

Woman leaving the area

By Norma Martinez
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 Wesleyan Community Church had a reception on Sunday for Judy Brenner, a long time member and former resident of St. Francis. She is going to Florida to spend more time with her family.



GOING AWAY PARTY— Judy Brenner, left, shares her cards with Nancy Semler.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Four years ago, doctors gave her a 10- to 20-percent chance of survival from a pituitary brain tumor. At that time she was working in Goodland as a Rehabilitation Counselor for Social and Rehabilitation Service. She had her right leg in a cast due to leg pain. She couldn't walk, stand or reach the floor with her right leg so they put a cast on it to help stabilize it.

She and her husband were hit by a pickup truck in St. Francis. The impact of the hit caused her to hit her head against the window. Approximately 2 weeks later she had an MRI.

The next day Dr. Shafei called her job, but she was on her way to Indiana to go to her son's graduation. The office staff would only tell him she was not in, and after many persistent calls they finally gave him her cell phone number.

He found her at the St. Louis airport changing planes. He told her she needed to get in to see him that day, and Mrs. Brenner told him she would be back in 10 days, and she would see him then. When she got to Indiana she called the office and was told she had a brain tumor, but she finished

Ten days later she returned to see Dr. Shafei who told her she had a tumor in her pituitary gland that was the size of a golf ball. She was already feeling results to the symptoms as he explained them to her, which were; loss of vision from the large tumor compressing on the optic pathways, double vision, and she could not make any sense of TV. These conditions warrant a medical emergency and immediate decompress surgery is indicated.

In normal cases pituitary tumors are hard to diagnose as there are more than a dozen disorders of the endocrine system, and the symptoms are often confused with

other disorders. Due to the bump on the head and the MRI, it was diagnosed earlier than it would have normally been. Surgery was scheduled for June 6, 2006, the day after her birthday.

During this time Mrs. Brenner never ever lost her thought processes, and on the way to surgery as she went past the waiting room, she looked at her husband and said, "It doesn't matter what you've done in the past or future, I totally love you."

Doctors gave her a 10- to 20-percent chance of survival, and a 90-percent chance she would be blind. She survived and only has a peripheral loss of vision in her right eye and her left eye is fine.

In most cases such as hers, if a person survives the surgery they require extensive rehabilitation. Without good insurance she could not have received this treatment. This usually takes months, but she was well enough to go home in six days.

This home coming was "bitter sweet" as her husband asked her for a divorce. Kansas law allowed him to obtain an emergency divorce due to her medical condition.

Her elderly mother in Wray, Colo., cared for her. After three months of convalescing she was able to return to her job in Goodland part time. Through all this, she did not allow herself to feel bitter about her husband, and she carries with her: "My Lord lives with me all the time."

She is going to move to Florida to spend more time with her family, and is anxious to be able to renew her volunteer work with the Red Cross, and possibly try to do some writing.

Cougar Tales By Bruce Bolen, Superintendent

Welcome back to our 2010-2011 school year. It is hard to believe that summer is over and school has started. The summer went by quickly, but it seems each school year goes by fast as well. It is great to be back and we are ready to educate the future leaders of America!

As I begin my second year as superintendent/principal of Cheylin Schools, I want to take time to thank our students, staff and community for their great support last school year. It was a difficult year budget wise, but we all tried to do what we could for our students. It was the best year ever for me in my administrative career and I have the school and community to thank for this. Cheylin Schools and the communities of Bird City and McDonald are very fortunate to have the support needed to educate our students.

If you have not met our new staff members, we have added four additional people to our group. Ranae Suter is from the Oakley area, a graduate of Fort Hays State University and will be teaching first grade. Kayla Bursch, our previous first grade teacher, moved to kindergarten after the retirement of Sharon Hendricks. Anthony Blair is from Fremont, Neb., a graduate of Midland Lutheran College, and will be teaching kindergarten through 12 physical education as well as head boys basketball coach and assistant football coach. Joining Anthony as a student teacher from Fort Hays State University will be Audrey Vap, a current resident of Atwood. Our third full-time staff member is Dana Barnett, a local gal that recently moved back from Colorado Springs, and will be a para-professional in our Title 1 department.

We welcome these four members to Cheylin Schools and hope you will greet them if you see them downtown or at school activities.

