



## Numbers could be down next year

By Casey McCormick

Unfortunately Cheylin Schools saw some changes in numbers at the Monday board meeting. "We have lost five students since the end of the year," said superintendent David Zumbahlen. Three of the students left Kansas to move with their family to Texas. The

other number change, which was expected, is the changing of board members. President Eric Churchwell will leave his position, at the end of the month, to make room for new school board representative Wade Carmichael. A new board president will be elected at the next meeting on July 14. Although most kids are out

of school many items were addressed. There were several personnel changes. Shari Carmicheal left her position of high school secretary and will be replaced by Loretta Rucker of McDonald. Max Keltz becomes the high school activities director. Changes came to cheer leading as the junior high sponsors will be Pam

Johnson and Bobbi Walden and Carol Bell will be the high school co-sponsor. The board was given a report by David Hendricks who priced costs to upgrade computer needs for the school. After reviewing his research it was decided to purchase eight computers and five monitors from

Cyberton ASUS for \$6,259. This equipment will be used primarily for teachers as older computers will fill student needs. A request was honored for the Bird City Alumni organization who asked to have memorabilia items from the period before the schools of Bird City and McDonald combined. They will

be able to move pictures and trophies to another location. Other items concerned the adoption of a drug policy for next school year, the recognition of three girl state high school track finalist, approval of the Fourth of July fireworks show on school grounds and the need to update Cheylin's fire alarm system.

## Representatives discuss which grants are available

By Karen Krien

Four people attended the Cheyenne County Commissioners meeting on Monday with the main interest being to hear and ask questions of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission representatives. The commission helps participating counties and cities write grants for needed projects. Amy Griffey, economic development coordinator, and Randall Hrabe, executive director, informed Les Lacy, representing the county hospital; Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor; Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development coordinator; and Laura Miller, Bird City city clerk, about available grants and listed

some of the changes made by the government. Earlier, the Commission representatives had been informed that only the figures compiled by the last census would be used in determining who would receive the grants which are based on low-to-moderate income levels. However, they were recently informed that surveys could be taken to determine if city and/or counties would be considered to be in the low-to-moderate category. This new ruling would open up better chances of obtaining a grant. The county can apply for two grants and each of the cities (Bird City and St. Francis) would be eligible to apply for one grant.

The commissioners were interested in getting money for new fire engine(s) and to replace a bridge. Mr. Lacy was seeing what it would take to get a grant to help with the ambulance entrance and to finish the county health office which will someday be located in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis. Bird City was wanting to widen the highway and fix a drainage problem within the city. The city of St. Francis recently received a \$400,000 grant to repair the city sewer system. Mr. Harbe and Ms. Griffey encouraged surveys be planned and completed in the very near future if the county and/or cities were interested in apply for grants. They

See Grants on Page 5



LIBRARIAN STAN DORSCH is active in all operations of the Bird City Public Library. His hard work and dedication has led to an award as the "Regional Trustee of the Year".

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Librarian receives state honor and recognition for efforts

By Casey McCormick

Do you remember getting your first library card? For many it was the first brush with authority and responsibility away from home. The thought that you were going to get into trouble if the book you chose were to come back "bent, spindled or mutilated," or worse, if it were lost, was a heady thought for any child. But what a world was opened by the chance to read that book. Bird City has a great library and much of that is due to library board member Stan Dorsch. "Since the 1970s, Stan has been on the library board three different times," said Bird City Public Library director Darla Deeds. "In 1998, he headed up a building fund drive, securing \$240,000 for the new building. Of that total, \$70,000 was in grants he wrote."

The new debt-free library, which was built without a city bond, was dedicated in July of 2000. Mr. Dorsch said, "I'm really pleased with what the public has done," to keep a quality library here. Often dedicated people who work hard for what they believe is important to their town and the people living there go unnoticed. Fortunately, last April, the Kansas Library Trustees Association saw the difference Mr. Dorsch has made and awarded him the "Regional Trustee of the Year" award for the Northwest Kansas Library System. For Mr. Dorsch the library is an act of love. He remembers his first library card. "We grew up in the depression. We lived 6 miles out in the country but went to the city school. For a nickel I could get a card."

