



School board shown the state website

By DeAnza Church

Members of the Cheylin Board of Education were given a walk-through of the Kansas Department of Education's website during Monday night's meeting.

Anita Burton, school counselor, presented the Adequate Yearly Progress Report, on the Cheylin schools, with the help of several of the school's lap-top computers. The school information can be located at www.ksbe.org.

Mrs. Burton reported that students at Cheylin scored well above average in both reading and math. She stressed the importance of academic standards when it comes to state assessment tests because the test scores must improve each year.

Discussion quickly turned to the high expectations of the state after Mrs. Burton reported that a brand new test will be given this spring to students in third through eighth grade and one class in high school.

"I don't want us to be teaching tests," said Rod Young, board member.

"It gets to the point where teachers are teaching items that they perceive will be on the tests," said Dave Zumbahlen, superintendent. "Unfortunately, our accreditation depends on how well we do on the state assessments."

He said he would guess most students spend approximately three weeks of each school year taking tests.

"I think we're doing what we need to do," added Mrs. Burton. "It's hard during the first year (of new test). We're working on the standards, that's what the tests will cover."

Enrollment fees

During open forum of the meeting, a parent discussed concerns about enrollment fees. She referred to an education statute which allows the board to waive enrollment fees for families facing hardships who are unable to afford them.

Statute 72-5391 reads that "whenever the parents or guardian of any pupil of the school district are unable to provide the fees and supplemental charges assessed and collected under authority of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 72-5390, the board of education shall, if written application is made and said board finds the application meritorious, waive said fees and supplemental charges if the items for which said fees and supplemental charges are assessed and collected are necessary for the completion of the basic requirements of courses of study offered in the school district."

She said that she feels that an application should be made available to families who may qualify.

"My question is," she said, "how can a parent request a waiver (of the fees) if they don't know the option exists?"

She requested that the board consider creating a specific waiver policy, including an application, eligibility requirements and appeal procedure and including the policy in future student handbooks. She also requested that a waiver application be available to parents during enrollment, so they are aware of the policy at that time.

Mr. Zumbahlen asked the board what criteria would determine eligibility, and how would the board determine which application is "meritorious."

The parent replied that other schools in the state base eligibility requirements according to their free/reduced lunch status.

"I have a huge problem with using free lunch as a guide," said Kerby Krien, board member.

Other members of the board agreed with Mr. Krien. Because such a high

percentage of students at Cheylin qualify for the National Free/Reduced Lunch Program, they would be waiving enrollment fees for a majority of the students.

The parent suggested that because the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services upholds strict guidelines for assistance, perhaps the board should focus on families receiving support from them, such as food stamps.

Each year, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services sends schools a list/electronic file of students receiving food assistance/benefits. The list/electronic file includes children age 5 years or older who live in the county served by the school. Schools use this list to provide benefits, such as free lunches, to the eligible students.

This list/electronic file may be a helpful tool for the school to use to determine eligibility for the enrollment fee waiver.

After brief discussion, members of the board decided to add the issue to the December agenda.

A Cheylin student has requested permission from the board to participate in the wrestling program offered at St. Francis Community High School. A cooperative agreement has been offered which, if signed by all parties, including the Cheylin Board of Education, would allow the student to participate and to attend practices and tournaments with the St. Francis team.

However, the student will be expected to wear a Cheylin uniform and represent Cheylin at any tournament.

Members of the board would like to see the student participate in a wrestling program, if that's what he wishes to do, however, no decision will be made until further details including costs of a uniform, supplies and transportation can be determined.

In other business

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• The new Cougar bus is almost ready to go.

"All the little things (repairs) have been fixed," reported Mr. Young.

However, the bus will need to be inspected by a mechanic and then inspected by the Kansas Highway Patrol before it can be used for any transporting students.

Discussion turned to the bus barn, which will need to have an addition built on the side in order to house the new bus. Members of the board would like to receive an estimate of costs before proceeding with the addition.

• The high school girls' basketball team is in need of an assistant coach. An ad will be placed in area newspapers requesting applicants.

• A survey, asking parents, students and staff their feelings on the four-day school week will be mailed soon. Responses to the survey will be helpful to the board in determining if Cheylin should continue with the four-day week or return to the standard five-day week. A story will be in a future edition of the *Bird City Times*, once the surveys have been returned.

