

Cheylin begins homecoming activities, fun

Cheylin homecoming activities have started once again. The street was painted by seniors on Monday evening. Tuesday, throwback uniforms – the old ones worn by students in year's past – were seen in the halls and classrooms of the school.

Wednesday was blue and white day, with students wearing the school colors. Thursday, it was a rainbow of colors as students were asked to wear clothes in bright colors. Friday is game day and there will be lots of spirit shown.

The homecoming royalty has been selected. They include Rocio Flores, Ty Carmichael, Shayla Hubbard, Casey Vandike, Ellie Pochop and Eddie Frisbie.

The homecoming ceremony and crowning was held Wednesday evening, instead of a Thursday as in year's past. The Bank and Peoples State Bank teamed up to sponsor a community barbecue in the Cheylin cafeteria. The coronation followed at the football field. The community pep rally finished out the evening.

The homecoming football game against Golden Plains will start at 7 p.m. on Friday.

The homecoming dance will start at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the Cheylin cafeteria. The varsity Lady Cougars will meet Golden Plains ladies prior to the football game starting at 4:30 p.m.

This is a fun and exciting week for the students and community. Plan to attend the activities and support the Cougars.

Railroad lawsuit discussed further at board meeting

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners talked about the development of the lawsuit filed against the county by the Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado Railroad. At the end of the discussion, they agreed to contact the county's attorney handling the case, Allen Glendenning.

At the last meeting, Mr. Glendenning had made an executive session conference call informing them on what was going on. The railroad company earlier had filed a \$200,000 lawsuit against the county after a train had derailed several years ago. They claimed that the county was pulling dirt over the tracks, causing the train to derail. Dave Flemming, public works director, had records proving that they had not pulled dirt over the tracks.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, told the other two commissioners that last week the railroad crew had installed bridge planks

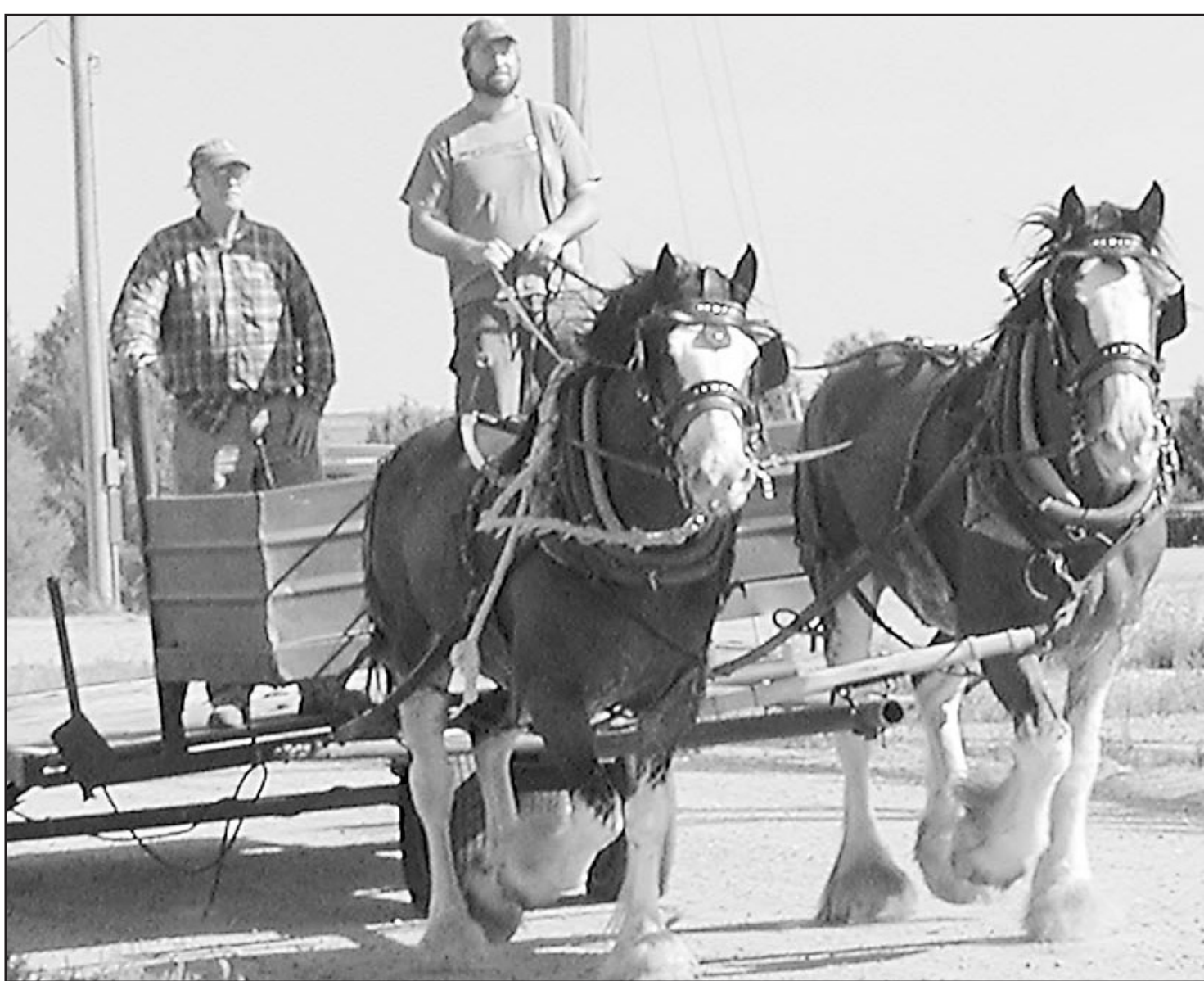
on both sides of the tracks at that road crossing. They are above the tracks and extremely difficult to cross.

