

Bird City to celebrate 125 years

About 35 people met on Wednesday, May 26, to finalize the plans for the 125th celebration on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 11, 12 and 13, and what a celebration it will be!

There are activities planned for all ages, and hopefully everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to come out and share the weekend playing and visiting with others.

The events will kick off with golf at the Bird City Golf Course on Friday morning. The participants will be playing a four-man scramble and pre-registration is required. Dennis Hengen is in charge and he can be reached at 734-2434 or 734-7181. The scramble will begin at 9 a.m., and if the golfer wants a cart, they will need to supply their own.

In the evening, there is a "Cajun Boil" hosted by the Cheylin Spirit Squad beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned American Legion hall. Ticket are available from Bird City Century II, 734-2556, or sponsors, Tammi Carmichael 734-2494 or Amy Hendricks 734-220.

Following the meal will be a free street dance in front of the American Legion hall. DJ X-press will be providing the music. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy an evening under the stars.

Saturday

Saturday morning the events start bright and early at 7 a.m. with a mini-triathlon. There are three different age divisions available; 0-11, 12-18, and 15- older. The early registration has ended, but people can still participate for \$20.

This can be an individual event or teams of two or three doing the different legs: swimming, biking and running. Participants need to pre-register and pick up their packets on Friday at the Legion hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., or Saturday at 6:30 a.m. in the city park.

All participants will receive a T-shirt with proceeds going to the "Cheylin Schools Foundation." Darci Shields is in charge of this event and can be reached at 734-2484 for more information.

Beginning at 9 a.m., food vendors will be set up on Main Street to tempt palates with delicious morsels. There will be a variety of breakfast and lunch items, from hot dogs and brats, to full-meal deals of pulled pork sandwiches.

There will be many craft vendors with items for purchase.



AUSTIN COBB gets the Gazebo in front of Century II ready to be painted.

Photo courtesy of Darci Shields

There will be a car show set up on the block in front of city hall.

At 9:30, the Bed Races will begin at the four-way stop and run north to the bank and back. This should be an entertaining event for all to watch. Teams of five will compete in pajamas provided by Second Beginnings Thrift Store. There is still time to make a bed for those so inclined to join in on this fun.

Cindy Burr can be reached at 734-2443 for a complete list of bed requirements.

Mike Boyson will be hosting a sidewalk chalk art event for the creatively inclined. He will be handing out chalk in front of Hot Brush all morning.

At 10:30, the Community Club will start the parade from the football field and head north down Main Street. Grand marshals for the parade are "The Birds," who are some of the direct descendants of Benjamin Bird for whom the town was named. They are coming to participate in Bird City Quasiquintennial events.

In next week's newspaper, Ken Krien will provide more information about which Birds are coming, and how they are related to Benjamin.

The afternoon events will start at 1:30 with the national colors being presented from a grand entry and a flag raising at the flag pole in the Van Doren Park. The Boy Scouts, under the supervision of Gary Brubaker, will be kicking off the afternoon events.

Dorothy Mast has written an historical play which Dan Carson has graciously consented to direct and star in under the big tent following the flag raising.

There will be a rodeo clown, inflatable playground equipment, face painting, horseshoes, tractor pull, turtle races, bulls-eye ball drop, blind golf cart racing, sand volleyball, and 3-on-3 basketball games for all to participate in. There will be a table set up behind the shelter house with more information for those interested on that day.

Those having a 3-on-3

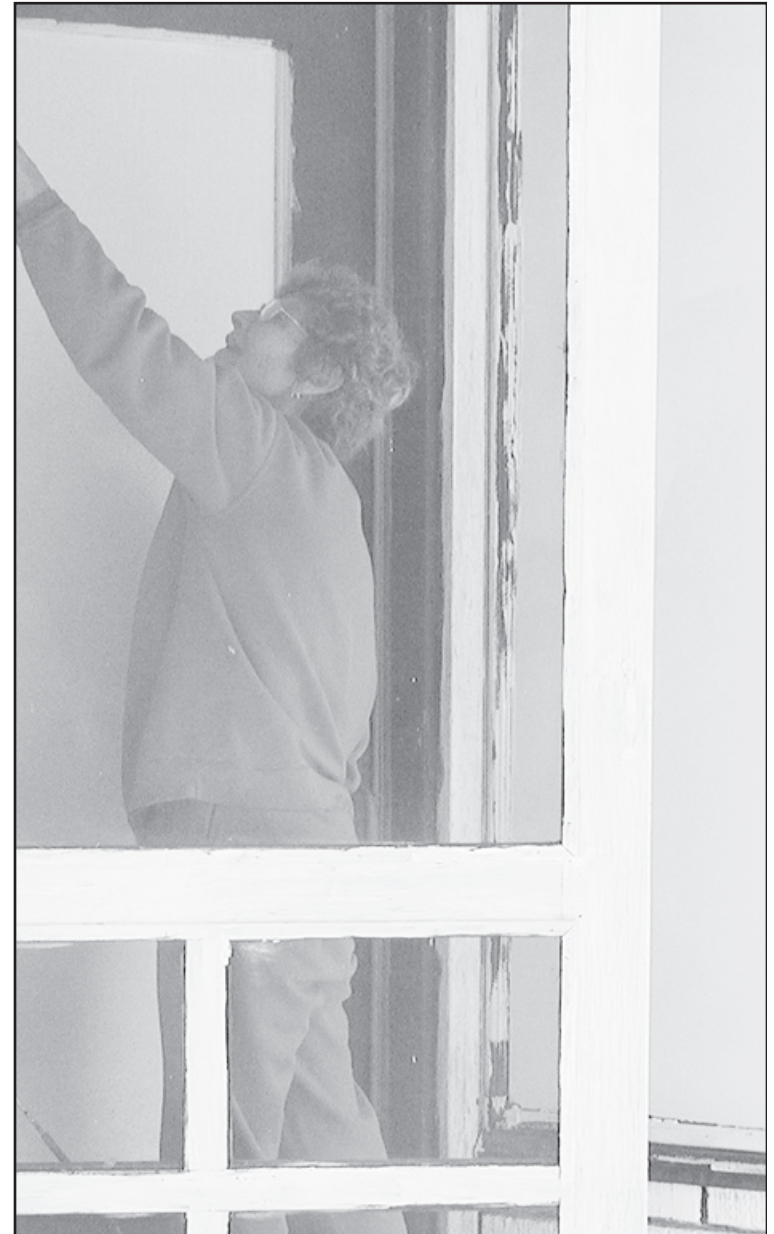
basketball team or sand volleyball team together, and want to sign up, should contact Shawn Cravens for basketball at 734-7011 or Amy McCarty for volleyball at 734-2205 with your information.

