



## 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 teaching evolution in the Kansas schools.

In an article which appeared in the June 14 *Salina Journal*, she called evolution an "age-old fairy tale." She went on to say that the fairy tale is sometimes defended with "anti-God" contempt and arrogance.

In a newsletter, Mrs. Morris criticized fellow board members, news organizations and scientists 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 criticism of Darwinism alongside the age-old fairy tale of evolution.

Mrs. Morris was one of three board members endorsing proposed science standards which would expose students to more criticism of evolution in the classrooms. In other words, they would tell that there are holes in the theory of evolution.

"At the four day hearings in May, there were scientists who presented evidence that evolution is

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## 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 be the requirement for tests to be taken. Those who will need to take the test are elected officials and public servants. The tests will be taken on the internet. There are 25 open-book questions on the test.

Commissioner Brubaker was 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 mandates. Mr. Rogers pointed out that, in 2003, the county received \$113,000 to purchase equipment. If the county

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 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 next meeting.

CHEYLIN Board of Education member, Rod Young, explains his point to fellow board member, Wade Carmichael, during Monday night's Cheylin Board of Education meeting.

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

one vote approved a motion to discontinue the automated service that gave 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 for the price they're paying," said Dave Zumbahlen, superintendent.

It was noted that Cheylin has been serving meals at a cost below the state average for many years, therefore,

raising the price now will allow for more flexibility.

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 considered an asset to the students because of their mobility. The current computers in the computer lab will still be 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 session.

### In other business

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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.

## Bids for fire trucks opened; no decision

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

were paid for when they arrived but that had not been a bid specification and, the commissioners agreed that it was not fair to the other companies. Mrs. Griffey said that she was not sure what the grant regulations 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 already paid. He said that the money

taken during the fair had been down the past two years and he figured that was due to the economy. Clerk Terry Miller said he had talked to Roxie Neitzel about the insurance and the board could place an actual 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 discussed other evening entertainment for following years including

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

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## Physician dies in St. Francis at 81

Dr. Ernest Richard Cram died on Father's day, June 19, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. He was 81 years old.

Dr. Cram came to St. Francis in 1954. There were already five other family physicians practicing in Cheyenne County.

However, Dr. Cram said, "I think if I practice good medicine, we can live wherever we want to live and I want to live in

St. Francis."

His philosophy as a doctor was summed up by a quote from his book that he wrote after his retirement in 1992, "I have always tried to serve as I would like to be served myself and have always been negative toward unnecessary doctoring."

Throughout his career, he delivered approximately 1,000 babies including his youngest children Ole and Adele as well as

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## 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 the world. The veterans have raised \$151,469 so far.

One of the riders was Staff Sgt. (ret.) Heath Calhoun from

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 way.

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, Prescott, Ariz. was asked to give a few words on behalf of the group.

"We are doing this for the men and women who are still over there," said Sgt. Kelly.

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 children.

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 web 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.



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

