Chadron State College tailback Danny Woodhead of North Platte can add another record to his scrapbook.

According to Chadron State College officials, Woodhead's career rushing record is garnering unprecedented media coverage for the college. After his 208-yard performance against Western New Mexico on Oct. 6, the 5-8 senior became college football's new all-time rushing leader with 7,441 yards.

In his career he's rushed for 7,871 yards.

Justin Haag, CSC communications coordinator, said a news monitoring service reported in early October that more than 11.5 million viewers were made aware of Woodhead's gridiron exploits from Wednesday, Oct. 3, to Monday, Oct. 8.

Among those reports was a segment on ESPN's "College Gameday," which featured Woodhead and Head Coach Bill O'Boyle. Nielsen Ratings indicate that 1.5 million people viewed that piece.

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"The increase in freshmen enrollment is really reflective of what is happening on campus," Rhine said. "While Chadron State is all about access and opportunity, students are making the decision to come here because we have quality programs. A great number of people, including the faculty, admissions staff and coaches, are doing a great job of relaying our message to potential students."

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For the second consecutive year, CSC recorded an enrollment increase. Both the college’s head count and full-time equivalency are improved, representing the first back-to-back enrollment increase for the institution since 1993 and 1994.

In the third week of classes this fall, the college’s head count was 2,509, compared to 2,483 last year. The full-time equivalency, a figure determined from the total number of credit hours processed, was 1,988 compared to 1,972 last fall.

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New students and their family members gather in Don Beebe Stadium during the orientation in August. More than 400 of the approximately 500 new students attended the event.

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Letter from the President

Dear Alumni,

Chances are, regardless of where you live, you have heard some news about Chadron State College this fall. With the unprecedented success of the football team and its star tailback Danny Woodhead, CSC has undoubtedly received more mention from the national news media than ever before. Eagle fans have greatly enjoyed far-reaching coverage from the likes of ESPN, Sports Illustrated, CSTV and countless other media outlets as the team has worked through its second consecutive undefeated regular season and the many post-season accolades that follow. The team’s success is a great source of pride for the CSC community.

Another story briefly caught the attention of the national media this fall. You probably heard that the normal happenings of our campus, like the rest of the region, were disrupted in October when five armed robbery suspects from out of state were on the loose in our community. At the suggestion of law enforcement officers, other CSC administrators and I took an unprecedented measure by locking down the campus during the search for the individuals. We’re pleased with our decision, as our students and employees survived the incident with little more than their own tales of the frightening experience. The positive outcome can be attributed to the great response of not only law enforcement, but the actions of the many CSC employees and students who were so greatly inconvenienced during the search.

While stories about sports and crime may take up a majority of the press, there are hundreds of other “good news” stories each day at CSC that likely do not make the 6 o’clock broadcast where you live. In relatively quiet fashion, our faculty and students go about their days diligently honing their skills and knowledge in scores of educational disciplines. As proof, CSC continues to produce leaders in a wide variety of occupations, namely teachers, business leaders, law enforcement officers or hundreds of other occupations. That is news worth mentioning.

The pages of this publication show a portion of the good things happening at CSC. Thank you for taking the time to peruse some of the many accomplishments that give us great pride. Let it be evidence that CSC is a strong institution, not only on the football field or in the face of criminal danger, but in the classroom and other locations as well.

Sincerely,

Janie C. Park, Ph.D.
President
Chadron State College

Recognized at the CSF Annual Trustee Dinner & Meeting, October 12, 2007

Left to right: Incoming CSF board members: Janice German, Chadron, Cheryl Ravenscroft, Nenzel, Tom Bass, Swanton, Tom Chinnock, Fort Collins, Colo., Linda Redfern, Scottsbluff, Rob Wahlstrom, Chadron, Marty Connealy, Chadron and CSC President Janie Park.

We apologize for the following errors in this year’s Annual Report

Jeanne Smith was inadvertently omitted from the Eagle’s Club – Platinum list.

Golf Classic Scholarship Auction Donors: The donations received during the scholarship auction were credited to the scholarship fund, but the contribution was not reflected in the total amount donated during the fiscal year end. Therefore the following people may not be listed in the appropriate giving category.

- Associated Brokers Cliff & Sandee Hanson
- Brownfield Farms Dick & Marlene Myers
- Jon Daniels – Gregory Insurance Tom & Janie Park
- Steve & Becky DeBoer Michele & Todd
- Curtis Dunlap Rickenbach
- Chad & Cheryl Emanuel Brad & Pam Smith
- Kevin Emanuel White River Feed
- Great Plains Communications

Payroll Deduction: The June payroll deduction amount was not included in the total amount donated for reporting in the annual report. Therefore employees of Chadron State College who utilize payroll deduction may not have been listed in the appropriate giving category.

The Chadron State Foundation staff apologizes for the errors. We are very thankful for all of your support and have taken steps to alleviate these issues in the future. Thank you.
Chadron State College gave special recognition to five of its outstanding graduates during Homecoming festivities Saturday, Oct. 29.

The group includes the president and CEO of a $1.7 billion producer of pet products, one of Florida's most renowned lawyers, a nationally recognized immunologist, a leading administrator of a national high school activities association and a rising leader of pharmacology.

The Distinguished Alumni recipients are Silvia Morell Alderman of Tallahassee, Fla., Marilyn (Grandstaff) Moulds of Henderson, Texas, and Glenn Novotny of Danville, Calif. The Distinguished Young Alumni are Bob Colgate of Indianapolis, Ind. and Niki (Frates) Salomon of Gothenburg, Neb.

Distinguished Alumni

Silvia Morell Alderman, Tallahassee, Fla. -- Since graduating from Chadron State in 1973, Morell Alderman has become known for her contributions to Florida environmental law.

Alderman and her family moved to Chadron from Cuba in 1964 when her father, Dr. Jose Morell, became an assistant professor at CSC. She graduated second in her class at CSC, and was the first-ever female Ivy Day orator.

She and her husband, Mike, graduated from Florida State University's school of law in 1977.

Alderman focused her legal career on the environment. While serving as chief enforcement officer, and later as deputy general counsel of the Department of Environmental Regulation, she was involved in the formulation of policy, drafting laws and defense of Florida's environment in landmark litigation.

In private practice since 1984, Alderman was founder, corporate treasurer and director of Kutz, Alderman and Bryant, which became the 24th largest law firm in Florida before its merger with Akerman Senterfitt, a 500-lawyer firm with offices around the United States. She has been named managing shareholder of the Tallahassee office of Akerman. Her clients are governmental entities, major commercial, industrial and agricultural concerns and citizens' groups.

Alderman has been named Florida Trend Magazine’s Legal Elite and Florida Superlawyer lists. She has received the highest rating given by Martindale-Hubbell, a national attorney's rating organization.

Marilyn K. (Grandstaff) Moulds, Henderson, Texas -- Moulds, who graduated from Nebraska State Teachers College in 1966, has posted a long list of accomplishments in immunohematology, more commonly known as “blood banking.” Moulds is a 1962 graduate of Cody (Neb.) High School. The same year as she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry at Chadron State, she earned medical technology certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists from St. John's McNamara Hospital in Rapid City, S.D.

Since then, she has earned “specialist in blood bank” certification. Her professional experience includes seven years at a Minneapolis, Minn., blood bank, and 23 years at Gamma Biologicals, Inc., at Houston, Texas. At the latter company, she was promoted from supervisor to director and then vice president of consultation and education services. In 1998, she joined Immucor, Inc., as vice president of reference and education services. She retired in June 2006 and is self employed as an immunohematologist, lecturer and educator.

Between 1979 and 2006, Moulds received more than a dozen awards and honors related to her work. She has often been recognized for educating others about blood banking, and has presented numerous lectures about the topic at educational institutions and professional organizations.

Glenn W. Novotny, Danville, Calif. -- Novotny, who is a Chadron native and earned a business administration degree from Chadron State in 1969, is president, chief executive officer and director of Central Garden & Pet Co. It is a $1.7 billion developer, marketer and producer of brands for consumer and professional use in the garden and pet industries.

Central Garden & Pet Co. is the largest pet supplies and second largest garden supplies manufacturer in the United States. Novotny joined the company in 1990 as president and chief operating officer and was promoted to president and chief executive officer in 2003. He has been a board member since he joined the company.

From 1970 to 1990, Novotny worked at Weyerhaeuser Co., one of the world's largest forest products companies. From 1988-1990, Novotny was president and CEO of one of Weyerhaeuser's wholly owned subsidiaries, Weyerhaeuser Garden Supply.

In addition, Novotny is co-founder and director of Ditan Corp., a value-added computer software game distribution and services company. He also serves on the board of directors for Reeb Millwork Corp., a privately owned $200 million annual revenue millwork distribution company.

In addition to his CSC degree, Novotny graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Business’ program for management development in 1981. He also attended the New CEO Program at that institution in 2003.

Distinguished Young Alumni

Bob Colgate, Indianapolis, Ind. -- Colgate, a Chadron native, has swiftly risen among the ranks of high school activities associations since earning bachelor's and master's degrees, and being employed at his alma mater.

He became assistant director of the National Federation of State High School Associations in August 2006 after serving six years as assistant director of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

His responsibilities include serving as the editor and national rules interpreter for football and wrestling. He also serves on a number of national committees and boards, and has accumulated valuable experience serving as a staff liaison to a number of national organizations. While with the NSAA, Colgate was the director of state championships and was the staff liaison and rules interpreter for football wrestling, track and field, and girls' golf.

Colgate, who is the son of retired Chadron State educator and administrator Dr. Pat Colgate, left CSC in 1997 after having served as an administrative assistant to the athletic director and director of football operations. He also was a member of the health and physical education faculty and was the director of intramural and recreational sports.

Niki L. (Frates) Salomon, Gothenburg, Neb. -- Salomon has gained much respect among Nebraska pharmacists during just five years "behind the counter." In July 2006, she received the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award from the Nebraska Pharmacists Association.

Salomon, who graduated from South Platte High in Big Springs in 1996, attended Chadron State as part of the Rural Health Opportunities Program. After two years in the program, she was accepted to the University Nebraska Medical Center's College of Pharmacy at Omaha. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree with high distinction in 2002.

After earning the doctorate, Salomon was employed as a staff pharmacist for two independently owned pharmacies in Cozad and Lexington.

In the summer of 2006, she conducted a class for local pharmacy technicians to prepare them for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam. She also has given several presentations about diabetes and Medicare Part D to Dawson County residents, physicians and nurses.

Salomon is employed at Barmore Drug Store in Lexington. She and her husband, Aaron, are the parents of a six-month-old daughter, Avery.
1977 graduate is Montana’s teacher of the year

By Con Marshall

Chadron State College graduate Steve Gardiner, who teaches English and journalism at Billings Senior High School, has been selected Montana’s Teacher of the Year for 2008.

The honor is one of many that Gardiner has received during his action-packed life that has included international exploration and adventure as well as leadership in educational circles.

He received the latest award from the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. He will represent the state at the National Teacher of the Year Convention in Dallas in January and be a guest at the White House along with the 49 other teachers of the year in April.

Gardiner is a 1972 graduate of Alliance High School and a 1977 graduate of Chadron State. He received the college’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 1989 and the Distinguished Alumni Award in May 2006.

Gardiner said he never expected to spend 29 years teaching English, particularly since it was among his least favorite subjects in high school. But at Chadron State, he found four professors who changed his thinking forever. He identified the professors as Dr. Dorset Graves, Dr. Duane Grimme, the late Dr. Shirley Morgan and the late Bernard Donohue.

“They gave me a love of reading, writing and publishing that has become my way of life,” Gardiner said. He has written four books and more than 500 articles that have been printed in magazines and newspapers.

