



NAKITA SCHNEIDER, Austin Cobb and Grant Shrader were painting main street with the senior class for homecoming week.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



GUIENEVERE BURR was lounging in her pajamas while reading on Pajama Day for Homecoming.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



Rucker

Busse

Schneider

Smith

Reeh

Orten

Keltz

Razo

Cheylin celebrates homecoming

By Norma Martinez
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Sunday evening the Cheylin seniors were having fun kicking off the events of Homecoming Week. They were seen going down Bird Ave. painting the streets.

Austin Cobb and Nakita Schneider were caught painting, "GRRR! The Pups Are Goin Down." The rest of the painters were Adam Orten, Kenan Reeh, Josh Keltz, Cassie Rucker, Ruben Razo, Stephanie Busse, Grant Shrader, Heath Churchwell and Jessie Smith.

On Monday if you saw several students

wearing their pajamas during the day – they didn't forget to dress; it was just for Pajama Day. Tuesday was Bling Day; everyone wore as much jewelry as they could. Wednesday was Lumber Jack Day, and Thursday is Blue and White Day, all types of originality were seen including blue and white hair.

This year's theme for homecoming week is "Choppin down the Competition" with the Weskan Coyotes.

Thursday evening at 7 p.m. the football field will be full of high spirited Cougars. All will be in anticipation of learning who the

king and queen will be. This year's homecoming candidates are Cassie Rucker, Stephanie Busse, Nakita Schneider, Jessie Smith, Kenan Reeh, Adam Orten, Joshua Keltz and Ruben Razo.

Friday's homecoming game with Weskan starts at 6 p.m. (Note this is an earlier time than originally scheduled). Prior to the game, the varsity Lady Cougars will meet the Weskan Coyotes at 2:30 p.m. and the junior varsity will follow. At 5 p.m., there will be a homecoming soup supper at the football field sponsored by the Booster Club.



CLAYTON JANICKE cuts a field of soy beans by the airport.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

Commissions agree to lift county burn ban

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to lift the burn ban when they met on Friday morning.

There had been approximately an inch of rain in the county during the night on Friday. While there had been a little less in some areas and more in others, the commissioners agreed that it was enough to lift the burn ban for the present time. However, said Dale Patton, commissioner, if it gets dry again, we will reinstate the ban.

People planning to burn need to still follow the same procedure of calling 785-332-8822

before burning and calling again when they have finished burning. This will allow the dispatcher the information to know when to send out firemen. For instance, if the person has let the dispatcher know that he is done burning and several hours later, someone reports there is a fire in that same area, the dispatcher will send the firemen out.

The wording of the burn ban will be changed if it is reinstated to include the cities of Bird City and St. Francis. In other words, when there is a burn ban, there will be no burning in the county and no burning in either of the cities.

Groups will be walking for life

Two groups of "Prayer Walkers for Life" will be walking to each church in Bird City and St. Francis on Sunday, Oct. 7, beginning at 2 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis and 3 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City.

The participants will pray at each church for the congregation and its pastor. The pastor or a member of the congregation will have the opportunity to pray for those who work to preserve and enhance life for all.

Both groups will meet at the Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City at 4 p.m. for a time of fellowship and a brief meeting at the end of the walk. The event is being sponsored by Cheyenne County Kansans for Life. Everyone is welcome to participate.

For more details, call 785-734-2703 or 785-332-2950.

Cougar Tales

By Bruce Bolen, Superintendent

Welcome to the first installment of Cougar Tales for the 2012-2013 school term. It is great to be back in school and see all the students after their three month vacation from school. The first of the year is always a great time to share summer stories and see new faces in our school.

Some great news is the new students who have enrolled at Cheylin Schools for this year. We appreciate every student and family that we have at our school. The not-so-good news is that our numbers are down from last year. We knew that we would lose seven with the moving of two families to Colorado. Also, we graduated 12 seniors and have six kindergarteners who count toward funding as three so that subtracted another nine from our total count. Our official count as of Thursday, Sept. 20, was 122 and we were at 138.5 last year.

In order to help combat enrollment loss, districts are able to use their current numbers, last year's numbers, or an average of the last three years for their funding. We will be able to use the 138.5 from last year but the average will begin to hurt us unless we are able to have additional students enroll.

We want to welcome three new staff members to our school and community this year. Morgan Kauten, a graduate of Emporia State University and from Norton is our new first grade teacher. Hannah Louderbaugh, a graduate of Kansas State University, and a Cheylin graduate from McDonald is our new second grade teacher. Tish Havel, who has worked

with our district in previous years as a consultant has taken over the Title I program and is teaching seventh grade English. We are fortunate to have all three of these fine teachers join Cheylin Schools and know they are doing a great job!

Our sports teams are working hard and had some successful games and some challenges so far this year. Our high school volleyball ladies are under the direction of Cristi Antholz and Amy McCarty, our high school football program is led by Max Keltz, Dennis Hengen, and Anthony Blair. We have two new coaches for our junior high teams with Ann Burr directing the junior high volleyball, and Lincoln Pochop joining Kale Schields for junior high football. A special thank you to all the coaches, players, and parents for making these opportunities available for our students.

On Aug. 9, our entire teaching staff, minus two, attended an inservice in Colby on "Assessment, How Do We Know They Are Learning." The teachers received many great ideas on multiple teaching strategies that are used to reach the many different learning styles in their classrooms.

Again on Oct. 19, our teachers will be doing formal training on the new Common Core Standards that will be implemented by the 2014 school year. These standards will require some major curriculum shifts for all schools across the nation and we want to do our best to be ready to implement the standards as needed.

The week of Oct. 1-5 is Homecoming Week. This

is always a fun time for the students while at the same time we try to maintain some form of academic normalcy! There will be various contests and dress up days during the week to keep things exciting.

The junior high will host Golden Plains on Thursday at home and we will have a community pep rally at 7 pm that evening. Friday our Lady Cougars will host Weskan for volleyball at 2:30 p.m. in the Bird City gym and then our Cougar Men will host their football team at 6:00 p.m. Note the time change from normal starting time. We moved the game earlier in order to accommodate our volleyball ladies who needed to leave early the next morning for a tournament in Hill City.

The big news of the year is the school lunch guidelines. I want to assure you that we are doing what we can to work with the new guidelines and still provide as much as possible for our students. It is far from perfect, but we must work within the guidelines and the ladies are working hard to make the most of a negative situation.

With the dry summer and fall we hope everyone is doing well and able to make the most of the moisture challenged summer. If you have questions or time to drop by to visit, we welcome you at our school.

I would also like to inform our patrons as of Oct. 6, I will no longer have a home phone number. All calls can be made to my school cell phone at 785-734-7117. Thank you for your understanding.

Until next time, Bruce Bolen, superintendent/principal Cheylin Schools