

Fire safety lesson given to students

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

The Cheylin's first and second grade classes were presented with a series of health and safety presentations from Jeremy Stefan's senior health class.

The two classes gathered in Kathy Weber's classroom and eagerly waited to hear the lesson given by Justin Miller and Jacob White.

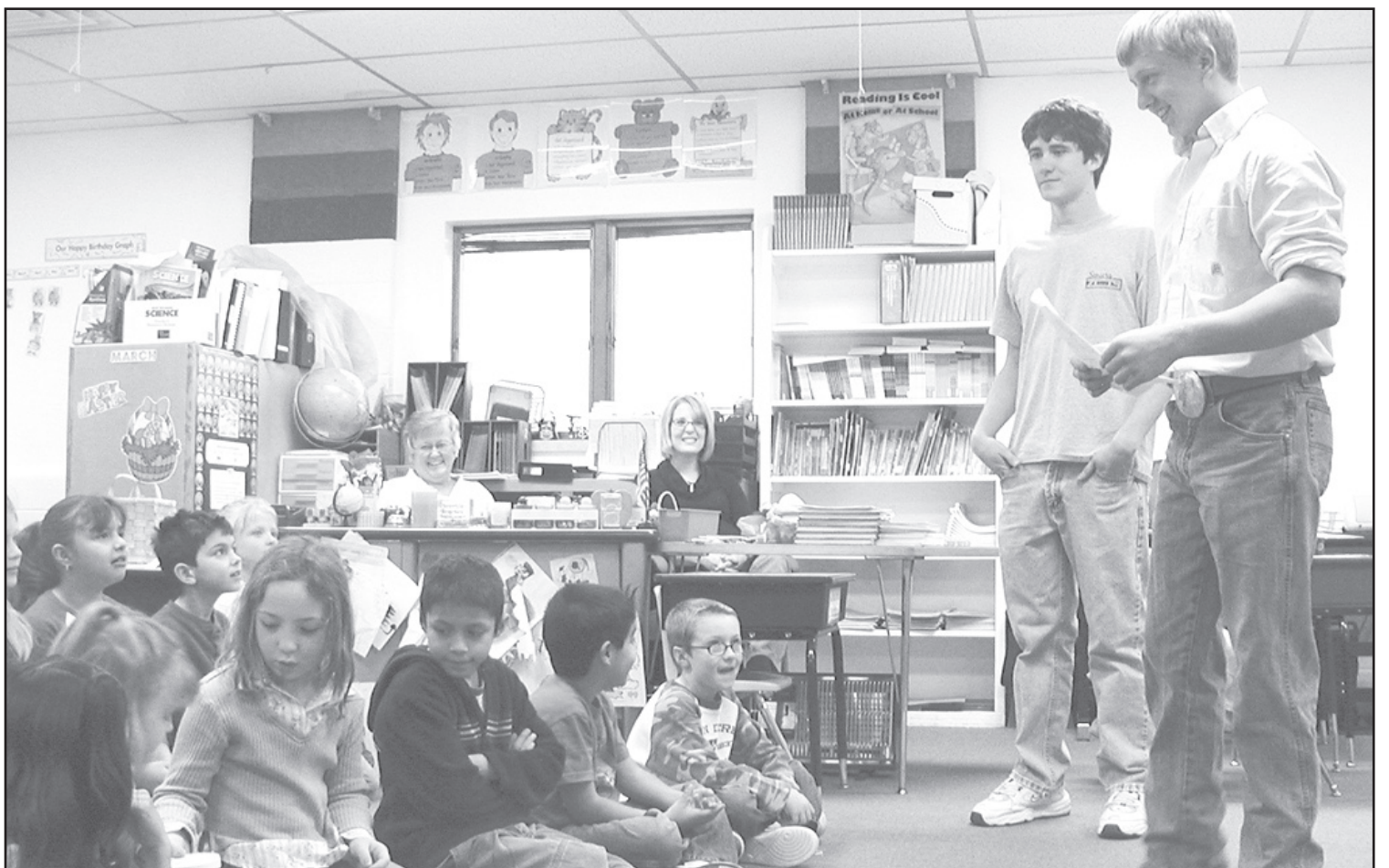
All the kids paid close attention as Justin and Jacob showed them what to do in case of a fire in their home.

Justin walked them through an escape plan and meeting place, then Jacob taught them all how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothes

should catch on fire. Then the young students were given the chance to practice the technique and everyone received a piece of candy.

Other safety ideas the class learned was to stay low as the smoke rises in a room and before opening any door, feel the door knob with the back of the hand to see if it is hot.

