

## Green pipe on the move

By Karen Krien  
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Late in 2007, the big pile of green pipe, which had been unloaded near the railroad tracks in Bird City, began to dwindle as it was loaded on trucks and moved to northwest Cheyenne County.

This was a sign that Overland Pass Pipeline had completed laying the pipe in Wyoming and the northeastern edge of Colorado and had moved into Kansas.

Overland Pass is laying 760 miles of pipeline which will transport raw natural gas liquids from southwestern Wyoming to Conway in central Kansas. The Conway hub is one the nation's primary natural gas liquids supply and storage hubs. The transported gas will be used to make ethane, propane and butane.

There will be 38 miles of pipe laid in the county with a total of 261 miles laid in Kansas. Easements from landowners were secured in the spring of 2006. The 14- to 16-inch diameter pipe is buried a minimum of 3-feet. The pipeline is monitored 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Regular inspections using the latest technology are made and safety valves are used to isolate segments of the pipe.

The construction of the pipeline is to be completed and in service early this year.



OVERLAND PASS CREW is removing pipe stored northwest of Bird City and loading it onto nearby trucks to be transported to work site. Construction is scheduled to be completed early this year.  
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Board wrestles with student transportation issue

By Linda Schneider  
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The Board of Education opened their first meeting of the year at 1 p.m., instead of 7 p.m. First issue the board tackled was student transportation.

Garrett and Donna Binning of McDonald requested that the board release them from the district so that a school bus from Atwood could come into the Cheylin school district and pick them up.

The Binnings made their request based on a few concerning issues. The most important issue being that Mrs. Binning works in Atwood. In addition, their children are attending a preschool in

Atwood.

Their children will be attending school in Atwood next year with kids they know. At this time, the Binning children are being picked up at the Beardsley corner.

Mrs. Binning said the Pochop family, who live in the Atwood district, have expressed a desire to come to Cheylin so this could be a trade of students.

Mrs. Binning also mentioned that the school bus pick up from Atwood would be more convenient, because Cheylin bus pick up conflicted with the time she had to be at work and the time she would be picking up her children.

Several of the board members

said that trading of students was a critical issue.

Rod Young said, "The school has to have a protective view of its students."

Jan Busse mentioned that she researched for a precedent for school buses crossing school districts to bus students, but she could not find one anywhere in the state. This would set a precedent.

"It could open a can of worms," said Superintendent David Zumbahlen.

"It would not be good for an Atwood school bus driving into McDonald," Hal Antholz said.

Mrs. Binning said that the Atwood School would be having their meeting next week

and she would like to have an answer to give them.

Some of the members did not think it would be a problem, but Mr. Young asked, "Where would the line be drawn?"

Concern for future parents wanting the same preference as the Binning's was expressed.

Mr. Antholz told the Binnings that it was a difficult issue and had not been addressed earlier because no one would make a motion to vote.

The Binnings mentioned they felt that if there was a trade of students, the board might be more inclined to vote in favor of the release.

"The board has always taken a very strong view of protecting

the geography they have," Mr. Young expressed for the board,

"Kids are hard to come by and the financial aspects of one student is huge. Once a precedent has been set, it is hard to close that door."

Mr. Antholz expressed understanding with their position, but the board will need more time to discuss the issue before there is a vote.

After Mr. and Mrs. Binning left the meeting, Dale Hazuka asked, "Why couldn't there be a trade?"

The discussion among the members went on to direct the questions to James Milliken, school attorney, "Can each case be taken arbitrarily? Could it be

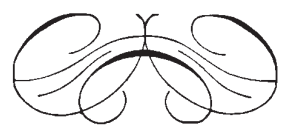
stopped at anytime?"

"Quite frankly, I don't know," Mr. Milliken said.

He said he would research it and bring information back to the board.

Jan mentioned that if cases are taken arbitrarily, then someone could say they were discriminated against.

Motion was made to table the student transportation issue until Mr. Milliken could research and bring more information to the board members. Motion carried.



## Cheylin fills staff position

By Linda Schneider  
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Cheylin High School recently hired Doug Lupo to fill the position of translator. Mr. Lupo, who shares the position with elementary translator, Beatrice Ramirez, brings with him a life rich in experience.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Lupo moved from Los Angeles to the Philippines after only two years. His father, Samuel Lupo, is a retired American Ambassador.

A great example for the Doug, Samuel Lupo is Italian and started out as a clerk typist, working his way up through the ranks to personnel officer.

Before he received his ambassadorship, Mr. Lupo had two other offers, one being executive director of the state department and the other the position with Duke University as political instructor.

