

Meeting held to discuss School plans

Twenty-six people met at the McDonald cafeteria after a short walk through the McDonald High School, in response to the question, "What would it take to turn McDonald High School into a Community Center?"

Jan Busse, class of 1975, opened the session up with some background information. Cheylin's Board of Education voted last month to sell the McDonald High School building by listing it with a local realtor. Because of emotional ties to the facility and the desire to see it used, Mrs. Busse was reluctant to see it turned into storage.

The school building had not been used by Cheylin this past year as junior high sports practice has been incorporated into the school day. The water had been turned off to the facility years ago to prevent frozen and broken pipes. This last school year, the gas meter was removed and the electricity is no longer available in the building.

Mrs. Busse turned the meeting over to Kim Richardson, graduate class of 1973. He has had a vision for the school building for some time and when he was contacted by his mother, Beverly Higgins, class of 1953, about the McDonald school being for sale, he thought it was time for action.

Mr. Richardson distributed outlines of ideas for the facility. Four rooms could be converted into lodging with an additional two rooms as suites. The gym could be used for exercise equipment and classes, volleyball and basketball, quilt shows, family reunions, concerts, dances, really anything that would require a large space.

The home economics room could be used for cooking classes, community canning projects and become a certified kitchen for food cooperatives to use. The library could be used for poker games, family fun nights, and a place to show movies in. Really the possibilities are limitless for the facility.

Then the topic turned to obstacles, the first being the roof. Owen Wingfield said that "the bank had a roof like the school and it needed repairs or maintained every four years." Randy Miller said that "the

roof is fine, with no leaks right now." Asbestos was a concern, but again Mr. Miller said that had all been taken care of or removed. Wiring of the old school was a concern as well as heating. Mrs. Busse mentioned that maybe the facility would only be used from March to October. But Lois Morelock said what about the pipes freezing. Questions were asked about zoning, fire codes, handicapped accessibility and who would maintain the facility.

Before this project is even attempted, Rodney Klepper asked, "Is there a need in McDonald?" for something like this. Bill Schaff asked, "What would happen to the Legion Hall and Senior Center if the project was pursued?"

There were a lot of good questions with few answers. Mrs. Busse and Mr. Richardson were delighted that people were interested and a few came forth to offer their help.

If the "dream" were to become a reality then more information would need to be collected about 501-C3 status, historical society status, grants and the entire obstacle questions would need to be answered.

However financing, purchase of the facility would also need to be held in conjunction with these dreams. George Louderbaugh said the vote at the board of education meeting was to sell the facility, so it is going to happen.

The next agreed step was to contact the McDonald Alumni Association, to see if something could be included in their mailings about the status of the McDonald High School building. Mrs. Busse said she would see to that. Mr. Richardson will return in May to the alumni dinner and will give a presentation at that time.

All of this left the crowd with more to mull over, during the next few weeks.

"Is there a need in McDonald?" for a community center and use of the McDonald High School? And who will help to make the "old school" into something or does it just sit abandoned until a buyer can be found. To offer your help and ideas, Mrs. Busse can be contacted at 785-734-2448.

Voters may cast their ballots at Legion Hall

By Karen Krien
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The general election will be held on Tuesday, April 5. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Polling place in Bird City, it is at the Legion Hall.

There is a race for District 1, position 5 for the Cheylin Board of Education where both David Frisbie and Nick Ketzner are running. For District 2, position 2 on the St. Francis Board of Education, three candidates, Cory Busse, Norman Morrow and Jerry White are running.

Candidates running for the Cheylin Board of Education include:

David Frisbie and Nick Ketzner, District 1, position 5; and Belinda Serrano, District 2, position 2. No one has filed for District 2, position 4. There is talk that there is a write-in candidate but, as of Monday, the newspaper had not been notified.

There are three seats needing to be filled on the Bird City City Council and only three candidates, Shannon Ambrosier, Frank Serrano and Dennis Wright, are running.

Sunflower Extension District
The Sunflower Extension District Number 6 needs two board members and Justin Lohr and Jeter Isely are running.



GRADING THE ROADS — Jim McCann was out Wednesday on a windy day recovering gravel from the sides of the roads.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Workers prepare for spring work

Last week was the beginning of spring and with that it brought the March winds. That didn't stop the farmers from getting out the tractors and plows preparing the ground for spring planting.

