

Senior center remains open

Twenty eight Bird City senior citizens attended the monthly potluck and special meeting at the Bird City Senior Center held Monday afternoon. The special meeting was called to determine the future of the center due to the low attendance and lack of co-operation.

The meeting was conducted by Rod Klepper, Ernie Ketzner, county commissioner, Kathy Domsch, Darci Shields and Century II board members were there to see what they could do to help.

The center has ample funds available to maintain the facilities. Mr. Klepper checked into the structural condition of the center last fall.

At that time he was concerned about the heating. Midwest Energy workers inspected the system and found no problem. There is some ducts that need some work, but that would not be expensive. The old theater next door has been condemned and could cause a problem if it isn't taken care of. The city council is working on getting it torn down.

When the senior citizens were asked, all were in agreement that the problem was only the lack of attendance, lack of help and co-operation from those who make use of the facilities.

At the present time the monthly birthday party on the second Monday, and the potluck on the fourth Monday of the month are the only main functions.

Suggestions to encourage more seniors to attend these functions were: have more activities, guest speakers, and a health nurse to do blood pressure checks. Century II is willing to check into providing an activities director to plan some fun and interesting events.

After determining the seniors were in favor of keeping the center open, they decided some re-organization was in order. Mr. Klepper invited all those who were willing to serve as officers and board members to stay at the end of the meeting.

Dee Dorsch made the motion that the center should stay open to close this meeting.

Fourteen seniors, along with Mrs. Domsch, and Mrs. Shields stayed. Everyone was in agreement that new officers and board members were in order.

A meeting will be called at 2 p.m. on Sept. 12, before the birthday party for election of officers and board members. All others who are interested and unable to attend this meeting should call Mr. Klepper at 734-2003.



PLAYING A game of dominoes before the senior center meeting were Hulda Dorsch and Marlene Young.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Cheylin schools begin



LUNCHTIME — Tina Sager, left, and Linda Schneider serves the food to Mrs. Kayla Bursch's kindergarten class.



GETTING A LITTLE HELP— Debby Bailey helps Christian Gabaldon with some of his work. Also pictured is Audrey Moore from Mrs. Bolen's second grade class.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

Conservationist comes to county

By Karen Krien
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Cheyenne County has a new Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist.

Bernadette Luncsford started the new position at the office on West U.S. 36 on July 5. She came from Bainbridge, Ga., where she was a district conservationist while she was waiting for a position to open in this area.

She hasn't regretted coming.

I like Kansas, she said, and I like Cheyenne County.

Her duties as the conservationist is to make sure the soil stays in place.

This service was developed out of the Dust Bowl, she said.

Keeping the soil in place can be done by using various methods including ground cover, rotation and strip tilling. It is also important, she said, that landowners have all the information available to them.

One of her goals is to bring all the dollars available into the county — that the county residents get their share for protecting resources.

Between the conservation service and the conservation district, both located in the same office, the county has the opportunity to bring in both federal and state money. One of her jobs, she said, is helping people to understand cost share programs and get them signed up.

With recent talks of government offices closing, Mrs. Luncsford said it is important that participants sign up. The more participants, she said, the better the chances are for the office staying open.

Mrs. Luncsford was born and raised in Maine. Her grandfather was a tree farmer. Here she felt the close connection with the land and learned the importance of utilizing it wisely.

She went to the University of Maine where she received her bachelor's in Environmental Science, then went on to earn her master's in Natural Resources



BERNADETTE LUNCSFORD runs the measuring wheel on some property.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

from Virginia Tech.

She married a Navy man, who for 14 years, spent much of his career out to sea. She and Sam also had a farm in Maine where they raised sheep and bees and had an orchard. She loved her bees. They were calming, she said, and the honey was a bonus.

In addition they sold fruit, heirloom egg plant and tomatoes, along with the wool.

They have five children. Michelle attends the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and Allen goes to Missouri State University in Springfield. Darby is 12 and was hesitant to move to St. Francis so she is staying in Maine. However, Darby, with her vocal solo, was the winner of the Variety Show held Friday night of the fair.

There are also two small children, Camille, who is three, and Emelline who is one and a half.

Sam retired from the Navy and they moved to St. Francis where they bought a house on Francis and Washington streets.

I loved the house, she said. Sam, who arrived recently, was also impressed.

Besides finding a house, she said she has also found warm and welcoming people. They are so nice, she said.

She is anxious to meet everyone and welcomes people to stop by the office and say hi.

in Natural Resources