This card would allow the reader to get one book at a time for up to about 25 to 30 trips to the library. "It was like heaven to me," said Mr. Dorsch. His favorite genre was The Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, The Bopsey Twins and Jerry Todd series. From his favorite reading spot on the farm in Kansas he saw a lot of action. But he would take an uncontrollable break when "city school" broke for the summer. "In the summer I missed the books," he said. Mr. Dorsch's library activities do not end at the local level. He is currently the second vice president of the Northwest Kansas Library System. He represents this area's regional library system, one of seven state wide, on the Kansas Library Trustee Association.



MANY VISITORS TOOK to the skies in vintage airplanes and helicopters. Some had the opportunity to parachute back to the airfield and the Stearman Fly-In.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## 85 aircraft fly into St. Francis

Near perfect weather made the 21st annual Stearman Fly-In a success. Over the weekend, the Cheyenne County Airport in St. Francis hosted more than 85 aircraft including 10 Stearman biplanes and three hot air balloons. The Stearmans are fabric covered, open-cockpit biplanes first used in World War II as primary trainers. Many interesting aircraft flew in including homebuilts and rare warbirds.

Large crowds enjoyed the aerial extravaganza: biplanes in formation flight accompanied by the distinctive roar of their radial engines; hot air balloons floating gracefully over the countryside at sunrise; and 85 skydives by 16 jumpers including 11 tandem jumps and eight night skydives. In a tandem jump, a novice passenger is attached to an expert skydiver. Some of the crowd participated by riding in a Stearman or a helicopter, allowing them to view the fes-

tivities from aloft. Tracy Lockhart of Sterling, Colo., won the Stearman balloon bust contest. On Saturday, the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a barbecue which was followed by the presentation of Ann Birney, who portrayed Amelia Earhart. The Stearman Fly-In takes place on the second Saturday in June so next year's event will be June 12 and 13.

## Steam engine association gears for 50th anniversary

(Note from the editor: This is a press release from Stan R. Dorsch who represents the Tri State Antique Engine and Thresher Association. This organization is preparing for its 50th anniversary show which will be held in Bird City July 31, August 1, 2 and 3)

**Steamed up for 50 years**  
In the early 1950s a group of farmers and businessmen from the tri-state area of Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas, decided that the heritage of farming in the high plains should be preserved. Tractors had replaced the steam engines and combines had eliminated the need for the threshing machines and separators from the area. This dedicated group of preservationists eventually formed the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association headquartered in Bird City. After several years of restoration, cleaning and painting this group held the first show at the Roy Kite farm 2.5-miles northeast of Bird City. Roy Kite was the Case Implement dealer as well as a farmer. Roy had taken a lot of old tractors and vintage equipment through trade ins and other business dealings. Roy had stored these items for several years. With Roy's expertise and ability he was able to spearhead the restoration project. The premier show in 1953 offered only a tent for protection from the elements. Old outhouses served

as bathrooms. Conditions were crude but everyone had a wonderful time. Ladies and children were admitted free and the men were charged 50 cents daily for the first show. Enthusiasm was high and another show was held. There were no facilities for storing the steam engines, tractors and threshing equipment at the Roy Kite farm so an annual parade of equipment would make the 2.5 mile journey to the Kite farm from Bird City. When they crossed US 36 they stopped traffic from both ways and put rubber tires down on the highway to protect the oiled surface. The show continued to grow. Articles of Incorporation were adopted, 501 c 3 status was received from the Internal Revenue Service. Officers were elected. Chet Sawyer served as president and Melvin Wright was the secretary/treasurer for many years. The show continued to be held at the Roy Kite farm through 1974. Then the association purchased 20 acres from Ralph and Ruth Leach at the northeast corner of Bird City. With this permanent location buildings were soon erected. The Anderson building, built with funds from Ivan Anderson, Kanorado, the main building with the fold out sides and the country kitchen were among the first built. The buildings are still in use today. Over the years additional buildings were built and now there are 14 permanent buildings.

Additional tracts of land were systematically added: a 6-acre purchase from Bob Sager, a 7-acre donation from Bob and Laurie Jones, a donation from Ralph and Ruby Leach of 12 acres and 7 acres from Jim and Cindy Leach. Today the association has 45.7 acres. They grow their own wheat for binding. This wheat is then shocked and placed inside until show time. During the show they thresh the bundles and sell the wheat at the local elevators. In addition to the many physical changes at the grounds there is now an annual queen. The queen is selected from the tri-state area. This year as part of the golden celebration they will be recognizing the past queens. The queen's name is known only by the association president, Ken Beougher. He announces the queen during the noon festivities on Thursday. By selecting a queen member honor the women who were instrumental during the threshing season. The women spent long hours cooking. Stop by the cook shack and see how the women worked. This year's queen would have been 50-years younger when the first show was held. Time flies. Last year there were 12 operational steam engines at the show. These steamers are available for rides. They are inspected and registered safe by a certified boiler inspector. See Show on Page 5

