# Bird City Times Thursday, June 23, 2005 Volume 80, Number 25 Bird City, Kansas 67731

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CHEYLIN Board of Education member, Rod Young, explains his point to fellow board member, Wade Carmichael, ing.

during Monday night's Cheylin Board of Eductation meet-Times staff photo by DeAnza Church

## Board of education accepts bids for sidewalk and laptop computers

### By DeAnza Church

The Cheylin Board of Education met Monday evening to discuss several issues for the upcoming school year.

A motion was approved to send out surveys to the parents of Cheylin students regarding the four-day school week. The survey will be written and sent to parents during the first semester of the 2005-2006 school year.

"It will give patrons a chance to voice their opinions," said Rod Young, board member.

Family members of students will no longer be able to call the Cougar Line next year. A four to tinue the automated service that gave more flexibility. information regarding school bus arrival times and out-of-town game information. With a lot of students now having cell phones, parents are more easily able to contact their child directly to get the information.

The price of school meals will be increasing next year. The price of meals will increase 10 cents for students and 20 cents for adults. "They're getting a pretty good meal ered an asset to the students because for the price they're paying," said Dave Zumbahlen, superintendent.

serving meals at a cost below the state average for many years, therefore,

one vote approved a motion to discon- raising the price now will allow for

Cheylin schools will be purchasing 13 laptop computers for \$8,931.52 and one computer projector for \$698.20. It is hoped that every student from the seventh grade up will be able to have access to a laptop. The students in kindergarten through sixth grade will have one laptop for every two students.

The laptops computers are considof their mobility. The current computers in the computer lab will still be It was noted that Cheylin has been used for training purposes of new programs.

Members of the board called an

executive session to discuss proposed salaries for Mr. Zumbahlen, Anita Burton and non-certified staff. No final decisions were made following the

### In other business

In other business,

session.

• A motion was approved to formally commend Kansas State High School Activities Association State Golf meet qualifier, Andrew Marshall.

• A bid submitted by Roy's Carpentry was approved to construct a sidewalk on the east and south side of the elementary school.

## **State board** member tells point of view

### By Karen Krien

Connie Morris, St. Francis resident and member of the Kansas State Board of Education, has been in the news for her views on criticism of Darwinism alongside teaching evolution in the Kansas schools.

the June 14 Salina Journal, she called evolution an "age-old fairy tale." She went on to say that the criticism of evolution in the classfairy tale is sometimes defended rooms. In other words, they would with "anti-God" contempt and arrogance.

In a newsletter, Mrs. Morris criticized fellow board members, May, there were scientists who news organizations and scientists presented evidence that evolution is See SCIENCE on page 6 who defend evolution. She said

the board's goal is to write the standards in such a way that clearly gives educators the right and responsibility to present the the age-old fairy tale of evolution.

Mrs. Morris was one of three In an article which appeared in board members endorsing proposed science standards which would expose students to more tell that there are holes in the theory of evolution.

"At the four day hearings in

## New plan needed for bio-terrorism

### By Karen Krien

Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness manager, told the commissioners the old bio-terrorism plan had been approved but it was immediately discarded and a new plan is being mandated. Included in the new plan will the requirement for tests to be taken. Those who will need to take the test are elected officials and public servents. The tests will be taken on the internet. There are 25 open-book questions on the test.

unhappy with all of the regulations and mandates. She thought that the government was asking a lot of small communities and wondered what would happen if the county refused to go along with the mandages. Mr. Rogers pointed out that, in 2003, the county received \$113,000 to purchase equipment. If the county next meeting.

didn't comply, they would not receive any more money. Commissioner Brubaker wondered just how important the equipment they purchased was. Mr. Rogers said there were several items including a generator — things that work for both hazardous situations as well as bio terrorism.

"I still think the test is ridiculous. Will the people who volunteer, EMTs and firemen, quit?" she asked.

'I'm sure we will have to do it in Commissioner Brubaker was the long run but I still think it is out of hand....lots of things that are mandated are."

Commissioner Beikman concluded that, "as it sets right now, we will pretty much have to do it."

A resolution will need to be passed to compile a new disaster plan. Clerk Miller will prepare the resolution and present it at the

## Bids for fire trucks opened; no decision

65 Cents

### By Karen Krien

Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, Hill City, was present for the opening of the bids for three new fire trucks. Four bids had been received and two of the companies had representatives present for the openings.

