



Rising costs contribute to higher fees

By DeAnza Church

The Cheylin Board of Education welcomed the two newest members, Jan Busse and George Louderbaugh, after the July meeting was called to order.

Reorganization of the 2005-2006 board consisted of electing Hal Antholz as president and Dave Frisbee as vice-president.

Items addressed during the meeting included discussion of enrollment fees. Prior year's enrollment fees consisted of a book rental fee of \$15 for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade and \$25 for students in sixth through 12 grade, not to exceed the family limit of \$50.

Due to the escalating costs of education, a motion was approved to add an additional \$5 to the book rental fee.

There was some confusion as to the validity of the activity fee charged to parents during enrollment. Dave Zumbahlen, superintendent, stated that he always thought the fee was charged during enrollment to allow students to attend home games without paying at the gate.

Several board members said they believed the fee was charged only to students participating in sports.

Mr. Zumbahlen said that every student must pay the activity fee, whether they are playing sports or not, if they want to attend the home games without paying an entrance fee.

"If I get in for free," said Rod Young, board member, "they should get in for free."

Mr. Antholz said the activity fee helps support the sports department by assisting with expenses, such as uniforms and coaches, whether some students are involved or not.

"If you walk into our doors," he said, "you should pay this (fee)."

After lengthy discussion, it was concluded that every student from grades sixth through 12 will be required to pay the activity fee upon enrollment, but will not be required to pay to get into home games.

A fee that has not been previously charged during enrollment is driver's education.

With the rising cost of fuel, the board agreed to charge a \$15 fee for costs associated with driver's education.

"We don't expect the kids to cover all expenses," said Mr. Young. "That's not going to happen."

Pam Johnson, Cheylin cheerleader sponsor, attended the meeting to request an exception to the policy regarding junior high cheerleaders participating in fund-raising activities.

Mrs. Johnson reported that the high school cheerleaders and dance team will be holding a fund-raiser during the Thresher Show to raise money for camp reimbursement and other expenses.

The Cheylin High School cheerleaders and dance team attended a

two-day camp in Bird City in May. The camp itself cost each student approximately \$200. The fundraiser will help alleviate at least part of that expense.

Mrs. Johnson requested that the junior high cheerleaders be allowed to work the booth at the Thresher Show for one of the three days. She stated that all funds raised over the three days may be split evenly among the groups or divided according to expense amounts.

The request was approved by the board.

Wade Carmichael, board member, said a new student is requesting to try-out for junior high cheerleading. The student recently moved into the district, consequently, missing the spring try-outs.

Mr. Zumbahlen explained that the same policy must apply to everyone and he must remain consistent with the policy.

Mrs. Busse described concerns she is having regarding students missing school because of school activities. She reviewed the school calendar and realized that the students will be missing approximately 45 days and/or afternoons, of school out of roughly 165 days.

Most of the required classes, such as math and science, are held in the afternoon. Therefore, when a student has to leave for a game at noon, they miss the core class.

To attempt to remedy this situation, Mrs. Busse requested that the most important classes be moved to early in the day while electives, such as band, be moved to the afternoon.

"I think if we did that," said Mr. Zumbahlen. "The quality of the band would go down."

"Yeah," replied Mr. Young. "But would the quality of education go up?"

"Right now, math scores are up and other classes are doing pretty good," Mr. Zumbahlen said.

One suggestion was to consider going back to regular class periods by getting rid of the block or going back to a five-day week. But, with only three weeks left until enrollment, there isn't enough time for such drastic schedule changes.

"There's too little time," said Kerby Krien, board member, "Every problem is solvable. We just can't solve this one this quick."

Out of district attendance

Students approved for out-of-district school attendance and transportation were: Marcus Cahoj, Simone Cahoj, Kayla McCain, Haley McCain, Shelton McCain, Levi Rall, Logan Rall, Sheena Rall, Jaelynn Sis, Jason Sis, Jesse Sis, Stephanie Sis, Valerie Sis, Gabriel Skolout, Isabella Skolout and Sawyer Skolout for Atwood; Audrey Hoyt and Kasey Hoyt for Brewster. Those not approved: Dalton Holliman and Dagan Holliman (Residents living closer to Bird City).

Queen's identity unknown

The crowning of the new Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show queen, Bird City, will be held on Thursday, July 28, at the Thresher show grounds. Until she is crowned, the identity of the queen will remain a secret. The photo above gives a little hint of her identity and the following information may provide some other clues:

This year's queen was born in Cheyenne County in a sod house in the early 1900s. Being the third eldest child and second daughter in a family, there later numbered two other daughters and six sons.

She recalls the family lived in the soddy until she was about 10 years old. During that time, being one of the older children, she was one of her father's dependable outdoor workers.