Gardiner has received widespread attention for his advocacy of sustained silent reading in his classes. Throughout his teaching career, he has allowed students to spend the first 15 minutes of each class period reading books of their own choosing. His book, “Building Student Literacy Through Sustained Silent Reading,” published in 2005 by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, explains his philosophy that reading leads to learning, even if it is done for pleasure.

Through the program, nearly all his students will read from six to eight books a year while some will become so engrossed that they read 30 or more.

Gardiner also has written three books about his exotic adventures that have included climbing many of the world’s highest mountains, walking on glaciers, exploring Amazon jungles and running marathons.

While at Chadron State, he was the editor of The Eagle, the college newspaper, and received the award as the outstanding senior in journalism at Ivy Day 1977. During the fall of 1974 he spent four months studying British literature at the University of London.

In 1990 while teaching at Jackson Hole High School in Wyoming, Gardiner was one of 78 teachers from across the country selected for inclusion in a book “I Am A Teacher,” published by Simon and Schuster. His story was one of six spotlighted in Teacher Magazine’s final issue that year. He was featured a second time in “I Am a Teacher” on how he used his Mount Everest experience to motivate his students.

In 2005, he received a Special Recognition Adviser Award from the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and a Medal of Merit from the Journalism Education Association.

In addition, he has coached the Billings Senior High girls’ cross-country team to Montana’s Class AA state championship in 2005 and ’06 and a second-place finish this fall.

Gardiner’s wife, Peggy, teaches at the Orchard Elementary School in Billings. The couple has three daughters.

Nearly 30 former Chadron State College women's basketball players returned Nov. 10 for the first alumni game. In front, from left, are Tera Schmid, Scottsbluff; Cyndee Wooden, Aurora, Colo.; Kim Lytle Ryan, Sheridan, Wyo.; Jeanne Placek Scheneman and Maureen Cooney Odell, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Shelly Holmes Benben, Gordon; and Dacia Zohner Woodhead, Grand Junction, Colo. In the second row are Jennifer Bonser Aubain, Colorado Springs; Gwen Reed, Gillette, Wyo.; Carol Bachmann Marxsen, Lincoln; Tanya Weber, Douglas, Wyo.; Gail Mayer, Custer, S.D.; Marilyn Houdek, Dodge, Neb.; Angela Smith Ostrander, Faith, S.D.; and Janet Raymer, Lincoln. In the third row are Robin Lippincott Schainost, Torrington, Wyo.; Susan Erickson Myers, Bridgeport; Candyce Wondercheck, Cheyenne; Mary Perrien, Ovid, Mich.; Lisa Berry and Sarah Kellar Clinton, Aurora, Colo.; and Lorna Dahlgren Glenn, Rapid City, S.D. . In the back are Jennifer Vasey Reiners and Melissa Burke, Chadron; Janelle Hutt Uehling, North Platte; Tricia Lukawski, St. John, Ind.; and Jody Eastman Johnston, Maynard, Iowa. Mike Maloney, the new CSC women's basketball coach, said he hopes the game will be an annual event.

Department reaching out to aspiring entrepreneurs

In Chadron State College’s renewed effort to help communities of the Great Plains survive and thrive, the institution’s business department has revamped one of its programs.

College officials have accentuated the marketing option of the business degree to appeal to prospective entrepreneurs.

The courses of the newly formed “Marketing/Entrepreneurship” option were launched this fall. Dr. Tim Donahue, Chadron State business professor, said the new courses will be of benefit to anyone wanting to start a business or interested in learning more about entrepreneurship. Although the new courses are designed for upper grades, Donahue said motivated non-degree seeking students will also find success.

“Our eight-week format, offered either online or face-to-face, is perfect for adult learners who want to get in and get it done,” he said. “The courses are even offered in the evenings to accommodate most work schedules.”

Three courses are being offered for entrepreneurship: Entre-Business Start Up, Entre-Imagination & Opportunity, and Promotion & Advertising.

The revamped program is just one step Chadron State has taken in the past two years to aid the region’s economic development efforts. In addition, Chadron State has become active in HomeTown Competitiveness and is home to Chadron’s Nebraska Business Development Center office.

Those interested in the entrepreneurship courses may call the Chadron State Admissions Office at 1-800-CHADRON, or contact Donahue by phone, (308) 432-6279, or e-mail, tdonahue@csc.edu.

CSC Scholarship Awarding to Begin Soon! It’s more than a unique location… It’s a unique experience...

As many of you remember, Chadron is a college town known for its hospitality and warm nature. Chadron State College is surrounded by a great variety of attractions and events, in addition to being widely recognized as a leader in higher education.

If you know students who are ready to embark upon their unique college experience beginning fall 2008 term – children, grandchildren, neighbors or friends — encourage them to begin their journey at Chadron State College. Visit the website at www.csc.edu/admissions for more information.

Scholarship applications for entering freshmen are available at www.csc.edu/finaid and the application deadline is January 15, 2008.
Spotlight on Dr. George Griffith

Spotlight is a new column designed to pick the brains of prominent people within the Chadron State College community. This edition’s Spotlight focuses on Dr. George Griffith who is in his 32nd year as a language and literature professor at CSC. Before coming to Chadron State, which has been his only full-time academic employer, Griffith earned a bachelor’s degree from LaSalle College in 1969, and a master’s and doctorate from Southern Illinois University in 1971 and 1975, respectively. He also has completed post-doctoral work at Yale, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and three University of California institutions -- Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Cruz.

Why did you take a position at CSC?

1975 was a difficult year for new Ph.D.'s. There weren't many jobs available. I was delighted to have this one.

What are the most profound changes you have seen at CSC during your tenure?

Apart from the customary changes in the life of a long-term teacher (old buildings knocked down, new ones put up), I’ve witnessed an increased professionalism at CSC. We’ve had many fine faculty members and students whose successes any institution could be proud of.

What are the most profound changes you have witnessed in teaching and your discipline of study during your career?

An enhanced understanding of the role played by race, class and gender has changed what literature a literature teacher teaches. Like most things, that’s had an upside and a downside. Many incoming students now bring diminished skills as readers and writers and that’s had an effect on what goals we can set and how we can get to those goals.

What do you like most about teaching?

I still love what put me in the profession in the first place, that is, the material. I love to read and learn. It’s always enjoyable to work with young people and greatly satisfying to think that I might have helped people in their journey. And I’m a ham; I love the performance aspect of it.

What courses are your favorites to teach?

All literature classes are a joy. Ethics is always a wonderful challenge. I’ve enjoyed my creating and teaching an online ethics class for the last decade or so.

What is your favorite book, food, beverage and television program?

My wife and I play this game. We refer to it as the “Going to the Island game.” You’re going to spend the rest of your life on an island and you can take with you only one book or movie or food, and so forth. For movies, I cheat a bit and ask to have all three Godfather films count as one. My wife takes The Wizard of Oz. We’ll be on different sides of the island. What hobbies do you most enjoy?

I read a great deal. I was an avid gardener at one time but the weeds are winning. For the long haul, always bet on the weeds. I still grow a vegetable garden and herb garden because I really enjoy cooking.

What was your first vehicle?

A shiny black 1958 Ford that belched a gun-metal blue smoke and stirred my high school soul. I thought I was pretty cool. I recently learned from a high school alumni mailing that one of my classmates still owns the white ‘57 Chevy he went to the prom in. And he’s still married to the same woman.

Please tell us about a memorable experience from your college days:

Among the legal ones I remember fondly my going to Big Five basketball games at the Palestra in Philadelphia (Villanova, St. Joe’s, LaSalle, Temple, Penn). It was then one of the epicenters of college basketball in the era of Lew Alcindor, as he was then called, before he went on to become Kareem Abdul Jabbar.

Where is your favorite vacation spot?

I couldn’t say. My family and I have had the good fortune to travel to lots of places in the summers, thanks to my job, and we’ve enjoyed them all.

Students and faculty members present Nebraska geoscience research

Students and faculty members of Chadron State College’s geosciences program were busy this fall getting the word out about their projects of northwest Nebraska.

CSC geoscience student Jennifer Balmat of Chadron and professor Mike Leite presented research about geological sites north of Crawford at the 119th annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. About 6,300 geoscientists attended the meeting, which was Oct. 27-31 at the Colorado Convention Center at Denver. Balmat, a senior, told about landscape changes that have occurred over thousands of years at Hudson-Meng Kill Site, the assemblage of thousands of bone fragments that were discovered below the earth’s surface.

Leite presented information about the replication of latex-molded track ways of Toadstool Park by using measurements and photography. The track ways are those of mammals and birds that inhabited the area more than 25 million years ago. Upon completion, track way replicas will be displayed and interpreted at the Eleanore Barbour Cook Museum of Geology in CSC's Math and Science Building, Leite said.

Others listed for their involvement with the research are Balmat’s husband and fellow student, Josh, Hannan LaGarry, CSC adjunct professor of geoscience, Brent Breithaupt, director of the University of Wyoming’s geological museum, and Neffra Matthews, geographic information systems specialist with the Bureau of Land Management in Denver.

Leite, LaGarry, Breithaupt and Matthews also were selected to present a joint paper about the Toadstool Park track ways at the Cenozoic Vertebrate Track Symposium at Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 22-24.

In addition, a paper by LaGarry and his wife, CSC graduate student Leigh Anne LaGarry, and co-authors from the University of Nebraska, was published in the Journal of Sedimentary Geology in November. The paper describes newly recognized rocks along an active fault zone in northeastern Dawes and northern Sheridan counties. Hannan said the rocks indicate much wetter conditions in the region 17.5 million years ago than now. The paper was originally presented at the eighth International Conference on Fluvial Sedimentology in Delft, The Netherlands, in late 2006.
New plaza dedicated

A former Chadron State College chemistry professor was fondly remembered Aug. 18 during the dedication of a new outdoor space on campus and scholarship that bears his name.

About 100 people gathered at the CSC Math and Science Building for a ceremony to recognize the new “Art Struempler Flag Plaza” and the “Art and Jo Struempler and Children Endowment.”

The plaza, which was constructed this summer in the area just north of the Math and Science Building, features a 25-foot flag pole, elaborate landscaping, decorative concrete paving and a concrete bench. Its design is conducive to outdoor instruction, and plaques have been placed on the bench and flag pole to recognize the former professor’s achievements in education and the military.

Dr. Janie Park, CSC president, expressed gratitude to the Struempler family and others for donating to the plaza and the endowment.

“This place is going to be well-used by students, faculty and staff who are looking for a place to spend a little quiet time, and we are so thankful that we can remember one of the faculty members who spent many, many years on this campus touching lives,” Park said. “We thank the Struempler family so much for doing this for us.”

Mrs. Struempler said Dr. Struempler would have been pleased with the results of the project and the dedication ceremony. The event was attended by family members, including Struemplers’ son Mike of Fort Collins, Colo., and daughter Barbara and granddaughter Lauren of Auburn, Ala.

“Art had four loves in life, and they were his spiritual commitment, his family, his country and his students,” she said.

Dr. Struempler, who died Aug. 13, 2004, at age 83, was a native of Buffalo, Neb., once a small village north of Lexington in Dawson County. He flew 26 missions as a B-17 pilot during WWII. After earning a doctorate from Iowa State University, he completed two years of post-doctoral studies at the University of California Davis and taught three years at California State at Chico.

He also was an operations research analyst for the Strategic Air Command at Omaha for three years before coming to Chadron State as chairman of the Division of Science and Mathematics in 1965. He had that position more than 15 years before teaching chemistry full-time his final 11 years at CSC. He retired in 1991.

Saturday’s keynote speaker was Mark Brohman, executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a 1986 graduate who studied under Dr. Struempler and was instrumental in raising funds for the project.

Brohman said Saturday’s big turnout for the ceremony was indicative of how many lives the Struemplers influenced.

“It just shows how much Art was loved by not only family, but also students and community members,” he said. “I probably had 60 or 70 professors over my nine-year college career, but Art was definitely one of the most special I had.”

