

WELCOME BACK — Cheylin students gather for an assembly. Bruce Bolen, school superintendent, talks to the group.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

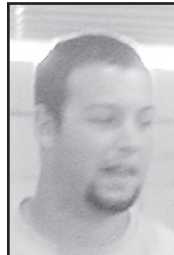
School year starts with new teachers

Walking into the new part of the Cheylin High School, there is the smell of school and fresh paint. In the gymnasium, the bleacher seats are covered with carpeting.

Entering the physical education room, there is Anthony Blair and Audrey Vap two new teachers who are anxious to start teaching students and coaching volleyball.



Vap



Blair

Anthony comes to Cheylin from Elgin, Neb., where he graduated from Elgin Public School in Fremont. On May 1, he graduated from Midland Lutheran College with a coaching endorsement in kindergarten through grade 12.

From the applications he submitted, he chose Cheylin because he felt it was a great opportunity for him. He lives in Bird City and is excited about getting into his duties and activities of teaching and coaching.

His hobbies include hunting, golfing and fishing. Kansas has great opportunities for him to continue these hobbies in his spare time.

When asked what he did exciting with his summer off from school, he said he went to Colorado for the first time, visited Keystone, and rode a bike down the mountains.

Cheylin's new student physical education teacher, Audrey Vap, graduated from Hill City High School and will graduate from Fort Hays State University this summer

with a bachelor's degree in physical education, coaching and health Endorsement. After this she plans on teaching physical education.

Audrey's hobbies are running and riding horses. A grin came across her face when asked what exciting thing she did on the time off this summer, and she said, "I got married in June." Her husband's name is Taylor Vap and they live in Atwood.

Ranae Suter keeps the first graders moving from different areas of the room as she teaches them about the weather, pledging the flag, Place Value and all the other first grade subjects. Ranae comes from the Oakley area where she graduated from Grinnell High School in 2004 and Fort Hays State University in December 2009, with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She completed her student teaching at Hoxie, teaching 5th grade, and worked as a substitute in Oakley from December to May. She chose Cheylin school to teach at because



RANAЕ SUTER is a new teacher this year and she is keeping the first graders attention during class.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

she grew up on the farm and Bird City is a small town like she is used to. All of the people in Bird City, she

said, made her feel welcome.

Ms. Sutter enjoys crocheting, reading and likes to travel. She goes

to Denver often, and went to New York. On her few months free after graduating she worked on her family

farm and moved to Bird City, and said she is excited about teaching first graders.

Commissioners struggle with budget due to decrease in gas production

By Karen Krien

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On Tuesday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners has scheduled the budget hearing for 9 a.m.

This has been one of the most difficult budgets we have dealt with, said Andy Beikman, commissioner.

Earlier in the year, the commissioners discovered there had been a \$340,000 mistake in calculating natural gas taxes. This money had been figured into the budget and, all of a sudden, the county was short. Any expenditures were cut from office supplies to road graders.

Due to lowered natural gas prices and decreased production, the state assessed valuation on gas production decreased by \$9 million.

The commissioners will be approving 82.550 mills or a budget of \$4,736,524 at the budget hearing. This is \$132,899 higher than two years ago, or an average increase of \$66,500 each year.

Terry Miller, county clerk, had

figures obtained from the Kansas Property Valuation Department website. He compared Cheyenne County to 25 counties about the same size.

As of 2010, Cheyenne County had the fourth lowest operating budget; the third lowest amount of tax needed to run the budget and the second lowest mill levy needed to fund the budget and out of the 25 counties, Cheyenne County was the fourth lowest in tax per capita.

Plugging Cheyenne County's 2011 proposed budget expenditures increase into the 25 county comparison, Mr. Miller pointed out the county would still be the sixth lowest in expenditures per county and sixth lowest budget submitted. This even after the county lost so much in valuation.

In the last 10 years, the county has been in the bottom seven of the 105 counties in expenditures.