The bids were: Weise Fire, Salina,, \$263,205; Hays Fire Equipment, \$264,881; Danko, Snyder, Neb., \$278,505; and Watts Welding, Belleville, \$296,250. No decision was made as the bid packages needed to be inspected by the firemen to make sure all of the specifications had been met.

Hays Fire Equipment had included a reduced rate if the trucks

that had not been a bid specification the past two years and he figured that and, the commissioners agreed that it was not fair to the other companies. Mrs. Griffey said that she was Roxie Neitzel about the insurance not sure what the grant regulations and the board could place an actual were

Mrs. Griffey said the final inspection of the health department at the clinic had been completed and Community Development Building Grant was signed off.

### Fair board needs more funding

Dick Bursch, fair board president, presented the fair board's budget. He said they were going to need more money because of the high cost of insurance which they had cussed other evening entertainment already paid. He said that the money

were paid for when they arrived but taken during the fair had been down was due to the economy. Clerk Terry Miller said he had talked to cash value on some of the buildings instead of a "replacement cost."

> Mr. Bursch said the board had decided to cut down on advertisement and they were getting the fair book at a cheaper rate. Clerk Miller said the county has a web site, www.cheyennecounty.org, which he could advertise the fair if Mr. Bursch would get him the information

Mr. Bursch said the board had disfor following years including



BIKING FOR A CAUSE—Staff Sgt. [ret.] Heath Calhoun from Clarksville, Tenn. rides through the county with other Wounded Warriors. Mr. Calhoun lost both legs in a rocket explosion in Iraq less than two years ago. *Times staff photo by Casey McCormick* 

motocross competitions.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said it too bad that some of the area fairs were being held at the same time as the Cheyenne County Fair and noted that this also holds true for demolition derbies. Mr. Bursch said they had held an early derby but only six cars showed up.

**Taxing severed mineral rights** Noel Rath, St. Francis, briefly asked the commissioners to consider taxing those holding severed mineral rights. Commissioner Brubaker said that the matter had been broached several years ago and the appraiser's office staff thought, because there had been so much time lapse between the time there had been

See COUNTY on page 6

## Physician dies in St. Francis at 81

Dr. Ernest Richard Cram died St. Francis." on Father's day, June 19, after a lengthly illness. Funeral services summed up by a quote from his were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday book that he wrote after his retireat Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. He was 81 years old.

Dr. Cram came to St. Francis in served myself and have always 1954. There were already five been negative toward unnecesother family physicians practicing sary doctoring.' in Cheyenne County.

However, Dr. Cram said, "I livered approximately 1,000 bathink if I practice good medi- bies including his youngest chilcine, we can live wherever we dren Ole and Adele as well as want to live and I want to live in

His philosophy as a doctor was ment in 1992, "I have always tried to serve as I would like to be

Throughout his career, he de-See DOCTOR on Page 6

## **Wounded Warrior Project** finds its way through county

### By Casey McCormick

Warm weather brings bicyclists on cross country rides along U.S. 36. But a different band of riders came through Cheyenne County on a special quest.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday a group of veterans rode in from the west. What makes this trip unique is that several of the riders carry reminders of the current war in Iraq. They are amputees who are raising awareness and funds for The Wounded Warrior Project and their 4,200 mile ride is called Soldier Ride 2005.

The two month journey began on May 21 at Marina Del Ray's "Mother's Beach" in Los Angeles, Calif. The goal is to reach Montauk, N.Y. on July 19. The Soldier Ride 2005 hopes to raise \$5 million to aid wounded soldiers from Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots around Prescott, Ariz. was asked to give a the world. The veterans have raised \$151,469 so far.

One of the riders was Staff Sgt. and women who are still over there," (ret.) Heath Calhoun from said Sgt. Kelly.

Clarksville, Tenn. He lost both legs in a rocket attack in Mosul, Iraq on Nov. 7. 2003.

Sgt. Calhoun uses a hand cycle for the Soldier Ride. He is married with two children and another on the wav

Another veteran who drives a van for the team is Reggie Cornelia.

When we were going over Monarch Pass (Colo.) you wouldn't believe how effortlessly Heath made it look," said Mr. Cornelia, "he hardly broke a sweat."

When the veterans arrived in St. Francis they stopped at the Dairy King and noticed the Flag Day ceremony at the Cheyenne County Museum across U.S. 36. Mr. Cornelia asked if they could join the festivities and the riders were greeted with a standing ovation.