They raised mostly corn, wheat and cattle, hogs and chickens. Milking the cows (who were very tame) was done out in the corral year 'round. She also would be sent to

the field (by herself) with the four-horse team and the disc or harrow. The family did their own butchering and also raised a large garden. Of course, she helped her mother hoe in the garden and also to put up food for the family for the year ahead.

She was fortunate to attend country school. Their mode of travel was quite different from today's youth. They rode horseback or took the horse and buggy, going 5 miles one way.

Due to the death of her mother, she was not able to complete her formal education. Instead, she became the family's "nanny," responsible for the younger siblings, indoor household duties and still helping with outdoor work.

After reading the above clues, how many people think they can identify this hardworking girl?

The 2005 queen will replace the 2004 Thresher Queen, Irene Kehlbeck. The crowning of the



SPECIAL SKILLS—Rex Weishapl and Jacob White stay busy during the summer by working at the Thresher Show grounds.

They are currently restoring a Russell highway patrol township grader.

Times staff photo by DeAnza Church

Apprentices keep the history alive

By DeAnza Church

Preparing for the annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show takes a lot of hard work and dedication from those working behind the scenes. They are committed to making each show an enjoyable and unique experience for everyone attending.

Rex Weishapl and Jacob White, Cheylin freshmen, have been working behind the scenes each summer as apprentices of Gerald Wright, Association member.

As apprentices, Rex and Jacob are taught special skills that are required for restoring and sustaining antique equipment.

"Because many of the machines are antique, special knowledge must be handed down to a younger generation so that the rich history won't be lost," Mr. Wright said.

Along with many other projects, Rex and Jacob are currently working on restoring a Russell Highway Patrol horse-drawn township grader that was discovered hidden on a farm near Herndon.

The township grader was used from 1905 through 1920 to maintain roads for farmers traveling to buy or sell crops. It was originally

pulled by a two-horse team and operated by one person.

Norm Dorsch and Tom Sawyer, members of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association, were picking up an old corn sheller when they discovered the forgotten grader and brought it back for the show. They placed it on the edge of the show grounds where it was forgotten again until Rex and Jacob found it in the weeds and decided to bring it back to life.

They began working on the township grader three days before last year's show, but due to the complex-

ity of the task, it has taken longer than expected.

"It'll be ready for this year's show," Rex said. "We're working day and night."

Restoring it to its original condition requires hours of sandblasting, welding, creating new axles and dust caps, priming and painting and manufacturing new decals.

"We know parts of the machine were red and the bottom part was green," said Gerald Wright. "The hard part is trying to figure out which is which."

The trio laughed when they real-

ized it might look like a Christmas tree by the time they're done.

The Russell Highway Patrol Township grader is just one of the many unique pieces of equipment used by early settlers of Kansas.

Because of hard-working members, volunteers and apprentices of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association, people of all ages can catch a glimpse of history in a cation.

Family sings at the show

Each year, at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, there is a night of entertainment after the big steam engines have cooled down. This year is no different.

The Pearce family is a singing group from Wallace. They will be performing at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Thresher Show grounds following the hamburger fry.

They bring to the stage first and foremost a genuine love for quality music of every type, from classical to folk to bluegrass to jazz to doo-wop to gospel to rock-n-roll. Everyone should be ready for tight family harmonies and a song to fit nearly every taste.

Cecil Pearce is a former soloist and Chief Master Sergeant of the Singing Sergeants of the United States Air Force Band. His wife Jayne was also a Singing Sergeant and they like to tell the story of how they were microphone partners, matched for their height and voice colors. It must have been more of a match than was thought, as they married and moved back to Cecil's family ranch in Wallace, after his retirement from the Air Force in 1991.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearce's proudest role is being parents to Taylor and Cody. Taylor is 13 and just com-



ALL IN THE FAMILY—The Pearce family, Taylor, Cody, Jayne and Cecil enjoys sharing music of all kinds. They will be performing at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show.

Photo courtesy of Don Shrock

pleted seventh grade at Sharon Springs Grade School. He plays piano, banjo, guitar, harmonica and French horn. He enjoys all sports and loves to eat doughnuts! Cody is 11 and just completed fifth grade. He enjoys playing the piano, mandolin, guitar and trombone. He is also an athlete and has a true love for animals.

The Peaces are very active with the Sharon Springs School, where Mr. Pearce currently serves on the school board and Mrs. Pearce is the elementary music instructor. The Peaces are active in the Sharon Springs United Methodist Church and strive to give glory to God through their music.



2005 Thresher Queen

queen will take place shortly after the lunch hour. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy lunch at the Country Kitchen before the crowning. Also check out the different displays, enjoy the parade and watch the antique steam machines in action. There is something for everyone at the Tri-State show in Bird City.

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