We need to acknowledge that the track repair is not good, said Dale Patton, commissioner. When we take complaints, he said, we try to address the situation the best we can. It is accountability and this is their (the railroad's) track.

Karan Thadani, county attorney, said the railroad company had wanted an offer for settlement.

We told Mr. Glendenning that we were not interested in a settlement, Mr. Patton said. We have asked for repairs on county crossings for four or five months.

The commissioners asked that court be held in Wichita. The railroad's dispute is in Kansas, Mr. Patton said, so we thought we should keep the hearing in Kansas. They recognized Mr. Flemming's documentation of road repairs as being very accurate.



BEN MCGILVRAY drives a team as his father, Mike McGilvray, watches his progress in breaking the horses.

Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez

Father, son team train horses

By Norma Martinez

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A few weeks ago farmers were working in the fields and stirring up dust storms in preparing the ground for planting their winter wheat. The first of September, due to the drought, farmers were busy swathing their dry corn and milo. Heavy trucks were racing down the roads leaving dust clouds behind them in taking the cuttings to the dairy to be mixed with other ingredients as feed for the cows.

Several weeks ago, a dust storm was seen going down the road by Frontier Ag. Mike and Ben McGilvray had a team of four Clydesdale horses hitched to an old open wagon and headed down the road to the railroad tracks. They turned them around, non-stop, and headed back to the McGilvray Stables. It looked like a scene being filmed in a western movie.

Once they stopped, they said only three of the horses were their's. The other one belonged to a customer and they were training it for pulling a buggy and working in unison with a team of horses.

Back at the stables, Mike and

Ben unhitched the horses, returned their horses to the field, and left the horse in training to guard their wagon while they went to work in their woodworking shop.

The McGilvray's always have a big project going on in their woodworking and metal shop. Two years ago, they built an elaborate white steel Cinderella coach for a customer in Wellington, Colo., to be used for weddings.

In the McGilvray shop sits an 1860 Concord stagecoach replica, which Mike and his son Ben built from scratch seven years ago. They hitch the Clydesdale horses up to the coach and take it to parades, the thrasher show, and special events giving free stage coach rides.

This father and son team is currently working on a sheepherders wagon which will mostly be built from scratch. They had the original wheel suspension system, steel wheels, and a brake system to work with. The wagon had a rubber tires which the owners wanted replaced with a wooden wheel running gear like it originally had.

The sheepherder wagon has

benches that line the sides which they rebuilt and painted. Together both Mike and Ben rebuilt the wooden frame for the covered wagon and Ben was sanding the pieces of wood to build a box to be mounted on the side.

