

Cooperatives discussing opportunities

Frontier Ag and Mid Kansas Cooperative Association are evaluating a potential business alliance.

Frontier Ag is a leading cooperative in northwest Kansas, and Mid Kansas Cooperative Association is a leading cooperative in central Kansas.

Brent Linin, board chairman for Frontier Ag, said Frontier continually seeks ways to build additional value for its members.

"When looking at culture and strategies, Mid Kansas Cooperative and Frontier Ag appear to be very similar," he said. "We have asked our management teams to evaluate what could be gained through business alliances between the two companies."

"We are excited to investigate what opportunities may exist," said CJ Blew, Mid Kansas Cooperative board chairman. "Although both

cooperatives have just completed strong years, we believe it is critical to continue to investigate business development opportunities to bring value to our memberships."

Frontier Ag, with annual sales of \$490 million, is a full-service cooperative, offering grain, feed, agronomy, energy, and transportation products and services to over 5,700 members in 11 counties throughout northwest Kansas. In this area, there are Frontier Ag cooperatives in Bird City, Kanorado, Ruleton, Brewster, Atwood and Goodland.

Mid Kansas, with annual sales of \$450 million, is a full-service cooperative offering grain, feed, agronomy and energy products and services to over 6,400 members in 11 counties throughout central Kansas.



INSILAGE WAS BEING CHOPPED north of Bird City. It was delivered to the Bird City Dairy. Insilage harvest is a sure sign that fall is near.

Herald staff photos by Tim Burr



DEANZA AMBROSIER is setting up a lamp on a half-moon shaped granite topped bar in her new shop Finders Keepers.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

New shop opens in Bird City

By Norma Martinez

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Bird City has a new store that just opened up last Wednesday. DeAnza Ambrosier has opened Finders Keepers at 103 W. 7th Ave., located just beneath the Bird City water tower. Finders Keepers will be open from 10 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday thru Friday and 10 to 5 on Saturdays.

This new business offers reclaimed furniture and home decor items at a fraction of the price of buying new. On opening day, Finders Keepers contained a round dining room table, couches, coffee tables, bar stools, figurines, frames, framed prints, candles, enamel wear, small knickknacks, lace curtains, an imitation tree, and even a few bags of children's old army men, cowboys and Indian toys. Prices range from \$1 for a small framed print to \$1,100 for a brand new Pulaski Furniture solid pine bookcase. Also displayed is a half-moon shaped granite top bar that boasts a French colonial style that would fit in most any décor. It's made of solid rubber wood with a Yorktown Cherry finish.

One of the first items sold on opening day was a large coffee table Mrs. Ambrosier had refinished using a 'Paper bag decoupage technique'.

Customers who approach the unusual tiled front counter have an opportunity to obtain a 5 percent to 20 percent discount on their

purchase. Dimes are supplied in a dish to insert in an antique machine called "The Challenger". Once the machine lights up, you are to maneuver a wand around a curvy metal rod. The goal is to get it as far as you can without setting off the alarm by touching the rod with the wand. To win a discount you must reach one of the top peaks that read; Shaky and Jittery, A Cool Character, Steady As A Rock, or Nerves of Steel. How far you get without buzzing determines the amount of discount you receive. It's fun to try, but you have to have a very steady hand in order to get past the first peak.

Items will be changing regularly as the store contains items purchased by the Ambrosier's at estate sales, yard sales and antique malls. Locally sold merchandise is then more readily available to local residents who don't want to go to the bigger towns themselves to shop for bargain priced furniture and unique décor items.

Being a thrifty shopper herself, Mrs. Ambrosier says she finds items at bargain prices and asks herself, "What would I be willing to pay for this, if I was to buy it for myself?" she says, "Then I price it accordingly."

This store has been two years in the planning. DeAnza and Shannon Ambrosier purchased the property a few years ago when the large building was just a shell. The location is in an area

that seemed right for a store, and she enjoys decorating so she got the idea of utilizing it as a furniture store. Shannon put his carpentry skills to work and created a cozy area for DeAnza to display her treasures. Currently, the store area is in the front quarter of the large building. Shannon plans to expand the store by another 18 feet within a month. Eventually, the store area will take up most of the building, only leaving room in the back for a storage area and a workshop for Mrs. Ambrosier.

The Ambrosier's will also be adding an old fashioned store front awning made of wood and a corrugated metal top and Mrs. Ambrosier will be making a wood, Finders Keepers, sign to hang from the awning. She will also be taking orders for custom wood signs, which she thinks would make great gifts.

The Ambrosier's will be "treasure hunting" on a regular basis so that their inventory will always be changing. If you don't see what you are looking for let them know and they will try to find it for you.

