

# Cougar Sports *By Bru & the Crew*

The Cougar basketball teams had a rare one-game week last week. This was somewhat of a welcome break after the men faced four games two weeks ago and the ladies faced three games. Did the rest and practice prove to be just what the Cougars needed? Let's find out.....

The Cougars junior varsity teams started the games a day early when they faced off in friendly matches on Thursday.

The junior high teams started the night off with two big wins. Congratulations to our young Cougars on your victory!

The ladies played the Heartland Christian Crusaders in the next game of the night. The ladies gave a spirited effort, but in the end the Crusaders proved to be just too much. This was a tough loss for our junior varsity ladies. The junior varsity men had the next game of the night. The men would be taking on the Christian Family Educator Falcons. The Falcons is a group of home-schooled athletes who come together to play sports, just to clarify for those who were wondering. There is only a varsity team, so a friendly game was played between the Falcon varsity and the Cougar's junior varsity. The Cougar men fell behind 14-0 right out of the gate. However, our men refused to go away and put up a spirited effort the whole way. Even so, they fell by a final score of 47 to 24. Despite the losses, these games provided some good playing time for our junior varsity players

The very next day, the Cougar teams traveled to Brewster to take

on the Brewster-Triplains Titans. This game figured to be a bit of a battle. There is definitely some animosity between these teams. Bird City and Brewster have been longtime rivals. When Cheylin was formed, the rivalry continued, and the adding of Triplains to the mix has changed nothing. What started out so many years ago as the Bird City Cardinals vs. the Brewster Bulldogs now lives today as the Cheylin Cougars vs. the Brewster-Triplains Titans. In the famous words of every athlete playing in a rivalry, "IT IS ON!!!!!!!"

The junior varsity ladies started out the night with a crushing 40-26 victory. However, the Titans quickly avenged the loss when their junior varsity boys won 38-31. The varsity ladies game was the next event of the night. Despite a six-win and three loss record, our Lady Cougars came in as a heavy underdog. The Lady Titans were this year's Western Kansas Liberty League champions and Sagebrush Shootout champions. They also were ranked third in the state. However, our ladies had an upset on their minds. It would be a heated battle, that much was certain. The Cougars jumped out to an 8-0 lead and set the tone to start the game. The first half was a real battle, and the Cougars took a 21-17 lead into halftime thanks to a nifty little buzzer beater by Elizabeth Keltz. The Titans came storming back in the second half, and there were many lead changes and fouls were in abundance. The Titans played hard, but the Cougars were not to be denied.

The Cougars finally pulled away toward the end of the fourth quarter, and they walked out with a victory. Our ladies had upset the league champs! Final score: Cheylin 55 Brewster/Triplains 44.

The men's game was the final event on schedule for that night. Our men have been struggling with just two wins and eight losses. It was time for a much needed victory. The first half was a real defensive battle to begin, but the Cougars started to build a lead and it was enough to give them a 30-23 lead at halftime. The Titans came out of the break harder than the Cougars, and were able to take a 37-36 lead. However, the Cougars answered, and things were back and forth. The Cougars held a 3 point lead with about 4 minutes left to go in the game. They were able to stall and burn clock. That, matched with clutch free-throw shooting, gave the Cougars a much needed win by a final score of 49-40. A great win by our Cougar men.

I would also like to congratulate the scholars bowl team. The Cheylin scholars bowl team took first at last week's Brewster meet, and finished second at the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament. A fine job by our schools academic team.

Last week's victories were good ones for our Cougars. The ladies move to 7-3 on the year and the men are now 3-8. I strongly encourage everyone to attend this Friday's home game between your Cheylin Cougars and the Palco Roosters. Let's pack the house. GO COUGARS!!!!!!

## Obituaries

### Vada Marie (Penn) Burkhalter Nov. 24, 1918 - Jan. 22, 2014

Vada Marie (Penn) Burkhalter died at the Hester Home in Benkelman, Neb. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the age of 95.

She was born Nov. 24, 1918, to Alfreda and Bertha (Pettit) Penn. She was raised on a farm along with her three sisters, Violet, Velma, and Venita. She attended country school and later received a degree in cosmetology.

