

Bird City celebrated it's 125th year the weekend of June 11, 12 & 13...despite some wind and rain, the less-than-ideal weather conditions didn't keep people from traveling and participating in the weekend festivities.

Friday kicked off the weekend events with a Golf Tournament in the afternoon. Six teams participated in a 4-Man Scramble at the Bird City Golf Course. 1st Place winners were Doug Sager, Al Gunther, Mark Roesener & Jon Waters who won the \$200 cash prize. 2nd and 3rd Places tied, each receiving \$80. Place winnings were divided up from the team entry fees. Bird City 125th donated \$100 which was used for several different 'hole prizes', (Longest Putt, Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, etc).

That evening, the Cheylin Spirit Squad held a fundraiser, serving shrimp, crawfish, sausage, potatoes, corn on the cob, hushpuppies, dinner rolls & dessert. The Cajun Boil Dinner served approximately 320 hungry diners a very scrumptious meal, in a laid-back fashion. There were many people involved with the preparation, working for hours in advance as the food boiled in large pots. Cheylin Spirit Squad would like to thank everyone who helped out, and everyone who supported the Squad by participating in the evening's meal! They were very pleased and appreciated all of the support.

Evening entertainment followed by a street dance played by DJ, Jesse Stephens from McCook, NE. Everyone from toddlers to elderly seemed to enjoy the beautiful evening; however, it did get cut short with thunderstorms hitting later that night.

Saturday morning, the events started off at 7:30 a.m. with the 'Quasquicentennial Mini-Triathlon'. With the thunderstorms brewing the whole night before, it was a cold, rainy morning for 30 participants.

The Triathlon was broken down into 3 age divisions; Youth (up to age 11), Teen (12 - 18), and Adult (15 and up). A suggestion was later made to create a 4th division for the 'old' folks...35 on up. We'll take that into consideration for the 150th. :) The participants could either compete individually, or in teams of 2 or 3. We had 7 compete as individuals, and 8 teams.

Results:

Youth Division were: 1st Place Individual - Ben Vyzourek, 2nd Place - Gabe Vyzourek; 1st Place Team - Gregor Burr, Granite Bock & Bergan Bock, 2nd Place - Colton McCarty, Andrew Schields & Jorge Chacon

Teen Division: 1st Place Individual - Austin Cobb; 1st Place Team - Elsa Burr, Michael Barnett & Reece Leonard, 2nd Place - Kelsey Miller, Elizabeth Keltz & Diana Garcia

Adult Division: 1st Place Individual (Women's) - Stephanie Busse; 1st Place Individual (Men's) - Michael Sager, 2nd Place - Chad Hendricks, 3rd Place - Brent Wilkens; 1st Place Team - Craig Busse, Adrian Garcia & Lucas Smith, 2nd Place - Becky Parshall & Monika Bonavia, 3rd Place - Sydney Busse, Tia Sager & Montana Miller, 4th Place - Ethan Young, Mindy Antholz & Hollie Yates.

Many thanks to the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the event possible! Proceeds raised from the Triathlon in the amount of \$680 have been donated to the Cheylin Schools Foundation.

Bed Races were a fun hit that morning as 10 teams participated. Teams were to make (or borrow) a 'bed' on wheels. With the start/finish line in front of PrairieLand Electric, teams of 5, (4 Runners and 1 Rider), would race to the 4-way stop, do a Chinese fire drill, run to the half-way point in front of 2nd Beginnings Thrift Store, switch riders, and race back. The participants and spectators all seemed to have a great time! The winning team, "The Cardinals", included Craig Busse, Adrian Garcia, David Burns, Caleb Keltz & Heath Churchwell. After the first race, the team realized it was best to put the "lil' guy" (Heath) as the last rider as it was the uphill portion of the race. The 'Best Decorated' award went to "Loop Creek Ranch": Rob Tompkins, Greg Birney, Mike Knapp, Brady Colson & Zach Wallin.

The parade, which was a big undertaking, was organized by Karen and Doug Flemming on behalf of Bird City Community Club. There were 48 different entries in the parade, but even more if you counted every single motorcycle and each separate antique car that participated, a full parade indeed. Entries varied from family-generation floats to church floats, antique cars to “anything on wheels”. So many great entries that made this such a successful event enjoyed by all. An extended thank you to Dennon Flemming and Doug Waters for all of their additional help!

Descendents of Benjamin Bird, founder of Bird City, took part in the weekend festivities. The “Grand Marshall” float in which they rode, was one of the front floats that led the parade.

Some other activities enjoyed were face-painting, turtle races, sidewalk art, and inflatable games, (Scooby Doo Trampoline, Bungee Basketball and Velcro Wall). Cars were on display downtown following the parade for people to look at and admire. A wide variety of activities offered, no age group was left out!

There were several who chose to partake in the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Three teams ended the Tournament with the same record; however, the team that was declared THE WINNER was “The Tie-Dyes” - Caleb Keltz, Heath Antholz & Ethan Young. Other teams with the same record included: 1.) Beau Burkhalter, Nathan Sowers & Sam Sowers, and 2.) Doug Waters, Clayton Janicke & Walker Janicke.

Sand Volleyball was another event that was enjoyed by several participants as five co-ed teams took on one another in a double-elimination Tournament. The team members who took home the GOLD were: Lincoln Pochop, Mindy Antholz, David Banister, Sam Hengen, Sydney Busse, Stephanie Busse and Brandon Ritchie. 2nd Place went to: Tia Sager, Ana Ponce, JD Hawkins, Rex Weishapl, Montana Miller and Adrian Garcia.

Amongst all of the other activities going on, a Horseshoe Tournament was also being held on the South end of the park. Winners of each game advanced to the championship playoffs. The winning duo was: Willy Martinez and Steve Headrick. Coming in 2nd was: Steve Busse and Doyle Bock. BLIND Golf Cart Races were a big hit with 28 teams competing for the best finish time. Each team consisted of 1 driver and 1 passenger. The driver, being blindfolded, had to maneuver a golf cart through a maze at the North end of the park, as the passenger gave directions, navigating for the driver. The team with the best time of 1:05, was Andrew Marshall (driver) and Brian Miller (trusting passenger). They each won commemorative belt buckles for their great teamwork.

A historical play, written by Dorothy Mast, was performed in the afternoon by several talented volunteers. They acted out the early years of Bird City, incorporating the life of founder, Benjamin Bird, played by Terry Glasco.

‘Bulls-Eye Ball Drop’ was a one-time game of chance. A large container of numbered ping-pong balls were raised up in a large cherry picker and then dropped. The ball that fell closest to the bulls-eye won. Chase Krien left the event \$200 happier.

Drawings were held for a commemorative Bird City 125th Anniversary Rifle, which was won by Bradley Waters, and the #125 commemorative Belt Buckle, won by Ken Burke.

Several men decided months ago to partake in the 125th Beard Contest, allowing their facial hair to fully ‘bloom’ this summer. Awards were given to: Lynn Query for the longest beard; Dorey Hansen for scraggiest; Robert Harding for best groomed; and Stan Dorsch for most creative. Local hairdressers judged the competition.

The evening finished up with a free barbeque, serving approximately 830 people; followed by a dance in the park.