

Board adds five days to school year

By Casey McCormick

The Cheylin School Board met for their monthly meeting on March 10. Some of the major subjects addressed were the school calendar, commendations and board's goals.

The calendar for the 2003-04

school year will be changed to add five more days to the Christmas break. This was done by changing two Fridays, Dec. 19 and Jan. 9, to school days. Christmas break will be from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2.

Commendations were approved to honor student excellence for

State Scholar Bowl qualifiers and the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee champion. The Scholar Bowl participants honored are Jacob Jensen, Rebecca Mason, Michael Sager, John Simmonds and Andy Smith. Vanessa Antholz was Cheylin's Spelling Bee champion.

Goals for the school board were looked at. The goals set the standards that the board wants for students, teachers and themselves. There are seven points on the USD 103 goals, most of which were not changed from last year. Item seven was revised to state "The Board of

Education will expect staff, students, administration and the Board of Education give proper attention to maintaining classroom facilities in keeping the community expectations."

Other subjects touched on were the approval of purchasing a new

ice-making machine and the board tabled a discussion to purchase new football and basketball uniforms due to budget concerns. Payment for monthly expenses were approved for in the amount of \$158,494.72, with the majority of this going to payroll.

New sign donated



The Bird House Cafe received a new sign compliments of Cheylin Schools. Art director Virginia Crawford with the help of three of her high school painting students, created a beautiful sign that has two bird houses on each side with the restaurant's name.

Co-owners Annette Lewis and daughter Lacie Russell accepted the sign from Principle David Zumbahlen, Miss. Crawford and artists Holly Lauderbaugh, Kathy Turner and Andrew Marshall. But before taking the sign Mrs. Lewis made sure each student autographed it. "To get these kids involved is great," she said, "years from now they can be proud" of their artwork. The sign will be hung along U.S. 36 in front of the cafe.



Principal David Zumbahlen, art teacher Virginia Crawford and students Kathy Turner, Holly Lauderbaugh and Andrew Marshall give new sign to Annette Lewis and Lacie Russell, owners of the Bird House Cafe.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Local girl heads for state

Jenny Weems, the 2003 Cheyenne County Junior Miss, will be headed to Belleville for the state Junior Miss Program which will be held on March 23. Upon her arrival, she will meet her host family, Mikel and Janell Hadachek, Erica and Gary.

This is the 42nd year for the state program and this year's theme is "Racing to Excellence." The theme is racing and the color scheme is black and white.

Throughout the week, Jenny will be involved in rehearsals where she will learn routines for the opening number and Poise and Fitness. She will also enjoy radio interviews, visiting many of the sites of Belleville, pizza party, bowling and a lunch sponsored by the local Lions Club.

Jenny is contestant number 13 and will be performing Poise and Fitness on Friday night, March 28. Her talent number on Saturday will be a clarinet solo, "Beauty and Joy" by Chenette.

The interview segment will be held on Thursday and this will also be a day she can get autographs of other contestants.

This year it was mandatory for every contestant to submit a scrapbook on the "Be Your Best Self Pro-



Weems

gram," "Let's Have a party," and "Community Service." These scrapbooks will be on display Friday and Saturday evenings. The winners of these categories will also be announced on Saturday during the awards ceremony and the winner will receive a scholarship in each category.

The contestant chosen as the 2003 Kansas Junior Miss will have the opportunity to compete in America's Junior Miss this Junior in Mobile, Ala.

Jenny makes Cheyenne County's 24th representative at the state competition. Those wanting to send well wishes and good luck may be sent to Jenny in care of Mikel and Janell Hadachek, 1905 Country Club Drive, Belleville, KS 66935.

Anyone needing ticket, motel or floral information should contact Vicki Cress or Tim Weems or Jodi at 785-527-2363.

Word received concerning law plan

By Karen Krien

The possibility of having consolidated law enforcement in the county was discussed twice during the Friday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners. With the information gained, Jane Brubaker, commissioner, will approach both the St. Francis and Bird City city councils to see if they will be interested.

Several months ago, Kevin Berens, county attorney, submitted a letter to the attorney general's office asking if it would be possible to add to more people to form a consolidated law enforcement board as the present statutes stated that only five people would be able to serve on the board which included: the commissioner chairman, county attorney, mayor of the largest city (in this case, it would be the mayor of St. Francis) and two elected members. The commissioners agreed that the mayor of Bird City should be included on this board but this was not what the statute stated.

At the Friday meeting, Attorney Berens said that he had received a reply for the attorney general which would allow for the above board members but would also include the Bird City mayor and another appointed member.

However, the consolidated law enforcement board which the commissioners and attorney have been looking at would require getting an

affirmative vote of the public to eliminate the position of sheriff and accept the consolidated law enforcement proposition.

