

School board okays senior's itinerary

The Cheylin School Board met Monday evening to discuss a variety of subjects. Senior Andy Smith presented the board with a proposed itinerary for this year's class trip to Denver. Plans include seeing the U.S. Mint, Ocean Jour-

ney, The Museum of Nature and Science, I-MAX, and sometime at an area roller rink and shopping mall. The board approved the itinerary.

Next the board discussed the addition of a breezeway and an up-

grade of the existing fire alarm system. Since there has been no call to upgrade the fire alarm system and the breezeway is not an immediate need the board turned down this proposal for now.

Agreed upon items were:

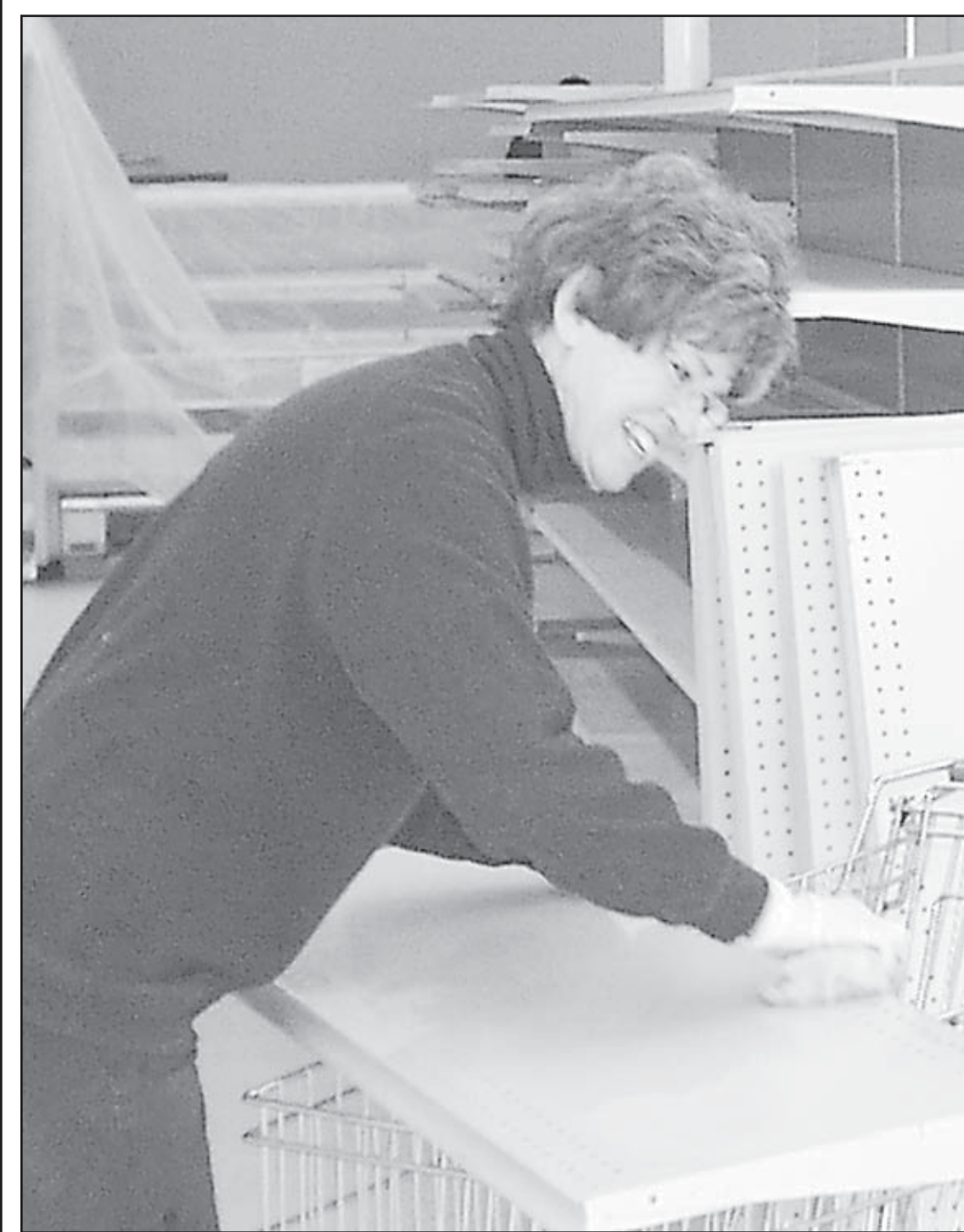
- A new 8-man football district assignment which may alter some traditional area matchups but would allow two teams from the district to advance to the playoffs.