They are presently working on rebuilding the covering for the living quarters. Mike is rebuilding the stove that was badly rusted, using his blacksmith skills.

When the father-son team finish the wagon it is going to Houston, Texas. The owner's parents actually lived in the original wagon in the late 30s or early 40s, and the salvaged parts are close to 100 years old. Mike estimates it will take a couple of years to finish this wagon.

This is the second sheepherder wagon that the McGilvray's have restored. Years ago, the first one was rebuilt for a fashion designer in New York who owns the RRL Ranch in Ridgeway, Colo. It was an original wagon on the ranch, and it had been converted into a chuck wagon. The sheepherder wagon is an early day camper designed for the sheepherder to stay in while out in the pastures

tending the sheep.

Entering the McGilvray farms shop reveals all the equipment needed for making handmade, special order wagon wheels. Following the two men around the shop to see all the steps and machinery used just to make a wheel is a fascinating process. Even with the semi modern equipment using electricity, it is very time consuming and a fading trade.

Mike started rebuilding wheels as a hobby years ago and Ben started working with him as a young child by helping him build a 111-inch wagon wheel chandler for a customer. Since then, he has learned to work all the machinery and has built many complete wagon wheels. One section of the shop contains stacks of spokes that have been cut for filling an order for new wagon wheels.

As a change of pace for another project they are going to be starting, the McGilvray's plan on building a replica of a 1902 Holman car, which was the first car to appear in Sherman County and is on display in the Goodland Museum.

Local family gives new life to old tank house on farm

By Norma Martinez

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Last weekend, while Bethel Golt was in town helping Don Bruder with the U.S 36 garage sale, two of Bethel's sons, Matt and Alan Golt, were at her home painting their latest piece of history. Matt's best friend Mandalyn Knapic applied her artistic holistic designs to the outside.

Matt and Alan grew up on the rural farm between McDonald and Bird City, and have memories of getting water from a tank house in the backyard of their mother's home on Road Q. The house is a cubical shaped cement block house, with a water tank in the top. The windmill pumped water in to the tank, which then gravity fed the water to the house and other buildings.

Bethel has photos of an owl that moved in to the top. Photos of the owl with her babies lined up in a row, mouths open waiting to be fed, were taken by Matt. Matt and Alan put their heads together and decided to rid the tank house of the owls and restore it.

Last year, Matt said he used his holistic skills to repurpose the direction of this deteriorating tank house. It was once used for survival of the fittest, he said. Now, he has turned it into a sauna house to enhance the soul of up to eight

people's spirits through steam generated from the sauna.

Matt dug the dirt out of the inside of the tank house, and sealed it. Alan used his carpentry skills to install windows and build the hardwood bench and steps.

Matt then used his holistic skills to install a sauna that creates steam by pouring ladles of water over the hot rocks. Within 45 minutes, the room is full of wet heat at a temperature of 130 degrees. A person, he said, can only stay in the steam room for 30 to 45 minutes at a time.

In the winter when there is snow on the ground and you want to stay in the room longer, he said, you can cool your body down quickly by going out and rolling in the snow.

"Last winter, there was only enough snow for me to do this twice," Matt said. The other times he would pour a bucket of cool water over his head.

Matt's holistic friend Mandalyn, is painting the outside of the building in designs of anchors to better hold attention for meditation.

