



Homecoming Week is here

By Melinda Basnett

Cheylin students are enjoying a variety of Homecoming activities this week.

As you may have noticed, true to tradition, the seniors got out the buckets of paint and their brooms and made their mark on Bird Ave.

Candidates for Homecoming King are; Lucius White, Tony Pham, Josh Johnson and Terry Jensen. Homecoming Queen candidates are Samantha Beeson, Jessica Marshall, Aubrey Kehlbeck and Tasha Gordon.

Spirit boosting days this week are: Monday: Rumper Sticker Day, students wear signs on their backs to show their team spirit. Tuesday; Fashion Disaster/Hat Day. Wednesday; Frisbee Day decorate a Frisbee and there will be a Frisbee throwing contest on Thursday night. Thursday; Blue and White Day/Reverse Blue Ribbon Day. Students wear

team colors and the boys pin ribbons on their shirt. If a girl can get them to talk, they lose their ribbon.

Thursday night the First National Bank and the Peoples State Bank start things off with a barbecue in the cafeteria from 5:30-7:30 and Coronation begins at the football field at 7:45. In place of a parade this year, Cougars Steal the Show Extravaganza will follow the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen. All entries such as floats, banners, skits and songs are encouraged. There will be some team balls auctioned off as well.

Friday is the Booster Club barbecue starting at 6 p.m. at the football field followed by the Cougars taking on the Dundy County Tigers at 7:30 p.m.



HOMECOMING WEEK started Sunday evening as the seniors painted the streets. Above, Samantha Beeson enjoyed painting

the outline of Zaiba Ahmed. The week concludes with the Cougar football game.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

School board reviews audit report

By Melinda Basnett

The Cheylin Board of Education met on Monday evening. The annual audit report was given by Cynthia Bieberle, a representative from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball. A three-year contract was signed to perform the district audits through 2009.

Babs Antholz and her Family Living Class attended the meeting and asked the board to consider some matters within the school that concerned them. They feel there may be too much social interaction between the junior high and high school students. They feel it is too crowded in the gym at lunch time. Many board members and staff agreed that the gym is a madhouse during this time. Until last year, the junior high students remained in the cafeteria during the lunch period.

The class suggested that they return to this practice or allow a 10-15 minute time period for the junior high to use the elementary gym. As the weather gets colder the high school students will need a place to interact. At the present time they go outside in front of the school or sit in the entrance to the gym by the pop machines.

Problems with disruptive study halls when the two age groups are mixed is also a concern. The class wondered if the two or three high school students in the study hall could use the board room instead of going to the library. Board members were concerned that no one was available to supervise them there and there are no computer terminals.

Driving during lunch time was the class's other main concern. They felt that all students needed to be treated the same and suggested that if driving was to be permitted with a note in the office, that the note be renewed every nine weeks. Board member Jan Busse had listed this subject on her agenda for the evening to clarify the wording in the handbook. In the section concerning lunch time, it was stated that driving with permission would be allowed, but in the section concerning cars, it was stated that no one was allowed to drive during lunch time.

After much deliberation, the matter was tabled until next month when the board can approve the wording of the revision. The board's concerns on the matter included liability,

and enforcement.

The students final concern was the homework time consumed by problem solvers and the level of importance to their grade of the problem solvers. They felt that some of them had no benefit to their education requiring creativity instead of math skills and that smaller projects could teach them without consuming such a large amount of out-of-classroom time. Some students spend 10 hours or more on a project.

They feel that they are getting a top-notch math education, but too much of their grade depends on the problem solver points instead of their homework.

Technology

When board members asked for a technology report from Kerby Krien, he reported that all the computers in the labs seem to be working well and most in the classrooms.

"The version of Powerschool that we have is terribly buggy," Mr. Krien said. "I get information about glitches all the time. They plan to release patches at a future date. All the powerschool and powergrade problems we've had has consumed my time, and I haven't been able to get other things done, like getting student's e-mails up."