• Members of the board moved to formally commend students who were selected to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Team. The students are: Jessica Marshall, honorable mention, Western Kansas Liberty League All Conference volleyball team; for the Western Kansas Liberty League All-Conference football team: David Banister, first team, center; Josh Moyer, second team, running back and defensive line; Lincoln Pochop, second team, guard and honorable mention defensive back; Brandon Gordon, honorable mention defensive back; Sam Hengen, honorable mention running back.



WILDCATS comes to Bird City. (above) Hannah Louderbaugh acts out a scene with Jacob Jensen. (right) Hannah again with Cori Underwood.



Photos courtesy of DeAnza Church

Board feeds workers

The Cheylin School Board showed the school's staff and faculty how much they are appreciated with a traditional Cajun boil on Thursday.

Shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn were piled on tables as the guests enjoyed some southern cuisine.

Those honored were:

10 to 20 Years

Ken Hankins, Dennis Hengen, Rose Hengen, Max Keltz, Carol Partch, Lynn Busse, RoseAnna Underwood, Deanna Nelsen, Randy Miller, Sylvia Hubbard, Kay Miller, Jim Poore, Yvonne Eggers and Judy Sager.

20 Years and Over

Babs Antholz, Margie Antholz, Anita Burton, Darla Dible, Tonya Gienger, Sharon Hendricks, Judy Poore, Kathy Weber, Avis Hazuka, Marian Howland and Phyllis Carson.



A CAJUN FEAST! The faculty and staff of Cheylin got to sit down and enjoy the meal while the school board did the work. (from right to left) John and Yvonne Eggers, Judy and Jim Poore and Lynn and Dan Busse.

Photo courtesy of DeAnza Church

'Christmas on Us' to give away \$1,500 in scrip money; drawings have begun

By Karen Krien

The Christmas On Us fun has begun and people are already collecting their tickets. Each ticket collected is another chance to win up to \$1,500 in prizes.

The first ticket numbers are listed in this week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* on 1, 2 and 3B.

Each time someone purchases \$10 in merchandise or services, they will receive a ticket. If the clerk in a participating business doesn't offer to give tickets with the purchase, and the customer has to ask for them, they automatically receive one free ticket.

The Christmas On Us numbers will be listed in each of the next three *Herald* and *Times* newspapers. If the number on the page matches the number on a ticket, the holder of the ticket needs to bring it into *The Herald* office to claim \$50 in scrip. The

winner will have their picture taken and tell what they plan to do with the scrip money.

"We figure everyone can use a little extra money during the holidays," said Casey McCormick, ad representative for *The Herald* and *Times*.

"We will be giving out \$50 in scrip money up to \$400 and, if we don't give it away through the ads, the scrip will be drawn for at the Dec. 15 drawing."

The deadline to claim matching ticket numbers is Monday afternoon at 5 p.m. "Anyone with a matching number in the Christmas On Us ad

pages must bring their tickets into *The Herald* by 5 on Monday afternoons," said Mr. McCormick.

After the deadline, there will be new numbers drawn for the next newspaper issue.

It is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket because those coming to *The Saint Francis Herald* office may each receive one ticket per week.

Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while people are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials.

Participating businesses in this year's Christmas On Us promotion are:

- Bier's Hometown Store
- Burr Liquor
- Cheyenne Bowland Dairy King
- Krien Pharmacy
- Owens True Value
- Parkhill Restaurant
- St. Francis Super's
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Equity
- Saint Francis Herald
- Video Kingdom

The contest will end at noon on Dec. 15 and the grand prize drawing will be held at 5:30 that afternoon.

Early Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas opening, *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will have an early deadline for the Nov. 24 issue. All ads, news and pictures for this issue are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

Check out both papers this year for the Chamber's Treasure Hunt numbers which will be inserted. There will also be businesses advertising their Christmas bargains and specials.



The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)

Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

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Periodicals postage paid
at Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220
Phone (785) 734-2659
Fax (785) 734-2659
Or Phone (785) 332-3162
E-Mail bctimes@nwkansas.com

**Postmaster: Send address
correction to P.O. Box 220
Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220**

Official City Newspaper
Published Weekly By
Nor'West Newspapers,
Incorporated
121 W. First St.
Bird City, KS 67731

Published every Thursday
\$27 per year in Cheyenne
and surrounding counties; other
in-state and all out-of-state
subscriptions, \$30 (strictly in
advance).



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