Staff Sgt. (ret.) Ryan Kelly, few words on behalf of the group. "We are doing this for the men

A bomb explosion on Highway 1, south of Baghdad, took Sgt. Kelly's right leg on July 14, 2003. He is also married but does not have any chil-

Another veteran joining the group was Army Captain Lonnie Moore. A native of Kansas, Captain Moore lost his right leg in Iraq and is able to pedal his bicycle with only his left leg.

After the ceremony the veterans and their team were guests for a potluck meal featuring barbecue brisket by Chuck Kribs.

Individual riders are welcome to join the Soldier Ride 2005 and can select one of the 12 stages of the tour. The wed site is www.soldierride.com. The site also offers a daily journal of the veteran's progress and nonriders can register as a virtual rider to support the project.

For more information on The Wounded Warrior Project, to make a donation or sponsor a rider, go to the website or call toll-free, 1-866-RIDE GI 1.

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## **Plans to** be made for Rodeo

**By Karen Krien** The Cheyenne County Fair Board plans to hold a Ranch Rodeo on Friday night of the fair. All proceeds will go to the Grandstand Fund.

The Friday Ranch Rodeo will basically be a "horse fun night" but no cattle will be involved. There will be two divisions: 16 years of age and older; and 7 to 15 years old.

The older teams will be made up of three participants and each team must include at least one female. The younger teams will include two individuals and there are no rules on gender.

"We need teams to sign up as soon as possible so we can make plans before the fair begins," said Megan Douthit, fair board member.

The older division will be participating the Hangman Race; Ribbon/ Flag Race; and the Trailer Race.

Youngerkids will have the Ribbon Race; an altered (easier) Hangman Race; and the Golf Cart Race which will find a blindfolded driver being guided through the course by his teammate.

"Many people don't realize that the grandstand is not paid for," Douthit said.

The fairboard makes a yearly payment of \$9,200 on the stands and they will not be paid for until 2010.

To sign up a team or for more information, contact Douthit at 785-332-2942; Shawna Blanka, 785-332-2875 or Cheryl Williams, 785-332-2948



BATTER UP— Adam Orten stands ready for the pitch during Monday night's game against the St. Francis A's. Times staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

**Continued from Page 1** taxes on mineral rights and today, that

it would not be cost effective to update the information. Mr. Rath said he didn't think it was

right that the owner of mineral rights should get away without paying

Commissioner Beikman said he thought that, with the drilling of new wells, this would be a good time to incorporate the taxes.

The commissioners agreed that Randy Sangster, appraiser, should come to the next meeting and explain the reasons for not taxing these people.

**Development Corp's budget** Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development Corporation coordinator, presented the Corporation's budget of \$9,800 for the upcoming year.

She told about the leadership training through the 21st Century. Commissioner Brubaker was interested in forming a Cheyenne County Leadership Training again. Ms. Redding said that the 21st Century training class should give the leadership to form the class. Those taking the present class are Ms. Redding, Tom Keller, Cory Busse, Kathy Rainbolt, Shawna Blanka, Althea Lebow, Roger Jensen and Sherry Schultz. She talked about the county's strategic plan, wondering who implemented some of the sections of the plan. For instance, who is the countywide administrator.

membering Cheyenne County in their wills, possibly leaving 5 percent to the county.

### Lawyers

County

Judge Robert Van Allen reported that there are five court-appointed attorneys which are rotated. He said he rotates the judges but also selects them on the case and how many miles it is for the attorney to travel.

'We can not force anyone to take a case,"Judge Van Allen said. "We can appoint the lawyer but he can withdraw.

"I am concerned about the tax dollars that the court is spending but there years. He thought the commissioners is only so much we can do to collect money (from indigent cases).

Attorney Barrett commented that the court cannot throw someone in jail for not having money. It was also a person in jail.

planting windbreaks. In other business In other business:

• The wage agreement for Bob Juelson, deputy sheriff, was signed. • Deb Smith, apprasier staff, was approved to go to an advanced oil and

gas workshop after she explained that there had been over 50 new gas wells and a couple of oil wells drilled in the county.

• Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Fund for bridge projects over the next five would need to set aside \$44,500 per vear

· Jerry Michaud, Bonnie Burr and Ruth Lang, all representing the Developmental Services of Northwest pointed out that it costs money to keep Kansas, presented their budget and asked that the county allot them the **Conservation District's budget** same amount as the previous year,

## Young Miss program will begin with parade on Main

### By Karen Krien

The Young Miss Program will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday in the auwith a time for autographs will start at 2 p.m. at the high school and go down St. Francis' Main Street.