Mrs. Struempler said Brohman proposed the idea of the new plaza during Dr. Struempler’s funeral, which was exactly two years prior to the dedication ceremony.

“Art was truly a military hero, and that’s why we chose a flag pole,” Brohman said. “During the ceremony, Brohman shared stories about the former professor. He said having Dr. Struempler’s name permanently associated with the Math and Science Building is appropriate, because the former professor was instrumental in getting the building constructed.

From taking students fossil hunting to challenging them to a game of handball in the basement of the Math and Science Building, Brohman said Dr. Struempler was more than just a classroom teacher.

“Art was all about life lessons,” he said. “You weren’t just a number.”

He also recalled the Struemplers’ black Labrador retriever, Levi, who attended the professor’s classes daily and became the building’s “mascot.”

Brohman relayed e-mails from other past students who were unable to attend the ceremony. One such correspondence came from sisters Cheni and Thandi Khonje, who came to CSC from Malawi. They graduated in 1986, later earned medical degrees, and now reside in New Jersey.

The e-mail stated that the sisters were at first “intimidated by (Struempler’s) stern looks, but we later discovered that behind the pensive demeanor was a mind that was unraveling the mysteries around him. That stern face would lighten up when asked questions.”

Chadron Creek project selected for national competition

Nearby Chadron Creek may not represent a large piece of United States geography, but a project spearheaded by Chadron State College science students and faculty is “putting it on the map” and relaying its importance.

The Chadron-based resource partnership, “P3,” is garnering national attention for proposing sustainable use of fire-impacted resources in the Chadron Creek watershed. The group, which consists of Chadron State students and partners in the surrounding community, has been selected to compete against teams from about 40 other colleges and universities at the annual Sustainable Design Conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2008. The event is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency.

P3 is part of a national effort started by the EPA. Its name is shorthand for “People, Prosperity and the Planet.”

The project at Chadron State is being led by student Jennifer Balmat and Dr. Mike Leite, CSC geoscience professor.

“This is a huge honor for our college,” Balmat said. “Not many small schools get a chance to compete in the P3 program. And it’s an excellent opportunity for undergraduates to participate in research.”

Members of the group are developing partnerships in the region affected by the Chadron Creek watershed. They hope to bring together members of the community affected by natural resources of the Chadron Creek drainage, which Leite said includes “just about anything.”

Chadron Creek begins near the top of the Pine Ridge about 12 miles south of Chadron and converges with the White River a few miles west of the city after it descends about 1,000 feet in elevation. Much of the watershed was burned during the wildfires of 2006.

Leite said the creek flows into the White River at just two to five cubic feet per second for much of the year, and at times runs dry before it reaches that point. The creek flows through the Chadron City Reservoirs, which are used as a community water supply and for recreation.

Despite Chadron Creek’s diminutive attributes, the P3 group is finding its worth far exceeds its face value.

“When you start listing the resources that are available to the community as a result of Chadron Creek, the list gets very long,” Leite said. “When you consider the needs of agriculture and community water supply alone, it’s clear that little creek makes life here possible.”

People gather at the new Struempler Plaza during the dedication ceremony.
Students

Junior to lead national honor society

Brittany Schultz, a Chadron State College junior from Scottsbluff, was elected president of the Cardinal Key National Honor Society during the organization's annual conference at Atlanta in October.

Schultz said that becoming a national officer of the organization wasn’t her goal before attending the convention, but agreed to run for president at the suggestion of a member from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Although it was Schultz’s first time attending the event, she won decisively.

“I prayed about it, and I guess this is what God wants me to do,” she said.

As president, Schultz will preside over all national meetings and organize Cardinal Key’s annual conference. Following her two-year term, she will serve two years on the organization’s national board of directors.

Schultz said 32 institutions throughout the United States have Cardinal Key chapters, 18 of which are active. About 600 new members are inducted each year. Admission to CSC's chapter, which emphasizes leadership and community service, requires a vote of the membership and a grade-point average of at least 3.25.

Schultz was inducted to CSC’s chapter of Cardinal Key in spring 2007 and serves as its vice president. She’s studying human biology in the Rural Health Opportunities Program in pursuit of becoming a general surgeon. Other clubs of which she belongs are Chadron State’s Health Professions Club and Campus Crusade for Christ. She’s a 2005 graduate of Scottsbluff High School and the daughter of Mark and Janelle Schultz.

Schultz is believed to be the first CSC Cardinal Key member to be named president of the organization and just the second to be elected to a national office in at least 15 years. Kathleen Kisicki of Cheyenne, Wyo., was elected the national vice president her senior year in 1995. She earned master’s degree from CSC in 1997 and remains involved with Cardinal Key. She has served as Cardinal Key’s national director since 2001, a post she plans to leave in 2009. Now Kathleen Hecox of Denver, she also is a store designer for Crate & Barrel, a furniture and housewares company with more than 150 locations.

Health Professions Day draws larger crowd

Attendance to the annual Health Professions Day at Chadron State College in October was up about 50 percent over last year, as more than 320 high school students were on campus to hear presentations by health professionals and students. Some of the attendees came from hundreds of miles away.

“The word is out. This is the place to be,” said Brad Fillmore, CSC’s director of health professions.

Presenters provided information about more than a dozen topics, including health care careers in chiropractic, medical technology, dentistry, dental hygiene, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant and radiography. Fillmore noted that CSC has developed a great relationship with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and that more than a half-dozen of the presenters were from the eastern Nebraska-based institution.

One of the highlights of Tuesday’s conference was a nine-student panel that answered questions from the aspiring teenagers. The high-schoolers presented the college students with a wide spectrum of inquiries, ranging from what courses were there favorites to whether or not they ever get “squeamish” at the sight of blood.

Much of the panel’s discussion centered around the Rural Health Opportunities Program, the initiative that addresses the needs of rural Nebraska’s health care industry by encouraging rural residents to pursue health care careers. If selected to the program, students obtain early admission to participating University of Nebraska Medical Center colleges upon completion of studies at CSC. The high school students were reminded that paperwork for those applying to the program is due Dec. 1.

Officials say RHOP is achieving its mission as 52 percent of its graduates are practicing health care in rural Nebraska, and another 16 percent are working in the lesser-populated areas of other states.

CDC celebrates 35th anniversary, upgrades

The Chadron State College Child Development Center this fall celebrated its 35th anniversary of providing early childhood education with a number of upgrades to its facility at the Burkhiser Complex.

An open house and ribbon cutting Sept. 28 gave CDC staff, including the college students who gain experience there, and children an opportunity to show off a lengthy list of improvements to the center’s playground that have been made during the past year.

Dr. Kim Madsen, CDC director, said about $6,000 of private funding was raised for the improvements. The area now features a nature trail with a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers. In all, about 120 plantings were placed in the area.

In addition, the playground has a refurbished climber, new chain link fence, more sand, a garden area and concrete curbing that borders the trail.

CSC Theatre program tours northwest Nebraska schools

Chadron State College’s theatre program “set sail” in November for performances at six northwest Nebraska elementary and middle schools as part of its Children’s Theatre Workshop course. The performances were presented on four dates between Nov. 8 and Dec. 7.

Director Roger Mays and 15 theatre majors presented Aurand Harris’ adaptation of “Treasure Island” for audiences in Hay Springs, Rushville, Hemingford, Alliance, Crawford, Harrison and Chadron.

Mays said the theatre students “put the show together” in its entirety, including set, lights, costumes, sound, props and performance, as well as the research for the study guide that will be distributed to the audiences.

Among the event’s special guests were Jerry Moss of Chadron, who designed a trellis for the playground, and Berdine Maginnis Straslin of Crawford, a former CSC employee and regional training officer for Head Start. In the early 1970s Maginnis helped persuade the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees to approve the Child Development Center upon construction of the Burkhiser Complex.

“I went to the board and said, ‘You have this new building going up and our most important resource is families and children. You need to provide a space where we can watch children and how they grow and develop,’” Maginnis said.

She said the improvements to the facility are remarkable.

“In the beginning, we just had a makeshift playground that volunteers put up,” she said. “They have really added to it. It looks really nice.”
Sports

Another successful season for football team

By Alex Helmrecht
Sports Information Director

Momentum and excitement for Chadron State’s football team continues to grow, not to mention the trophy case and record books.

For the second consecutive year, the Eagles wrapped up an 11-0 regular season, claimed the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championship with back-to-back undefeated records for the first time in conference history, and secured a Division II playoff game at home the final weekend of November.

The Eagles, who have won 24-straight regular season games and 18 consecutive in the conference, also ended the regular season ranked No. 2 in the American Football Coaches Association, their highest ranking ever.

“I think it’s great for everyone involved with the whole program,” said CSC Head Coach Bill O’Boyle. “The accomplishments we’ve made this year and even last year, are great because we’re getting recognized on the national scale.”

The 2007 RMAC title is the seventh Chadron State has won since joining the conference in 1991. The Eagles have won four outright titles and shared the three other times.

With 11 wins, the 2007 team became the fourth squad in school history to win more than 10 games. All of the 10-win seasons have come since 1996.

“Every year the level of football gets better,” O’Boyle said. “You can’t compare the 1996 team to the team now because a lot has changed. Football evolves every year and it doesn’t matter what level you’re at. What’s funny about this team is that we go into each game expecting to win and that’s a whole new perception of where we’re at.”

The Eagles had a record-setting comeback in the second round of the playoffs. After trailing Abilene Christian 49-20 heading into the fourth quarter, the Chadron State football team outscored the Wildcats 36-7 to force overtime. In the third extra session, quarterback Joe McLain ran through the middle and did a somersault into the end zone to cap off CSC’s biggest comeback in school history. It was the highest scoring game in NCAA playoff history with 149 combined points.

During the regular season the Eagles were solid on both sides of the ball, especially defense. The Eagles finished ranked 11th in Division II in total defense, allowing just 267.2 yards a game. The defense is also ranked third in the nation in scoring defense, giving up 8.5 points a game.

The Eagles’ offense was also strong as it averaged 416.8 yards a game and outscored the opponents by an average of 27.8 points.

Thanks to another outstanding season, 10 Chadron State players were named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference’s first-team. Two more Eagles were named to the second-team and six others earned honorable mention.

In addition, O’Boyle was selected as the conference’s coach of the year. He was also honored as the RMAC coach of the year in 2006.

This was the third consecutive year that tailback Danny Woodhead was selected as the conference’s offensive player of the year. He was named the freshman offensive player of the year in 2004.

Woodhead became college football’s all-time leading rusher on Oct. 6 during the Eagles’ game with Western New Mexico. In his career, he’s rushed for 7,684 yards, 353 more yards than the previous record holder had.

Other Chadron State players repeating as first-team all-conference choices this year were tight end Logan Stropko, inside linebacker Austin Bailey and safety Paul Schweger.

The remaining Eagles on the first-team this year are offensive linemen John Strand and Ben Puffer, quarterback Joe McLain, defensive tackle Aaron Ide, cornerback Beau Wendling and punt returner Landon Ehlers.

Second-team honors went to defensive tackle Josh Knouse and safety Trevor Hyatt.

Honorable mention was given to center Chance Galey, cornerback Terrance Newman, inside linebacker Zach Wheeler, defensive ends Shaine Odell and Jared Koester and punter Kevin Berg.

The Eagles also excelled in the classroom as 30 players were named to the RMAC All-Conference Academic teams. Thirteen were placed on the first team, two others were named to the second team and 15 received honorable mention.

No other school had more than four players named to the first team and CSC led the conference with 15 total players recognized on the first and second teams.

To be eligible for the academic teams, a player must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.20 and be a key contributor on offense, defense or special teams.

The offensive unit is dominated by CSC as seven Eagles fill the 11 available spots, led by academic player of the year Woodhead. In addition to Woodhead, wide receiver Brandon Harrington, tight end Bryce Jarzynka, McLain, Strand, Galey and Puffer were named to the first team offense.