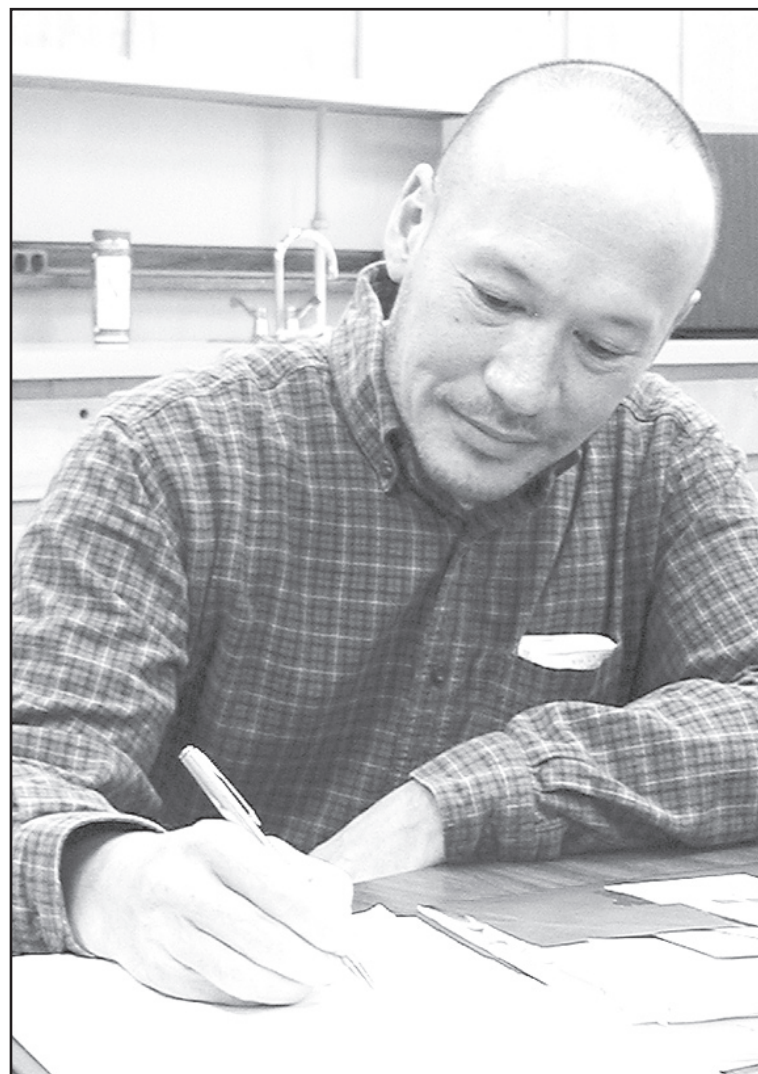
"He was a great father, very strict; but it all paid off," Mr. Lupo said.

Doug's mother, Hiroko Lupo (Mori), is Japanese and a stay-at-home wife and mother.

Doug is an accomplished musician; he has copyrighted 35 songs and plays various instruments such as the guitar, bass, harmonica, keyboard and saxophone for 35 years. Before coming to Kansas, he was teaching music in a private school.

Doug moved around with his family until 1980, when he joined the Army. For two years, he was in communications as a radio teletype operator, then spent 11 years in the Special Forces, Green Beret.

When asked about what he did in the Special Forces, Mr. Lupo says that he spent time overseas; however, because of the nature of the assignment he is unable to discuss it. Nevertheless, he could say that every soldier in the unit had to be bilingual.



DOUG LUPO during an interview, has been recently hired by Cheylin as a translator.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Last October, Doug started working for Cheylin School as its translator, but the reason he came to Kansas was for his wife, Terri.

Terri Lupo (Steiger) is originally from Oakley and her sister, Vicky, lives and works in Oakley. While on vacation, and knowing that she wanted to be close to her sister, Mr. Lupo told Terri that if she found a job, as he smiled, they would move to Kansas. After all, she had been living with him in Washington, D.C., for five years. During that vacation, Mrs. Lupo found a job as a controller for Frontier Ag. True to his word, they packed up and moved to Kansas.

When Mr. Lupo arrived, he, too, had to find work. On a visit to his mother-in-law, who works for the Northern Kansas Education Service Center, he applied for a translator position. There he met with Kurt Brown,

assistant director of special education, was interviewed and hired.