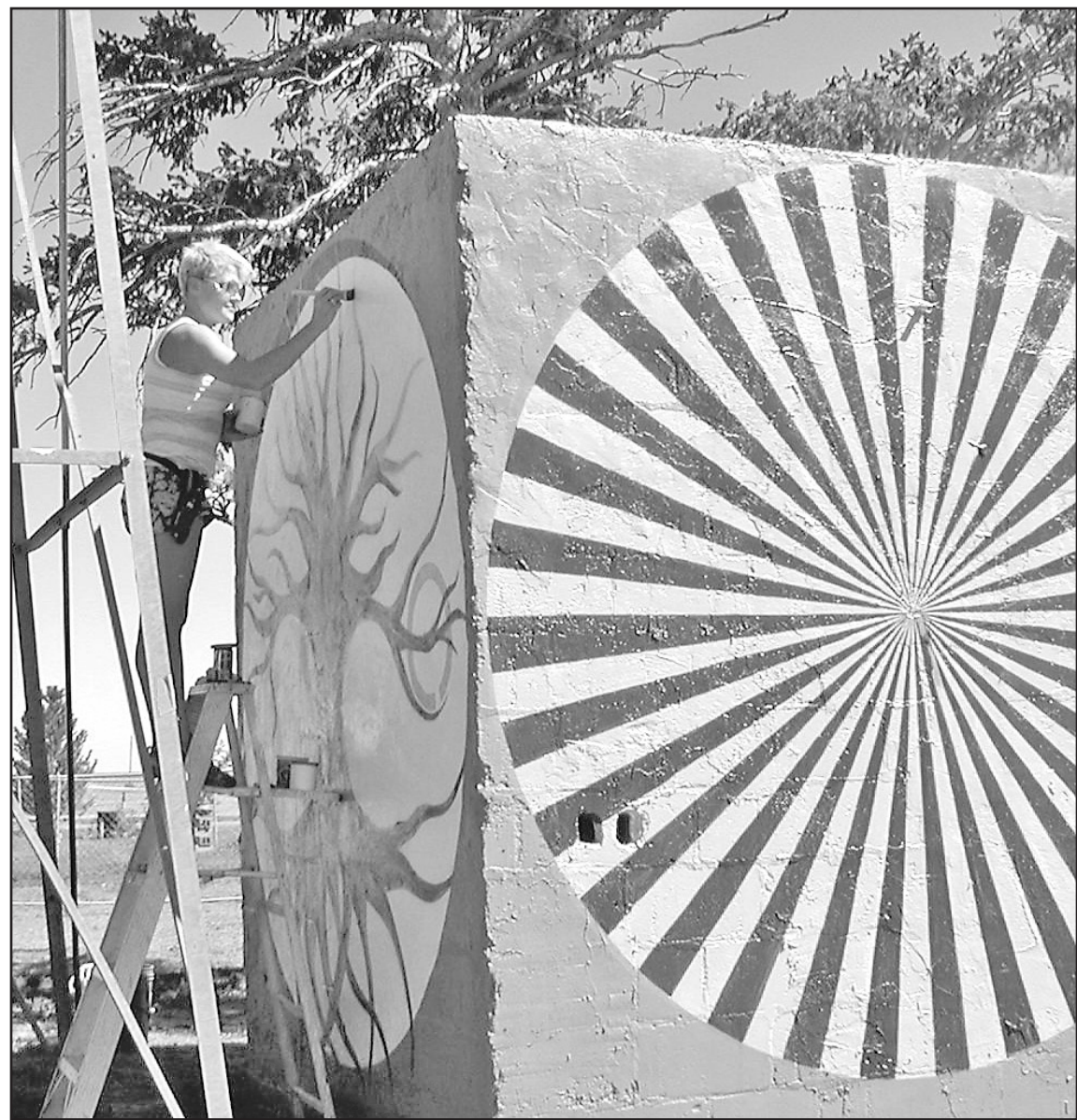
Just a few feet outside the door is a small circle with an artistic design that is centered with the center of the windmill. Matt described the circle as the equal point which represents the grounding to earth for energy purposes from the sky. The

main purpose for this design is to anchor attention for better meditation once the individual is inside the sauna.

On the west wall, Mandalyn painted a series of circles. As a person stands in front of it and focuses on the center anchors, their attention allows stronger meditation. This circle represents the opposite of the cube-shaped room to draw focus to the Yin and Yang signs. The circles, Matt said, also draw attention to the Alpha waves that induce creativity and intuition for relaxation.

Ms. Knapic was working on the north side of the cubical, designing a large tree with deep roots to represent life. The tree grows long roots that spread deep into the ground and are what anchors the tree to the earth, she explained. They are a visualization of going down the body, plunging into the depths of the planet, and spreading out.

The roots allow the person to draw the positive energy of mother earth into their body, and broaden from the base of the spine, she said. The bulky roots entwine with the waters inside the planet's core, and represent unconditional love, healing and energy of earth. The body and planet she was describing was the human body.



MANDALYN KNAPIC is painting holistic designs on an old tank house which has been converted into a sauna house.

Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez