

## July 4 celebration will be held in Bird City

By: Norma Martinez  
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The Bird City City Council meeting, on March 10, brought a full house of community residents and project workers with requests for council members approval.

Rodney Neitzel gave a long presentation, asking permission to change the location of their traditional July 4, celebration to Bird City. This request was unanimously approved.

The planning committee would like to move this celebration from St. Francis and was asking permission to work with Bird City using the park, Scout Hut, thresher show grounds and are seeking permission from Century II to use their facilities. Plans are to start the celebration at 9:30 in the park and offer rides for the kids on the fire truck and antique equipment, and

have a kid's red white and blue parade, hot dog contests, and other events between the park and Century II.

Approval was previously given to use the thresher show grounds at their March meeting. Plans are to have the school house; country church, sod house and museum open for tours presenting the history of Cheyenne County. Concession stands will be provided, and the fireworks will be set off from the Thresher show grounds. All the proceeds from all the concession stands and other events will go towards paying for the fireworks.

### Water project

David Blau and Chris Miller with Miller and Associates gave a report on the Water Project. This project is nearing the final phase of planning and will be open for bid letting on May 5. Discussion

was held on the painting of the water tower along with repairs to the roof. He also stated the lamination for the Bird House project is not incorporated into the contract and needs to be done by a separate contractor with funds from outside sources if this is done.

### Increased security

The city is working on purchasing the needed equipment so the sheriff and undersheriff can make use of the sheriff's office located in city hall on a regular schedule at least two and a-half days a week.

### New library board members

Jane Brubaker, representing the library board, appeared before the council, requesting the council's approval for three new members. Linda Schneider, Alisa Deeds, and Judy Sager will fill the vacant positions on the library board. Willy Martinez, Stanley Dorsch and

Janice Churchwell are remaining board members.

### Summer/part-time help hours

The board approved the summer part-time help to be allowed to work up to 200 hours. This approval can be reinstated when their hours are running low.

### Tools replacement

Councilman Ned Smith presented a list of tools that are missing in the shop that need to be replaced. The decision of the council was to allow Brad Schneider to purchase these tools for up to \$500.

Mr. Schneider said there was a tool box in the shop that was not being used and requested permission to sell it through the sealed bids process. Council members gave Mr. Schneider permission to advertise this tool box for sale.

### Streets

Councilman Dennis Wright

had a meeting with McCormick Excavating to work up a maintenance program for patching up the streets. Mr. Wright has been in contact with McCormick Excavating in regard to looking at the streets and making an estimate on repairing them.

### Condemned property

Calvin and Nancy Semler, owners of the old theater building and property on Fourth Street, were present to discuss the demolition and cleaning up of the property. This property has been condemned. Once this is taken care of the city will talk about back taxes.

### Swimming pool

With the summer months coming up, city workers will start preparing the swimming pool for opening up sometime in April. They will soon start advertising for a pool manager and life guards.

### Building permits

Robert Glass was accompanied by Russell Jackson requesting a permit to add two bedrooms to the residence of Robert and Heidi Glass. Russell Jackson is the contractor.

### City clerk report

City clerk Ailysa Blair reported she received a couple complaints from residents that their water bills were too high. The city clerk, Mr. Schneider, and Frank Serrano are looking into this.

Mrs. Blair thanked Don Wright and Dennis Wright for putting the Christmas decorations up.

They also thanked Wade Carmichael and Dennis Wright for helping out while the maintenance department was in transition.

Next meeting of the city council will be on April 7 at 7 p.m.

## Multiple accidents occur on same day

By Karen Krien

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Law officers and the emergency medical technicians were busy Wednesday, March 12, when they were called to two accidents. Each accident caused injuries and two people were taken to the hospital.

A two-vehicle accident happened about 8:15 a.m. on U.S. 36 at the east turn in at Captain Hook's Restaurant in Wheeler. The accident sent one man to the hospital.

A semi truck belonging to Eckland Farm, Goodland, and driven by Darius Bussen of Sharon Springs, was headed east. The pickup, driven by Jonathan Weems, St. Francis, was in the process of passing when the truck made a left turn, cutting off the pickup. The passenger in the pickup was Jack McGinnis, St. Francis, and he was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital and later released that day. The pickup belonged to Tri-State Ir-

rigation, St. Francis.

Cheyenne County Sheriff, Cody Beeson, said the pickup truck was passing in a no-passing lane. The occupants of the vehicles said they were wearing their seat belts.

The crash caused a leak in the fuel tank of the truck, and firemen were busy trying to dam the diesel from spreading further. The Kansas Department of Transportation later cleaned up the diesel.

The second accident, which happened about noon, also involved two vehicles. Lavon Schlittenhardt, St. Francis, was driving her 1998 Ford Explorer across U.S. 36 on her way to College Street when Leslie Zeitler, Bird City, driving a 1989 Chevy pickup, hit her. Sheriff Beeson said the cause of the accident was Mrs. Schlittenhardt's failure to yield.

The pickup belonged to Kelly Lampe. Zeitler, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken to the hospital and later flown out for additional medical care.



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS were called to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 36 at Wheeler. A pickup ran into a semi truck that was turning left into the Captain Hook parking lot. There were no serious injuries.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

## After school program starts next year

By Amanda Miller

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The Cheylin School Board met on Tuesday, March 11. At the meeting, the board reviewed and approved the 2014-2015 calendar.