- The board made a decision to

pay Office Works a reduced amount for carpeting in the high school library. The board members and other people at the meeting toured the library and could see where the installation of carpeting was standard.

Other business

Other items discussed were Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center's buy-in services, Title I technical grants, and possibly changing communications system to a wireless provider.



Velda Wright cleans shelves as Mathew and Robert, of Service Master, sanitize the produce case: all are preparing for the reopening of the Bird City Market.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Bird City has new editor

Casey McCormick has taken over the position as editor of the Bird City Times. He replaces Peggy Horinek.

Instead of having an office downtown, Mr. McCormick will be working out of his home at Rich Avenue, Apartment 10. The phone and fax number will be 785-734-2659.

Mr. McCormick will be trying to cover all community and school events but noted, he may need people to remind him of events coming up. He would also like to do some feature article but, there again, it would be nice if people would tell him about some of the talents, hobbies and about other people who do or have done interesting things.

"I'm new in the community and I am always interested in leads to articles about Bird City and the surrounding area," he said. "I like people and have a natural curiosity about what goes on."

Mr. McCormick came to Bird City about a year ago to be closer to his son Joseph who is a second grader in the Cheylin Elementary. He had done some substitute teaching in the schools along with picking up some "handyman" jobs. When he took the Times editor position, he was helping remodel the Bird City Market building. He and Joey's interests include golf, fishing, and baseball.

Mr. McCormick graduated from Wheat Ridge High School, Wheat Ridge, Colo., and went on to attend



PEGGY HORINEK, former Bird City Times editor, gave some pointers to new editor Casey McCormick.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Arizona State University, Southwest Louisiana University and Metro State in Denver where he earned a bachelor's degree in English.

"I like working with kids so have especially enjoyed working in the school system," he said.

"We are happy to have Casey in the Bird City office. His connection with the school and with the townspeople will be helpful in making the Bird City Times more interesting and informational," said Karen Krien, publisher.

If anyone has a news item, wants a subscription or to renew a subscription, or needs a word classified ad, contact Mr. McCormick at 785-332-2659 or e-mail him at bctimes@nwkansas.com. Regular display or box classified ads may be directed to Claire Jeanfreau-Hilt at The St. Francis Herald. If unable to contact Mr. McCormick, call The St. Francis Herald at 785-332-3162 or e-mail sfherald@nwkansas.com. Signing up for nwkansasinternet is also available by contacting Mr. McCormick or The St. Francis Herald.

Prairie dogs discussed Friday at commissioners' meeting

By Karen Krien

The county attorney talked about prairie dogs when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met Friday.

Kevin Berens, county attorney, reported that he had talked to Chris Tymeson with the Kansas Wildlife and Park's general council and one of the people who drafted the bill being presented to the Kansas House of Representatives. Attorney Berens said that basically the bill allowed farmers and ranchers wanting to raise prairie dogs the right to do so as long as they presented a control plan to the county commissioners and it was approved. It doesn't take away the rights of the farmer to control prairie dogs on their land.

On the bill, the word "eradicate" had been scratched and replaced with manage and control.

Commissioner Tim Raile said that some of the people in this area had a problem with the Wildlife and

Parks being involved but Attorney Berens pointed out that commissioners do not have the expertise to help with a plan to control or manage prairie dogs while the Wildlife and Parks officials do have the expertise.

As of Friday, the prairie dog legislation is still being debated and no decisions had been made.

Hiring put on hold

Following an executive session, the commissioners agreed to put the matter of hiring the ambulance secretary full time on hold until the commissioners could see what their options would be. Commissioner Raile said he had visited the ambulance office and after talking to the secretary Janelle Bowers, and seeing what she did, he had a greater appreciation for what she did.

Back taxes

Randy Sangster, appraiser, and Deb Smith, part time help in the appraiser's office, had been asked to come to the meeting to talk more

about S & S, gas well company, and the owner Richard Stephen, who has been asking that the county commissioners abate the back taxes on property he had purchased. It was noted that Mr. Stephan had paid the taxes for 2000 to 2002. The county attorney had said that the commissioners had no control to abate the taxes so the commissioners were wanting to know how much the wells and equipment would be worth if the county were to foreclose on the property and sell wells and equipment.

Appraiser Sangster said that if the equipment were to be salvaged, it would be worth approximately \$1,040 per well depending on the size of the well (some could be worth \$850 while another could be worth \$100), however, someone would need to be hired to take the wells down, pull the tubing and pile up the equipment.

Harvest Energy has 21 wells but

See Prairie Dogs on page 6

City-wide cleanup set for March



Prepare for the city-wide Spring Clean up with PRIDE and Community Club helping all residents. March 8 is set for trucks to

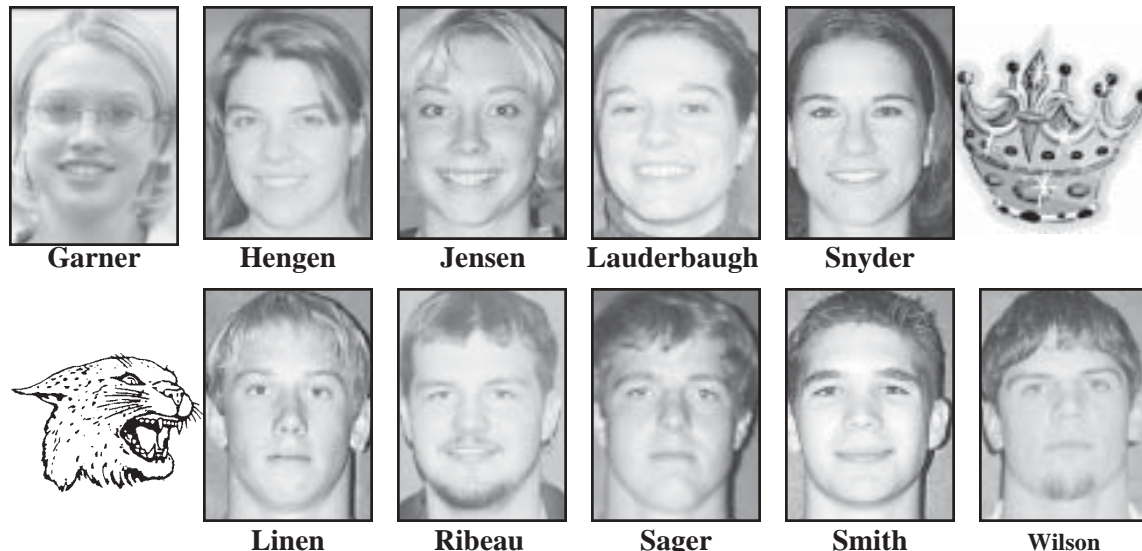
pick up large articles. Call 734-2722 or 734-2463 for pick ups. Watch your newspaper for future plans.