## Fireworks show is planned for July Fourth at football field

By Casey McCormick

Get your lawn chairs out or reserve a seat in the football bleachers because you don't want to miss this year's Fourth of July fireworks show. It's just got bigger! The towns of Bird City and St. Francis have agreed to join forces for the next two years for a fireworks display. This year it will be held at the Cheylin football field and the 2004 show will be in St. Francis. The St. Francis Association to Benefit Cheyenne County organization had planned to have their show separately but they ran into scheduling problems as the fairgrounds had already been rented for July 3, 4 and 5. Another obstacle

was too much tickle grass at the airport makes the fire risk too high. Since the goal of the association is to benefit all of Cheyenne County they agreed to donate \$500 to this year's display. The organizations who represent Bird City, and have given a like amount, are PRIDE, Community Club and the American Legion. Dan Bowers, who is certified to operate commercial fireworks, will provide what looks to be a special program. Bird City has an interesting history concerning its fireworks display. Years back families would gather at the City Park and set off fireworks that folks had bought from area stands. Donations led to larger shows and one year the event

was held at the Thresher Show Grounds. Next it moved to the football field where it remains today and has grown each year, weather permitting. Locals used to make homemade ice cream and bring cake to the show. That must have been quite a task on some of those hot July afternoons. With luck Mother Nature will smile on this year's display and we will have a memorable show with our neighbors.







THREE GIBSON TRACTORS with consecutive identification numbers paraded past the crowd at last year's Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association gathering. photo courtesy of Stan Dorsch

## SHOW

Continued from page 1

pector. There are close to 200 classic tractors at the show. They participate daily in the parade. Also in the parade are the classic cars. The Tri-State Antique Auto Club operated closely with the association. There are also vehicles in the car museum. The museum was built with funds from Dee and Peg Thompson in memory of their son. Be sure to stop by and see the cars.

A lot of preparation takes place prior to the show. This culminates with the Wednesday potluck meal around 6 p.m. What a wonderful time for fellowship with the swap dealers, tractor and car buffs, interested townspeople and those in for the four day show.

The Thursday evening literary is held at the Highland Country School. The school was given a new coat of paint last year. Sit in the school and bring back memories of when you were a kid. If you are that old maybe you lived in a sod house. We have a two room "soddie" built in 1984. The "soddie" is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Stop in and see how you grandparents lived when they first came out to the high plains area.

The blacksmith building, built with funds from Beverly Willnutz in

memory of her husband, is a busy place during the show. Merlin Grafton is on hand to demonstrate how to stoke the forge and how to make iron items like they did it years before there were welders.

A cool spot during the show is the quilt building. This air conditioned facility displays 30-plus quilts. Attendees bring in these quilts so there is always something new to our area. The association owns nine quilts we have received through gifts. This year the Sawyer families quilt will be displayed. MSue Lamb donated embroidered signature blocks from her parents. These blocks were from the 1930's and most of the names are people from the Bird City area. Treva Henry pieced them together and the Methodist ladies have been quilting the quilt. The quilt is done in 1930s reproduction fabric and it is something to see.

The printing press building is also air-conditioned. The printers always come up with some interesting give-aways. It's fun to go into the building and yell, "stop the presses!"

The Eggers building, built with money from Walter Eggers, houses a museum. It is an outstanding museum. There are rooms set up to depict life in the early days. The Eggers building also serves as the site of dem-

onstrations and programs. The Eggers Committee does an outstanding job during the four-day show.

Friday evening is the ever popular antique tractor pull. This is not a juried event. It is a fun event. Stop by around 6 of 6:30 p.m. They try to start so that they can end up with the steamers pulling in the evening at dusk. It is a special sight to see the ambers from the boilers against the darkening horizon. The Friday tractor pull is free. They do charge for daytime festivities or you can get in with a yearly membership or a qualified display.

One of the first things you see upon entering the grounds is the stationary engine row. This display is set under the cotton wood trees so there is some shade. See these stationary engines that made life easier for the pioneers. They have a familiar "putt putt" you associate with the old Maytag washing machines. This is how grandma washed clothes and grandpa pumped water for the livestock.

