



Students score above average on tests

By Casey McCormick

The Cheylin School Board held their scheduled meeting to discuss student test scores, the condition of the McDonald gym and other business.

School counselor, Anita Burton, was present with figures from three tests. They were last spring's Kansas State Assessment Test, Terra Nova and American College Test (ACT).

In the majority of the scores Cheylin students not only scored

above the national average but also the state level. In the state assessment exams three honors were given: fourth grade for excellence in math and the 10th grade for excellence in math and science. They are this year's fifth and 11th graders. All of the Cheylin students who were named to the Kansas State Assessment Standard of Excellence will be recognized at an awards luncheon on March 17.

Terra Nova scores tracked first through 12th grade. These scores

showed every grade was completing objectives in each subject and the majority were above national averages.

The ACT results were for sophomore through seniors who have taken the college preparatory exam. Once more the scores showed the high school students were above average at both the state and national levels.

Board member Wade Carmichael recently toured the McDonald gym and voiced concern about the interior

appearance.

"People coming from other schools see that building and that is what they see Cheylin as," said Mr. Carmichael.

Some of the problems can be helped with a new paint job and the school will contact area paint contractors for bids. More time will be spent researching what is needed for the kitchen to operate for several functions during the year. Changes could be made there as well.

In Other Business

In other business the board voted to commendate Vanessa Antholz for her third place finish in the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee.

The board extended the contract of David Zumbahlen for the duties of superintendent and principle for another year.

The school calendar for the 2004-05 year was adopted.

Training rules were accepted for golf, junior high boys and girls track

and high school boys and girls track.

Tammi Carmichael's resignation as head coach for the high school volleyball team was accepted.

The school will not sell the surplus garage door but will use it in the Bird City bus barn.

The Rough Construction class will be allowed to build an office in the Bird City bus barn for their spring project.

A surplus white board will be donated to the McDonald firemen.



VISITORS FROM TOPEKA: State Representative John Faber, State Senator Stan Clark and Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline field questions from Bird City residents at the Bluebird Junction on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Fair board plans remodel

By Lezlie Hilt

A St. Francis resident was again present at the March 4 Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting to discuss the condition of one of the buildings at the fairgrounds.

Janice Krien along with Brent Rueb, owner of Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, discussed the fairground building and Mrs. Krien felt like there were several people interested in volunteering time and labor to help clean and paint the building. Mr. Rueb brought a bid of \$4,000 for paint and other materials needed to cover and insulate the walls.

Mr. Rueb had also talked to the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization and they were interested in maybe helping fund the project as they felt there was a strong need for a community building, however, the group also wanted to make sure that there was a plan as to how the building would be operated and taken care of. Mrs. Krien also mention that possibly different groups would like to get together and decorate the bathrooms and kitchen.

The board felt that they and the Wildlife Committee needed to get together and discuss a plan.

The are several items in the kitchen that belong to the Extension office and the board asked Tye Faulkender, county director, if he would ask Stephanie Shafer to see what they wanted and dispose of the rest of the things that are not needed or any good.

Following the meeting, the board, Mrs. Krien and Mr. Rueb went down to tour the building.

Derby dates set

The Demolition Derby dates have been set for this year. The early derby will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. Other derbies will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7; and the clean-up derby has been set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18. The group will get together and go over the rules so the book can be printed and advertising started.

In other business

In other business:

• Director Faulkender, representing the Extension office, said there were trophies highlighted on the list he handed to the board that would be eliminated this year as some of the age divisions had been merged. Also, some of the sponsors weren't interested in sponsoring trophies this year. The 4-H'ers will help with trash in the eating area at the fair. Director Faulkender also said that they were going to have a special meeting to recruit new members. There are 64 members compared to last year's 130.

• President Bursch announced that the insurance went down to \$1,634, about half of what it was last year.

• The fair book should be ready by the first of May and to the state for printing by the first of June.

• Discussion on the open class cow/calf class was held. Ernie Ketzner will check with some people and see what their feelings are.

• President Bursch said the new valve pipe and padlock had been put on the water valve. Last month it was reported that someone had turned on the main water valve and broke three of the toilets at the fairgrounds. Mr. Bursch had asked if he should call Lampe Hardware to come down and check out the damage. After an executive session the board decided to wait until they had a chance to check it out.