Cheylin Schools hired Mr. Lupo for one high school student. However, he does translating for any student and/or parents whenever needed. In addition, since becoming translator for Cheylin, the Kansas State Troopers in Colby have asked him to be a translator for them as needed.

He also has a company in Washington, D.C., that he has owned and operated himself for 17 years. During the summer, Doug plans to go back his business, "Professional Automobile Detailing."

Professional Automobile Detailing is a company that boasts, "Attention to Detail." Bringing automobiles back to their original new condition

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## City Council moves forward with new affordable housing

By Linda Schneider  
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After approving the minutes from the last meeting and a few items on the agenda, the City Council began the New Year with several important issues; moving forward with affordable housing, the Law Enforcement Agreement and the hiring of a new city superintendent.

The first discussion was about the payment of work done at the park by Don Wright. Was it to be considered part of the park project and to be paid by Century II? Wade Carmichael said that it was to be part of the park project and would get a copy of the bill to Jana Diers, city clerk.

### Public agenda

Loyce Schamberger, of the Northwest Kansas Housing, was not present to discuss the acceptance of the north half of the vacant lots across the street from the Cheylin School.

The council proceeded to pass a resolution authorizing Northwest Kansas Housing to proceed with Bird City filing for a tax credit for the development of affordable rental housing.

The resolution states that the development would contain up to four single-family housing units. The units will be targeted for families and the development would be new construction. The units will have the following amenities; all major appliances, attached two-car garage, trash pick up, long-term snow removal.

The resolution continues that Bird City supports and approves the development according to city ordinances and building permit process. The resolution is effective until July 31 unless there are any changes to the mentioned above and/or permits and then the resolution will become null and void.

Mayor Troy Burr expressed concern over some of the wording in the resolution. He suggested the number of the units be changed to two single-family homes. It was mentioned that a study is in process about the number of units

that will be needed for Bird City. In addition, the study may come back that there may be a need for only three duplexes or four single-family dwellings.

To clarify the resolution, Mayor Burr changed the wording of the resolution to say, "housing development will contain up to six single-family housing units consisting of single-family homes and/or duplexes."

Jana Diers, clerk, brought up the question if the resolution can be approved with the rewrites? Kari Gilliland, city attorney, said that the resolution could be approved as it has been modified "subject to approval by the Northwest Kansas Housing, Inc." The council approved the resolution.

### Sheriff report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen handed out the Law Enforcement Agreement for 2008 and updated the council on department activity and the 911 dispatch. One officer was hurt and another was going through the Academy, so the hours have not been what they should be.

"Will be bringing hours up as soon as officers are back," he said.

Mayor Burr mentioned that the city has not been having any problems, but Sheriff Van Allen said that the department wants to bring up the hours to where they should be.

The Law Enforcement Agreement with Cheyenne County for 2008 has an addendum that increases the amount to be paid to the sheriff department for law enforcement services. The amount is to be increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000 for the year to be made in monthly installments. The agreement will be on a yearly-renewal basis.

There was a question about the "2007" mentioned as the starting date. Mayor Burr asked if maybe the agreement was going back to 2007. Mrs. Gilliland mentioned that the addendum could be approved verbally and then make the revision to accurately reflect the correct date. The council approved the agreement with corrections, if it is a technical error.

Sheriff Van Allen continued with the report on the 911 dispatch. Dispatch is operating well and dispatch training is continuing. Phone mapping software is in the process of being put in. When it is completed, incoming cell phone calls can be mapped and origin of call located.

### New business

New business included advertising for bids for the construction phase of the sewer system. Bids are opening at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Bird City city hall. A special meeting is called for that day.

A goal setting meeting is tentatively set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Century II Hall. Mayor Burr asked if the meeting had to be opened to the public. Mrs. Gilliland said that it could be a special retreat and not public if no official business or actions were conducted.

Committee heads are to bring a short statement of what needs to be done in the upcoming year and for the future. In addition, bring the Century II Strategic Book.

### Employee evaluation

Mayor Burr looked over some employee evaluation forms and liked the Augusta format. He and Mr. Magnani will go over the forms and bring to council next month. It can be adapted to Bird City.

### Cost of living

The city has followed the cost of living change in the past for city employees. The cost of living has increased 2.3 percent. In addition, mileage rate increased to .50¢ cents for the year 2008. The council agreed to allow cost of living increases in employee's pay and mileage increased.

### Letters from citizens

One complaint (suggestion) was received asking the council to paint the curb in front of the school.

It is a fire lane and cars are parking there. They also suggested painting in front of the north door of school. Mr. White will see AFFORDABLE on Page 8