Athletic changes

Our athletic teams are hard at it already. Our high school teams completed their week of two-a-days and have shown promise for success this season. We have 24 high school boys out for football under the direction of head coach Max Keltz, and assistants Dennis Hengen and Anthony Blair.

You will also notice some unfamiliar faces when you watch our high school volleyball ladies and our junior high football teams take the field. Because of low numbers for these two teams, and even lower numbers for Brewster, we have entered into a cooperative agreement with Brewster Schools for this year. We were looking at

eight football players which makes it difficult to practice and compete with larger schools. With the combined numbers from Brewster we have 16 participants which allows our players to scrimmage and compete in eight-man games instead of six-man if the other teams have enough players.

Our high school volleyball ladies are also cooperating with Brewster. Our numbers of 11 made it difficult to scrimmage and we were not able to play junior varsity games. With the additional 8 Brewster girls, we can play junior varsity games as well as the varsity games.

The junior football boys are under the direction of coach Kale Schields and an assistant provided by Brewster Schools.

We have 13 junior high girls out for volleyball this year. Tammi Carmichael is the head coach and she will be assisted by Audrey Vap. At our games our junior high boys will play together with Brewster but our volleyball teams will be separated with other teams playing Cheylin and then Brewster.

With the cooperative agreement, the school calendar is incorrect with our new combined schedule. We will print wallet sports schedules again this year and will try to print a schedule in the paper. Our volleyball ladies are under the direction of Cristi Antholz and Kendal Cahoj. Brewster will also supply an assistant coach. The team will wear Cheylin jerseys, and will be known as the Cheylin/Brewster volleyball team. At this time there

will be no selected combined mascot.

New communication tool

We have a new communication tool this year that we are excited about. Our school has contracted with a company called TextCaster that will allow us to send email and text messages to anyone that signs up for the service. You will need to go the school website www.cheylin.com and there is a link on the lower left of the page. You can get messages for any of selected groups.

Our main use of the program will be to communicate school delays and closings to our patrons. Anyone can sign up if you want to receive the emails or texts. This service is begin sponsored by CHS Corporation.

Hopefully, no cuts

Our hope for the year is that our State Legislature will not make additional cuts to educational funding. By building our budget and not having to reduce spending during the year, we will be able to operate our school as needed. We will continue to keep an eye on expenditures and do the best we can to offer a quality education to your students within the current budget restraints.

If you have questions on budget, general school issues, or school policies, we welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me at the school or by phone at 785-734-2341, or any of our local Board of Education members.

Hoping to have GREAT year.

Bruce Bolen
 Superintendent/Principal

Former graduate is featured in article

A former Cheylin graduate was featured in the *Broken Arrow Daily Ledger*, Broken Arrow, Neb.

In an article written by Nour Habib, education editor for the *Ledger*, Mark Officer was recognized for "taking the helm at Oliver Middle School."

Four hours after Mr. Officer unpacked his boxes and settled into his office at the Broken Arrow High School, he received the call that would ultimately take him somewhere he had always hoped to go. And that place was back to Oliver Middle School, only this time, as its principal.

Officer, who was to be an assistant principal at the high school had previously been a science teacher, and then assistant principal at Oliver. He's also been an assistant principal at Union Intermediate High School and the sixth and seventh grade center.

Officer said when he came back to Oliver, it felt like coming home.

"I believe more whole-heartedly than I ever have every kid can learn," he said.

"If you establish a relationship and set high expectations, and don't back off from those expectations... if you're more stubborn than the kid, basically...then you can eventually get to the point where they enjoy the process."

"I used to be OK with just saying, 'I offered you the information and you chose not to take it.' But I can't live with that anymore," he said.

Now his attitude is, "'I'm going to make you do what's best for you.'"

Officer's five kids go to Broken Arrow schools and his wife teaches at Park Lane.

Although he set out to be a sports broadcaster, he found he enjoyed education much more.

"I want to be where I'm needed," he said. "I want to be where I can make a difference."

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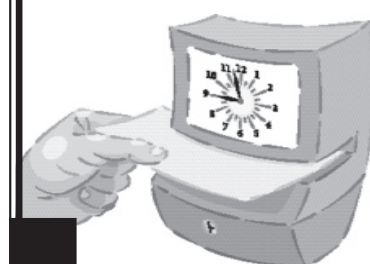
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