President Bursch told the members that until they called someone they would not know what the problems were. He said he needed to know if he could call Lampe Hardware if there were problems at the fairgrounds. Jared Douthit thought that they should talk to Lampe's about signing a contract. However Mr. Bursch explained that the board would not know how many times they would need to call Lampe for the year so that would be difficult to do. The board moved that Mr. Bursch call Lampe Hardware for service and all agreed except for Mr. Douthit.

Lawmakers meet with area voters

By Casey McCormick

Bird City played host to several Kansas political figures who came to town for an open meeting. State Representative John Faber, Senator Stan Clark and Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline made the stop during an area tour.

Many residents assembled in the large room at the Bluebird Junction restaurant as each speaker took a few minutes to discuss the current state of affairs in Topeka and field questions from the audience.

Representative Faber spoke first and touched on education, transportation, a handgun conceal and carry

licenser bill and the defense of marriage act. He also brought up the issue of cattle identification and said he thought it would put too much of a burden on the small ranchers.

"The federal government (could) mandate it, but say they won't fund it," said Representative Faber, "the (cost) would go to the producer who can't pass the cost along."

Senator Stan Clark presented several pages of budget information. At one point he said, "What these figures show is that (Kansans) are drinking less beer, smoking less, chewing more and drinking more hard alcohol."

He spent much of his time stating that a solution to high medical insurance costs could be health savings accounts. This would give individuals a more direct involvement in their insurance planning.

"(It would) make the individual a little more responsible," said Senator Clark, "they would ask themselves, 'do I really need to go to the doctor when I have this cold?'"

Attorney General Phill Kline made his first visit to Cheyenne County. He first thanked the crowd for their overwhelming support in his last election.

Two problems he sees with the current state of Kansas is "a culture that doesn't teach right from wrong," and that judges do not understand their roles any more. He used the example of the judges actions over gay marriages in Massachusetts and Judge Bullock's decision concerning public education in Salina.

Attorney General Kline also stressed the need for tougher sentences for violent criminals and that they should not be allowed to leave the prison system early to walk the streets.

Looking a little like spring

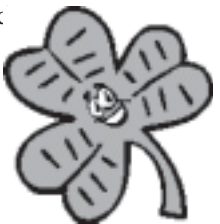
Spring is on its way and the temperatures for the month of February indicate that nice weather is on the way.

Troy Burr, Bird City's weather observer, reported that the high temperature for the month was 73 degrees on Feb. 18. To show what a range of temperatures the month had, the low was 0.0 degrees on Feb. 13.

Weather observer Burr also said the moisture for the month was 1.11 inches with snow fall for the month at 8 inches. The maximum snow fall for one day was 3 inches on Feb. 5.

Total moisture at this time for 2004 is 1.11 inches and total snowfall for 2004 is at 11 inches.

The highest wind gust for the month was 36.7 miles per hours on Feb. 11. The lowest wind chill was recorded at -23.8 degrees on the fifth of the month.



Summer event is planned

By Casey McCormick

Although summer days are a ways off the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Association is already gearing up for the 51st show.

The association met at the Thresher show grounds on Saturday to discuss plans for the event which will be held July 29 through August 1.

President Ken Beougher proceeded over the meeting along with Ned Smith, who shares secretary duties with his wife, Deb.

Treasurer Stan Dorsch gave the financial report for last year's show. Over 18,000 people attended the 50th Thresher Show. The high turnout balanced with expenditures since more was spent on the anniversary show, such as memorial plates, operating costs and roses for last year's and former Thresher Show queens.

Mr. Dorsch told the association that the new Thresher



MEMBERS OF THE Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Association meet at the shop to make plans for this summer's 51st Annual Show which will be held this summer.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Show book is in its "final layout" and that the finished copies should be available the first part of June. There are 2,000 copies coming from the printer but the final cost

has not been decided.

The 51st Thresher Show button was displayed. It looks similar to last year's membership button, however, in memory of Tom Sawyer,

two tractors are shown with Mr. Sawyer driving them. One is a Case and the other is a Bull tractor.

There will be a quilt drawing,

even though the Lutheran Ladies will not be providing the quilt as in year's past. Phyllis Winfield will be donating a quilt for this year's show.