Queen of Courts crowned on Friday

The Queen of Courts will be crowned this Friday night at half time of the Cheylin and Healy boy's basketball game in McDonald. This year's nominees for Queen are

Stephanie Snyder, Annie Hengen, Hollie Lauderbaugh, Samantha Jensen, and Kelly Garner. The King will be either Matt Wilson, Mike Sager, Jason Ribeau, Andy Smith, or

Zach Linen. They will be escorted by students from the elementary school. Student Government has organized this event with the help of faculty sponsor Babs Antholz.



Student trains at clinic

By Karen Krien

Former St. Francis resident, Robbie O'Brien-Leighton is spending four weeks at the Cheyenne County Clinic working with Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Patrick Delano and Nadja Button, physician assistants, along with the rest of the medical staff.

She arrived in St. Francis on Jan. 27 and will stay most of February. The four-week experience is part of the required curriculum at the KU Medical School in Wichita. Medical students are placed in various Kansas communities to receive exposure to the practice of primary care in a non-urban area and increase their awareness of professional opportunities in these areas.

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton began leaning toward working in the medical field when her brother was injured in a skiing accident which required weeks and months of rehabilitation. She has been exposed to different areas of the medical field but is still working toward physical medicine and rehabilitation.

"I have liked all my rotations. This summer, I did four weeks of a rehabilitation elective and really enjoyed it," she said.

She said she wants to work in the medical field because she wants to make a "difference and I know I will never be bored."

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton previously spent some time working with Dr. Miller. Following this experience, she will have four more years of training including one year of preliminary internal medicine and three



REQUIRED CURRICULUM for medical school in Wichita, Robbie O'Brien-Leighton, back, is spending four weeks at the Cheyenne County Clinic learning from Dr. Mary Beth Miller, front, along with the two physician assistants.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

years in rehabilitation medicine.

She said she has enjoyed working in St. Francis for several reasons.

"Dr. Miller is 'cool' and always stops to explain and make sure I understand everything," she said, noting that the rest of the staff has also been supportive and have let her have "hand-on experience"

whenever possible.

"It is also good to be back — I love seeing everyone when they come in."

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton is the daughter of Neal and Julie O'Brien and attended the St. Francis schools up to the seventh grade. In 1989, she and her family moved to Scott City where she graduated in 1994. The next five years were spent in Lawrence where she attended Kansas University. She then went on to medical school in Kansas City for two years and is now at Wichita.

Her husband Scott Leighton is an engineer and is working with the ADT Security Systems in Wichita.

"He is very supportive of my work," she added.

"We are enjoying having Robbie working with us and having medical students come to the clinic is refreshing," said Dr. Miller. She noted that she also appreciates the cooperation of the patients in working with the students.

Bush gave a lot of insight into her life as the President's wife and about their celebration of Valentine's Day as well as other days in the White House. She emphasized the importance of their faith in God as the source of strength during times of stress and uncertainty. This was a very enjoyable and informative program.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mary Dorsch and Millie Glasco.

Club Clip

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary met on February 7, 2003. There were 13 present at the meeting.

It was decided that the Auxiliary send two representatives from this area to Girl's State this year. It was suggested that interested girls could attend our next meeting which will be on March 7th.

Mary Shahan and Vada Leach presented the program. A reporter (Vada Leach) had an interview with Laura Bush (Mary Shahan). Mrs.

Prairie Dogs

Continued from Page 1

it was noted that some of the Wheeler field wells were either going to be sold or had been sold.

Since there were so many questions, the commissioners tabled the discussion until the appraiser could find out if the Wheeler field wells had sold, if the business was still in business or if the bankruptcy was final.

Training sessions

Upcoming training's for the road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming were discussed. Commissioner Jane Brubaker questioned the supervisor to see if he thought the training sessions, which could amount to around 10 training's, were necessary. Supervisor Flemming did think they were important and there was no cost for the training's.

Supervisor Flemming asked for an executive session to discuss personnel and when the session ended, there were no decisions made.

