



JARED CAHOJ (45) CARRIES THE BALL. Cheylin beat Wauneta/Palisade 60-14, ending the game with two minutes left in the third quarter on Friday night. The Cougars will play in Haxton next Friday.

Times photo by Linda Schnieder

Editor shares story, looks forward to reporting the news

Three years ago when Ray and I purchased our property in Bird City everyone asked us, "Why would you want to move to that 'God forsaken state of Kansas'?" There is nothing there."

My answer to them was, I am glad you think that as it is God's country. At least Bird City and the surrounding other towns are.

Here, the land is used for what God created it for, growing crops and raising animals. People here treat everyone as God created us to do – with respect of a hand wave instead of an obnoxious jester or verbal abuse. They take time to participate in family life and school sports and get involved.

We made our final move on July 1, 2008, and we haven't regretted it. Sometimes Ray wishes we had settled in town, but I love the country life. Out here the animals even hang together as family life should. Our momma, daddy and three kittens all hang together, and daddy even contributes to keeping the kittens clean. You don't see the toms hanging around the litters in city life.

We were told that jobs were scarce in Bird City, but there are more opportunities to work here than in the large city of Denver. I had no idea I would be blessed with the job of my dreams when I came here. I have always been a volunteer which has finally paid off with this job.

Ray and I married shortly after I graduated from Jefferson High School in Edgewater, Colo. We continued to live in the same vicinity. We raised five children and after marrying off the fourth

we lost our 27-year-old daughter one day before our youngest child's 12th birthday. Her husband thought he had to stop her from leaving and emptied five bullets into her back. She left two boys, 7 and 10 years old, that Ray and I finished raising.

In order to make any sense of this trauma, I became involved with a support group, Parents of Murdered Children. For 20 of those 24 years I published and edited the monthly newsletter, and became active as an advocate. The only real means of comfort I could find from my grieving was by helping others through the ongoing grief process of homicide.

When this first happened I decided to enroll in college in order to do something for me. The trial took place the end of my first quarter and I had to drop out the week of finals. When my youngest decided to get his general educational development degree and enrolled in college I decided I wanted to graduate with him. He dropped out, but seven years later I finally took my last dreaded class – Math, which I settled for a D just to get done. That was 2001.

This is where I learned that English is very important. Until then, I thought I can talk well enough without knowing all those verbs and pronouns. In college, English is survival – not math. I loved my classes involving writing and tests were not my way of thinking. For three years I did the crime report for the very small volunteer Edgewater Tribune newspaper.

As soon as I graduated with



NORMA MARTINEZ, Bird City Times editor, works at the computer on a story for the newspaper.

my bachelor's degree in human services, my second to the last grandchild of eight was born, and my son convinced me he needed me to care for her. That sidelined my getting a paying job and volunteer work became my means of relaxation.

It took four weeks for me to convince myself to check on this opportunity at the Times, and I thank the Lord the staff at The Herald is willing to patiently help me learn the many things I need to learn, and put up with my mistakes and computer illiteracy.

What I really want to say is Thank you to all you who have offered words of encouragement

and support. It has helped me through a very rough time and fills in the void of my loss of my daughter and has given me a very positive feeling about that loss. Without that trauma I would not have gained the experience I had for this job. My goal is to keep the Bird City Times going and bring you the news you want to read. I am open to any constructive criticism as that is the only way I can learn and correct my mistakes. My biggest partaking for this final year is to be able to meet enough people to know them well enough to put names underneath the pictures that I take. –Norma Martinez

Students settle into school routines

By Norma Martinez
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The swimming pool is closed, Labor Day is past and Cheylin School students are settled into their third week of classes and studies.

This week's records show 140 students are enrolled. Very few changes in the staff were made. Kayla Bursch moved from first grade to kindergarten and Ranae Suter replaced her as first grade teacher, Anthony Blair is teaching kindergarten through 12th grade physical education, Dawna Barnett was added as a para professional Title I, and Linda Schneider replaced the custodian.

In the elementary school, Bridget Pochop in pre-kindergarten has 12 students, Kayla Bursch has eight kindergarten students, Ms. Suter in first grade has six students, Kathy Weber has 13 second grade students, Ken Hankins has nine third grade students, Tammi Carmichael has 15 fourth grade students, Cristi Antholz has seven fifth grade students, and Kale Shields has eight sixth graders.

