

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

With the Bird City Rural High School Alumni Banquet coming up in a little over two months, the Alumni Committee is making progress to what we hope will once again bring the alumni together over food and fellowship to enjoy an evening of memories and story telling with friends and classmates.

The theme of this year's banquet is "2010-The Year of the Cardinal." Honored classes this year are 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970. The banquet will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, in the Bird City American Legion Hall.

The Alumni Committee wants

to acknowledge the First National Bank and their crew for consenting to sell banquet tickets once again this year. Banquet tickets are the same as last year.

You can contact the bank at 785-734-2100, or by mail at the First National Bank, P.O. Box 40, Bird City, KS., 67731. Banquet tickets should be available by the middle of April.

The Alumni Committee is busy making plans for the banquet and are looking forward to seeing you there.

Kent Voohtes
Bird City Rural High School
Alumni Committee

Beecher seeks grant for auditorium

By Karen Krien
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The Beecher Island Battleground is just over the Kansas line into Yuma County, Colo. The site is almost a surprise as the traveler tops the hills from either the north or south roads. It is tucked down along the Arikaree River where large cottonwood trees shade those spending time at the campground.

The area was the site of a battle with between Col. George Forsyth, his company and a large party of Indians comprising of Northern Cheyennes, Ogallala and Brule Sioux known as the Dog Soldiers commanded by Chief Roman Nose. The battle was held on Sept. 17, 18 and 19, 1868.

The Beecher Island Battleground Board is now seeking a grant to restore the auditorium which was built in 1927. Mark Mahlberg, president of the board, said there are indications that they will get a Colorado Historical Society grant.

The auditorium was constructed with funds raised from both the state of Kansas and Colorado. At that time, \$10,000 was spent with each state giving \$5,000.

The auditorium is used each year to hold programs during the Beecher Island Days held in the fall. Occasionally a wedding or other event is held in the 83-year-old building. When completed, the board hopes that others will utilize the building and it will better served the people of the area.

The auditorium construction is unique with its brick chimney which rises from the ground upward to several feet about the peak of the wall. The top of the chimney has an arched opening on each side, giving it the appearance of a small bell tower. It is capped with a square concrete roof.

It is believed that the opposite side of the building was supposed to have the same construction. Mr. Mahlberg said they think the builders ran out of money so finished it off with the

planks. The building is covered with stucco but, that is not original to the building. With the grant, the stucco will be removed and the hollow clay blocks will be exposed. The front of the building is wooden planks. The stucco was added to the wooden planks.

The windows are tall and unusual. Each window is made up of four multi-light windows with metal frames and wood surrounds. Thick wood mullions with scalloped edges separate these windows from each other.

In the 1960s, to cut down on the afternoon sun, the glass was coated in an opaque paint. Each large window has an angled brick soldiers sill and a heavy-shaped mission-style timber lintel.

Mr. Mahlberg said the stage was not finished when the structure was built. Later, probably in the 1970s, it was finished with paneling. Above the stage is an ornamental long wood beam which is now covered by the dark paneling. The stage will be reconstructed to look like a stage built in 1927.

There was a coal-burning stove which had been removed and there was no heat in the building. When the building renovation is complete, it will have heat in the floor so it will not change the looks of the building.

Construction on the building will not begin until after the Beecher Days Reunion. Also located on the grounds is a battle monument. The original monument was built in 1905. In 1935, the flood of 1934 toppled the monument and erased the island it stood on. Several parts of the stone monument were found however, the lowest granite base and the upper inscribed stone and remainder of the the obelisk were never located.

In 2006, the monument was restored with funds raised from donations.



CHEYLIN SENIORS HONOR their parents at Parents Appreciation Night during a recent basketball game. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheyenne County to celebrate with banquet scheduled in St. Francis

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Wildlife organization is celebrating 25 years.

Seven members formed the organization in 1985 after being a part of Ducks Unlimited. The members wanted the money raised to stay in the county where local projects could be founded.

Each year, the organization holds a banquet. This year, it is set for March 26 in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. Next year, according to the by-laws, it will be held in Bird City. The banquet is the major money-making project.

The \$15 banquet ticket includes not only a prime-rib dinner but also membership dues. Being a member allows use of the rifle and pistol range and the shotgun trap shooting equipment.

The money raised goes to scholarships, furnishing the trout in Keller Pond for the fishing contest held annually plus fish food for the pond, helping people plant trees in windbreaks, stocking pheasants and quail and the organization is the main sponsor for the 4-H Shooting Sports.

This year, they paid for the work done to dredge Keller

Pond, bringing it back to its original size. Through the years, the sand has silted in.

There are 460 members today. There are nine members on the board with three either replaced or reappointed each year. This year's board members are: Tim Stimbert, Gordon Ross, Hal Sager, Martin Hilt, Francis O'Leary, Josh Moberly, Byron Moberly, Rodney Radcliffe and Terry Rieger. Mr. Reiger replaced Duane Wilkens who died this year.

Those members on the original charter were: Keith Dankenbring, Roger Lauer, Dave Roberson, Tom Smull, Eddie Lauer, Troy Porter and Brent Rueb.

Banquet is March 26

The banquet will start at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 26, at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Tickets are limited to 300 people but they expect to serve 360 people with the last 60 being children. Last year, there were 40 to 50 women along with 63 kids.

Because it is the 25th year, special logos are being engraved in the stocks of 17 guns. They will be sold and given away. Among the guns is a Diamond Grade Model 12 shotgun.