Four Eagles were placed on the defensive first team. They are Odell, Ide, Schweger and Wheeler.

CSC also fared well on special teams with kicker Travis Atter and Ehlers garnering first team nods.

The second team selections were defensive back Craig Kaisier and Koester.

The honorable mention list includes Mike Aimeone, Aaron Bauer, Cory Beran, A.J. Burki, Ryan Cassity, Tim Hiett, Byron Korf, T.J. Lovato, Jay Meduna, Chase Rasby, John Ritzen, Kent Russell, Blaire Schumacher, Josh Wood and Derek Watson.
Chadron State women’s team hopes to make big turnaround

By Con Marshall

Hopes are high that the Chadron State College women’s basketball program will make a huge turnaround this winter and become competitive again. The Eagles have a new coach, numerous experienced players and several newcomers who seem capable of contributing. “We've got some women who have played a lot of basketball and seem hungry to turn things around,” said the new coach, Mike Maloney, who has coached on both the high school and college levels and also refereed professional basketball several years. “My job is to figure out what pieces we have and try to put them together so we can be successful.”

Nine letterwinners are on the roster, giving some needed stability and experience. They know they must improve individually for the team to improve, but seem to have dedicated themselves to that task. It's encouraging that they have stuck with the program after the team was just 2-25 last year.

Two of the returnees are seniors. Corissa Kesterson of Mountain View, Wyo., and Krishna Sibrel of Loveland, Colo. The two will provide much of the front court experience and size. It will be important that they are able to hold their own around the basket.

Chadron DeHaven, Chadron, has two years experience with the Eagles and is also being counted on to help with the scoring, rebounding and defense up front.

Four letterwinners return in the backcourt. All of them were new to the program last season but showed much potential. They are sophomores Samantha Arkulski, Littleton, Colo.; Sunni Busch, Mission, S.D.; and Alyssa Lyman Gillette, Wyo.; and junior Whitney Segelke, Peetz, Colo. They appear capable of helping the team make vast improvement at both ends of the court.

Much is also expected from transfer Kristy Long, Sterling, Colo., who comes to Chadron State with outstanding credentials. She could be the Eagles’ “go-to” player and team leader that can help fit those pieces together.

Also bidding for playing time are another athletic transfer, Christy Webber, Pine Ridge, S.D.; junior Lori Hoegerl, Alliance, a veteran of the war in Iraq and a player with outstanding strength; and three players who redshirted last year—Trysta Gruber, Taylor, Neb.; Vanessa Schroeder, Wright, Wyo.; and Sable Slowman, Farmington, N.M. Each of the redshirts was a superb high school player and will be striving to translate that ability to the college court.

Everyone associated with the Eagles knows there's lots of room for improvement. The team has to do better in every area this year to begin the turnaround. A major priority is defense. The Eagles gave up 83.4 points a game and know they cannot be successful unless that figure is trimmed significantly.

The 2006-07 team also had the lowest field goal shooting percentage since CSC began keeping that statistic 30 years ago, was out-rebounded and had 102 more turnovers than the opponents.

But with a new coach and an array of players, there is optimism that a big swing in the right direction is beginning.

Hunter, Majerus expected to lead Eagles to exciting season

By Con Marshall

Led by a national champion and a national runner-up, the Chadron State College wrestling team is expected to have an exciting season. With no seniors on the roster, the Eagles appear to be a year away from reaching their peak, but there are some promising youngsters available to help overcome the loss of the three seniors who graduated at the end of last season.

Brett Hunter, the defending NCAA Division II 165-pound champion, and Josh Majerus, the 197-pound silver medalist, give the Eagles a couple of competitive, talented athletes to provide leadership. Despite their late-season success last winter, both seem to still be on the rise in their careers. They're juniors this year. Chadron State has never previously had two wrestlers in the lineup who have accomplished so much so early in their careers.

Hunter was 35-7 and Majerus 27-12 last season.

Other juniors with a wealth of experience will fill three more of the weight classes. They areDevlon Webb at 125, Willy Jones at 174 and Shaine Odell or Cale Bickerdyke at heavyweight. Webb, Jones and Odell have valuable national tournament experience. Webb and Odell should benefit from being a few pounds heavier this season while Jones appreciates being able to wrestle at his true weight after competing at 184 last season.

CSC’s heavyweight situation could be an interesting side-show as the season moves along. Both Odell and Bickerdyke are graduates of Harding County High at Buffalo, S.D. Bickerdyke will fill the weight class early in the season while Odell, a standout defensive end, helps the CSC football team advance to the playoffs.

Freshman Simon James should provide some excellent support at 125 pounds, although he’ll undoubtedly redshirt this season. Now that he’s a “more legitimate” 125-pounder, Webb could have a breakout season. He won 12 of 14 matches during the latter stages of the 2006-07 campaign.

The remaining five weight classes will be filled by inexperienced collegiate wrestlers. That always makes the situation tenuous, but Coach Scott Ritzen and his staff are confident the youngsters who will be filling most of the weights will be competitive. A couple of them may flourish this winter.

“Some of them will undoubtedly take their lumps now and then, but overall they should have quite a bit of success,” said Ritzen. “If they continue to work hard and learn this year, they should develop into outstanding college wrestlers. We expect several of the freshmen who we hope to redshirt this year to also do very well in the future.”
Volleyball team took big steps during 2007

By Alex Helmbrecht

CHADRON — To say the Chadron State volleyball team improved during the 2007 season is an understatement. After winning just six matches in two years, the Eagles posted an 11-19 record in 2007, including eight victories in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

In addition to nearly doubling the win output from the previous two seasons, Chadron State had two players earn RMAC All-Conference honors, and five individual records were set.

“I think we did what we needed to do in terms of getting a better record,” said coach Amy Spruiell. “Our returners played much better and our freshmen did everything we wanted and needed them to do in their positions. Everyone knows there’s still a long ways to go, but the nice thing is we got better and the players are willing to continue working hard.”

Those Eagles earning conference accolades included defensive specialist Jennifer Luatua and senior setter Jamie Weingart. Luatua was named to the RMAC All-Conference Second Team, and Weingart was named Honorable Mention.

Freshman Lindsay Heisler did some re-writing in the history books as she set four school records. The outside hitter from Colorado Springs, Colo., hit 32 kills in five games against Regis University to lead CSC to a victory in its home finale. One week earlier, she set the school record for most kills in a four-game match with 26 against Colorado School of Mines. She also owns the school records for most hitting attempts in a five-game match (78) and a four-game match (68).

Luatua set CSC’s other record this season when she recorded 39 digs in a match against Northern State on Aug. 31.

Heisler finished with 370 kills (3.49/game), 416.5 points and served 30 aces to lead the team in each offensive category. Heisler’s 370 kills are the second most for a Chadron State player this century. Only Kelly Kraus, who had 382 successful attacks in 2003, has hit more.

Lauren Emory also proved her value at the other outside hitter position. Emory, a sophomore from Fort Collins, Colo., finished with 316 kills (3.01/game) and was second on the team in points with 331.5.

Middle blockers Elizabeth Most and Bridgette Boswell also had solid seasons. Most, a junior from Ogallala, led the Eagles with 65 total blocks and added 192 kills and 246.5 points. Boswell, a freshman from Fallon, Nev., led the team in hitting percentage (.143) and she had 210 points and 177 kills.

Jamie O’Brien, a sophomore from Arvada, Colo., was also a major contributor. She was second in blocks with 63 and she scored 217 points, while hitting 168 kills.

“I was surprised with how well the freshmen played by the end of the season,” Spruiell said. “We had high expectations for Lindsay Heisler but we weren’t quite sure where Bridgette would end up. However, by the end of the season she exceeded our expectations. It was also great to see the older girls really step up.”

While the attackers certainly paced the offense, Weingart made her presence felt. The senior setter from Alliance became just the 10th setter to go over 1,000 assists since 1984 as she averaged 9.94 assists a game for a season total of 1,083. Weingart was the only member of the team to play in every game. She also had 28 service aces, 77 kills and 284 digs.

Luatua led the Eagles defensively by posting the second-best season in school history with 581 digs. Roxie Boehm owns the record of 666 set in 1991.

Anna Jackson and Sarah Mortensen each finished with over 200 digs. Jackson had 284 and Mortensen added 214.

Spruiell said the expectations are high for the Eagles next year. They bring back 17 players, including every starter except Weingart.

“I don’t have a specific number of wins, but our big goal next year is to get a berth in the conference tournament, but I’ll do the best I can to prepare the team to be competitive in our league.”

Stack named Chadron State College’s interim softball coach

By Alex Helmbrecht

Sports Information Director

Chadron State athletic director Brad Smith announced in August that Stack will replace former softball coach Jim Webb on an interim basis. Webb resigned during the summer to take a job as an assistant at Troy University.

“We’re extremely excited to have Coach Stack join our program,” Smith said. “We have a strong nucleus of ladies coming back and we wanted to get the best possible coach for them and we feel we did that by hiring Coach Stack.

“We had good coaches go through the interview process, but since the job opened late it was difficult to find coaches who wanted to leave their programs during the exhibition season. We felt that Coach Stack’s background in baseball, his knowledge of the game, and his ability to motivate young student athletes was a big asset for us, and we feel his conversion from baseball to softball will be an easy one.”

Chadron State finished with a 16-24 record during its first season since 1982 last spring. The Eagles also owned a 12-24 record in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference play.

During the fall exhibition season, CSC posted a 12-4-1 record.

Stack brings a wealth of knowledge to the position. He’s served as the Chadron Senior Legion baseball coach for seven years, leading the Post 12 seniors to a third place finish at this year’s Class B state tournament and a 44-12 record. Stack was also the Head Coach at the University of South Dakota from 1994-1998 before coming to Chadron State.

Stack, who also served as CSC’s dean of students for two years before returning to teach math in the fall of 2006, is looking forward to the opportunity.

“It’s going to be exciting,” said Stack, who came to Chadron State as a professor of mathematics in 1998. “I’m learning a lot already by talking to the pitchers we have. Pitching will be a steep curve for me, but I’ll do the best job I can to prepare the team to be competitive in our league.”
CSC men’s coach, B Bargen, says program headed in right direction

By Con Marshall

After graduating the four leading scorers from last year’s Chadron State College men’s basketball team, second-year coach Brent Bargen has lots of big shoes to fill.

The Eagles will be young and small, but Bargen said they are athletic and appear to have a bright future.

“We have a tremendous group of student-athletes,” said Bargen, who returned to his home state last year to coach after being an assistant a total of 11 years at Kansas State and Long Beach State. “We will definitely have growing pains and have a lot to learn.

Nevertheless, it is gratifying to have great kids who want to improve and be successful. This program is not where we want it to be, but it is headed in the right direction.”

The only seniors are point guard Felipe Cecilio, a native of Brazil who started 26 of the 27 games last year, and swingman Kyle Cotton of Torrington, who started 17 times and averaged 7.7 points a game.

“The other lettermen are center Tyler Coffman and guards Dameon Gant and Corey Wright, all sophomores who are expected to be in the primary rotation.

At 6-7, Coffman, a native of Brighton, Colo., is the tallest of the Eagles. He contributed 5.8 points and 3.3 rebounds last season. Gant and Wright are guards who gained valuable experience while coming off the bench a year ago.

Bargen said much is expected from redshirt freshman Tim McLaren, a 6-3 off-guard. “He can do a lot,” Bargen said. “He can dribble, pass and shoot and has a great mid-range game. While he was in high school (Lynwood High in Compton, Calif.), he played with and against some of the best players in the nation.”

McLaren averaged 20 points, 10 rebounds and five assists his senior year.

The other 2007-08 Eagles are newcomers. Marco Souza, a 6-3 native of Brazil, transferred from Marshalltown Community College in Iowa.