Junior high and high school enrollment consists of 11 seventh grade students, nine eighth grade students, 15 freshmen, 12 sophomores, 13 juniors and 14 seniors.

Specialty teachers are: Darla Dible seventh-12th grade social studies and kindergarten through 12th librarian, Amy Hendricks seventh-12th grade science, Susan Jensen kindergarten through 12th business/computer, Janice Churchwell, junior high language arts, math and science, Rose Hengen, band/vocal, Margyre Antholz, Title I, Barbara Antholz, family/consumer sciences, Emily Bolen, migrant education, Max Keltz ag education, Abbi Dixon, English, Kevin Dixon, high school math, Dennis Hengen industrial arts, Carol Partch, special education, psychology, and problem solving, Deb Grace, speech, and Elaine Marcuson works with the At-Risk students.

Other staff members are: Bruce Bolen, superintendent/principle, Jane Young, district clerk, and Loretta Rucker is junior-senior high secretary. Jeri Antholz is the library aide, Anita Burton is the school counselor and Kerby Krien is the technology administrator.

Para professionals are: Kris Burns, Rose Miller, Barbara Parker, Lucille Rossbach and Bobbie Walden. Dana

Barnett is a para professional for Title I, Blanca Ponce is a bilingual para professional, and Mary Moore is a para professional who works with the Gifted /At Risk students.

The person in charge of the buses and getting the students to and from school is Randy Miller, director of transportation. Those responsible for feeding all the students well balanced meals are; Avis Huzuka, kitchen supervisor and Dianna Carson, head cook. The ones responsible for giving that outstanding first impression as you enter the school doors and the beautiful shiny floors are Leticia Estrada and Linda Schneider, custodians.

During the summer the elementary/junior high had new carpet installed in the office, Mrs. Burton counseling office and the coffee room. The high school received a facelift with new carpeting in the hall and stairs. The gym was painted and carpeting put on the bleacher seats for added comfort. All these improvements added a plus to the school's appearance and added to the student's excitement of being back to school.

Sports activities are off to a good start. The high school football team won their first home game on Sept. 3, with Wauneta/Palisade 60-14. There next game is at Haxton on Thursday evening. Cheylin/Brewster Volleyball players will have their next game at Atwood on Saturday. Junior high football will be played in Golden Plains at Rexford on Thursday.

Homecoming festivities start next week with the kids dressing up to show their spirit. The days and activities are as follow: Monday is Color Day. Students and faculty wear clothing (head to toe) in color they are assigned. Pre-school through grade two will wear blue, grades three through five wear red, grades six through eight wear yellow, grade nine wears green, grade 10 wears pink, grade 11 wears purple, grade 12 wears orange, and faculty/staff wears black and white. Thursday is Blue and White Day; dress in the school colors to show your Cougar Spirit.

Games played during Spirit Week are: Monday, high school junior varsity football vs. Hitchcock County at home, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, high school volleyball vs Triplains Quad at Winona 4 p.m. Next week, the homecoming candidates will be announced.

Household hazardous waste collection planned

By Karen Krien

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Cheyenne County is having a household hazardous waste collection day from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the county landfill, 2 miles east of Wheeler.

People are asked to leave all materials in their original containers. If the container is leaking, pack it "as is" in another

larger container and label it clearly.

If another container is used, be sure it is clearly labeled. Do not mix the contents of different containers and securely package materials before transporting.

Keep a harmful product away from children and animals until it is disposed and do not carry open containers of liquids with strong odors or spill potential in

a closed vehicle. Pack containers so they won't tip, break or spill during travel. Waste oil should not contain gasoline, solvents, degreasers, paint or antifreeze.

Items not taken at this collection include empty paint cans and dried paint. These can be disposed in the household dumpster.

Other items not taken are appliances, tires, yard waste,

explosives, medical waste or radioactive waste.

Materials accepted

Materials accepted at the hazardous waste collection include:

- Paints, solvents, cleaners, herbicides and pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries, used oil and antifreeze.
- Automobile lead acid batteries.