Saturday after a full day, take in the barbecue on the grounds. The McDonald Lions have been preparing the meal for years. They always have sweet corn that is cooked with heated water from the boiler on the steam engine. The price is right and no one goes away hungry. The Saturday evening entertainment is the 4th Artillery Regimental Brass Band from Denver. They dress in Civil War attire. The entertainment will involve audience participation. They will be teaching us the Virginia reel and other folk dances plus they provide a concert.

A book is being written about the first 50 years of the show and will be available at the 2004 show next year. It will include pictures of this year's show. Be sure to come by and be a part of history. The show will be held July 31, August 1, 2 and 3 at the grounds at the northeast corner of Bird City.

Continued from page 1

noted that the county would probably qualify for some of the grants available but they would need to be making decisions very soon.

### Graders

Supervisor Flemming reported that of the nine graders owned by the county, there were several that would need to be replaced in the future. The newest graders are 1995 models while the oldest is a 1989er.

He said that next year, a new series of Caterpillar graders would be coming out costing between \$165,000 and \$170,000 with 3.2 percent interest. The new grader cost also included the government discount allowed to counties.

The supervisor could also purchase a used grader for around \$60,000.

The commissioners were concerned that they had not continued to replace the older graders because of tight budgets and questions in state funding. They debated whether it was better to spend the money for one new grader or to get two or more good used graders. It was noted that the trade-in value would be about the same as if the supervisor would advertise and sell the old grader (around \$30,000) but there would be more warranty on a new grader.

The matter was tabled until the supervisor could get more information.

### Cheyenne County Development Corporation

Mr. Berens, representing the Cheyenne County Development Corporation in the absence of Ms. Hobrock, asked the commissioners to consider giving the Corporation \$9,800 which is the same amount asked for last year.

Some of the projects which the Development Corporation was involved in last year included: seeing that the recycling projects had been completed, contacted new industries and continued to write grants, and listed the St. Francis Recreation Commission, the Cheyenne County Historical Society and the fire department as a few of those needing grants.

Tim Raile, commissioner, thought it would be nice if an industry such as a dairy farm could be brought into the county but thought the possibility of such an industry would be next to impossible to lure to Cheyenne County.

## GRANTS

However, he did think that some of the housing grants available through the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission which had made a presentation earlier were more realistic.

Mr. Berens said that the Corporation's goal was to build one business at a time while keeping what the county has.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Roger Jensen, St. Francis City Council member, reported that the corrected Interlocal Recycling Agreement had not arrived but when it did, it would need to be signed by the commissioners and resolution stating the fact would also need to be signed.

• The commissioners asked Mr. Jensen if the city had any plans to compost grass clippings near the recycling center. He said the city council was investigating it but noted that equipment would be needed along with supervision while the dumping area was open.

• Ilene O'Leary, executive director of the St. Francis Housing Authority, and city attorney Mike Day asked if the Housing Authority taxes could be waived. They have been paying \$2,100 in taxes. Having questions, the commissioners asked county attorney Kevin Berens to see if the Housing Authority needed to pay the taxes and to see what the situation is with the Bird City low income housing project. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. They were informed that the city of St. Francis had waived its part of the taxes.

• The commissioners were concerned with two vouchers for mileage turned in by the Emergency Medical Service Director, Larry Gabel, in connection with the teaching of an emergency medical technician class. A call

was made to Joe Mildrexler at Colby Community College which hired the technician class instructor. He said the college covered the cost of mileage and lodging for state testing. Mr. Gabel was asked to turn in the mileage to the college, with the exception of the costs for the recertification of the instructor which should be turned into the county to be paid.

• The commissioners went into executive session to discuss the ambulance secretary position. When they came out, they said a decision would be made after the ambulance director had talked with the secretary.

• Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, reported that the hospital remodeling contract was not ready. The hospital board had made some cuts and change orders in the contract would need to be signed.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker said that she could not understand how the architect could be far off in his original estimate of the remodel project. Commissioner Tim Raile suggested that the architect's fee be held as this was what the commissioners did when the airport runway project was done.

• Dundy County officials had asked the Supervisor Flemming if the county would be interested in making signs for their county as they were going to be doing 911 signing. The county attorney will look into the legalities.

### Next meeting

The commissioners worked on the budget following the meeting. The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on June 30 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Russell Childers, Colby; Texas; Maude Elliott, Bird City; Bud Frisbie, Bird City; Thomas Berg, Littleton, Colo.; Ashley and Mrs. Ron Byrd, Magnolia, Lamb, Wellington, Fla.



