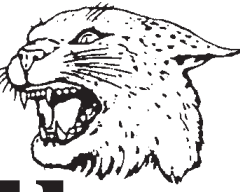


WHAT WOULD THE CIRCUS BE without a horse ride? Left, Liberty Valezques and Grace Wright enjoy a day at the circus held St. Francis. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Board votes on changes for fall



By Linda Schneider
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The June meeting for the Cheylin School Board members was to make sure all was in order for the new school year. It was also superintendent David Zumbahlen's last board meeting.

Exit interviews

The meeting started with an executive session for exit interviews with Judy Poore, Marjean Zumbahlen and Suzan Moyer.

"The session will give those who are leaving an opportunity to say what they see can be improved upon and what problems need to be solved," said Hal Antholz, president.

Mr. Antholz went on to say that without worrying about what is said, they can spill their guts and be honest about how they feel. It is a good way for the members to learn about problem areas and make changes.

Commendations

After the meeting was re-convened, the board carried the motion and formally commended Sam Hengen and Rex Weishapl as qualifiers to the Kansas State High School Athletic Association (KSHAA) State Golf meet. Also commended were Lincoln Pochop shot put and Tia Sager discus and shot put qualifiers to Kansas State High School Athletic Association State Track meet. Tia placed sixth in the discus.

Resignations

The board accepted the teaching resignation of Suzan Moyer and the coaching resignation of Jennifer Sramek.

The board also accepted Hal Antholz resignation as board of education president.

New staff

The board approved several new employments to the

Cheylin staff. Kale Shields is the middle school activities director and sixth grade teacher. Janice Churchwell will have teaching assignments for seventh through ninth grades math, science, language arts and will be the freshman class sponsor.

Max Keltz was approved as head track coach for next school year. Kendal Cahoj will be the high school head volleyball coach and Cristi Antholz was approved to be fifth grade teacher and middle school head volleyball coach. Jan Busse was approved by the board as concessions coordinator.

Agreement changes

Motion carried to approve the ratification of 2008-09 Negotiated Agreement with Cheylin Teachers Organization.

The board carried the motion to close out the books for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Calendar changes

Approved were the calendar changes Oct. 3 and Dec. 5 as staff in-service days dropping the adopted Oct. 10 and Oct. 31 dates. In addition, change Project Night from May 12 to May 5. Project Night was changed so that it would not conflict with FFA State Convention.

Legal items

James Milliken, city attorney, brought a recent court case to the board's attention concerning a woman who had injured herself while crossing a grassy area during a school event. She was suing the school for negligence because they had not fixed a hole in the lawn in which she stepped in and sprained her ankle.

The courts ruled in the school favor saying that they did not have prior knowledge of the hole, therefore could not have

fixed it before the incident. Mr. Milliken said the case shows that it is to a school advantage to fix all known items that need repair.

Miscellaneous items

The board had a brief discussion concerning the bid for the gas heating of the school for the next school year. The bid was for \$13.13 per unit. Roseanna Underwood, district clerk, mentioned that the bill for the 2007-08 school year was \$44,000. No action was taken and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

The board approved the motion to put two 20-year old, yellow school buses and the green handicap van on eBay for sale. Dale Hazuka, board member, suggested the "no reserve" on the bidding. The members agreed the vehicles were junk and want to get what they could from them.

Mr. Antholz brought to the members for discussion that Head Start in St. Francis had approached Cheylin with the possibility of using the pre-kindergarten room for their class. This would not be taking place until the 2009-10 school year.

Final report

Superintendent Zumbahlen gave his last report to the board. He said that today (Thursday) would be his last day as superintendent of Cheylin. He assured the board that budgets and the school handbook were completed. The handbook just needed to have the new staff names put in and a final look for corrections. He had submitted the Local Consolidation Plan to the state, but it has not been released.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is July 14.

Wheat specialist talks about different varieties to crowd

By Karen Krien

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Wheat Field Day was held at the Sunny Crest Farms' plot south of Wheeler on Wednesday, June 11. About 35 people were there to see the differences in the varieties and hear Jim Shroyer, K-State wheat specialist, tell about the different varieties.

He was asked to recommend the wheat to plant in Cheyenne County. He thought that he would plant Tam 111, Post Rock, Fuller, Hatcher and Bill Brown.