Before the lesson was over, the senior class passed out handouts and answered questions.



STANDING L TO R, Justin Miller and Jacob White teach Weber (l) and Kayla Bursch watching their students spect a smoke detector as it is passed around.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Meet the candidates

Get ready to vote

The general election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday in Bird City, and voters should go to the American Legion Hall, West Fourth Street.

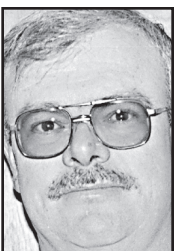
The advanced voting booth, located in the clerk's office in the courthouse will be open until noon on Monday.

The general public will decide who will fill the seats up for election on Cheylin school board as well as the Bird City City Council and Bird City mayor. Also listed on the ballot will be boxes to check for two positions on the Sunflower Extension District Number 6 board.

Cheylin Board of Education

Hal Antholz

Opportunity to serve the community is the reason Hal Antholz has chosen to run for a seat in the Cheylin School Board election. The position he is running for is member-at-large or representative of all the Cheylin school district.



Antholz

Having served on the board previously for 7 years, Mr. Antholz appreciates the fact the board members try to keep the community involved and informed, like the Senior Citizens' Dinner and the community newsletter.

He believes small schools are a great place to educate kids. The low student-to-teacher ratio is an advantage kids in larger schools do not have.

"Kids are our country's and community's future," said Mr. Antholz.

He feels meeting the declining enrollment and finances are challenges Cheylin must face now so that there will be a future for the students, and he believes he can make a difference.

Mr. Antholz has always lived in the northwest corner of Kansas. He is a farmer, rancher and feed salesman. His wife, Becky, is a homemaker and insurance agent, and together they are foster parents who enjoy trying to make a difference in kids' lives.

They have three sons, Clint, 27 years old, and wife, Jenny; Cort, 25 years old, and wife, Meghann; CJ, age 10, and one daughter, Cristi, 23 years old.

Jan Busse

School is crucial to the life of a community and Jan (Janice) Busse feels that with Cheylin's great staff and support from parents and people, it needs recognition.



Busse

She also feels the board of education needs more representation from parents who have students in high school, which is why she is running for a seat on the board.

"Once my kids got into high school, I read the handbook more frequently," said Mrs. Busse. "Even more, the wording is important so that everyone interprets it the same."

She would like to see more than two to four meetings per year between board members and staff, and feels there needs to be more communication between staff, the superintendent and board members.

Mrs. Busse believes the Site Council is set up to keep the community involved and aware of what is happening at school and should have more than just quarterly meetings.

The work the board and school did in getting the website up and running has made it a valuable tool for parents to have easy access to their kid's grades. In additions, having an online school calendar makes it easy to plan activities.

She feels the main challenge Cheylin faces is making the money that is given by the Kansas go farther and using it in the best possible way to get more "bang for the buck" will be crucial.

Mrs. Busse is a mom, homemaker, corporation bookkeeper, farm laborer, and a go-fer. She is married to Steve, farmer/rancher. Their children all attend Cheylin, Sydney, 17 and a senior, Craig, 15-year-old sophomore and Stephanie, 13, and an eighth grader.

Jim Cahoj

Jim Cahoj is campaigning for the District 1, position 1, seat on the Cheylin School Board because he cares about the well-being of its students, teachers and the community.



Cahoj

He wants to see better communication between the board members and staff, and if possible, salary increases.

"Cheylin has an exceptional academic program," said Mr. Cahoj. "And the teachers are highly qualified."

He adds that working with the school board on the financial cutbacks that are sure to arise in the

future will be challenging. However, Mr. Cahoj has served on a bank board, as well as his church board, and knows what it takes to operate on a conservative budget. He has also served on the Champion school board.

Mr. Cahoj was born and raised in McDonald and is a farmer/rancher. He is married to Kendal and they have two sons, Jayden, 19, and Jared, 17.

George Louderbaugh

As a member of the McDonald and Bird City communities for 25 years, George Louderbaugh has seen the Cheylin School system go through many changes.



Louderbaugh

He has watched his children grow up walking through halls of Cheylin and has come to know many of its patrons.

Having been a school board member for the last 4 years, he feels that parents, teachers and students can come to him with their concerns and be assured that he will listen and take action.

"I believe that due to my many years in this community, I am aware of the various wants and needs of our school district," Mr. Louderbaugh said.

Anita Pochop

Anita Pochop is running for District 1, Position 3, on the Cheylin School Board because she believes that in small communities everyone should take a turn in stepping up and helping out.