Ten girls are vying for the title of Cheyenne County Young Miss: Angela Van Allen, Sawyer White, Voorhies, Ashley Talisa Dowgwillo, Christi Milne, Jade DeGood, McKenzie Grace, Maddie Knodel, Kori Underwood and Sheryl Miller.

The Young Miss Program is a spin-off from the Junior Miss Pro-

gram held in previous years. The Division" which will count as 30 categories have different names and some of the program will be differditorium at the St. Francis Commu- ent but the main idea is to give these nity High School. A parade ending coming high school senior girls an Interviews, 20 percent; Performing opportunity to participate in such a program.

'These girls have been a really good bunch to work through all the transitions," said Vicki Cress, coordinator for the program. "They even wrote a letter and comprised a video which they sent to Oprah.'

Jam." The girls will have spent the Following the announcement of the week practicing routines, their talent numbers and mock interviews. the cafeteria where they will be ac-Mrs. Cress said the "Academics cepting congratulations.

percent of total points, has already been judged by separate judges.

Other divisions are: Individual Arts, 20 percent; Endurance, 15 percent; Grace and Elegance, 15 per-

Providing special entertainment will be Chelsey Weeden, the 2005 Cheyenne County Junior Miss.

While the judges are making their This year's theme is "Sports decisions, refreshment will be served. new Young Miss, the girls will go to

wasn't done with his schooling as

he earned a master's degree in me-

teorology from the California Insti-

ver, where he did his medical rotat-

ing internship as an Air Force Lieu-

His service in the armed forces

included Meteorologist and Lieu-

tenant, Army Air Corps Reserves.

After finishing medical school, he

re-enlisted as a Physician, Lieuten-

ant, Air Force Reserves, Westover

Air Force Base, Chicopee Falls,

He wrote his own autobiography

In 1952-53, Dr. Cram was at

tute of Technology in 1952.

tenant.

Mass.

## Doctor

ing their airplane, "Love Baby."

One of their trips included flying to

the Caribbean Islands with 31 other

doctors. They were the only ones

### **Continued from page 1**

Adele's husband Darris and his first grandson, Julian Bunker on his own birthday, April 1. Dr. Cram will probably be remembered mostly as a "good, ole, quiet-spoken doctor." However,

there was another side of this man which often surprised people. He was an actor — in some cases, such as in Fiddler On The Roof, he could almost be considered a "ham."

He enjoyed acting and, besides Fiddler on the Roof, he performed in Hello Dolly, Music Man, Dust on the Sunflowers, and The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker.

Dr. Cram and Bonnie presented a number of programs written by. Bonnie. The two of them performed these programs in their hometown of St. Francis as well as surrounding communities. These programs included singing, telling family stories, and humorous dramas. They also performed violin and voice duets.

cial and instrument ratings. He tain and as a medical officer.

'Doc" and wife Bonnie loved fly-

## **Science**

## Continued from Page 1 genetcially, biologically, math-

ematically, chemically and metaphysically impossible for the theory to be true," she said.

She also stated that she does not want to bring the Bible into the classroom.

'We do not have to turn to the Bible, nor should we, nor could we turn to the Bible for scientific evidence "she said

origin and that man and apes share a common ancestor. Evolution is attributed to 19th Century British scientist Charles Darwin.

Those organizing the case against evolution were intelligent design advocates. Intelligent design says some features of the groups boycotted the May hearnatural world are so complex and ing, Mrs. Morris said, "They des-

has descended from a common trouble reconciling faith and evolution.

'So be it," Mrs. Morris wrote. "But the quandry exists when poor science — with anti-God contempt and arrogance — must insist that it has all the answers."

When national and state science well-ordered that they are best perately need to withhold the fact explained by an intelligent cause. that evolution is a theory in crisis Mrs. Morris and the other two and has been crumbling apart for Mrs. Morris, on Tuesday, told had taken her comments out of text and she and her husband have received threats and hate mail since the hearings. However, she feels that speaking out on this is-

flying a single engine plane. The journey from St. Francis to St. Tho- Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denmas of the Caribbean Islands was 50 hours of flying time, round trip. When he felt that he could no longer fly, he and Bonnie were found golfing at Riverside Recreation. He also liked reading, playing his violin, singing, dramatic and comedic acting, writing and gene-

alogy. He was a patron of the arts.

