

# Commissioners informed about some available grants

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Development co-coordinator told the commissioners that there are grants available to help people in the county.

Co-coordinator Chuck Kribs, at the Wednesday, April 15, county commissioners' meeting, told about the Appliance Replacement Program that will help residents replace appliances including water heaters, furnaces and air conditioning, as well as refrigerators and other appliances. However, they must be at least 10 years old. They will be replaced with Energy Star-qualified appliances.

Mr. Kribs said he had talked to dealers in the county about selling and installing these appliances. This is, he said, an opportunity to keep business in the county and give people additional work.

Applications can be picked up

at the Development office in St. Francis or at Century II in Bird City.

There is another weatherization program where grants can add up to \$6,500 and can be used for siding and insulation, just to name a few of the improvements. The details for this grant are yet to be worked out.

Mr. Kribs said that there is a "rumor" and he is not trying to get a maximum security prison built in Bird City. However, he had talked to sheriff, Craig Van Allen, about a facility for transient prisoners waiting for trial. This detention center would house about 60 prisoners for \$65 each a day. Prisoners would stay a maximum of 47 days until they are transferred.

Mr. Kribs said there are grants which would pay for such a facility. It may or not be a good deal, he said, it is still in the early stages of investigation.

## Incentive plan

Rodney Neitzel, St. Francis, was at the meeting to talk about the county's incentive plan. Mr. Neitzel owns Hilltop General Store and recently purchased P and L Meat Market with the new name, Uptown Meat Market and Deli. He plans to employ three people which will meet incentive requirements.

Mr. Neitzel was interested in the lease and sign assistance through the incentive plan. The commissioners agreed that he could receive a maximum of \$1,000 per year toward leasing the building. The money would be received at the end of the year.

The commissioners were unable to give an answer on the payments for signs as the incentive plan was unclear. After discussing, they decided that the county would pay for a percentage of the signs, up to a maximum of \$500.

They talked to Mr. Kribs about he and Diane Kribs, the other co-coordinator, about clarifying and possibly re-writing the incentive plan. They would also like to meet with Development Corporation board members about incentives.

There were several businesses which applied a year or so ago but they did not follow up on getting the incentives. There are indications that others may be applying for incentives.

## Airport runway

Dave Yost, Cheyenne County Airport Authority chairman, said the bid for the runway construction came in well below the expected amount which was good news. The total cost will be \$1,461,200. This is about one-half million less than projected. The county's portion will be about \$73,000, which is \$10,000 less than what the Authority had expected to pay.

The construction is expected to start around Aug. 15 and should take two to three months to complete. The hospital administrator has been told that the runway will be closed during that time.

## In other business

In other business:

- A wage agreement was signed for Lucinda Straub as 911 dispatcher.

- A highway permit allowing Murfin Drilling Company to bore 4 feet under a county road was signed.

- Ambulance insurance adjustments for \$2,744 were approved.

- Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, reported that the new ambulance will be delivered around May 20.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

# Celebration includes family fun and good food

By Linda Schneider

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On Sunday, May 3, Bird City will be celebrating the Cinco de Mayo's 147 years with an afternoon of family fun and authentic Mexican food. (See ad)

For all of its 233 years of independence from Great Britain, the United States has welcomed citizens from nations around the world to its coastal shores and national borders. Some come for a visit and some come to stay.

What is unique about America is the wide diversities of cultural and traditional ethnic populous of the 50 states and yet is united on its stance for freedom of expression.

During the growth of the population from the influx of people many brought with them talents from their homelands to share with future generations. It is because of this America can boast of having the finest craftsmen and women of the world.

In addition to their talents and skills, they brought some of their native country's history in celebrations and holidays to remind their children of where they come from and to commemorate the idea that United States is the land of the free.