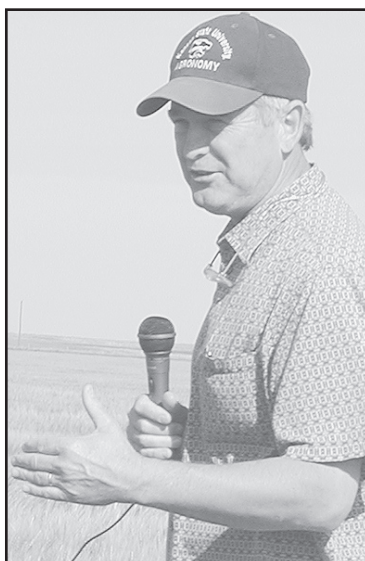
The Cheyenne County plot has 24 varieties planted including two certified red wheat and three white wheat. Junior Smull, one of the owners, said the plot had

only four inches of rain — it really needed at least 8 inches for the better yields.

Jeanne Falk, K-State agronomist, said the wheat had been planted Sept. 26 at 1 to 1.5-inches deep and was planted into some moisture. It was also noted that this had been a "low fungus" year, with little fungus appearing on the crop.

Last year, the highest yielding wheat in the plot was Post Rock, averaging 77 bushels to the acre. Following were Fuller with 71 bushels to the acre, Jagger, 68 bushels an acre, and Hatcher with 67 bushels per acre.

The results of the field will be reported after harvest when they have been calculated.



Jim Shroyer



COUNTY ROAD WORKERS, Dave Flemming and Tony Vandike work together to control the weed problems before the wheat harvest. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Keeping roads open is priority

By Linda Schneider
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County road and bridge supervisor, Dave Flemming, handles the crew that keeps the roads open during the winter months and the weed problem down during the harvest months for all of Cheyenne County and is 1,021 square miles.

There are only two cities in Cheyenne County — St. Francis and Bird City. Around the city of Bird City, there are 450 miles of roads for farm equipment to run on to get to the fields, school bus routes and for the mail to get to its destination; and they need maintenance.

The job of maintaining these roads are the responsibilities of Jim McCann, Dan Bowers and Tony Vandike. Between the three of them, they have over 40 years of experience. Each of them covers 150 miles of road and it can take up to a week and a half to finish grading after snow or rain.

After 25 years of grading, Mr.

McCann has seen a lot of roads and some improvements on the equipment which is used to do the job.

"Putting air-conditioning in the cabs and the hydraulics," he said when asked what the significant upgrades were.

During the winter months, it is the crew's job to get the roads clear of snow and to level out the ruts. It can be time consuming since the large road graders are subjected to the same problems as vehicles, and that is being stuck. The tractors use chains, but they do break and can leave the big blades stranded.

"Working on the roads is much like farm work — you get out there when you can," said Mr. Bowers, who has 16 1/2 years with the county.

When spring and summer arrive, the crew has to contend with weeds, weeds, and more weeds. In addition, when harvest time arrives, it can be a little tricky mowing down the weeds while the farm equipment makes it daily run into

the fields. However, if the weeds were not kept into check, it would not be long before they get out of control and create a problem with farmers and drivers.

The newest member of the crew is Mr. Vandike with one year under his belt.

"I am learning as I go along and the scenery changes all the time," he said.

The Bird City crew works out of the building that was built before 1960 and does most of the minor maintenance on the road graders.

All three have spent a lot of time on the rural roads and have seen many changes. When asked during the interview what changes may be on the horizon for Bird City and the rural roads, Mr. Bowers said that because of the gas prices, the post office may think about centralizing the mailboxes to various mail drops.

What is important now, will always be important to them and that is keeping the roads clear and level for all seasons.

Young Miss program set for June 28 in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Young Miss program will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, in the high school auditorium in St. Francis. The audience will be able to enjoy the air conditioned auditorium as well as the program.

There are 11 girls vying for the title of Young Miss. They include: Nikki Johnson, Sydney Busse and Mandie Walden, Bird City; Cara Hunt, Andrea Holzwarth, Kim Voeller, Joni Pevler, Jami Pevler, Taylor Kennedy, Sarah Guthmiller

and CJ Douthit, St. Francis.

"I am looking forward to an awesome week working with the girls," said Vicki Cress, one of the coordinators.

This year's theme is "Island Paradise." Last year's Young Miss, Holly Keller, will also make an appearance and entertain the audience.

The girls will begin a rigorous routine of activities throughout next week, meeting daily for practices, makeup sessions, mock interviews along with special lunches and picnics.

Vicki Cress and the committee organized the Young

Miss program which is very similar to the previous Junior Miss program.

Mrs. Cress feels the program enables incoming senior girls a chance to develop themselves in the areas of scholastic, interviews, talent, physical fitness and poise. She and the committee have the support of the county residents and businesses along with the contestant's parents.

