courthouse and they did not want that responsibility.

They also said the city officers would not come over and visit during the day, why did they want a key to visit at night? Dispatchers could not leave the office to talk to them and the officers would not be able to come into the dispatch office.

They said the highway patrol officers do not have keys. When they come to the office after hours, they are always accompanied by a sheriff's deputy.

If the officers need to talk to us, the dispatchers had said, they can either call us on the phone or radio.

Sheriff Van Allen said the city's holding facility was good only for a couple of hours. The county's facility will hold a prisoner over night but work needs to be done. It only costs \$40 a day/night to hold a prisoner in the Sherman County Bastille.

The commissioners asked about the last 911 dispatch meeting. The meeting had included the chief of police, Shane Guggenmos; city attorney, Mike

Day; county attorney, Kari Gililand; Carol Gamblin, 911 dispatch director; and Sheriff Van Allen. Both Mrs. Gamblin and the sheriff said that some things had been discussed but some of the main issues were not talked about. Both the sheriff and director had been personally insulted.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, asked Dale Patton, commissioner, if he had known about the meeting. Both had asked to be included at the meeting but they had not been notified.

There may be conflict between the two offices, Sheriff Van Allen said, but our primary purpose is to do what needs to be done to keep the public safe. You continue to do what you

know is right, Mr. Beikman said noting that some people survive on turmoil and others are just negative.

The 911 dispatch office will soon be audited by a security officer out of Topeka. He/she may be able to tell the dispatch director what would be the best solution to some of the problems. There will be a second audit to deal with the National Crime Information Center will be held on Oct. 14. At this time, at this time, an official will go through the records, making sure everything is entered correctly and abiding by the highway patrol guidelines. At this time, they will also be checking everything that is going on in the dispatch office.