On May 18, 1941, she married Albert (Bus) Burkhalter in Imperial, Neb. Vada worked as a hair stylist at her Burkhalter Beauty Shop in Benkelman where she enjoyed a lengthy career, making lifelong friends along the way. Vada also helped Bus on the farm; she enjoyed living in the country, often commenting or taking photos of wildlife and their livestock. In her spare time, Vada made a life-long hobby of working with her gifted hands, making beautiful quilts and embroidering countless works of art.

When her husband passed away in 1989, Vada chose to live independently on the farm for many years. She would pass the time helping her nephew, Gene Young, with livestock chores and

walking about a quarter of a mile to get the mail, often stopping to dodge a snake or move a bird's nest.

Realizing that she might need a little help from time to time, Vada decided to move to Bird City in 2010. She still maintained much of her independence, continuing to drive until the age of 91. Vada enjoyed friends and family stopping by to visit; she always had a honey bun or a chocolate donut with a cup of coffee ready for company. Vada looked forward to getting her hair fixed on Fridays and made sure there was time for lunch and visiting with her friends and family while in Benkelman.

She started a long-lasting tradition of a Memorial Day family gathering at her home, as spending time with her relatives was very important to her. Vada was a very hard worker, had a witty sense of humor and never complained about the pain she endured in her recent years.

Through the many years she lived independently, she was fortunate to have the help of many nieces, nephews, and friends who were always willing to assist her

with numerous facets of her day-to-day life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, an infant sister Vera, sisters Velma, Violet, Venita, and her husband Albert. She is survived by her sister-in-laws, Alberta Main, Marjorie Lockwood, Donna Taynor, Shirley Lyon, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Serves were held at the Benkelman Community Center on Jan. 27. The service was officiated by Dr. Lonnie Willis and Pastor Jim Gleason. The casket bearers were Ethan Young, Randy Burkhalter, Larry Willis, Josh Sowers, Vinton Wolfe, and Byron Els. Honorary bearers were Verle Wolfe, Floyd Pettit, and Sage Waltemath. Interment took place at the Benkelman Cemetery. The Benkelman Memorial Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

A Memorial has been established to the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home of Benkelman, the Bird City Emergency Medical Services, or the Gideons.

Online condolences can be left at [liewerfuneralhome.com](http://liewerfuneralhome.com).

### Patty Ann (Oster) Gerver April 26, 1929 - Jan. 21, 2014

Patty Ann Oster was born April 26, 1929, in Cheyenne County, Kan., to Bill and Ruby Oster.



Gerver

She died on Jan. 21, 2014, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, Kan., at the age of 84.

She attended elementary and high school in St. Francis.

She married the love of her life, Wayne Gerver, on June 23, 1946. Two children were born to this union. Their daughter, Deanna, was born in 1949, and their son, Raymond was born in 1952.

Patty loved to do crafts of any kind, but especially crochet. She made each of her granddaughters an afghan, and

also made several baby gifts, including frilly dresses for her great-granddaughters.

She enjoyed going fishing and camping with Wayne. He would fish and she would crochet and cook great meals in their camper trailer. They were happily married almost 51 years prior to Wayne's death in 1997.

Patty's greatest joy was her family. Her eyes would light up and she would be all smiles whenever she was with any of them. She loved visiting and playing cards with her family and her friends.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran American Church in St. Francis. She had her membership transferred to St. John Lutheran Church after moving to Bird City in 1959.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Vern, her daughter-in-law, Pam and

her husband, Wayne.

Patty is survived by her daughter, Deanna Nelsen and husband, David of Bird City, her son, Ray Gerver and his wife, Pauletta of McCook, Neb.; sisters-in-law: Vola Fenner and Lila Oster; six granddaughters, Dana Barnett (fiance Don Barnhart), Denise Keltz (Max), Darci Schields (Kale), Kelly Doyle (Kris), Trisha Zweygardt (Mike), Jannell Martinez (Victor), and three step grandchildren: Andy Hein (Kassandra), Jon Hein (friend Alison Jackson), Crystal Buscher (James), and 26 great-grandchildren. She also leaves a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held Jan. 25 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City. Inurnment will be held at a later date in the Bird City Cemetery.

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**Cheyenne County Hospital**

**Happy First Birthday on Jan. 3, Krissiana Grace DeJong and congratulations to her parents Lisa & Chad DeJong!**

THE FIRST BABY OF 2013 was Krissiana Grace DeJong, daughter of Lisa and Chad DeJong. She was delivered by Dr. Rebecca Allard at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

# Cheyenne County Hospital

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