The committee worked hard to have as few Fridays as possible in the next calendar school year. In order to make that happen, school will have to start a week earlier this coming fall. The first day for teachers will be Aug. 11, and the first day for students will be Aug. 13. There will be two teacher inservice days at the beginning of the year and four teacher inservice days on Fridays at the end of each term.

### Grant money awarded

Cheylin School District is eligible for a Small Rural School Achievement Grant that is awarded from the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP). This federal money has been used

for things such as professional development, software subscriptions, and summer school in the past. The goal of the grant is to raise student academic achievement in the district.

As more schools are qualifying for the funds, the available monies are shrinking. There is flexibility in how the money is spent, as long as it is used in line for the goals.

For the past several years, Cheylin has held summer school for three weeks in June. Students that attend are typically elementary students.

This year, Cheylin will not be holding summer school. The grant funds will be reallocated, and budgeted for a formalized after school program for students from September 2014 through April 2015.

The after school program is tentatively scheduled to be two to three days a week from 4:15

to 5:15 p.m., but it is yet to be determined. Students from kindergarten through grade 12 will improve their academic achievements with intervention and homework help. It will possibly require three to four teachers. All details are yet to be determined.

### Personnel

The board approved Ailysa Blair as the high school cheerleading sponsor, and Hannah Louderbaugh as assistant high school track coach for the 2014 season.

Matt Wilson's new contract, as it relates to the technology initiative, was also approved.

### In other business

In other business: The board accepted the donation of \$25,000 from Century II for the Window Project. The board also accepted the \$1,000 donation from the Cheylin Booster Club for the Wellness Center.

The board discussed the tradi-

tion of former board members awarding their own graduating seniors their diplomas. This practice will continue.

The Kansas State Department of Education issued a letter regarding the new state assessments in math and English language arts. This spring, Kansas students grade 3 through 8 and one grade in high school will take new assessments. The test will align with the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards. The new reports will identify where a student is doing well, and where additional focus is needed. It will also allow for a more detailed report of how the child is doing in math and English language arts. However, with the new assessment being introduced, it will take longer to receive the results. This will be challenging for everyone involved. Results will be made available in August.

## Cheylin basketball players recognized

The 2014 Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Boys and Girls Basketball teams have been announced. Cheylin High School had three All-League placers and one honorable mention.

Girls receiving recognition on the All-League team were Shayla Hubbard, a senior, and Allie Frisbie, junior. Senior Ty Carmichael was named to the All-League team, and senior Casey Vandike received an honorable mention.

Girls All-League team members were: Kadee Braun, junior, Logan, Jordan Christensen, senior, Golden Plains, Allie Frisbie, junior, Cheylin, Ruth Hair, senior, Western Plains, Kelsey Hale, senior, Weskan, Brooke Hammond, senior, Northern Valley, Fallyn Handley, senior, Palco, Shayla Hubbard, senior, Cheylin, Kiley

Marcotte, senior, Palco, Kami Miller, sophomore, Golden Plains, Brittany Plummer, senior, Triplains/Brewster, Paige Ramey, senior, Wheatland-Grinnell, Shayna Rogge, junior, Triplains/Brewster, Robyn See, junior, Weskan, Hailee Spreser, senior, Golden Plains.

Receiving honorable mention: Brooke Baird, sophomore, Northern Valley, Bailey Bixenman, freshman, Wheatland-Grinnell, Michaela Girard, senior, Logan, MiKayla Lobato, senior, Golden Plains, Dara Roulier, junior, Triplains/Brewster.

Boys earning All-League honors were: Jordan Baird, senior, Northern Valley, Chad Becker, senior, Logan, Ty Carmichael, senior, Cheylin, Hunter Chandler, senior, Northern Valley, Trevor Frasier, senior, Weskan, Nathan



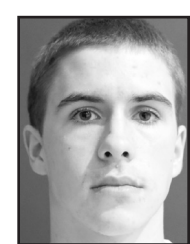
Frisbie



Carmichael



Hubbard



Vandike

Jorgensen, senior, Triplains/Brewster, Regan Kats, sophomore, Logan, Robert Martin, senior, Weskan, Chad Ryerse, senior, Western Plains, Tristan Schwarz, senior, Golden Plains, Seth Smith, senior, Triplains/Brewster, Grant Spreser, senior, Golden Plains, Matt Stutsman, junior, Northern Valley, Hayden Walker, senior, Weskan, Douglas Wisbey, senior, Wheatland-Grinnell.

Those boys receiving honorable

mention were: Eddie Beckett, senior, Western Plains, Clint Cole, junior, Northern Valley, Ryeder Gonzalez, junior, Healy, Daniel Hair, sophomore, Western Plains, Dustin Hamel, sophomore, Palco, Coleton Rogge, sophomore, Triplains/Brewster, Shane Ryburn, senior, Golden Plains, Casey Vandike, senior, Cheylin, Josh Van-Laey, freshman, Logan, Drake Wentz, senior, Western Plains



WINDY CONDITIONS returned to Bird City on Tuesday. After warmer weather conditions brought many outdoors, Mother Nature surprised us with cold wind gusts Tuesday afternoon.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien