

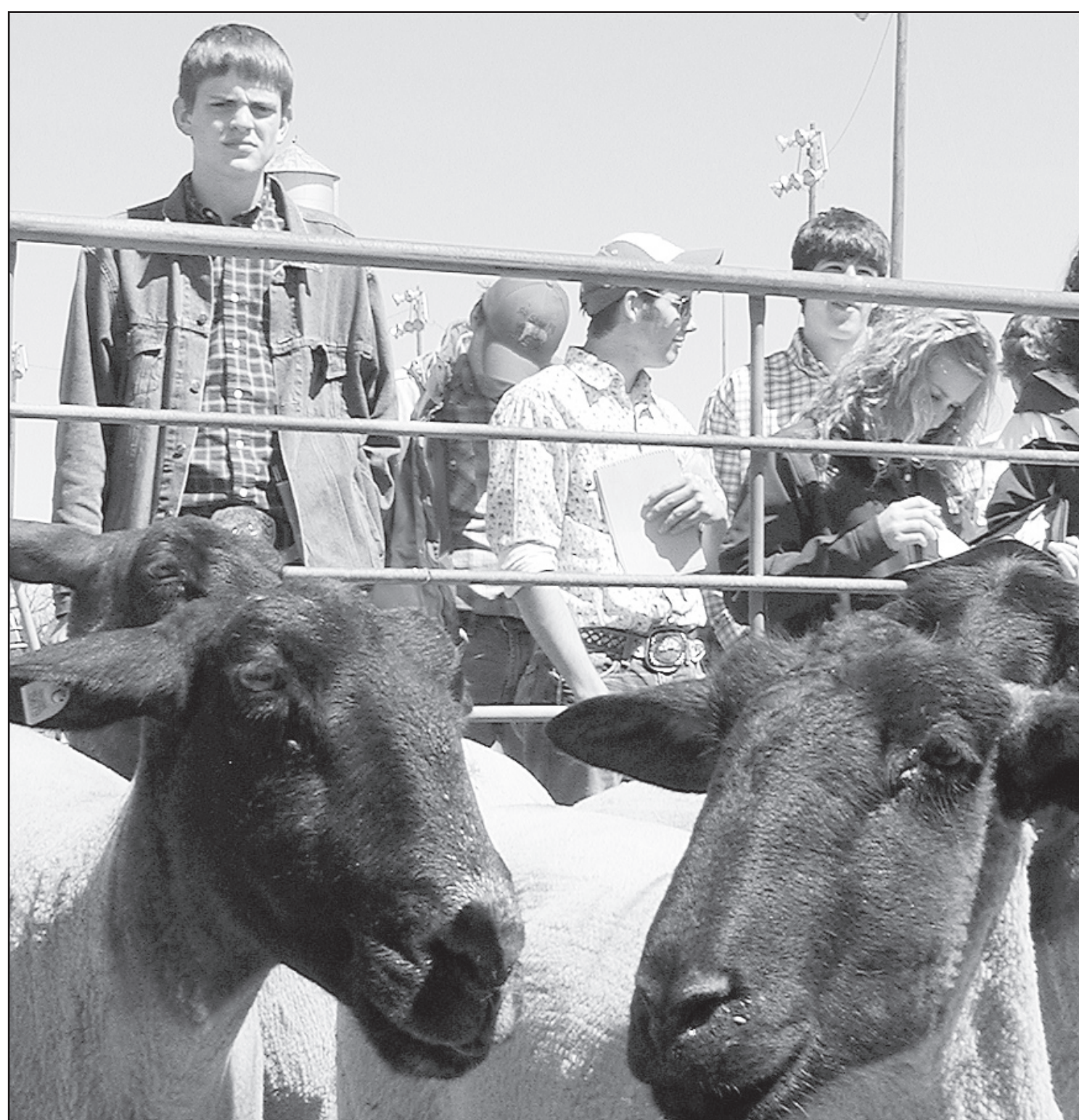


Bird City Times

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JOSHUA KELTZ (facing sheep), participates in the FFA Judging held at Cheylin on Tuesday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students will play games at fund raiser

Bird City's 125-year celebration is just around the corner. The last fund-raising event before the celebration on June 11, 12, and 13 will take place on May 6.

The Cheylin elementary students, first through sixth grades, are going to kick-off a night of fun and excitement with a fast-paced game of dodge ball in the Cheylin gymnasium beginning at 5 p.m. Following will be "Court Night" with the Cheylin Alumni basketball game.

The basketball game will be refereed by two of Bird City's distinguished citizens. In addition to the referees, a special guest announcer will be at both games. Students will be admitted to the games free.

For the guys who are interested in playing for the alumni team,

contact Wade Carmichael at 785-734-2494. And for the gals, contact Noel Ketzner at 785-694-1604.

Also at the event, a Mexican fajita dinner will be available with a choice of either chicken or beef. The meal will be served between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event will be sold at First National Bank, Century II Development Foundation, Peoples State Bank of McDonald, Bird City 125-Year Celebration Store in the Senior Center on Monday and at the door on the day of the games.

This will be the last time the community can show support for the upcoming celebration in June; everyone needs to be a part of the fun and food, and cheer on all the teams.

Prom promises an enchanted evening

An Enchanted Evening is the theme of this year's Cheylin junior-senior prom. The prom will be held on Saturday, in the high school gym in McDonald.

The prom decor will be open to the public for viewing from 6:30 to 7 p.m. only. Promenade will begin at 7 and end at 7:30 p.m. with the start of the meal and the

evening's festivities.