## Letter to the Editor

USA won war; is vanquished in peace?

If the terrorists were intelligent enough to use our airplanes to strike USA targets; Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein were conspirators; (Bribing the Mafia or daring the abortionists to euthanize them, would be cheaper than war; in \$ and lives. The economic stimuli by putting the unemployed in the Military and huge contracts for armaments, are fleeing as a firefly. How many war cost\$ are on the National Debt for your grandchildren's kids, etc. to pay? The fuel used and restoration (\$ would have built a lot of roads and driven many miles here.

Abolish the income tax (a Sale\$ tax exempting food \$ taxpayers won't Starve is less cost, hassle and fairer). Get rid of the INCOME REDISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. How can "U" justify taxing all the people to enrich one? Bestow a GVERNMENT Gift, Welfare \$ubsidy, exceeding the legal ex-

emption for a taxpayer? Let alone pouring 2/3 of the moola (\$) on 10 percent of the farmer\$?

What profit have "U" received from your \$ the Cheat-Off crowd Seized? If "U" haven't made a profit from your Branded Beef; how can "U" get rid of a country of origin law, increasing cost and tyranny on all producers? (Label the imports with a tariff!) Would "U" hobble cowboys, Demand Packers Keep a bit of 'Hide and Hair' in "M"-eat (Brands and tatoos require hide. If gone???) Shop Wal-Mart; eat McDonalds! Not check country of origin on tools clothes menus etc?

"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul." Mark 8:36

Frank Sowers  
Benkelman  
P.S. The novelty of country of origin is forgotten as consumers compare quality and price!

## Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

### Dr. D.F. Schnee

Optometrist  
601 E. Hwy 24  
St. Francis, KS 67756  
785-899-5501  
or toll free 1-800-864-4612  
Open Mondays+Hours by appointment

### Mike's Computers

• Repairs • Software Support • Net Working • Web Design

Buy, Sell and Trade New & Used Computers and Peripherals

• Very reasonable prices • Onsite service

785-734-2007  
www.mikecanhelp.com

### Leach AGENCY

Gary Leach, AGENT  
Mila Bandel, P&C Agent



Are you covered?  
AUTO, HOME, LIFE, MEDICAL, CROP  
209 W. Washington,  
St. Francis, KS 67756  
785-332-2898  
FAX 785-332-3155

### BARNHART Well Service

• Domestic Wells  
• Stock Wells  
• Trenching  
• Bottomless Tanks  
• Pumps & Pressure Tanks

Jason Barnhart  
Rt. 3 - Box 243 • St. Francis  
Shop: 785-332-3014  
Cell: 785-332-0424

## SUMMER GREENS

Pasta 100

- Boneless Buffalo Style Chicken Wings
- Firecracker Salad
- Italian Steak Salad
- Red-White & Blue Steak Salad
- Steak Tostada Salad
- Veggie Pasta Alfredo
- Steamed Seasonal Veggies

**MONTEIRA MIRESA STEAKHOUSE**

1855 S Range - Colby

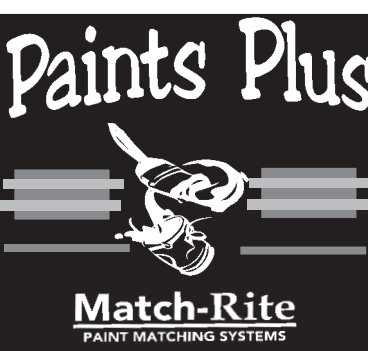
Present this coupon to receive...  
**10% Discount**  
On any Meal  
Good for entire party thru 8/15/03

## Tri-State Lumber "Paints Plus"

Will be open Friday, June, 20 at 8:00 a.m. for all your painting and redecorating needs.

Offering "matchrite" computer paint matching

- We can match any brand of paint or color
- We can remix or change already tinted paints
- We offer virtual customer painting, the customer can change the colors of their house or a certain room using our computer, letting the customer feel certain about their paint choices
- We offer accent matching—the customer can pick from several trim or accent colors to match a certain base or main color
- We will continue to offer the Valspar paint line, which has been supplying paint since 1806. Valspar paint has been rated #1 in "consumer reports" paint tests for several years.
- We will have expanded paint and painting accessories inventory for all your painting projects and needs.



Stop In and See Our New Paint Store, See What We Can Do For You

(785) 332-2500 • 204 N. Quincy • St. Francis, KS