"What you see right now is only the beginning...the opening," said Mrs. Ambrosier. "Once we get the other rooms remodeled and stocked, then we'll have our Grand Opening."

In the meantime, stop in and see what you can find at Finders Keepers.

New teachers begin year at Cheylin schools

By Norma Martinez

By this week Cheylin students and teachers are well into the routine of school and have adjusted to the schedules, routines and teachers.

This year brings two new teachers and a new counselor. Amy Moree is teaching fifth grade, Kara Rodriguez is the new Title I teacher and Angela Chmielewski is the new kindergarten through 12th grade counselor. Ms. Chmielewski started training with Anita Burton during the end of summer and during registration, so some of the parents and students had an early opportunity to get acquainted with her.

Mrs. Moree and Ms. Chmielewski are featured below. Check next week's Times to learn about Mrs. Rodriguez.

Amy Moree

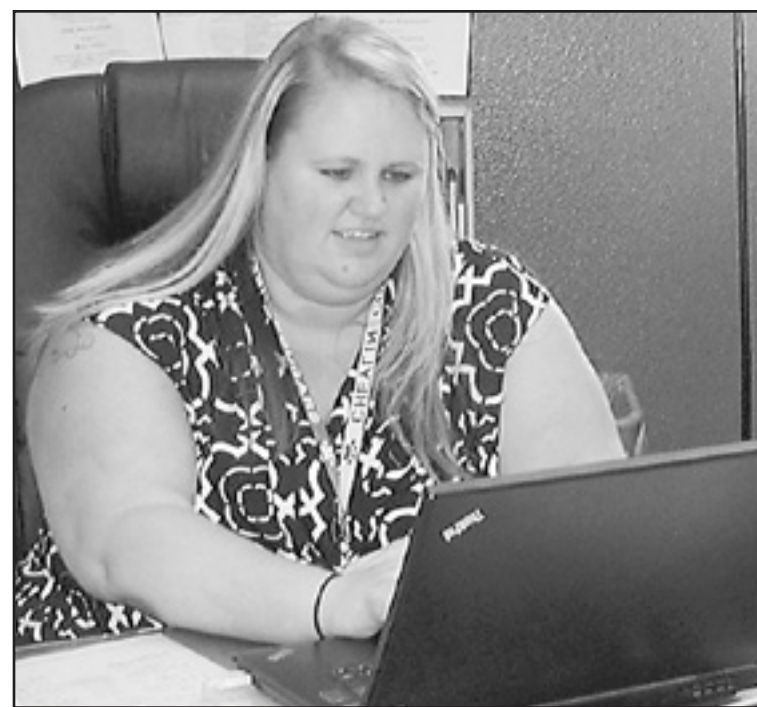
Amy Moree is not a stranger to Bird City. She was born in Atwood, and lived in St. Francis where she graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 2005. She then attended Kansas Wesleyan University where she received her teaching degree in 2010 and taught fourth grade for three years in Liberal.

In May of 2012 she married Kody Moree from Liberal, who is a farmer and presently works with Jon Waters. Amy and Kody have a 7-month-old daughter, Brentley Grace.

Mrs. Moree is excited about returning to the area and becoming a part of the Cheylin family. She said she loves the thought of living here for the rest of her life and having her daughter Brentley attend school here.

Angela Chmielewski

Angela Chmielewski comes to Cheylin from Jackson, Mich., where she was born and graduated from Jackson High School in 2000. She graduated from Eastern



ANGELA CHMIELEWSKI, counselor, works at her computer.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

Michigan University in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and social work. In 2012 she received a master's of counseling degree from Spring Arbor University.

Prior to receiving her counseling degree she worked as a substitute teacher and family counselor, taught pre-school-age children during Sunday school and facilitated a grief group for teens who had lost family members.

Because Cheylin is a small school in a small town, the thought of working with students here attracted her to make the move. The smaller class sizes and familiarity between staff and students, she says, is not something you find back in Michigan.

"It is an unexpected treasure," she says, "and I hope everyone here can appreciate what value that adds to our students education."

She says she is passionate about helping children succeed academically, socially and emotionally and she is looking forward to learning more from each child, staff and the community.

When Ms. Chmielewski came to look around and check out the school and town, she said she felt safe and peaceful. Every person she met made her feel most welcome and she fell in love with the town.

When she made the move she brought her mother and 4-year-old daughter, Joia. Her mother Joanne Dalton felt like Bird City was a great place to have a new adventure, and agreed to fill Cheylin's open position of assistant in the preschool. Angela said she is excited for the opportunity to have her mom working with her in the Cheylin schools and living with her in this great town of Bird City.



FIFTH GRADE TEACHER, Amy Moree is helping Brianna Vandike with her reading. She is happy to be back in her hometown area.