

Summer is here! Pool Opens

Bird City Swimming Pool was not able to open on Memorial Day as planned due to the previous weather. The cool rainy weather and wind put the volunteer crew off schedule in the resurfacing of the pool and deck.

Tuesday found Rod Klepper vacuuming out the leaves blown into the pool from the recent wind, and finishing the cleaning for the 1:30 p.m. opening on Wednesday.

Hours for the Bird City Community Pool are; 1:30-5:30 p.m. daily, Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 - 9 p.m. and Sunday 1:30-9:00 p.m.

Ann Burr has managed the Bird City pool for 6 years, and served as a lifeguard for 15 years.

"This year I have a good crew of life guards, she said."

Guards are: Forrest Burr, Tia Sager, Stephanie Busse, Whitney Churchwell, Heath Churchwell, Jessie Smith, Noah Jones, Jacquelyn Ketzner and Teryn Charmichael.

The swim team has been testing out the temperature of the water during early morning practices from 8 - 9 a.m. since Monday. For more information on the schedule and signing up for the team contact Stephanie Busse at 734-2448, or Tia Sager at 734-7142.

See separate schedule for meets

Water Aerobics started May 30 and will continue until August from 5:15 - 6 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday. Contact Tina Sager at 734-2478.

Swim Team

Swim meets for Cheylin will begin this Saturday when they visit St. Francis. They will be joined by



swimmers from Atwood, St. Francis and McCook. Action begins at 9 a.m.

Members of the Cheylin team include Diana Garcia, Shayla Hubbard and Mary Anne Orton. Tia Sager and Stephanie Busse,

The complete schedule follows:

June 4: At St. Francis
June 11: Atwood
June 18: Atwood (tentative)
June 25: Benkelman
July 2: St. Francis
July 9: Qualifying
July 16: Championship Lexington



SWIMMERS TAKE TO THE POOL — Above: Coaches Tia Sager and Stephanie Busse time the swim team during practice. Left, Shayla Hubbard practices for the upcoming swim meet.
Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

What it will cost for nursing home levy

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis City Council met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners early Friday morning. They agreed that people in the county are wanting to know more about what it will cost if the vote for supporting the Good Samaritan Village is approved by the people.

There is also the question about the ballot and exactly what they will be voting on at the special election on Aug. 2.

The resolution, which was printed in the May 19 issue of *The*

St. Francis Herald and *Bird City Times*, states that the ballot wording is "Shall the county of Cheyenne County, Kansas, levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills for a home for the aged?" To vote, there is a "yes" box and a "no" box.

The commissioners had requested that Kari Gilliland, county attorney, word the ballot so it was simple with no trick questions. People will know exactly what they are voting for.

The ballot states that there is a limit of 6 mills. The commissioners and city council members agreed that many people do not

understand mills. Mills can be complicated and vary from year to year, depending on the county's valuation.

Bruce Web, county appraiser, had some figures which can help people better understand how much their taxes would go up if the full 6 mill levy is passed.

Agriculture

Based on 160 acres:
Irrigated land, taxes would be an additional \$36.20.
Pasture land, \$2.88.
Good crop land, \$19.
Average crop land, \$13.80.
Fair crop land, \$10.37.

Residential property
Taxes on a house valued at \$50,000 would be \$34.50.
\$70,000 house, \$48.30.
\$100,000 house, \$69.
\$125,000, \$86.25.
\$150,000, \$103.50.

Commercial property
Taxes on commercial property valued at \$10,000 would be \$15.
\$20,000, \$30.
\$40,000, \$60.
\$60,000, \$90.

Clerk, Terry Miller, has also put information on the county's web site.

People, he said, can figure

their own taxes by following the directions. Start at www.cheyennecounty.org and click on the link that starts "If the special election on August 2nd passes". That takes them to this page: www.cheyennecounty.org/nursinghome.htm.

"I hope it is not too confusing," he said. "There is a table with some basic examples."

Questions can be directed to Mr. Web, 785-332-8830 or Mr. Miller, 785-332-8800.

A mill this year is valued at \$35,756. It should be noted that the commissioners, when gathering information from other nurs-

ing homes, found that the 6 mill figure was high but thought it was better to have it high and not need it as to be short.

If the mill levy is passed, Commissioner Andy Beikman said, he thought that the Good Samaritan Society, who will be leasing the nursing home, should submit a budget each year.

Both the commissioners and city council members acknowledged that there are many questions but looking to the future, it is important to the county that the nursing home remain and be maintained.