The others are freshmen. They are 6-1 Patrick Curto, 6-3 Andrew Gabellieri, 6-6 Stacy McAlister and 6-3 Blake Robinson.

A couple more promising freshmen will redshirt this season.

“We know everybody’s going to be taller than us. But so far, we’ve hustled, played good defense and been unselfish on offense. Those are all things I like to see,” said Bargen, who will again be assisted by Tim Collins.

Senior golfer has fall to remember

Chadron State College senior Allyson Malzahn had an outstanding fall season for the golf team.

She won the Maverick Invitational hosted by Mesa State on Oct. 9-10 by firing a 75 on the last day to win.

Malzahn was tied for second place with an 80 at the end of the first day of the tournament on Monday. Her 155 total gave her a two-shot victory over Maggie Cole of Mesa State, and led the Eagles to a third place finish in the team standings.

For her performance, she was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Women’s Golfer of the Week.

Malzahn’s 75 is one shot off the school record she set Sept. 18 at the Regis Tournament and her 155 total is two shots off the CSC record for 36 holes that she set at the Adams State Tournament a week earlier.

The only other CSC golfer to win a tournament this decade was Sarah Halsey, who won the Fort Hays Triangular in October 2004 and the Colorado Christian Tournament in April 2006.

Three more Chadron State golfers finished in the top 20 at the Maverick Invitational.

Senior Leslie Mueller of Martin, S.D., had rounds of 92 and 87 for a 179 total, Alissa Peterson of Lusk had scores of 84 and 99 for a 183 and Samantha Hanson of Chappell shot 93 and 91 for a 184.

The Mesa Tournament wrapped up the fall season for the Eagles. After four events in the RMAC, they’re in fifth place with 16 points.

Nebraska-Kearney is fourth with 17, Western New Mexico leads with 27 points.

Earlier in October while playing at Adams State, Malzahn had rounds of 77 and 76 for a 153 total that broke Halsey’s CSC record for best total over 36 holes. During the spring of 2004, Halsey had shot a 155 at the Mesa Tournament.

Malzahn finished fourth at the Adams State Tourney and the Eagles tied for fifth and sixth in the team standings.

In mid-September, Malzahn, who worked at Ridgeview Country Club last summer, carded a 74 to break Halsey’s 18-hole record by a stroke. The senior from Sidney did it the second day of the Regis Invitational Tourney after shooting 83 the first day.

Malzahn also had the low score for CSC during the Grand Canyon Tournament in the Phoenix area in late September. She had rounds of 80 and 83 for a 163. Mueller was close behind with a pair of 83s while Peterson shot 83 and 85 for a 168 total.

The others are freshmen. They are 6-1 Patrick Curto, 6-3 Andrew Gabellieri, 6-6 Stacy McAlister and 6-3 Blake Robinson.

A couple more promising freshmen will redshirt this season.

CSC rodeo team shows promise

While they didn’t win many belt buckles or plaques during the fall season, members of the Chadron State College rodeo team showed promise that with a little luck they could still finish high in the Central Rocky Mountain Region standings this school year.

“A lot of the time we were just a few tenths of a second away from doing really well. With a new coach this year, who probably weren’t quite as organized as we could have been. But if we all keep working and pull together, I think we can have a really good spring season.”

Four rodeos took place in the region this fall and five are on tap for the spring, including the CSC rodeo that will be in the Crawford/Marsland area. It is sixth in the regional steer wrestling standings. He finished third in the event at the Sheridan, Wyo., College rodeo and turned in a pair of 8.8-second marks at the Central Wyoming College rodeo in Riverton.

Kristad also is among the top 15 in bull riding at the end of the fall. Jennifer Fenster of Buffalo, Wyo., and Lisa Vroman of Buffalo, S.D., rank among the top 15 in the barrel racing and breakaway roping standings, respectively.

The tickets are $20 each. They may be purchased by contacting Sapp at the Human Resources Office at Chadron State. (308-432-6224 or sapp@csc.edu). The winning ticket will be drawn during the CSC rodeo.

CSC’s top performer during the fall season was Chance Kristad, a native of Benson, Minn., whose parents now live in the Crawford/Marsland area. He is sixth in the regional steer wrestling standings. He finished third in the event at the Sheridan, Wyo., College rodeo for times of 6.8 and 5.8 seconds. He also had a 5.0 run at the Lamar, Colo., College rodeo and turned in a pair of 8.8-second marks at the Central Wyoming College rodeo in Riverton.

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Homecoming queen of 1941 still going strong

By Con Marshall

Old homecoming queens never die or even fade away; they maintain their charm and energy forever.

At least that’s the way it is with the Chadron State College homecoming queen of 1941.

She’s Helen DeLaine McCray Roth, who lives in Gordon and continually amazes those around her with her with her sweetness, vim and vigor.

“She’s a wonderful person who never seems to slow down or run out of steam. Both DeLaine and her husband are delightful. They always see the best in everyone,” said Sybil Berndt, now of Chadron but a long-time Gordon-are resident and friend of the Roths for many years.

Known as Helen McCray while growing up in Merriman and while attending Chadron State, she explains that after she was married to her husband, Don, nearly 64 years ago there were several other Helen Roths where they lived so she began using her middle name, DeLaine.

It doesn’t matter whether you call her Helen or DeLaine, she’s one of a kind, full of stories and compliments for everyone who is mentioned. “I remember all those nice people,” or “She’s such a nice person,” DeLaine stated with nearly every other breath during the interview. If she’s always been that way, it’s no wonder she was crowned what was then called “the gridiron queen” senior year at Chadron State.

“I decided a long time ago, I might as well have a good time in life, and I do,” she said with a grin. “There are so many things I like to do. I have had a great life.”

DeLaine and the homecoming queen of 1947—60 years ago—Leora Zeman Kennedy, a Chadron native who has lived in Lander, Wyo., for many years, served as the marshals for the CSC homecoming parade down Chadron’s Main Street on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Prior to homecoming, DeLaine attended the “Survivors Luncheon” at Prairie Pine Lodge in Chadron on Thursday, Sept. 27. The group is made up largely of Chadron State students from the World War II era.

Among them are long-time Chadron residents Delma Gregersen, Jean Henkens and Hope Anderson.

“We all used to ride the train (Chicago and North Western) to Chadron while in college. We’re friends forever. We had such fun while we were students.”

DeLaine’s father, Charles McCray, was the Merriman postmaster when she was a child, but he died suddenly and her mother, Orpha, was appointed as the replacement.

“There were six of us kids, but because of my mother’s government job we did all right. After I was the valedictorian of my class, I received a scholarship to attend Chadron State. We had such good teachers and we never had any fear that something bad might happen to us.”

Among the teachers she remembers best are Garnet Larsen in English, Ross Armstrong and Adelaide Miller in physical education, Ethel Delzell in home economics and V. Calvon McKim in geography. Her major was education, she earned minors in both English and geography, and served as McKim’s secretary a couple of years. Her salary was $17 a month, she recalls.

Her duties included correcting papers and helping McKim organize the geography tours of the United States that he directed each summer during the late 1930s and early ‘40s.

She was among the approximately 40 students who participated in the 1939 trip to California. Highlights included going “on location” in Hollywood during the filming of “The Flying Deuces” that starred comedians Laurel and Hardy and continuing on to the San Francisco Exhibition. The entourage traveled by bus and in several other well-used vehicles that McKim somehow rented or borrowed. The participants slept on army cots in large tents and ate meals prepared along the way.

“Laurel and Hardy were so nice and posed with us for pictures. Somebody wrote afterwards that I was verbally offered a contract to be in a movie, but that’s not true,” DeLaine said.

“Dr. McKim had a way of getting us in to any place he wanted to go.”

Besides being the homecoming queen, DeLaine was a member of the Women’s Athletic Association, YWCA, Sigma Tau Delta (an English honorary) Gamma Chi Omega Sorority and was the senior class vice-president.

After graduating with honors in May 1942, DeLaine taught one year in a rural school south of Merriman and was the second grade teacher in Valentine for a year. Members of the latter class said they “looked for their favorite teacher” for 49 years before finding her in Gordon in the 1990s and holding a reunion in which she was the guest of honor.

During the summer of 1942, DeLaine met her future husband in Merriman. Don Roth grew up on a ranch in Hayes County and started working on ranches in the Merriman area in the summers while he was attending the Nebraska School of Agriculture, a high school at Curtis. He was initially employed by Eva Bowring, who was appointed by President Eisenhower to serve in the U.S. Senate in 1954 by President Eisenhower to serve in the U.S. Senate in 1954.

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When he met DeLaine, he was working on Ed Belsky’s Pioneer Hereford Ranch west of Merriman during the summer prior to his senior year at the University of Nebraska.

“We were married on Jan. 15, 1943, a couple of days after he received his commission at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

Following the war, Don was the herdsman nine years for George Heinz, who owned a registered Hereford operation located on the famed Pratt and Ferris Ranch at Henry, Neb. In the mid-1950s, the family moved to California, where he initially was a fieldman for the American Hereford Journal and then fed cattle for several well-heeled Hereford ranches. During their final 18 years in California, he was a brand inspector.

“The day after I retired we moved back to this area,” said Don. The couple has lived in Gordon since 1984. Their daughter, Rita, lives in California and their son, David, owns a ranch north of Merriman that joins the Bowring Ranch that is now a state historical park. The Roths have five grandchildren.

True to her nature, DeLaine remains active in their church, Daughters of American Revolution, Eastern Star and the Social Improvement Club in Gordon.

Don raises a garden, does much of the cooking and plays pitch with a group of men, including one who is 97. They often called me when they needed some help in classes,” she said. “I could never get enough education. I would still take classes from Chadron State if I lived there.”

After living in California, DeLaine, who wears neither glasses nor a hearing aid, took up dancing. “If you haven’t met a belly dancer, you have now, although I’m supposed to say I was an ethnic dancer,” she said with a mischievous grin. “There were from three to five of us who danced at schools, colleges, fairs, rest homes and wherever we were invited.

“We did Tahitian, hula and gypsy dancing. It was always in good taste and appropriate for any age group. It was fun and good exercise. I also modeled western wear and swim wear.”

After the Roths moved to Gordon, she took karate lessons from George Colella and earned a third degree belt. “I was his oldest student, but everybody was nice to me and I had a fantastic time,” she said. “I’m retired as a dancer now. My body won’t go like it used to, even though I don’t like to admit it.”

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Don raises a garden, does much of the cooking and plays pitch with a group of men, including one who is 97.
Cattle ranching exhibit opens in Heritage Center

By Justin Haag

Chadron State College is home to a new permanent gallery of exhibits dedicated to the development of the Northern Plains beef industry.

About 50 supporters gathered the afternoon of Nov. 2 at the lower level of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center to witness the opening of the C.F. Coffee Gallery, the building’s new feature named for a prominent northwest Nebraska rancher and banker who was key in founding the college.

Although the new gallery by itself is not the largest museum in the region, supporters say its value will far exceed its square footage.

Displays include writings, photographs and interpretive maps that detail the development of the beef industry. About two dozen loaned artifacts are on display, including a saddle and boots from the J.S. Collins Saddle Co. projected to be more than 100 years old.

“You’re not ever going to find 100 saddles and 5,000 sets of spurs in here, because we obviously don’t have the room,” said Ron Hunter of Hay Springs, a member of the committee overseeing the gallery’s development. “It’s both a curse and a blessing. It’s a blessing because what we put in here has to be quality.”

Members of the committee say future exhibits are expected to include information about a wide range of topics related to the industry, including markets, brands, family stories, transportation and the role of women in ranching. It is also expected to feature classroom activities for children and other learning materials for teachers to use.

Supporters say a great strength of the new facility will be the archived information that isn’t directly visible in the main gallery space. College employees have been working to format the information so it’s easily accessible by researchers.