The junior class asks that residents not park on the street directly in front of the school to allow the prom attendees to have valet parking in those areas. The prom evening will end at midnight with after prom festivities starting at 12:30.

Tax credits available again

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, reported Tuesday that, for fiscal year 2011, the Kansas Community Service Tax Credit Program will be funded.

There had been some question whether the program would be funded at all given the challenges faced by the state legislature, Mr. Lacy said. In an effort to balance the budget, on May 9, the Kansas legislature voted in support of a

broad 10-percent cut on the value of tax credits for tax years 2009 and 2010. This means, Mr. Lacy said, that when donors claim their tax credit for those years, they will receive 90 percent of the value of the normal program tax credit (50 or 70 percent). Currently for tax year 2011, credits will be given for their full value.

This tax credit program has been used by the hospital three

times in the past for a total of \$780,000 raised for various projects.

"This is an important opportunity for the hospital and community that may not be available again in the future," Mr. Lacy said.

He also said he believes a CT scanner replacement would be one potential project and that the dead line for submittal of the program is May 7.

Cougar Tales

It hardly seems possible that we are only four weeks away from the end of the school year. It has gone by fast and we have had many success stories during the year. As I am completing my first year at Cheylin Schools, I would like to say "Thank You" to the students, staff, and community for helping make this a very successful year for our school and for Emily and me.

Spring is a very busy time of year. It is always interesting that during basketball season, we hear comments that some cannot wait until the season is over so things will slow down! They never seem to slow down, they just shift gears to other events. We have already hosted a home track meet and attend various others. Our golf team has participated in multiple meets as well.

Spring is a time of year when our music program has their Kansas State High School Activities Association state competitions. Our band and vocal students attended regional solos and small ensembles in Oberlin on March 27. We had six students qualify for state music in Wichita. They were Stephanie Busse, Naomi Reeh, Heath Antholz, Noah Jones, Max Hengen and Grant Shrader. In addition to these state qualifiers, our band received a I rating and our vocal received a II rating at Kansas State High School Activities Association large group in Colby on April 15. Congratulations to all these students and to Mrs. Hengen on their accomplishments.

At the April Cheylin Board of Education meeting, many items were discussed about the direction of our district as far as budget reductions are concerned. No official action was taken on any of the items that I am about to mention, but information will be presented as a direction

our district is taking for the future.

We are planning on moving junior high sports practice time during school time and not have the sixth through eighth grade students practice after school. Getting home at 7 p.m. makes a very long day for our junior high students and hopefully this will help with getting homework and assignments completed. The negative is the shorter practice time and scheduling but I feel we can work this out for our students and staff.

We are only planning on hiring assistant coaches for sports that have 13 or more students. If the number of participants are 12 or fewer, we will only hire one coach unless we have a team with the opposite gender head coach, then we will hire a second coach for that team. Also, we presently have three coaches for our high school football program and plan on reducing this number to a head and one assistant.

We are not planning on having cross country or golf next year. This was a very difficult direction for our board to pursue, but felt we could save additional money in these two areas. We have already combined the cheerleading and dance teams under one salary but may still have both programs through the cooperation of the sponsors.

The board of education would like to offer an option if individuals or organizations come forward and are willing to fund a program or coaching positions we may reinstate some of the cuts. The board still retains all rights to make decisions regarding any supplemental programs offered at Cheylin Schools. It is possible to reinstate the positions or programs if enough funding comes forth to cover salaries, entry fees, travel, and uniforms.

We have a great venue in place to accept donations to help our school and our programs. Donors may make a direct tax deductible contribution to the school to support these or other programs. A more preferable method is to make a tax deductible donation to the newly formed Cheylin Schools Foundation through the Century II Foundation. Century II has agreed that 100 percent of the donations given for the school will go to the school and none of the money will be withheld for administrative fees. We are fortunate to have the help and support of Century II. Donations can be made either for a specific purpose or for the general use of our school programs.

We have made many money-saving decisions at this time without hurting programs or staff associated with our academic programs. We hope we are able to maintain what we have in the future for Cheylin Schools. If parents would like to be available as a helper in case we need additional supervision at practice, please contact the school.

On a more positive note; the representative from our Kansas State Department of Education that visited Cheylin to watch our state testing told me after his visit "If every school in the state of Kansas did as well with their testing practices as Cheylin Schools, there would be no testing problems in the state." Congratulations to our students and staff for a job well done.

If you have ideas and input please feel free to contact your board of education members or me at 758-734-2341.

Bruce Bolen
Cheylin Superintendent/Principal



DURING LAST YEAR'S CINCO DE MAYO, Gabrella Gutierrez gives the piñata a good whack to release the candy hidden inside. This year the event will be at the Bird City American Legion Hall.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cinco de Mayo planned for Sunday

On Sunday, the Bird City Go-Getters 4-H Club will be hosting the second annual Cinco de Mayo celebration that will be held in the American Legion Hall in Bird City.

This year's menu will include tamales, tostadas de guacamole, chicken mole, frijoles charros, and other authentic Mexican

food items. In addition, piñatas will be on hand for whacking and filled with candies.

And the Go-Getters will have a face painting table for the kids, and adults, to stop by while waiting for the food.

Serving begins at 5 p.m. through 8 p.m., or until the food is gone.

Free-will donation will be accepted for next year's celebration.

This year's event was made possible by a grant from Century II Development Foundation, donations from Midwest Energy, Bird City Dairy, and the attendees from last year's celebration. (w classified ad)