Following are the figures to compare how Cheyenne County rates in 25 counties:

County	Population	Valuation	Mill Levy	Tax per capita	Expenditures
Wallace	1,749	24,053,399	0.1586	\$2,181	3,362,660
Elk	3,261	21,229,687	0.1946	\$1,266	3,973,210
Decatur	3,472	30,906,237	0.1589	\$1,415	4,156,877
Cheyenne	2,700	45,194,560	0.1019	\$1,454	4,163,251
Edwards	3,449	48,232,177	0.1364	\$1,907	4,517,611
Wichita	2,531	27,130,552	0.1774	\$1,901	4,604,995
Chey (2011)	2,700	35,773,905			4,736,524
Logan	3,046	37,538,173	0.1413	\$1,741	4,794,311
Rawlins	2,966	28,217,907	0.1412	\$1,343	5,108,193
Clark	2,390	55,976,677	0.1452	\$3,400	5,239,741
Rush	3,551	33,915,552	0.1689	\$1,613	5,265,502
Ness	3,454	60,269,769	0.1390	\$2,426	5,599,750
Lane	2,155	44,108,715	0.1456	\$2,980	5,621,396
Trego	3,319	41,496,906	0.1427	\$1,784	5,708,691
Lincoln	3,578	36,064,550	0.1750	\$1,764	5,744,376
Sheridan	2,813	33,853,593	0.1443	\$1,736	5,834,494
Hodgeman	2,085	32,423,505	0.1954	\$3,038	5,850,087
Comanche	1,967	48,106,608	0.1302	\$3,183	5,997,350
Gove	3,068	44,426,450	0.1290	\$1,868	6,105,060
Hamilton	2,670	67,996,435	0.1415	\$3,605	6,304,567
Chase	3,030	38,633,342	0.1338	\$1,706	6,575,112
Graham	2,946	51,832,944	0.1582	\$2,783	6,668,701
Greeley	1,534	35,653,506	0.1445	\$3,359	7,750,000
Stanton	2,406	102,389,746	0.1125	\$4,789	9,918,784
Kiowa	3,278	90,398,675	0.1097	\$3,027	10,358,287
Morton	3,496	177,190,051	0.0910	\$4,611	12,755,121

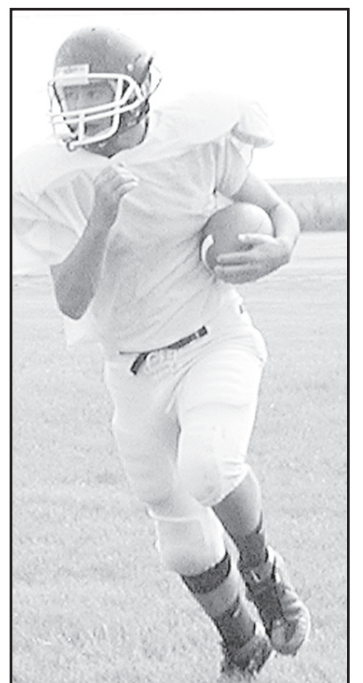
Sports open house to be Friday night

School has started and so has volleyball and football practice. To kick off the Cheylin fall sports season, the volleyball/football soap scrimmage on Friday. The volleyball scrimmage will start at 6 p.m. in the Bird City high school gym; the football scrimmage will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Cougar Field.

The junior high pep squad is also practicing for the event. Squad members include Kalin Ritchey, Diana Garcia, Elizabeth Keltz, Kelsey Miller; Danae Magnani, Mary Anne Orten, Allie Frisbie, Jamie Davidson. The coach is Tammi Carmichael.

The Booster Club will be serving pork sandwiches, corn on the cob, coleslaw and ice cream sundaes. (Check the ad in this issue for more information.)

Everyone is urged to come out and support the Cougars as they start school and the sports season.



SCRIMMAGE will be Friday night. Volleyball at 6 p.m. and football at 7:30.