For instance, the archives already include up to a dozen interviews with prominent land-owners on the High Plains that were recorded by area ranchers Barb and Charles Marcy, one of two area ranch couples who made instrumental monetary contributions to the gallery.

Other primary contributors were Bill and Virginia Coffee of Harrison and the First National Bank of Chadron. Bill Coffee and Charles Marcy have died, but their widows are still active in the gallery’s development.

Friday’s event was filmed for another major contributor who was unable to attend, 95-year-old Billie Snyder Thornburg of North Platte.

Dr. Lois Veath, CSC vice president for academic affairs, said the college has a commitment to preserving High Plains history, and that the Coffee Gallery will be significant in meeting that goal. She said the gallery will play a prominent role in CSC’s future offerings that relate to the region’s history.

“We are the only four-year institution in a 350-mile radius in our service region, and it’s really up to us to preserve the heritage of this beautiful region and all the various people who came here,” she said. “This facility is very important in connecting with not only townspeople, but with constituents across the region,” she said.

During the opening ceremony, Hunter and Veath thanked more than a dozen other people and organizations responsible for the gallery’s funding and development.

“People have been very generous with the family archives and artifacts,” Hunter said.

Tragedy averted as October lockdown disrupts campus life

By Justin Haag

Life at Chadron State College was dealt a 12-hour disruption in October while the campus was locked down for the community-wide search of five armed robbery suspects.

CSC reopened its campus shortly after noon Thursday, Oct. 11, after a successful manhunt that involved about 50 officers from at least 10 law enforcement agencies. The pursuit followed the previous night’s casino robbery near the Nebraska-South Dakota border 20 miles northwest of Chadron.

The five suspects, who are from Montana and range in age from 16-21, were arrested late that morning on the west-central side of Chadron. No injuries were reported.

Because of the disruption, CSC canceled both its day and night classes on campus and at its distance learning sites throughout western Nebraska. Joining CSC in closing were the city schools and a lengthy list of agencies and businesses.

When speaking to media that day, CSC President Dr. Janie Park expressed gratitude to law enforcement agencies and others who assisted with the effort. It is believed to be the first time the entire campus, with its five residence halls and apartment unit complex, has been locked down.

“There were about 800 people on our campus last night, and 800 people are a lot of people to be worried about,” she said. “We really appreciate the help of everyone who worked to keep them safe.”

Dr. Randy Rhine, CSC vice president for enrollment management and student services, said the college began the lockdown shortly after midnight at the suggestion of Chadron Police Chief Tim Lordino. Park said it seemed that Lordino and the other agencies “did everything just right.”

During the lockdown, CSC employees and students were allowed in and out of residences and office buildings only with security escort. Law enforcement searched buildings on campus after students reported seeing the suspects outside residence halls.

“We may have used an abundance of caution in this situation, but the first thing you think about is the safety of the students,” Rhine said.

Dawes County Sheriff Karl Dailey commended the students for their patience during the lockdown.

“They were just terrific,” he said. “Any gibes they gave us were purely in fun. They did just what we asked them to do.”

Park said Chadron State’s size made the lockdown much more manageable than it would have been at a larger institution. She also said CSC, like other colleges and universities, has a heightened sense of security after re-evaluating its procedures following the mass shooting at Virginia Tech.

“If we were a university with 35,000 students, it would have been much more difficult to get the word out,” she said. “This was a good test for us, and I believe things went extremely well.”

Rhine said the lockdown wouldn’t have been possible without the work of CSC’s housing staff and other college employees. The CSC community was told of the lockdown by use of phones, Internet, door-to-door visits and regional media reports.

“We were in good shape in a short period of time,” Rhine said.
Chadron Elks Lodge donates $90,000 as post disbands
By Justin Haag

Despite the disbanding of one of Chadron’s most treasured fraternal organizations, the community and surrounding region will continue to benefit from its existence.

Officers of Chadron’s Elks Lodge No. 1399 on Oct. 24 presented $90,000 to the Chadron State Foundation. The money will be placed into two endowments designed to produce scholarship earnings for an infinite number of years.

Despite what had become a small membership, the lodge had considerable reserves accumulated from the sale of its large brick building at 247 Bordeaux Street and within its Elks Crippled Children’s Fund. Credit for the large size of the Crippled Children’s Fund goes to the late Hugh Miller of Oelrichs, S.D., and his family, who left $27,000 from his estate for that purpose years ago.

When Elks Club members were discussing what to do with the money from its coffers upon disbanding, member Gil Nitsch of Chadron suggested a donation to Chadron State College.

The funds were given to CSC in two checks, one of $60,000, and another of $30,000.

Earnings generated from the larger account will be awarded to CSC students throughout western Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. The second endowment will provide scholarships for students with disabilities from those places.

“The money was generated locally, so we wanted it to stay in the community and continue helping the region,” said lodge member Lawrence Olson of Chadron.

CSC President Dr. Janie Park said the money will do just that.

“I really dislike the idea of losing an organization that has done so much good for Chadron and the surrounding region through the years,” Park said. “These funds, however, will continue to do an immeasurable amount of good for Chadron State College and the region it serves.”

Connie Rasmussen, Chadron State Foundation executive director, said that after the funds have been invested for a year, they are expected to generate about $3,600 annually for student assistance. That number is projected to increase as time goes on, she said.

Olson said the lodge’s membership had fallen from its peak of 1,500-2,000 in the early 1970s to 147 as of April this year. The decline prompted the organization to pursue a merger with Scottsbluff’s Lodge No. 1367. He noted that a change in the social climate has resulted in a similar fate for fraternal organizations throughout Nebraska and the United States.

Heritage Center celebrates anniversary

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College celebrated the fifth anniversary of its opening in November.

The celebration featured two events with American Indian themes. They were a presentation by Dr. William Bauer, University of Wyoming history professor, and the college’s annual Pow Wow. Visitors to the center also observed “Between Fences,” a Smithsonian traveling exhibit, and participated in family activities at the building’s new C.F. Coffee Gallery, a permanent exhibit about the region’s cattle industry.

The Heritage Center was dedicated in September 2002 to honor the heritage and history of the High Plains and Sandoz’ legacy. Sarah Polak, the center’s director, and other employees work toward the center’s goal through the acquisition, preservation, display and interpretation of historical items from the surrounding region.

Sparks Hall gets new life with offices for administration
By Justin Haag

Chadron State College celebrated the rebirth of its second oldest building, Sparks Hall, during a grand opening ceremony this fall.

Chadron State President Dr. Janie Park said maintaining the building’s historical “look, feel and character” were paramount throughout the project, beginning with initial discussion and lasting throughout construction.

“If you look around this building, the new part of the construction fits in with the old part very well,” she said. “You have a hard time distinguishing the new from the old.”

The Nebraska Legislature appropriated funds for the $2.6 million project in 2005 and construction began in May 2006.

The building, which was originally constructed just three years after the college’s founding in 1914, is now freeing up space for new classrooms in the Administration Building, which also is undergoing renovation. Sparks Hall now has offices for the central administration and its support staff, Human Resources, and the Alumni and Foundation. The latter offices are located in the 4,700 square-foot addition to the south of original structure, which also has restrooms and an elevator. With the new space, the building has 17,218 total square feet.

In order to meet today’s environmental, functional and safety standards, the interior of the existing building was completely demolished except for a few load bearing elements and the central staircase.

Gary Bieganski of Chadron, member of the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees, said he also was pleased to see the historical aspects of the building maintained, and that he subscribes to the board’s philosophy of preserving buildings when possible. Bieganski, a retired hospital administrator, said Sparks Hall has sentimental value to him as he frequented it often when he was a student at Chadron State.

“I’m always pleased to see that we maintain some of the things we have and that we appreciate their historical significance when we work to restore them,” Bieganski said.

At the heart of Chadron State’s campus, Sparks Hall has had several uses since its original construction. It has been women’s dormitory, cafeteria and housing for faculty and students.

About 100 people gathered Sept. 30 for the grand opening ceremony that was staged on the building’s new concrete patio at its south entrance. Most of the 45-minute ceremony was the cornerstone laying by the Freemasons. More than 30 members of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, most of who are from the eastern part of the state, were present at the ceremony. Behind the new cornerstone will reside a metal box full of materials about present-day Chadron State, perhaps be viewed by a future generation.

The colors were presented by members of the Knights of Columbus, who like the Freemasons wore full regalia. The ceremony concluded with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chadron/Dawes County Area Chamber of Commerce and tours of the building followed.

During a speech about the college’s 10 presidents earlier this fall, CSC Information Services Officer Con Marshall told about a letter from Joseph Sparks, the building’s namesake and the institution’s first president, to the college’s governing board shortly after the building was constructed. A comment about the college’s then new facility to house 50 women drew laughter from the audience.

Marshall quoted Sparks’ letter: “It gives (the female students) a pleasant home at much less expense than was possible before the construction, and, most importantly of all, the young women are under the direct control of the college.”

The ceremony also included a ribbon-cutting ceremony sponsored by members of the Knights of Columbus. Marshall presented $30,000 to Chadron State College. Receiving the funds are CSC President Janie Park and Connie Rasmussen, director of the CS Foundation.
Effort has new pines growing on C Hill

Chadron’s landmark C Hill became a step closer to the pine-studded scene of yesteryear this fall when Chadron State College’s incoming students and Girl Scouts were given the task of planting trees on the fire-ravaged landscape south of campus.

In all, about 150 ponderosa pine seedlings were planted. To get things started, about 100 students who were taking part in CSC’s orientation activities Aug. 18 planted more than two dozen trees in just over an hour. It was the hill’s first planting since the wildfires of 2006 that threatened the CSC campus and the rest of the city.

The effort has been led by college horticulturist Lucinda Mays. Following orientation, she worked with four juniors from Chadron High School to plant about 125 more seedlings this fall.

Andrea Franklin, Alaina Jackson, Trina Kuhnle and Joslyn Young began making preparations for the C Hill plantings as part of their Gold Award project during the summer. In addition to the plantings, they assisted with the installation of a water line that irrigates each tree and constructed cages to protect the seedlings from hungry deer.

Mays commended the Girl Scouts for their hard work on the project this fall, and the CSC students for participating in the effort that day.

“I was quite pleased with how many showed up,” Mays said. “It was a voluntary activity, so it was nice to see so many students take an interest in it.”

Before trekking up the hill on the near 100-degree day, each student was given a bottle of water. Mays told the students to drink three-fourths of the bottle, but to give the remainder to the tree they were planting.

A small metal plaque, which signifies the “class of 2011’s” role in the planting, has been permanently placed near the trees.

Before starting the project, Mays explained the damage caused by the wildfires of 2006 and how close the campus came to destruction. She also told of the efforts to restore the trees.

“What you’re doing today is creating a legacy for the community and yourselves,” Mays said to the group. “It doesn’t take very long for you to do it, but it has a long-term impact.”

Amanda Nipp, who coordinated the orientation, said the idea for the tree planting came from CSC President Janie Park, who was not only interested in ways to recover the hillside, but thought it would help CSC students bond.

Because of a relationship between Chadron State College and a Ukraine university, a group of cultural performers from eastern Europe put on shows at CSC and eight other locations throughout the Great Plains during a one-week period in October.

Kolos, which consists of 20 singers and dancers from the National Agriculture Academy of Ukraine at Kiev, performed at Dickinson State University of North Dakota and Mid-Plains Community College at North Platte. Dickinson State co-hosted the group with CSC. Kolos also performed in churches and schools in Fargo, N.D., Omaha, Columbus, Aurora, Sidney, Scottsbluff, North Platte and Chadron.

Loree MacNeill, CSC director of cultural programs and college relations, said the Kolos tour provided a welcomed cultural opportunity to audiences and created goodwill for CSC at each performance location.