"I always thought that someday everything would run smoothly, but you're telling us that's never going to happen" member Mrs. Busse asked.

Other business

The board approved a list of substitute teachers for the school year. The resignation of Anna Martinez as food service/office aide was accepted. The resignation of Dennis Hengen as junior high track coach was accepted. The board approved the extra-curricular activity rules for both junior high and high school Scholars Bowl, and National Honor Society.

Mr. Milliken, attorney for the school district, reported that the matter of the hearing concerning Miss Geinger is in the brief-writing stage. Each side has 20 days to write their brief and after that, the hearing officer has 30 days to make his decision.

The board heard the administration report from Dave Zumbahlen and then went into executive session for non-elective personnel adjourning at 11:30 p.m.



CHEYENNE COUNTY Historical Society hosted a gathering in which retired professor Kent Chapman was featured. Over

70 people showed up to tour the Kidder Massacre and other locations along the way.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Historical Society tours Kidder Massacre

By Casey McCormick

A large crowd met at the Bird City Library on Sunday to discuss and learn more about one of northwest Kansas' most infamous events: the 1867 Kidder Massacre.

The Cheyenne County Historical Society hosted the gathering that featured retired Emporia State University professor and Bird City native, Kent Chapman. Although Mr. Chapman will be the first to admit that he has no formal training in the history of George A. Custer and the 7th Cavalry, he has long been interested in the subject and has done a great amount of research.

Over 70 people showed up to hear Mr. Chapman talk about growing up in Bird City and how his interest in Custer developed.

As a boy he reminisced about going to the pool hall with his dad for a game of pool.

"There was a Budwieser sign that showed Custer making his last stand

at the Little Big Horn," Mr. Chapman said, "That was my first introduction to the man and battle, and I've always been interested in Indians."

Mr. Chapman recalled reading Edgar Stewart's *Custer's Luck* in 1965, which started him on the trail of Custer. He also remembered the dedication of the Kidder Memorial in 1969.

Historic accounts tell of how Lieutenant Lyman Kidder, along with 10 soldiers and an Indian scout were attacked by a war party of Cheyenne and Sioux warriors. Estimates are that up to 700 Indians could have pursued Kidder and his men. The cavalry soldiers made a several-mile run to the south but were overcome by the huge number of Indians.

The massacre happened on June 29. Custer's party located the mutilated bodies on July 12, 1867.

After Mr. Chapman's talk, most of the group drove south on the

Edson Road (C.R. 28) to Beaver Creek.

First the tour stopped at the memorial which lies north of the creek. This location is where a longtime resident, "Grampa Cormac," believed was the site.

Next the group retraced the bumpy country road to the Edson Road and took the county road which lines the southern edge of the creek.

Along the way, the tour passed the location where Randy Johnson, in his *A Dispatch To Custer*, believes that the massacre occurred. It is about a quarter mile east of the memorial.

Then the caravan turn north into a pasture and, by foot, crossed the dry creek bed and went over a barbed-wire fence to reach the third location. This was another quarter mile to the east of the Johnson site.

As a herd of bewildered cows watched the group, Mr. Chapman showed where Colorado historian,

Dr. Jeff Broome, feels is the site that Kidder and company met their bloody end. This is documented in Broome's *On Locating The Kidder Massacre of 1867*, pamphlet.

Both Johnson and Broome have located military and Indian bullets, shells and artifacts that they use to support their theories.

The locations visited are on private property which the Historical Society had gained access to. The Bird City Library Board allowed the use of the Library for the meeting.

"We need to identify these historic sites as accurately as possible and work together doing it," said Mr. Chapman.

Mr. Chapman also believes that the location of artifacts give credence to the historical value. But he cautions people not to react too quickly.

"We need to keep an open mind and not shut the door on any research until we absolutely know it will not stand up," said Mr. Chapman.