

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

The new Chase County Schools (CCS) elementary counselor, Shannon Waggoner, has a strong background in both teaching and counseling.

The Westcliffe, Colo., native most recently was a teacher and the K-12 guidance counselor in her hometown, which is just a little smaller than Imperial and CCS.

She graduated from Cotopaxi, Colo., High School, then obtained a Bachelors degree in History with an emphasis in secondary education from Western State College of Colorado in 2000.

From 2000-07, the 35-year old tau



ght high school social studies and middle school electives in the Custer County, Colo., school system, before substitute teaching back in the Westcliffe area.

From 2008-10 she was a social studies teacher at Woodland Park High School.

All the while, she was working toward a Masters degree in teaching from Grand Canyon University of Phoenix, Ariz., earning it in 2005, and is completing a second Masters in K-12 counseling from the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N. M.

Waggoner began her post-secondary education as a psychology major, and then “Life took a funny turn and I ended up teaching and coaching.” She explained that she’s still involved in teaching psychology as a counselor, and coaching involves counseling, too.

Waggoner has coached volleyball, basketball and track ever since beginning her teaching career. She is currently the “C” team high school volleyball coach at CCS.

Her counseling duties include classroom guidance such as teaching about bullying solutions and study skills; individual student counseling when sought by a teacher or parent; small groups for youth dealing with a divorce or grief; and working with the Infinite Campus, a program that keeps grade books.

Waggoner and husband Kyle, who manages Open Country Adventures, have a 20-month old daughter, Claire.

The counselor enjoys sports, fly fishing and drawing.