CSC Dean Gary White, who spearheaded CSC’s relations with NAUU, and Roger MacNeill, retired CSC choral director, escorted the group on its 1,900-mile bus tour of the Great Plains.

More than a dozen members of the Chadron State faculty and administration traveled to Kiev, which is about 5,600 miles from Chadron, in May 2007 to form relations with NAUU. The visit resulted in a signed memorandum of collaboration between the two institutions.

While in the United States, the group visited a number of tourist attractions and became acquainted with host families in the communities.

Marker dedicated one year after fire

A large inscribed rock was dedicated just below C Hill on the Chadron State College campus in late July to serve as a reminder of the wildfires that were burning out of control in Dawes and Sioux counties a year prior.

The rock bears just 50 words, but its message will undoubtedly help area residents who visit it via the Heritage Trail south of CSC to recall one of the most frightening periods in the history of northwest Nebraska. Flames fanned by strong winds sped through the pine-covered hills in the two counties, causing widespread destruction.

The inscription on the rock that is estimated to weigh a ton and was obtained through Landmarks Stone in Hot Springs says:

“July 26-August 3, 2006
Wildfires caused by lightning burned 68,000 acres in Dawes and Sioux counties.

This marker is dedicated to the firefighters and volunteers from seven states and the people of the communities that fought the fires. Three homes were destroyed. No lives were lost. The Spotted Tail fired burned to this point.”

The marker was purchased by KCSR Radio from proceeds of the sale of a DVD that the station made of scenes from the fire.

During the brief ceremony, KCSR announcer J.J. Archer said the fires affected almost all of the people in the area, so it is appropriate that the event is remembered with a large memento.

“It is our hope that this stone will stand for a long time as a tactile reminder of what happened last year. To remind us to not take our community for granted. But also to teach others who pass this way for years to come a small bit of history about the people who live here,” Archer said.
Coffee Gallery gets $50,000 gift from colorful North Platte woman

By Con Marshall

A $50,000 gift from a North Platte woman who wants the history of ranching the way she lived it as a youth to be preserved will give the Coffee Gallery in the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College a major boost, gallery supporters say.

The contribution was made by Billie Snyder Thornburg, an author, publisher and friend of anyone who grew up on a ranch and learned the western way of life.

“I saw the gallery when it was just getting started a few years ago, liked what it is about and want to do my part in helping preserve the way of life it portrays,” said Billie, who is 95 and has a few physical infirmities after undergoing surgery for an aneurysm of the aorta, but is extremely sharp mentally.

Billie added that she has always admired Mari Sandoz’s work. "She wrote some great books and made the rest of us want to be writers. She was really smart. I’m not nearly that smart, but I’ve been able to write a little. It’s fun to write about things that have happened to you."

Billie has written four books and has another one in the works. The first three, she said, told about “being a country kid and going to school” while the fourth discusses some of the “behind the scenes” happenings in North Platte in the late 1920s and early 30s.

Billie was introduced to the Coffee Gallery about four years ago when the Friends of the Library in Chadron hosted her at a book signing for “Bertie and Me.” While she was in town, Tammi McCance Littrel, the Coffee Gallery’s research historian, showed her the facility and told her of the plans.

Billie’s mother and Tammi’s father, the late Charley McCance, were cousins.

Littrel and Ken Korte, the interpretive planner for the gallery, said they expect to use Billie’s donation to build a display on the contribution of women to ranching and an interactive exhibit that will take an in-depth look at the trails which brought cattle to the region.

Billie Thornburg, at right, is shown with her sister Bertie Elfeldt in this photo from the book Billie wrote in 2002, “Bertie and Me: Kids on a Ranch.”

Besides the $50,000 gift, Billie also gave the gallery a “brand quilt” that was made in 1927 by Grace Snyder and other members of an extension club in the Sandhills.

Retired administrators back in school for Chadron State College

By Justin Haag

A new program at Chadron State College has former administrators traversing school hallways once again.

Beginning this fall, CSC began working more closely with retired school administrators to build stronger relationships with schools and help supervise the many teacher interns that populate elementary, middle, and high schools in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota each semester. Dr. Don King, chairman of the CSC Education Department, said the program is off to a great start and is expected to become increasingly successful.

King, who proposed the change after learning of a similar program during a conference last winter, said the new arrangement has benefits for each party involved. One of the greatest attributes, he said, is continuity.

“This program provides retired administrators with a continuing foothold in their profession, and they’re obviously doing something of merit and value to our society by helping us train teachers using their expertise,” he said. “These former administrators are people who are already living within those communities and in some cases are retired from the local school district, so they can develop or continue a relationship with the faculty and current administration. It’s going to be the same face that shows up at the school each time wearing a Chadron State name badge.”

The first cohort group of teacher intern supervisors attended an orientation session at CSC in August. While on campus, the six “trainees” had a barbecue lunch, attended a department meeting and participated in a three-hour training session. From their time as a school administrator, those hired to the program have already conveniently been trained in what it means to observe quality instruction. “In most cases, they know what to look for,” King said.

Members of the inaugural group are Charollene Coates of Rapid City, Virginia Lester of Tyron, Roger Wess of Chadron, Jenne Twiford of Douglas, Wyo., and Ed Jolovich of Torrington, Wyo.

Twiford, 64, was an administrator in Douglas schools for 22 years and retired in July. She said she appreciates the opportunity to put her years of experience to use, and finds the position to be a great way to “transition from the work force.”

“I have found it to be a very rewarding experience,” she said. “The thing that impresses me most is the quality of the program. It’s well thought out and doesn’t just leave student teachers at the site with no support.”

While Twiford’s employment at Chadron State is new, she said the quality of CSC’s teacher education program is not.

“When I had student teachers as a principal, I was always very impressed with the students we got from Chadron. They’re very well prepared and it shows that they’ve been through a quality program,” she said.

King said another notable benefit to the new program is found in the budget, especially considering the rising cost of fuel and travel. Until now, CSC has relied on members of its education faculty to make journeys to schools to check up on each teacher intern at least five times per semester. With CSC’s large geographic territory, King said it hasn’t been easy.

“For us to supervise a teacher in Ogallala, which is in our service region, we’ve had to get up and leave by 5 a.m., travel 3½ hours, spend two hours there, then we’d maybe try to see another student teacher along the way. On a day like that, we don’t get back until 6 or 7 at night,” he said. “Maybe there are better uses of our time and taxpayer money. With help from our new supervisor cohort group, we can reduce our personal travel to these distant sites by at least 50 percent.”

King expects the CSC presence in schools to grow as the administrator-supervisors return to their local schools each year and gain familiarity. In turn, he says the faculty of the CSC Education Department will more regularly receive program feedback from schools.

Another group is scheduled to train in January, and the department will continue inducting new supervisors to the program until CSC’s expansive geographic service region is covered. The department solicits suggestions from the schools when finding supervisor candidates.

Gathering explores ‘the cowboy way’

Chadron State College got down to its Western roots in early November.

In addition to the opening of C.F. Coffee Gallery, about two dozen poets and performers hushed out the “cowboy way” through rhyming verse during Chadron State’s annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Memorial Hall on Friday night and all day Saturday, Nov. 2-3.

During the event, attendees were treated to the Western Art Show and Sale, which features 16 artists from Nebraska and South Dakota.

Spring Alumni Gatherings
Save the Dates!

Arizona - March 1-2
Southern California - April 4-6
Watch your mail or check the web:
www.csc.edu/alumni/events
Four families with three generations of history

Four families with three generations of history at Chadron State College were given CSC’s Family Tree Award during a brunch Saturday, Oct. 27. The Family Tree Awards have been presented to qualifying families since 1996. Information about each of this year’s recipients follows.

Arthur and Dorothy Adams Family

Arthur Adams, a native of Arnold, graduated from Chadron State in 1943 before earning a meteorology degree at the University of California-Los Angeles and a degree from Harvard Business School. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. During his service, he was stationed in the Aleutian Islands as a control tower operator and meteorologist. Following the war, he taught biology at Broken Bow High School and owned a construction business.

Arthur and his wife, Dorothy, had two daughters, Karen and Ellen, who each attended CSC.

Karen graduated with an English education degree in 1969, and her husband, Raymond Leicht, earned a biology degree in 1968. They both went on to earn doctorates and are living in Boise, Idaho.

Ellen and her husband, Robert Phagan, each graduated from CSC in 1972 after having met in the college’s marriage and family class. They live in Gillette, Wyo., where Ellen serves as a bookkeeper for a construction company and Robert is a safety training manager at a coal mine.

Four of the Leicht’s three children attended CSC. Daughters Maya and Nora graduated in 1991 and 1999, respectively, and have since obtained higher degrees. Maya is now a pharmacist at Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Nora, who holds a master’s degree in physics, is living in Alliance. Son Brandon attended between 1998 and 2001 before relocating to obtain a culinary arts education. He is a chef at a five-star restaurant in Dallas, Texas.

The Phagans’ daughters, Kimberly and Laura, graduated in 1999 and 2005 after being active in CSC’s journalism program. They are living in Gillette where Kimberly is editor of Adoption Today magazine and Laura is a self-employed photographer.

Bruce and Elva Bartels Family

Bruce Bartels joined the CSC faculty in 1962 as the director of student teaching, and his wife, Elva, a 1954 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She and her husband, Dr. George Horner, live near Shawnee, Wyo. Their daughter Susan took a chemistry course at CSC.

Doris attended CSC in 1936-38 before transferring to earn a degree in business education and history. She met her future husband, Vern Rawalt, in Lincoln.

After Vern was honorably discharged from the military, the two moved to Lewellen then Chadron. Their two children, Jeanne and Ron, both attended CSC after graduating from Chadron High School.

The Adams-Phagan-Leicht family was certainly deserving of the Chadron State College Family Tree Award. Arthur Adams graduated from CSC in 1943 and his wife Dorothy attended CSC. The Adamses’ daughters, Ellen Phagan and Karen Leicht, and their spouses are CSC graduates. Each couple also has two daughters who attended the college. In front, from left, are Kim Phagan Hansel and daughter Brianna of Gillette, Wyo.; Arthur and Dorothy, who live in Douglas, Wyo.; and Jay Drager and daughter Samara of Alliance. In the second row are Robert and Ellen Phagan of Gillette, Karen Adams Leicht of Boise, Idaho, and grandson Vincent Drager. In the back are Ray Leicht of Boise; Laura Phagan of Gillette; Brandon Leicht, Ray and Karen’s son who attended CSC and now lives in Dallas; and Nora Leicht Drager of Alliance. The Leichts’ other daughter, Dr. Maya Leicht Garrett of Tuscaloosa, Ala., was not present.

The Hallsted-Rawalt family could have received the Chadron State College Family Tree Award about 35 years ago, but it was presented this fall. In front are Peggy and George Horner of Shawnee, Wyo., and Doris Rawalt of Chadron. Doris is holding a photo of the woman’s mother, Elba Sheffner Hallsted, a Hay Springs native who began attending CSC in 1912, the second year the college was open. Elba married Lee Hallsted, who worked as a grocer and grain elevator operator in northwest Nebraska. Their two daughters, Doris and Peggy, attended CSC.

Peggy attended one year before seeking a degree in chemistry and bacteriology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She and her husband, Dr. George Horner, live near Shawnee, Wyo. Their daughter Susan took a chemistry course at CSC.

Doris attended CSC in 1936-38 before transferring to earn a degree in business education and history. She met her future husband, Vern Rawalt, in Lincoln. After Vern was honorably discharged from the military, the two moved to Lewellen then Chadron. Their two children, Jeanne and Ron, both attended CSC after graduating from Chadron High School.