Jim McCann and Charley Damn the county road and bridge workers, have been out grading the country roads. They are recovering gravel from the sides of the roads to even out the gravel and preparing them for the change from snow to rainy weather.

Mr. McCann keeps the northwest county roads drivable in all sorts of weather conditions. He said he was no where near finished when he stopped for the weekend and then the snow fell on Sunday. However, it was a wet snow and the roads are still drivable.

The county workers are seldom acknowledged for a job well done, and more or less taken for granted. When the wind was blowing dirt along with the snow and he was still out there working Sunday

morning, it just seemed fitting to recognize him for a job well done.

Mr. McCann has worked for Cheyenne County for 29 years. He started out on the north side of St Francis and eventually was moved to the southeast side of Bird City.

He was born and raised in Clay Center, met his wife, who was from Milton Vale, and they were married in 1968. They moved to Bird City in 1982.

They have four daughters who graduated from the Cheylin School.

Tammi McCann, and Nancy Michaelis live in Atwood, Candi Ketterl lives in Oberlin, and Jami Jamison lives in Springfield, Mo.

Jim and Sharon have five grandsons, and seven granddaughters. The oldest is 30 and the youngest is 15 years. As of last Saturday they have two great-granddaughters, Elana age 4, and Cadince, the new arrival.

The McCanns have attended the Living Waters Fellowship since the church first was started.

String band to perform April 3

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band will be in Hoxie at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Hoxie High School auditorium. Western Plains Arts Association is presenting the performance.

The band performs a lively, engaging stage show that involves the audience and includes their own musical traditions. The 1870s costuming and raucous humor compliment these accomplished

musicians' performances of old-time string band, bluegrass and American folk music.

The band consists of five multi-instrumentalists singing and playing fiddles, banjo, guitars, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, accordion, bass, shotgun and washboard. Their infectious good humor and high energy leave no toe untapped.

The band takes its name from

the gold prospector/guide turned cannibal Alferd Packer. Packer was the only American ever convicted of cannibalism.

In the fall of 1870, five miners in Alferd's charge headed for the Colorado gold fields. They ended up in Alferd's stomach! At the conclusion of the trial, the judge's exact words were, "Alferd Packer, you voracious man-eater, there were only seven Democrats in

Hinsdale County, and you done et five of 'em."

Admission to this performance is with Western Plains Arts Association season ticket or at the door. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

County hospital to sponsor health fair

By Karen Krien
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Twice a year, the Cheyenne County Hospital, clinic and health department sponsor a health fair. The spring health fair has been set from Monday to Friday, April 11 through 15. During these days, there will be blood draws, male and female exams

The health fair is an excellent way to offer screenings for some health problems like diabetes, thyroid, prostate and high blood pressure, said Mila Bandel, county health nurse. By catching them early, it can reduce the risk for costly complications.

Lab work or chemistry panels are groups of tests that are routinely ordered to determine a person's general health status.

They help evaluate the body's electrolyte balance and/or the status of several major body organs.

The lab draws will be offered for three mornings in St. Francis (April 11, 12 and 13) from 7 to 10 a.m. in the basement of the Cheyenne County Clinic; and two mornings in Bird City (Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12 and 13) from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Bird City Clinic. No appointments are needed for the lab draws.

Remember to not eat or drink except water after midnight the night before the lab draw. Those having the lab draws can take their morning prescription medications with water prior to the draws.

There will also be male

and female exams available for the health fair on April 13 (afternoon), 14 and 15 (all day), in the St. Francis Clinic. In the Bird City Clinic, exams will be made April 13, 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Appointment for exams are a must and can be made by calling 785-332-2682. The female exams will offer breast and pelvic exams with pap smears; the male exam will include a prostate check. The fees for the labs and exams are at a reduced price and will not be charged to your insurance.

While you wait

While people are waiting to have their blood drawn, there will be mini booths set up in the conference room in the basement

of the clinic for viewing. There will be health booths displayed with information from the following areas: Lifeline, nutrition, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, vial of life, advance directives, hand washing, tissue donation, breast and cancer screenings, tobacco cessation, and patient portal demonstration from the clinic. People can also have their blood pressure taken, height measured, weight and body mass index figured.

Exhibit booth fair

There will be an educational exhibit booth health fair with health and safety information in the near future. For more information regarding the fair, contact Mrs. Bandel, 332-2381.



SPRING IS HERE — Farmers can be seen all over the county fertilizing and getting ready for another season.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.