

Flu season hits Cheylin school hard

By Linda Schneider
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The flu season has hit Cheylin School hard. Last Thursday it was reported that 27 students and six staff members were out with the flu.

Loretta Rucker, office personnel, reported that on Monday 15 high school students were out and eight on Tuesday.

In the elementary, Deanna Nelsen, elementary office personnel, reported having nine students out on Monday and nine on Tuesday.

Due to the large amount of students out for the flu, Kale Schields, junior high Scholar's Bowl coach, said the Monday evening's Scholar's Bowl competition had to be rescheduled.

"It was for the health of our students as well as the other participating schools to reschedule the meet," said Mr. Schields.

Cheyenne County is one of the majority of Kansas counties having confirmed cases of the swine flu. Kansas is one of 41 states with reported cases.

Right now, said Mila Bandel, county health nurse, there is a very limited supply of vaccine coming to the county and it is the nasal spray vaccine.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment expects larger quantities to be available in the next few weeks, but at this time the amounts received are, for the most part, Mrs. Bandel said, too small to hold public vaccinations clinics.

The Department of Health and Environment is distributing vaccine dosages to each county by

the age population. Cheyenne County's average age population is 44.2 years of age; therefore, the state will not allocate large quantities of the vaccine at this time as they are focusing on 2- to 24-years-of-age populations.

The Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices recommends that health departments and private clinics administer the H1N1 vaccine to people in the listed target groups which include:

Nasal spray vaccine

Nasal spray vaccine: This group must be healthy with no underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease, etc.

- Direct patient care health care workers.
- Emergency medical service personnel.
- Children 2 to 24 years of age.
- People who live with or provide care of infants younger than 6 months of age (parents, siblings, and day care providers).
- People 25 to 49 years of age.

Stay healthy
Staying healthy is important, Mrs. Bandel said. Stay at least six feet away from a person who is sneezing and coughing. Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread that way.
"Lastly, stay at home if you are sick," Mrs. Bandel said.



RAMONA HERMAN SPENDS many hours sewing the polyester rugs she will have for sale at the Bird City Craft Show.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Craft Fair time again in Bird City

It is time for craftiness in Bird City. Be sure to stop by the American Legion Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, to purchase holiday gifts and goodies. While there, plan on enjoying a lunch served by Tina Sager.

Barb Gerdes, coordinator, says most of the consignors are back for another year. There will be jewelry, baked goods, knitted and crocheted items to browse through. In these tight economic times, it is a great show with something for everyone, including decorating ideas.

Among the items for sale will be the polyester rugs designed and made by Ramona Herman, with the help of her husband Dale. Both are from Benkelman and are returning for their second year following a couple of years

of not attending. Mrs. Herman has been making the popular rugs for over 25 years. She started when she attended a craft show and a South Dakota woman had a small square. Mrs. Herman bought one, liked the design and durability of the rug, and the rest is history.

It takes about 5 1/2 hours to complete one of the regular size rugs, and Mr. Herman says the rugs wear and wash well, and can last for a long time without falling apart like some bathroom and kitchen rugs.

Mrs. Herman began her crafting career in Carson, Calif., over 30 years ago by making pillow tops out of yarn and selling them at the neighborhood beauty shop.

"Back then, the owner sold

them without consignment fees," said Mrs. Herman.

Today, Mr. Herman helps with the time consuming cutting of the tiny squares; however, Mrs. Herman says finding the polyester fabric for the rugs is getting more difficult to find.

Over the years Dale and Ramona have traveled to different craft shows and are now winding down. They are cutting back so they can do what they love best — going fishing. So it is best to get one of these unique rugs while they are still available.

In addition, some bracelets for Breast Cancer Awareness will be on sell again this year, thanks to Debbie Warne in Denver. And all the proceeds will go back to breast cancer research.

And back by popular demand,

the Kid's Craft Corner. This year there will be masks to decorate and lots of crafty items for Halloween. At the end of their craftiness, the kids can pick up a trick or treat bag out of the Halloween bucket. Leah Rambat, Jesse Smith and Barb's granddaughter, Kalie, will be on hand to help with the crafts.

"We have had a lot of fun with this," says Mrs. Gerdes. "The kids can come and go for just \$5."

Mrs. Gerdes said that the craft fair should have a lot to buy and look at to get ideas for the holiday and it is a way we can show off the talented people who are from the area.

If there are any questions, contact Mrs. Gerdes at 785-734-2421.



COCONUTS ARE JUST part of the props that go into the 'South Pacific' play. Above, Teryn Carmichael helps Max Hengen into his coconuts and grass skirt.

Cheylin choir presents tropical love story

It maybe in the high 60s in Bird City, but it will all tropical climate for the Cheylin Theater on Thursday, Nov. 5, and dinner show Saturday, Nov. 7.

The Cheylin Choir will be presenting "South Pacific," a story of

war time and prejudice that threatens the happiness of two couples.

Plan on enjoying an evening at the Cheylin gymnasium either for just the show or why not surprise someone with a dinner served by the cast. (see ad)

Expect lots of baked goods

One of the regular vendors at the Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 31, will be Barbara Cooper. She will have her table full of baked goods. Some fresh produce may also be on hand.

Ms. Cooper is one of the long-time participants in the show. She began her cooking career in 1996 when she returned to her family farm in McDonald to help her parents, Elmer and Lova Cooper, run the farm. Baking was a way for her to earn extra money.

She started bringing her baked goods to the show in 2000 — in its early days, when it was operated by the Go-Getters 4-H Club. Today, her baked goods are well-known and trusted by buyers from all over the tri-state area. In addition, interested buyers arrive early knowing that her goods are the first to be bought up.

This year, Ms. Cooper is helping raise funds for the Cooper's Cause Foundation. Her niece and husband, Kristi and Terry Keefer of Lawrence, have a 2-year-old son, Cooper, with multiple heart defects.

The Cooper's Cause Foundation has done many fund-raising events to help families with babies who also have



SHERRY KRIEN (left) and Winnifred Wamhoff look over the variety of baked goods for sale by Barbara Cooper (right). Ms. Cooper will have many favorites and some new goodies at the Craft Show in Bird City.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

multiple heart defects. The money donated is given to the hospitals to help pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance.

At the Craft Fair, Ms. Cooper

will have pre-paid postage bags for cell phones that will be deposited of properly, refurbished and given to women of domestic abuse and homeless shelters, or to poverty stricken nations and

countries. For this, Cooper's Cause Foundation will receive \$3.50 per phone. For even more convenience, the Bird City post office is next door to the American Legion.