The Bird City Swimming Pool will also be open for everyone to enjoy a cool dip in the afternoon. Flatland Xpress, a live band, will be providing musical entertainment throughout the afternoon, so if you just want to sit in the shade, bring a lawn chair or use one of the chairs or benches provided.

Around 4 p.m., everyone will want to gather in front of the bandstand for the beard judging by the local hairdressers.

Don't forget: if you don't already have your shave permit, it can be purchased that day from the information table behind the shelter house.

Stan and Dee Dorsch will have hats, belt buckles and T-shirts for sale through the event. After the beard contest, the tickets will be drawn for the rifle and belt buckle. If not a winner, people will still



VOLUNTEER Linda Carroll helps with the clean-up by painting a door.

Times staff photo by Syndey Busse

have a chance to purchase the Henry Big Boy 44 Magnum rifle as it will be auctioned off.

At 5 o'clock, the free smoked Texas barbecue will begin in the park. There will be seating provided under the tents, in the shelter house, and on park benches. Of course people can bring their own lawn chair. Pieces of Eight will be playing for the evening dance, which should end about midnight. Big Ed's will be providing a beer garden at both dance locations, and the committee would appreciate everyone remembering not to get out of hand - after all this is a family event.

Sunday

Sunday there will be a community church service in the park under the tent. Pastor Dan Carson will be leading the worship.

A potluck lunch will follow with the Bird City Quasiquintennial events winding to a close around 1:30. Those making it to all of the events will have earned an afternoon to rest.

The Bird City Quasiquintennial Committee is still taking charitable donations to help with expenses. With all cash donations and any 125th items purchased matching funds will be provided by Century II. Contact Sherry Carmichael 785-734-2202 to donate.

For general questions about the weekend contact Rod Young 785-734-7073 or Ken Krien 785-734-7015, or visit the website for updated information: www.birdcityhistory.com.

Another web site to visit is <http://history.birdcityks.com/>. It was created by Ted Glasco and allows anyone to upload pictures and their own Bird City history.



DECORATING GRAVES are (l to r) Colleen Catic, Wanda Dowdy, Janice Damm and Carol Williams.

Times photo by Jan Busse

Club members decorate graves

Veterans weren't the only ones being honored for Memorial Day.

Last Thursday, members of Kanred put flowers out at the historic Greisler Cemetery, which is located 6 miles south of Bird City. The newest headstone is from the 1920s.

Kanred is a family and consumer education group that was founded through the Cheyenne County Extension Office over 80 years ago. The

group started placing flowers at the cemetery in the 1950s, and has returned every Memorial Day since.

Kanred currently has four active members, and they are looking for more people to join. Meetings are the first Monday of every month at 2 p.m. at the Lebow Manor. For more information, contact Carol Williams, president, at 734-2221, or Wanda Dowdy at 734-2383.



BOY SCOUTS raise the flag. Those pictured are Casey Vandike, Derek Vandike, Ty Carmichael, Gary Brubaker, leader, and Connor Hazuka.

Times staff photo by Syndey Busse

Service held to remember

Memorial Day is a day to remember loved ones who have died and those who have died in service of our country. It is also a day to honor our veterans, and keep in mind the sacrifices made for our freedom.

On May 31, the Bird City American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary held

a Memorial Day service at the Bird City Cemetery. The service's purpose was to honor the veterans of war, and memorialize those who have died.

Boy scouts Ty Carmichael, Connor Hazuka, Casey Vandike and Derek Vandike, and scout leader, Gary Brubaker, raised the flag. Pastor Dan Carson gave

the message and several prayers, and the crowd sang the national anthem and other patriotic songs.

A memorial wreath was placed on Everett L. Nelson's (the man for whom the Legion was named) grave by Joy Anderegg and Elsa-Craig Burr. In lieu of a 21-gun salute, three shots were fired to end the ceremony.