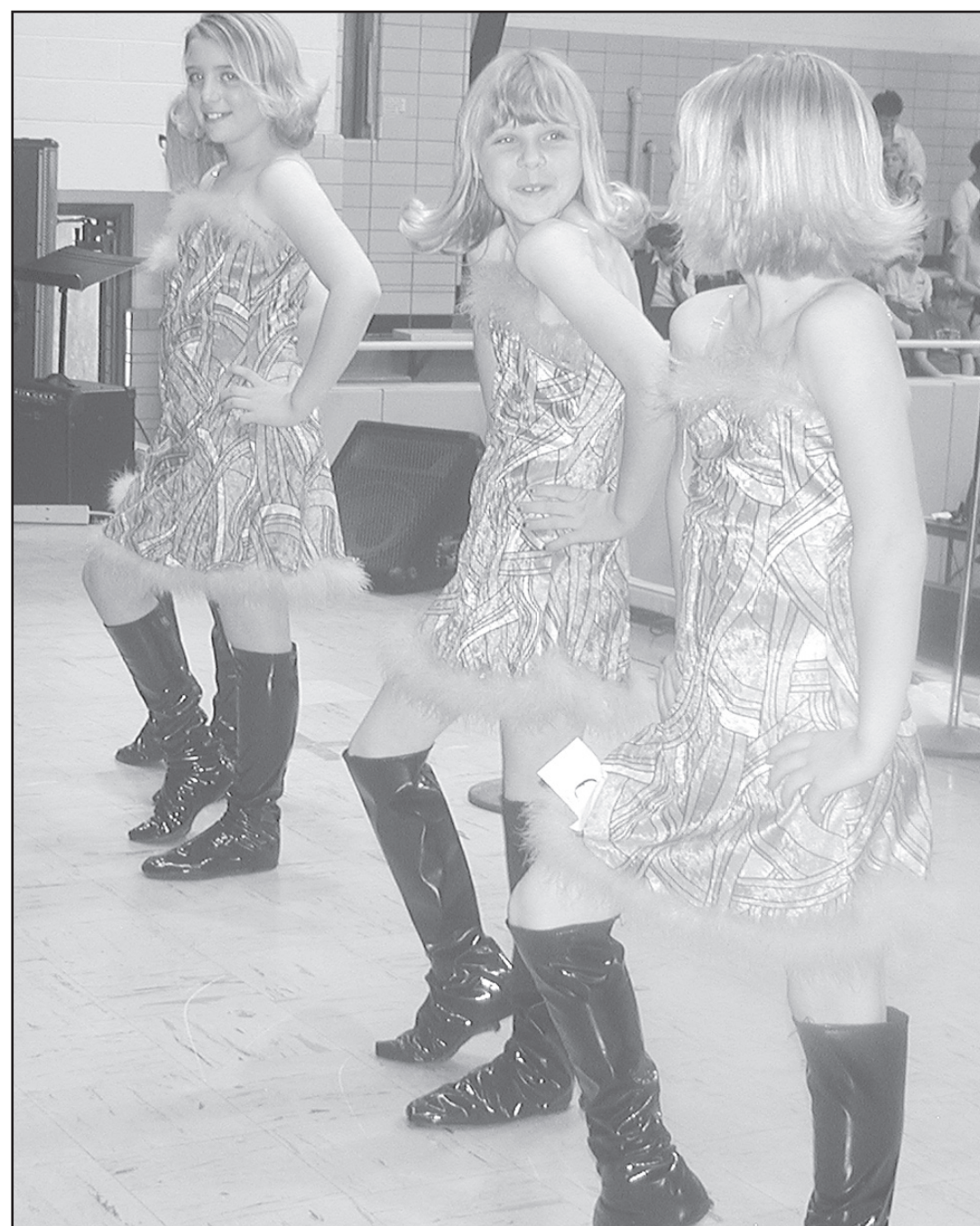
On May 5, Americans with Mexican ancestry will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, Spanish for "Fifth of May." This is a holiday that is not widely celebrated in Mexico, but in the United States and other countries it is a day for a celebration of Mexican

heritage and pride.

Many confuse Cinco de Mayo with Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16, which is a national holiday. Both are battles of significance in the fact they were victorious. The smaller battle which took place on May 5, 1862, in the state of Puebla, Mexico, had the most unlikely outcome since the Mexican Army, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín, was outnumbered by the French Army two to one. Furthermore, the well-equipped French Army had not lost a battle in 50 years.

The battle prevented the French from occupying Mexico; however, the victory was short-lived and a year later, the French returned to occupy Mexico. Eventually, the French were persuaded under U.S. pressure to withdraw from Mexico and they did, 5 years after the battle at Puebla.

For the United States, Cinco de Mayo is of special note for being the last time an army of foreign power has invaded the Americas. With California being the first state to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in 1863 with a parade, many large cities have followed with their own unique ways of celebrating with emphasis on authentic Mexican food, beverages and entertainment.



"MAMA, I'M A BIG GIRL NOW" was performed by (l to r) Matthisen Witzel (in background), Hanna Bracelin, Emileigh Dinkel and Madison Tice at the PTA Talent Show held on Sunday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien.

# Diamond Jubilee plans told

The Band Shell Restoration Committee met April 14 at the Cheyenne County Museum to continue planning for the May 31 Diamond Jubilee in Sawhill Park. The committee discussed the necessity of having \$22,500 in hand before applying for a Heritage Trust Fund Grant to restore the deteriorating interior of the band shell. It was agreed that the celebration will give members of the community an opportunity to support this restoration project.

The festivities will begin with a flag raising ceremony and a 75-balloon salute!! Businesses, orga-

nizations and individuals are encouraged to purchase balloons for \$25 each. Balloon tickets can be purchased from committee members, and they will also be on sale at Bankwest, First National Bank and Western State Bank.

The Music Club is organizing the afternoon program which will feature a variety of local talent. (Those wanting to be a part of the entertainment should contact Louanne Isernhagen.) Hamburgers will be grilled and served by the Lions Club after the program at 5 p.m.

Other area organizations and

youth groups have been contacted to set up an ice cream tent, a lemonade stand and a "sweet shop." All donations of cookies, cupcakes and brownies are welcome. Contact a committee member to see how you can help.

Committee members are Randy and Dorothy Smestad, Carl and Kate Jenkins, Stan and Janet Carman, Robin Petersen, and Dave and Deb Flemming.

The next Restoration Committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the museum.

During National Volunteer Week, the staff of Hospice extends our heartfelt appreciation to every volunteer. To those who.....

touch patients and families directly as a patient care volunteer

are part of the hospice interdisciplinary TEAM

are part of our special projects and events

help with office related tasks, including writing notes, folding newsletters, and many other tasks

guide and lead as members of the Board of Directors/Advisory Boards

—Thank you for sharing your time and talents with Hospice Services, Inc.!

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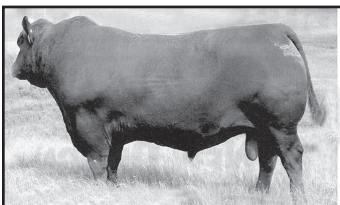
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## Join Our Team To Help Clear The Air!

If you want to help educate the community about the dangers of secondhand smoke, please join us for a meeting

**Friday, May 8th**

**12 noon - 1 p.m.**

**at Peace Lutheran Church**

Lunch will be provided. The St. Francis Ministerial Association is hosting this meeting. If you have any questions, please call Jeff Landers at 785-332-2956.