Bird City alumni renew friendships

May 28 arrived and by 6 p.m., the alumni of Bird City Rural High School from several states gathered at the Legion hall for an evening of renewing friendships and catching up with their lives.

The theme for the evening was "Through the years..." After registering with Larry and Lorene Willis, alumni were welcomed by the hosts and hostesses for the evening, Brad and Barb Waters and Kent and Joan Banister.

The annual banquet is the highlight each year. Over 100 graduates enjoyed a meal catered by Pam and Jim Bolen after which the evening entertainment was enjoyed.

Dr. Lonnie Willis served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. Pastor Dan Carson led the invocation prior to the meal that was served by the Teens For Christ group. Danny Mangus and Crooked Creek of Kanorado entertained with 40 minutes of music.

The highlight of the evening was when each of the honored classes shared memories of their high school years. Honored class-

es included 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966 and 1971. Each class had representatives in attendance.

The class of 1935 was represented by Winnifred Brubaker Wamhoff and Lucille Query Wright was representing the class of 1936.

The evening was closed with Ernie Ketzner leading the alumni in the Bird City Rural High School fight song. The decorations were cardinals, red and white streamers and various trophies of events through the years.

Twila Kramer was thrilled to see the trophy from 1928 that was earned by the girls' basketball team of which her mother was a member.

Members of the Alumni Committee for 2011 were: Dr. Lonnie and Trish Willis, Ernie Ketzner, Dan and Lynn Busse, Larry and Carolyn Schultz and Don and Sherry Gilliland. The committee for 2012 is John and Darla Deeds, Ned and Deb Smith, David and Marsha Hickert, Mike and Belinda Boyson and Steve and Jan Busse.



DALTON MAGNANI runs the ball at one of the football games last fall.
Times photo by Darci Shields

Athlete chosen to play in national ball game

Dalton Magnani from Cheylin High School has been selected to compete at the Blue-Grey National Super Football Combine in Canton, Ohio, on June 18.

Magnani earned the selection by testing out in the top 5 percent of 3,000 athletes who competed in regional combines throughout the United States.

The National Super Combine

will feature 200 top football recruits from 36 states and will be held at the National Football League Hall of Fame Stadium.

Magnani was an all-league, all-area, and all-state selection as a running back, rushing 1,435 yards and scoring 27 touchdowns as a junior.

He will be representing Kansas on a national level.

Plans being made for July celebration

By Karen Krien

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The Fourth of July is only a month away and plans are being made for a great display of fireworks and activities during the day.

Those coming up with initial plans for the celebration were Rodney Neitzel, Roger Neitzel and John and Anita Amack. What started as an evening of fireworks and celebration has expanded.

Three women, Lori Raile, Kari Gilliland and Sharissa Andrist, decided that there needed to be some patriotic fun for the children. On July 4, they have planned to have a red, white and blue bike and wagon parade for children. The parade, held at Sawhill Park, will include wagons, trikes and bikes that have been decorated for the Fourth of July. Motorized vehicles will not be allowed.

Following the parade, there will be games. More information will be available later.

That afternoon, there will be a Kansas Day program at the museum. Ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

Another afternoon activity will be held at the St. Francis swimming pool. While details are still uncertain, there will be swimming fun throughout the afternoon.

Parkhill Restaurant and Lounge will be furnishing prizes for the games. Brenda Johnson, owner of Hometown Market, Bird City, will be giving out prizes to the first 600 people attending.

Late afternoon and evening, people will be able to take a break, many holding barbecues in their backyards. People can start gathering at the sale barn parking lot and on the north lawn of the Good Samaritan Village for the fireworks display.

At 8 p.m., the Girl Scouts will be selling patriotic cookies and cupcakes. The Shriner's Candy Wagon will be selling cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and pop. Randy Smestad will start the music and the excitement of the Fourth of July will be building.

The fireworks display will start around 9:45 or when it is dark. The fireworks will last 50 minutes and during the display, patriotic music will be played.

Everything is going as planned, Rodney said.

More donations needed

Money is being raised to cover the expenses. The founders expect expenses to be around \$4,000 and they are already halfway there with money that has been donated.

If everyone would just donate \$5 he said, we would easily reach the goal. People may leave donations at Hilltop General Store, Parkhill Restaurant, Majestic Service and Uptown Market.

Expenses for the event include fireworks, advertising and port-potties, just to name some.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the children's activities at the park, call Rodney at 785-332-2277.

First Swim meet set for St. Francis on Saturday