As a young violinist, Dr. Cram played in the University of Kansas Orchestra and later in Pride of the entitled "Sainty's Dick Cram" in Prairie Orchestra where he rehearsed weekly in Colby.

Dr. Cram graduated from St. Francis High School, then went on to attend Kansas State University from 1942-1943. At the University of New Mexico in 1943, Dr. Cram earned a pre-meteorology certificate.

He took time out of his studies to marry Bonnie Jean Waters on Aug. 29, 1948.

He went on to study at the University of Kansas, earning a bachelor's in pre-medicine in 1949, then a doctor of medicine degree in 1952. He

1994 during his retirement. A copy of the book may be found in the St. Francis Public Library and the Cheyenne County Museum. Dr. Cram received the award of

Eagle Scout in 1942. The Coronado Area Council awarded Dr. Cram the Silver Beaver certificate in 1965 and the Wood Badge certificate in 1967.

The Crams have five children: Richard, Ione Slattery, Claudia Bunker, Ole, and Adele DeGood. There was a 20-year span between their oldest and youngest child.

## Dr. Cram was a private pilot with

a single engine airplane, commerlogged 3,341 hours and was owner of a Beechcraft Sierra. He was active in the Civil Air Patrol as a cap-

"There are some very good objectives in here (Strategic Plan) and I would like to see some of these goals and objectives met," she said.

She also talked about people re-

Spencer Schlepp, Lynn Query, Herman Antholz, Jeanne Dunn and Randy Rueb, all representing the Cheyenne County Conservation District, presented the District's budget. They were asking for \$14,863 in 2006. The District was allocated \$11,059 in county money in 2005.

There was considerable discussion about the services provided to the county including the sale of trees and drip systems. They noted that, in the past couple of years, they haven't made any money on the trees and drip systems probably because of the drought conditions.

If money is made, it is spent for educational purposes. They said the selling of the trees and drip systems is to make them affordable and encourage

\$7,840.

It was noted that the organization takes care of six people in the county. Commissioner Beikman reported that Cody Beeson had contacted him and was not going to pay his bill for getting rid of prairie dog. He didn't feel his prairie dog problem had been resolved

### Other matters discussed

Other matters talked about in the commissioners' meeting included the commissioners not approving the drawing up of a resolution to allow the St. Francis zoning ordinance to reach past the city limits and the new emergency preparedness bio-terrorism plan. See articles elsewhere in this issue.

In the Journal article, it quoted Jack Krebs, vice president of Kansas Citizens for Science, an Oskallosa educator, that "her (Morris) belief is in opposition to mainstream science. Mainstream sicence is a consensus view literally formed by tens of thousands people who literally studied these issues.'

The methods of teaching evolution in school science classes has been changed by the Kansas board twice since 1999.

The three board members had the hearings during which witnesses criticized evolutionary theory that natural chemical processes may have created the first building blocks of life, that all life

board members took no position years." on intelligent design but it appeared that their work followed the Herald that she felt the media suggestions that they were intelligent design advocates.

Mrs. Morris stated that she was not an "intelligent design advocate."

'There are credible scientists sue is important. who can produce evidence against the teachings of the theory of evolution and students need to know the criticisms of evolution," she said.

In Mrs. Morris' newsletter, she claims to be a Christian who believes the account of the Bible creation. She also recognizes that many other Christians have no



## Local church is recognized

Church Recognition" from the Kansas West Annual (Regional) Conference of the United Methodist Church. Each was honored during the Kansas West United Methodist Annual Conference May 26-29 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina

The Discipling Church Recognition is given to the churches that demonstrate a strong commitment to making disciples through Chris-

Five United Methodist churches tian education, leadership develop- Church: Delbert Stanton, senior have received the "Discipling ment, spiritual formation, stewardship and worship. Congregations and their pastors for the past year receiving the recognition:

> Aldersgate United Methodist bert, senior pastor; Kim Dickerson-Oard, associate pastor

Church: Nathan Stanton Chapel Hill United Methodist Church: Jeff Gannon Hays First United Methodist Church: Bill Stapleton, Jr.

pastor; Sheryl Johnson, associate pastor

Rose Hill United Methodist Church: Cynthia Weems

Honorable mention was given to Church, Wichita: Lawrence Lam- the following congregations who met five of the requirements:

Immanuel United Methodist Anthony United Methodist Church, Bird City: Doug Mason Grace United Methodist Church, Winfield: Jerre Nolte

Cunningham United Methodist

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