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring informed the commissioners that Dundy County, Neb., just north of Cheyenne County, has a different form of consolidated law enforcement where the sheriff, who is elected, heads the department with a staff of five and four vehicles. There is an officer who covers Haigler and that area and the other officers cover Benkelman and county. Sheriff Dankenbring said that the Dundy County Sheriff had offered to come to a commissioners' meeting and explain the system. He also noted that Phillips County, about 130 miles east of St. Francis, also has a similar system.

Tim Raile, commissioner, when talking about the first proposal with an elected consolidated law enforcement board, that consolidating is bound to save money because of the duplication of services in the three law enforcement offices.

The matter will continue to be discussed at the commissioners' meetings until there is a definite response of "no" in one of the city council meetings.

In other business

The commissioners granted Mike Antholz, county road and bridge employee, disability leave to

take care of knee surgery. After the sick leave is used, he will be on disability.

Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, had the commissioners sign permits and licenses for ambulances, noting that in 2002, there 243 emergency responses made by emergency medical technicians; 19 runs were considered "non-emergency;" and 251 runs were transporting patients. He noted that when technicians bring the ambulance to football games, rodeos and other such events, they are not paid for being there. He also delivered a job description of the ambulance bookkeeper.

The sheriff and undersheriff went into executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made coming out.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, reported that he planned to purchase a 1995 scraper for \$98,000, delivered. He gave the yearly report on the department and then he and the commissioners discussed, at length, whether or not to purchase or lease tractors used for mowing.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on March 31 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

March 16-22 marks Ag Week

March 16 through 22 marks National Agriculture Week.

Established in 1973, Ag Week has been an opportunity for the American people to say "thanks" to those hard-working men and women of agriculture. Check Page 7 in this issue to see all of those businesses saluting these hard working people.

Despite the dwindling rural population, the business of farming and ranching remains an integral function of the Kansas economy. Twenty-five percent of the state's economic activity can be connected with agriculture, while as much as 42 percent of the state's total exports are agriculture-related.

The population in the state of Kansas is growing but the urban and suburban communities are gaining people while the rural farming communities are losing ground. There are fewer people in the rural areas but the demand for agricultural commodities is greater than ever. American farmers produce 16 percent of the world's

food on 7 percent of the world's land. Kansas has 47.5 million acres in agriculture which ranks third in the United States.

Despite the shifts in population, nearly two million people farm or ranch in the United States. Individuals or families operate almost 90 percent of U.S. farms. Additionally, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population is employed in farm or farm-related jobs, including production agriculture, farm inputs, processing and marketing, and wholesale and retail sales.

The average size of a Kansas farm is 742 acres and the average age of a Kansas farmer is 55 years. Kansas ranks in the top two in wheat production, wheat flour milled, grain sorghum, cattle processed, sorghum silage, prime farmland, cattle and calves and the farms have miles of terraces.

Just think what the world would not have if it were not for the efforts of the Kansas farmer!

Cheylin students enjoy an extra day for spring break

By Casey McCormick

No one seemed to mind that Cheylin students, teachers and staff only got one extra day to celebrate Spring Break since many were busy both at home and away last week. Everybody had something to do.

Beautiful weather covered most of the region so travel was easy. Many area families escaped to other states, mainly Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa, while others travelled to towns in Kansas.

Places like Kansas City for Carmichaels, Goodland for quick shopping sprees, Hays and Gerard to visit family members or outings in the country were observed by Bird City residents.

Those who left state went to the Rocky Mountains to ski, Denver for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, or Ames, Iowa, to see loved ones. Vacationers went to Chuckee Cheese, a Nascar race track, a hotel swimming pool, an auction, bowling, Prom dress shopping, a Baptism, roller skating, and many other activities.

The folks who stayed close to home were not bored either. Lance Churchwell made \$19.25 working for his dad, Jacob Diers and family had his father home from his truck driving job, and Naomi Reeh watered chickens and collected eggs. Everyone used the time off and began to look forward to spring.

Landowners must contact office

Bill R. Fuller, state executive director of the Kansas Farm Service agency, announced recently that the deadline for farmers to make base and yield selections will not be extended past the April 1 deadline.

Because of the heavy workload involved in this signup, Director Fuller and other Farm Service Agency state directors requested the national office provide additional time to ensure all landowners have the opportunity to make these important base and yield decisions prior to the deadline.

Farm Service Agency county offices have been authorized to use a register for landowners that contact the office by April 1, to make their base and yield selections, but the office is unable to schedule an appointment with the producer because of the heavy

workload. Persons that are placed on the register prior to April 1 will be scheduled an appointment at the earliest practical date that workload allows.

Persons who have not made their base and yield selection, and do not contact the Farm Service Agency county office prior to April 1 will not be provided an opportunity to make these selections after the deadline. These persons will have to accept the default base option.

Director Fuller encourages landowners that have not made their base and yield selections to contact the county office no later than April 1. Phone contact is acceptable to be placed on the register.

As of March 11, the base and yield selections have been made on 65.89 percent of Kansas farms.

Change of address and phone number

Bird City Times



Rich Ave. - Apt. 10
Phone 785-734-2659 • Fax 785-734-2659
Or Phone 785-332-3162