



**TIME TO SHOW OFF**—Joshua Keltz gets ready to show one of his 4-H projects, a chicken, at the 2005 Cheyenne County Fair. *Times staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Board is ready for new school year

*By DeAnza Church*

As students prepare themselves, both mentally and physically, for the first day of school, members of the Cheylin Board of Education are finalizing plans for the upcoming year.

Several motions were approved, at Monday night's meeting, including the list of substitute teachers, substitute teacher pay at \$75 per day and the milk bid submitted by Cash-Way Distributing.

After going over the budget report, it was decided to apply for a

raise in the Mill levy. The current estimated tax rate is at 9.271 mills. The one mill increase will bring it up to approximately 10.3, which will bring in another \$17,400. Raising the mill will allow the school to take money from the general fund and put it in the local option budget.

"We're better off to do that," said Kerby Krien, board member.

The Cheyenne County Health Department requested permission to utilize the school facilities in case of emergencies, such as mass

inoculations. A final decision was tabled until the attorney is able to go over the contract.

The summer projects, including the gym floor and sidewalk construction has been completed. Dave Zumbahlen, superintendent, stated that Roy Shrader did a great job on the sidewalk project.

An executive session was called to discuss an early graduation request by a student. The request was granted, however no further details were given.

## Congressman visits City for town-hall meeting

*By DeAnza Church*

Congressman Jerry Moran visited Bird City's City Hall on Monday to discuss issues ranging from agriculture to the constitutional amendment. Twenty-six Cheyenne County residents were present during the town-hall meeting. Some asked questions while others sat quietly and listened to the ideas and concerns of the Congressman.

"What can we do to ensure that St. Francis and Bird City are here for another generation," he asked. "We haven't figured out how to have our sons and daughters return and make a living. That's how you change the future of business."

One area of importance is the beef industry. Congressman Moran agreed with Troy Burr of Bird City, that Japan needs to re-open its border to beef products.

Although the United States has reached an agreement to open trade with Japan, it hasn't happened yet. According to Congressman Moran, Japan sells twice the amount of goods

to the United States than they buy.

Congressman Moran backs a bill that will impose retaliatory trade sanctions against Japan if they don't live up to their agreement with the United States. An upcoming meeting in Washington with Japan's prime minister will determine what steps the government will take.

Congressman Moran said that the number one topic of conversation during his tour has been fuel prices. He discussed the energy bill, saying that it has been voted on six times in nine years.

Although supply and demand still has a role to play, he would like to see the United States become less dependent on foreign oil. He pointed out that 62 percent of America's energy is imported from abroad.

When asked about the constitutional amendment regarding the definition of marriage, Congressman Moran said the senate votes haven't been there. He explained that the courts still have power to determine the state law. It's in the house to re-



**Congressman Moran**

strict court decisions.

"Judges need to interpret the law, not make laws," Congressman Moran said.

Congressman Moran touched on issues such as health care, drought assistance and the farm bill. He mentioned government spending and the need for the government to say no to certain funding in an attempt to decrease the deficit.

"I'm a Republican that still believes the deficit matters," he said.



**ST. FRANCIS POLICE OFFICER** Norvin Anderson keeps an eye on the road block set up on County Road 28. Two vehicles head back to the command center after taking officers closer to the standoff. *Times staff photos by Casey McCormick*

## Early morning chase ends with arrest

*By Karen Krien*

What might have been a fairly simple traffic stop to give a Bird City man a warrant for criminal threat turned into an all-day standoff with the sheriff calling in help from other law enforcement.

Monday morning, Cheyenne County Sheriff Troy Gardner, St. Francis Police Officer Norvin Anderson and Officer Mark Davidson stopped Vertie E. Bolyard, a 69-year-old man, who lives south of Bird City. Mr. Bolyard had been making threats against his estranged wife and the officers were delivering a warrant for his arrest.

The stop was near U.S. 36 and County Road 23. As the officers got out of their car, Mr. Bolyard sped away. The dust was thick and officers were unable to get too close to the white Chevy pickup Mr. Bolyard was driving. Speeds climbed to over 80 miles per hour on the dirt roads as Mr. Bolyard went to his country home 9.5 miles south of Bird City. Mr. Bolyard has the Country

Trader Gun and Pawn Shop on his grounds which, according to those who have been there, is well stocked with guns and ammunition.

Sheriff Gardner, said he was being very careful and taking things very slowly to keep anyone from being injured.

Officers were called in from the Sherman County Sheriff's office along with the Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Bureau of Investigation. It was determined that the Kansas Highway Patrol Special Response Team should also help with the arrest.

The Special Response Team is made up of officers from all over the state. It was the middle of the afternoon before they were able to be there with a special SUV. A black helicopter was also on site. The officers had set up a command center just north of the Bolyard farm.

Listening on the scanner, the officers keeping surveillance on Mr. Bolyard talked about his casual ac-

tivities around the yard, walking between buildings and mowing the grass. It was as though nothing had gone on earlier in the day.

About 4 p.m. with the helicopter hovering over the house, the first response team with a highway patrol car following moved in behind a windbreak, dropping off the officers. Both vehicles returned.

After the team had time to look over the situation, the second response team and highway patrol officers moved in. This time, Mr. Bolyard was arrested without incident.

The Highway Patrol Officers remained at Bolyard's home to secure and search the house, gunshop and outbuildings.

The officers were enroute to take Mr. Bolyard to the Sherman County Bastille when Mr. Bolyard began complaining of chest pains and an ambulance was called. Mr. Bolyard was taken to the Goodland Medical Center

where he was treated but was not having a heart attack. He was released Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Gardner said Mr. Bolyard's current charges are Criminal Threat (level 9 felony) warrant arrest and Fleeing and Eluding. He was in Cheyenne County District Court for a first appearance on Tuesday where he charges were upgraded to two counts of criminal threat, level 9 felony; one count of aggravated assault, level 7 felony; and one count of fleeing or attempting to elude a patrol officer, level 9 felony. His bond was set at \$50,000. He was taken back to Sherman County where he will be until he meets the bond.

Sheriff Gardner said the assistance provided by surrounding law enforcement and the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians, Bird City Fire Department and Cheyenne County Emergency Management along with the Cheyenne County Road and Bridge was tremendous.



**A State Trooper helicopter** hovers over the command center, north of the Country Trader location.



**The Special Response Team** moved into position with a specially equipped SUV.