Other auction items will be a knife made by Tony Howard; an original oil painting by Marilyn

Frisbie; a large circular sawblade with a farm scene painted on it by Peggy Moberly; and an 870 youth engraved shotgun. There are many, many more items.

Kids love the banquet and none go away empty handed. Tony Howard has also made a kid's knife; there are BB guns, fishing equipment, just to name some.

New director hired

The Cheylin Recreation Commission met Feb. 17, with many items on the agenda.

Brenda Montiero was hired as the new activities director. She will be responsible for organizing and implementing future activities. If anyone has any ideas for the recreation commission, they can contact Brenda at 785-626-6267. All commission members would welcome any ideas and suggestions that the community may have.

Two picnic tables made from recycled tires were received and assembled and are now out at the football field ready for the upcoming season. These tables were made available through a grant application. Two benches for the swimming pool were also acquired with a grant from the Cheyenne County Parks and Recreation fund.

Tina Sager attended the meeting with an update about aerobics and to discuss swimming lessons this summer.

Last year, Francis O'Leary had made key chains which were a hit with the kids.

Tom Quigle of Wray is the auctioneer. Hal Sager, one of the Wildlife members, said he does a fantastic job of keeping the auction moving while entertaining the audience.

Aerobics have been going well and have continued again since the holidays. They are still being held at the Cheylin Elementary School cafeteria, Monday through Thursday at 5:15 p.m. The sessions have averaged five to six people per session. This will continue through the end of the school year. Tina also submitted to the commission a list of items needed for water aerobics. Tina will submit the list again at the next meeting with estimated cost of the items.

A dance class is in the process of being organized and the Commission hopes to get that done before prom. More information will be given when plans are finalized. The Cheylin Recreation Commission will meet again on March 17 at 7 p.m. in the Cheylin High School Library.

Club Clip

McDonald Garden Club By Vera Kacirek

The McDonald Town and Country Garden Club held their March 10 meeting at the McDonald Fire Building. Ten members answered roll call by naming their favorite spring flowering bulb. Bud Frisbie was a guest of the club.

Before the prayer, Betty Knapp read about "Life's Seasons."

Helen Frisbie brought one of her house plants. It was a Clivia, which comes from a bulb and had a beautiful big orange flower. She said that it blooms more than once a year.

A letter from Joan Harper was read. She is a member who lives in Manhattan.

The minutes and treasurer's report were accepted as read. The only bill was for postage for the treasurer. She reported that the state and district dues are paid. She also paid \$90 for state donations.

Kay Miller gave the McDonald Area Development report. The Easter egg hunt will be on the Saturday before Easter. Bill Schaff has made several wooden toys that will be given to each child participating in the Egg Hunt.

Tammy Carmichael will be present with her students to give the Arbor Day program. Jim Strine has been invited to attend the Arbor Day tree planting at the Highway 36 Park. All are invited to meet at the park for the planting before going to the Senior Center for the program. An evergreen tree will be planted in the park. The public is invited to attend.

The State meeting in Hays on April 23 and 24, was discussed. Betty Knapp read "What to do

in March." Among other things it is time to plant potatoes, peas, and other cool season plants. She also discussed an idea for the summer tour.

Vera Kacirek gave an informative lesson on "Dependable Bulbs." She talked about tulips, daffodils, crocus, and hyacinths--all a welcome sight in a yard after a long winter.

LaVina Waters was co-hostess and served a delicious cake.

The April meeting will be the Arbor Day planting on April 14. All are asked to meet at the Roadside Park on Highway 36.



Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet

Friday, March 26
Dinner from 6:30-8 p.m.



Cheyenne County Fairgrounds, St. Francis

Tickets available at *Bumper To Bumper *Owens True Value
*Frontier Equity *Republican Valley Auto Parts
*Mobe's Archery Supply *C.C.W.I Board member

Only 300 tickets will be sold —
there will be no more available and none at the door.

At the banquet will be a Diamond Grade 12 ga. shotgun along with 16 other guns with the 25th CCWI logo engraved on the stock.

Stop by Ross Mfg., 301 W. Washington, St. Francis,
to view the 48-gun Liberty Safe.

Gun cabinet, made by Cliff Semler,
on display at First National Bank.

Business Directory

To list your business,
call 785-332-3162.



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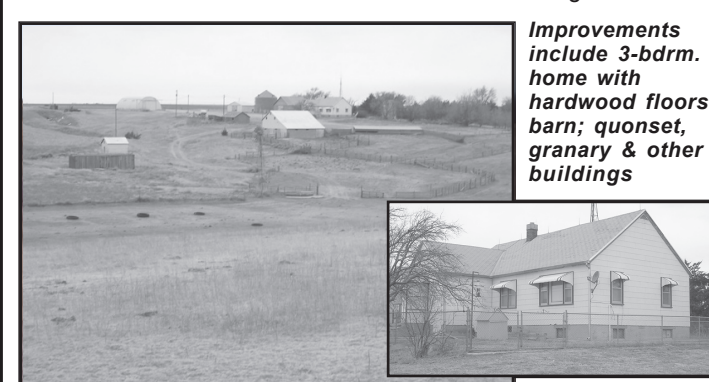
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(76.73 ac. excellent, level dryland; 2.82 ac. CRP)

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(273.53 ac. nice grassland; 24.53 ac. CRP;
10 ac. cropland; 8.61 ac. home & improvements)

Land is just south of the Sherman/Cheyenne Co. line, on Sherman Co. Rd. 7. Call or see website for driving directions.



Improvements include 3-bdrm. home with hardwood floors; barn; quonset, granary & other buildings

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