The commissioners discussed giving extra sick leave after an employee had been with the county for 20 or more years and whether more pay should be given when an employee moved to the next classification. The commissioners had earlier frozen the wages and it was the consensus that until the commissioners knew more about what the state would reimburse the county, they would not give additional pay for classification moves. The mat-

ter of giving extra sick leave to employees working for 20 or more years was tabled.

Equipment leases and grader tires were also discussed.

Overtime

Overtime in the sheriff's office was once again discussed. Commissioner Tim Raile reported that he had visited with the sheriff and, from the last month's list of overtime, he had randomly selected several different times and all were documented and appeared to be legitimate. He encouraged the other two commissioners to also take some time to question the overtime reports. The commissioners also instructed clerk Terry Miller to pay the overtime on the next month's pay check after the commissioners had approved the overtime.

In other business

In other business:

- Elmer Kellner, the new representative for the Western Plains Resource Conservation and Development, wanted to know what the commissioners expected of him as a representative. They said that if anything brought up needed to be discussed with them to please contact them.

- The commissioners agreed not to sign the Fair Housing Month proclamation.

- Commissioner Brubaker gave a brief review of the Airport Authority meeting which she had attended.

- Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious

weed supervisor, was given permission to attend a meeting.

- Prairie dog legislation which has been introduced to the House was discussed.

- Roxie Neitzel and Kelly Frewen discuss the county's insurance premiums for the upcoming year.

- The commissioners agreed to have a resolution drawn up giving the cities a rebate for recycling instead of filling up the landfill.

- Gary Rogers asked that the commissioners along with all other elected officials be present for a video at the next meeting. The video shows what the responsibilities of elected officials are in the case of a disaster. The video showing was scheduled for 9 a.m. on Feb. 28 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

- The Attorney General's office had written back concerning the questions on consolidated law enforcement, noting that they are working on the matter and will have an answer in the near future.

- The commissioners agreed to take juvenile prisoners to the Trego County facility for \$145 per day opposed to the Southwest Regional facility in Garden City which will cost \$165 per day.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Feb. 28 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse located in St. Francis.

Bowling News

Ladies Nite Out 1/30

Team standings: First National Bank 12-3; Wright Carpet 12-4; Great Plains Co-Op 9-6; Jake's 9-7; Troy's Alley Cat 9-7; Cheyenne Bowl 7-9; Jersey Maids 4-12; Dundy Ag 1-15.

High game (scratch): Terry Yost 219, Tammy Overlease 198, Alberta Peterson 197

High series (scratch): Yost 531, Marsha Kechter 503, Pat Confer 479

Monday Mixed League 1/27

Team standings: Captain Hooks Fine Dining 18-10; Z-Tub-

ing 16.5-11.5; Hooks Auction & Realty 14.5-13.5; Bandel Home Center 13-15; Krien Pharmacy 13-15; Cueballs 9-19

High game (handicap): Rell Zimbelman 234, Rick Burton 231, Earl Hankins 221; Dot Hankins 227, Pam Hook 213, Tami Merchant 208

High series (handicap): Kathy Bexley 608, Judy Gienger 584, D. Hankins 578; E. Hankins 633, Zimbelman 607, Burton 606

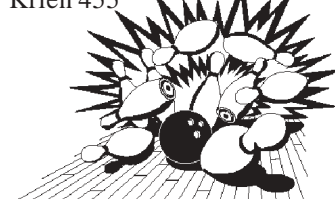
Wednesday Coffee 1/22

Team standings: Snyder's Hay Gals 6-2, The 3 G's 6-2, Cheyenne

Bowl 4-4, Krien Steel Buildings 4-4, Sam's Electric 3-5, Windmill Restaurant 3-5, Flower Magic 3-5, Dairy King 3-5

High game (scratch): Marlys Poulignot 194, Barb Cobb 194, Barb Cobb 190

High series (scratch): Cobb 522, Cheryl Glidden 478, Janice Krien 455



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ACADEMIC TEAMMATES: left to right - Rebecca Mason, John Simmonds, Michael Sager, Andy Smith and Jacob Jensen.

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