The Bruce and Elva Bartels family received the Family Tree Award during Family Day. Bruce was on the faculty or was an administrator at CSC for 30 years. In 1974, Elva received a bachelor’s degree from CSC. All four of their children also attended the college. In front, from left, are Tom Bartels of Lingle, Wyo.; Bruce and Elva and their daughter Lisa Carder, all of Albion; and Greg Bartels of Omaha. Another daughter, Susan, lives in Arizona. In the back are Greg’s daughter Meghan of Omaha; Andrea Carder, who attended CSC and is a pharmacy student in Omaha; Tom’s wife, Priscilla, a CSC grad; Greg’s wife, Kathy; and Paul and Dorann Bartels of Kearney, both CSC graduates. Paul is Bruce’s nephew. Dorann (Holzberger) is a native of Gordon.

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Family Tree
(continued from previous page)

Jeanne attended two years beginning in 1966 and later earned a zoology degree from UNL. In 2005, she retired after 20 years as a prisoners’ hospital administrator for the Department of Justice in Minnesota. She and her husband Thomas Smith reside in Rochester.

Ron graduated from CSC in 1971 with a major in earth science and went on to have a successful career with the FBI. His accomplishments have earned him CSC’s Distinguished Alumni Award. His wife Debby (Bowman) also attended CSC for two years before Ron’s career advancement prompted the two to relocate. He retired in September 2006 after 34 years of service.

Doris was a founding member of the Chadron State Foundation, and Jeanne was recently named a foundation trustee in 2006.

Lester and Thelma Jones Family

A native of Torrington, Wyo., Les Jones came to CSC in 1946 after serving in the Naval Air Corps during World War II. After arriving at CSC, he met his future wife, Thelma, who was employed at the college as Glenn Hildreth’s secretary. They were married in 1947, and had two children.

While at CSC, Les played forward and center on the Eagles’ basketball team, coached by Ross Armstrong. After earning a bachelor’s degree in 1949, he took a job teaching social sciences at Mitchell High School. After six years, the monetary advantages of selling insurance drew him away from the classroom. At age 83, he continues to serve as an insurance agent in Scottsbluff and Gering on a semi-retired basis and is a member of the Purple Passion group that reunites at CSC each fall. Thelma died in 1989.

The Jones’ daughter, Roxann, earned a teaching degree from CSC in 1976, and now instructs language arts at Gering High School. Her husband, Mike Thompson, earned bachelor’s degrees from CSC in 1976 and 1978, and was a baseball player for the Eagles. Like his father-in-law, he sells insurance in Scottsbluff-Gering.

The Thompsons’ son, Tyler, is a senior at Chadron State studying to be an English teacher. He serves as CSC’s student representative on the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees and is involved in numerous campus activities.

50’s

Jay ’53 and Betty Cox ’53 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 18, 2007. They reside in Las Vegas, Nev.

60’s

Lambert ‘Rusty’ Belina ’64, Hay Springs High School, has run 44 marathons in 40 states and Washington, D.C. by the end of 2007.

70’s

Steven Schwartz ’73, retired after teaching for 33 years in the Pierce Public Schools. He and his wife Patricia reside in Pierce.

Debra Tschosek ’77 received the 2006 Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year Award. She is a first-grade and special education teacher at Solheim Elementary and resides in Bayard, N.D., with her husband Kevin.

80’s

Kami Brandt ’83, started K & K Pet Care and Rescue five years ago. She and friends are helping place abandoned or unwanted dogs in new homes. She resides in Brady with her husband John.

Sharon Dietz ’86 retired from the Golden Valley nursing as their editor in Beach, N.D.

Steve McClain ’87 has joined the Colorado School of Mines. He has also coached basketball, coaching after coaching at the University of Wyoming, where he was a three-time Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year. He resides in Westminster with his wife and son.

Theresa Bartalo ’88 graduated May 2007 from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a Master of Arts degree in Education and Instruction with an emphasis in leadership/principal licensure.

Lonnie Starke ’89 has been appointed the Western Nebraska Veterans Home’s new director in Scottsbluff. He resides in Hemingford with his wife Joyce ’89 and children.

90’s

Jenni Kuster ’92 has started teaching preschool at Caliche Elementary School after staying at home with her two boys. She lives in Crook, Colo., with her husband Gerald.

Tim Alvarado ’93 is the assistant vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He resides in Omaha with his family.

Jim Robart ’94 has taken a new position with Conestoga-Rovers and Associates as a geologist working in the McCook/North Platte area. He and his wife Carrie att ’93 live in McCook.

Wendy Koza ’97 recently authored an early childhood education textbook, “Managing an Effective Early Childhood Classroom.” She is working as assistant director and prekindergarten teacher in San Diego, where she lives with her husband Russ ’96 and two children.

Laura (Van Westen) Steele ’97 has earned a Ed.D. in adult and higher education from the University of South Dakota.

Jennifer Murdock BS ’98, MS ’00, was selected to give the commencement address at the spring 2007 University of Wyoming College of Education ceremonies. She has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Counselor Education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

00’s

Heather (Marklein) Rama ’00 has a business “Rama’s CastOffs” where she takes vintage pieces and transforms them into designer clothing. She lives in Kansas City, Mo., with her husband Ryan.

Tyrel Grafford ’00 has been named the new superintendent of Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala School Districts by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He resides in Ogallala with his wife Greta.

Brendan Daniel Connealy ’02 graduated from University of Nebraska Medical Center with a doctor of medicine degree. Dan will continue with his residency studies at UNMC in obstetrics and gynecology. He lives in Omaha with his wife Toyah and children.

Amy (Petersen) Campion ’03 works for the Boulder Dinner Theatre as a scenic design/scenic artist. She resides in Longmont, Colo., with her husband Jeremy ’01.

Ted Gans att ’04 was recently employed by the Nebraska State Patrol. He lives in McCook.

Marriages

80’s

Gail Lipshutz ’80 and Randy Schaefer were married Sept. 30, 2006. They reside in Lancaster, Wis.

Clifton Matson ’95 and Jennifer Orsborn were married June 16, 2007. They reside in Lincoln.

Jessica Johns ’att ’98 and Matthew Fisher were married July 7, 2007. They reside in Chadron.

00’s

Andrea Demasi ’01 and Meade Dominick were married Oct. 5, 2006. They reside in Cody, Wyo., where Andrea is employed by the National Park Service at Yellowstone National Park.

Kathy Brumbaugh ’02 and Steve Lutter were married Sept. 6, 2006. They reside in Parker, S.D., where Kathy is employed with the South Dakota Department of Revenue.

Melissa Huls ’02 and Matthew Smith were married July 28, 2007. They reside in Eaton, Colo., and Melissa is employed full-time with the Army National Guard, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Chris Wenburg ’03 and Jillian Tangeman were married July 6, 2007. They reside in Ord, where Chris has taken over a dental practice after completing his education in general dentistry residency from the University of Missouri.

Kristi Holmgren ’03 and Judd Norman were married June 23, 2007. They reside in Lincoln.

Marianne Benson ’04, staff and Harold Mary were married Aug. 25, 2007. They reside in Chadron.

continued on next page
Jed Schmidt '05 and Jarod Daro were married Aug. 5, 2006. They reside in Wellington, Colo., and Caitlin is a veterinary student at Colorado State University.

Jennifer Zauha '05 and Jed Schmidt '05 were married Sept. 23, 2006. They reside in Callaway.

Births

Faculty and Staff


Wesley Clark to Colleen and Jim Margetts, faculty, Chadron, Sept. 24, 2007. Wesley joins Spencer, Claire and Jamison.

90's

Katherine Dorothy to Matt and Julie (Rice) Rollins '93, Warr Acres, Okla., April 12, 2007.


Adoption of Shane, 8 years old, Valene, 5 years old, and Keith, 3 years old, to Bill and Tanya (Sybrant) Cole '95, Ainsworth.


Jentsyn Tate Erica to Eric '97 and Joette (Howerter) Fuller att '98, Chadron. She joins siblings Micaiah and Makinley.


Larkyn Kenna to Lorri and Joshua Harford '98, Colorado Springs, Colo., April 27, 2007. She is welcomed home by her sister Skylar.


Kayleigh Mae to Kevin '00 and Liz (Kay) Ravenscroft '04, Nenzel, Sept. 6, 2007.

Eliu Jace to Jill (Harmon) '01 and Eliu "Uati" Paopao '03, Chadron, April 10, 2007.

Sullivan Marek, born May 25, 2007 was adopted by Greg '01 and Megan (Petersen) Failla '02, Chadron. He joins big brother Calder.

Addisyn Kaylee to Tane '02 and Katy (Dixon) Hartman '02, Rawlins, Wyo., June 6, 2007.


Grace to Jennifer (Ahlers) '01 and Craig Lorenz '02, Gillette, July 22, 2006.

Cadence Rachelle to Jerod '04 and Tiffany (Gray) Swanson '04, Valentine, Dec. 11, 2006.

Avrielle Grace to Heath and Isaac Sager '05, Hay Springs, July 5, 2007.


80's


90's


00's

Cassee Marie Harrison att '02, Chadron, May 27, 2007.

Obituaries

Friends


Val Willoby Tulloss, Chadron, passed away Feb. 9, 2007.

Raymond Ralph Lecher, Chadron, passed away June 12, 2007.


30's


40's

Bertram 'Bert' Kurth '40, Omaha, passed away Nov. 18, 2006.


50's


70's


00's

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Richard Gochnauer is among the growing number of Chadron State alumni who have used the Chadron State Foundation to remember the college in their wills. He said the education he received at CSC was the springboard to a rewarding career he had as a petroleum engineer.

A native of northwest Nebraska, Gochnauer spent nearly four years in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict, then used the GI Bill to attend CSC for 2 1/2 years in the mid-1950s. He completed work on his degree at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Although he’d already been stationed in Alaska, Greenland and Germany while in the Air Force, he saw much more of the world during his career in the petroleum industry. Besides working in Colorado and Texas for extended periods, he spent a number of years in Libya, Australia and Singapore. He also owned a “winter getaway” in Belize. After retiring, he resided in a cabin near Glendo, Wyo., for 11 years before moving back to the Chadron area about three years ago. He’s now a resident of Prairie Pines Lodge.

Richard has designated that the portion of his estate which goes to Chadron State can be used for either scholarships or by the Math and Science Departments to make equipment purchases. He noted that his education took him to places and allowed him to have experiences he never dreamed of as a youth. He hopes his gift can help others follow a similar path.

Saddle up for CSC cowboy vacation

Young and old are being rounded up for a cowboy adventure in the scenic Pine Ridge country of northwest Nebraska during the summer of 2008. Chadron State College’s family learning vacation program, “Walk in Their Boots: The Cowboy Life,” will be presented June 23-26.

Participants will learn cowboy skills at a working ranch, prepare cowboy “grub” with a chuckwagon cook, take in the region’s rich history, kick up their heels at a barn dance and listen to cowboy songs around the campfire.

Lois Veath, CSC vice president for academic affairs, said the program is designed to be enjoyed by two or more family members of diverse generations or age categories, but that single adults or couples will also take pleasure in the experience.

“This event will be great for people around our region who have children and grandchildren coming to visit and are looking for something fun and educational to do,” Veath said. “It also will be a great way for people in metropolitan areas, such as Lincoln and Omaha, to learn about who we are out here, to learn about the cattle industry and to learn about the issues of range management.”

The activities will be based at CSC’s Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center and its new space dedicated to the history of the cattle industry, the C.F. Coffee Gallery. Participants will sleep on soft beds in an air-conditioned CSC “bunkhouse.”

For cost and registration information, contact the CSC Conferencing Office at (308) 432-6380.

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“i can give something back to my alma mater.”
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There are as many reasons for supporting Chadron State College as there are donors. The collective power of these individual choices makes it possible for CSC to build on its excellence, and benefit students, the community and the region.

A CSC student will call you soon to request your support for CSC’s annual Phonathon. Please consider a gift to fund scholarships and campus services that will continue to provide students with an inspiring setting in which to learn and grow.

Chadron State College
2008 Phonathon January 27 - February 14