Pochop

"We are a small school and everyone must work together to keep things going," she said. "All my children graduated from Cheylin and I want my grandchildren to attend and graduate from the same school."

She feels Cheylin has worked hard to have top-of-the-line teachers who have strived to help the kids have all the opportunities to get an awesome education, and they need to know that the community supports them.

With finances as the biggest challenge the school faces, wise decisions have to be made in how school funds are spent today, because no one knows what tomorrow will bring financially.

Mrs. Pochop has served on numerous boards, committees and organizations such as Rawlins County Extension Council, Rawlins County Farm Bureau Board, Cheylin Recreation Commission, St. John's Catholic Church Council, St. John's Altar Society Officer, Atwood Good Samaritan Board, Cheylin Technology

Committee, and Beardsley Beavers 4-H Club leader. She also is a para educator for Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center.

She is married to Gerard, a farmer/rancher, and their children are, Levi and his wife, Bridget, granddaughter, Gabrielle; Lydia and husband, Weldon Loewenstein, granddaughters, Kyla and Joslyn, and Lincoln, a freshman at University of Nebraska, Kearney.

Kerby Krien

With the recent turnover in board of education positions and personnel, Kerby Krien is concerned with the level of experience currently represented on the board.



Krien

He has 12 years of previous experience serving on the school board from 1995-2007. During that time, Mr. Krien served nearly 8 years on the Finance Committee and developed a good understanding of school finance, something he thinks takes several years to grasp.

"I feel my experience and knowledge in the area of school finance would prove useful to the district during this time of declining enrollments and tighter budgets where every dollar counts," said Mr. Krien.

He also thinks his experience would be helpful when working through things like school policy.

Recently, several district patrons expressing the same concerns urged him to campaign for a seat on the school board. Mr. Krien's main goal is making sure everyone is working together to secure the best future for Cheylin.

He feels he would be a board member that understands that there is more to serving than attending meetings, and he is always willing to listen to suggestions, needs and concerns of staff, students, parents, and patrons.

Mr. Krien adds that the board and school's greatest accomplishment has been being able to retain so many vocational and extracurricular programs, something many schools of similar size have not been able to do due to dwindling budgets. "In order to provide a complete education, the school must offer more than just core subject instruction," said Mr. Krien.

Mr. Krien has lived in Bird City since 1972 and graduated from Cheylin in 1979. He is a computer and network consultant. His children, Chase, 23 years old and Afton, 21, both are graduates of Cheylin.

Belinda Serrano

For Belinda Serrano, being elected to a seat on the Cheylin School Board is not only important to her because her children are attending, but it holds sentimental value since she is also a Cheylin graduate.



Serrano

Mrs. Serrano is running for District 2, Position 6, on the Cheylin School Board. She currently sits on the board and wants to continue to serve the community and school district.

"The school district has seen a lot of changes in the past year, and I feel that a sense of stability is important right now," says Mrs. Serrano. And not just for the school, but the students that attend.

While sitting as a member, she knows that every decision that is made has the benefit of the kids in mind. In addition, she knows board members are very conscientious in regards to the budget and, right now, there is a need to make every dollar count.

Another concern she sees that needs to be addressed is how to increase school enrollment. Mrs. Serrano would like to see kids that are attending other school districts return to Cheylin, this is important to keep the school going in the future. She feels Cheylin is a good school and is vital to the community.

Mrs. Serrano has strong moral and ethical values she currently brings as a board member, as well as being honest and trustworthy. All these things are important when making decisions that involve children and not a personal agenda.

Mrs. Serrano was raised in Bird City, graduated from Cheylin in 1987 and from McCook Community College with an associate degree in 1989. She has been employed by Walmart Corporation for 21 years and currently is an invoice clerk at Walmart, Goodland.

She is married to Frank, owner and operator of FCS Services, lawn care. Mr. Serrano is also a part time Cheyenne County deputy sheriff and currently serves on the city council.

They have two sons, Jacob, a second grader at Cheylin; John, attending Cheylin pre-school, and daughter, Emily, 17 months old.

Sunflower District Cindy Burr

Cindy Burr is running for a second term on the Sunflower Extension District board. She was one of the board members when the Sunflower district was organized several years ago. She is currently presi-



Burr

dent of the board.

Extension, she said, has been a large part of her life and she wants to ensure that it is there helping people today as it has helped her in the past.

Agriculture, 4-H and youth, family and consumer science, and community development are the four parts of extension and Cheyenne County needs all the support and knowledge extension can give.

As a member of the board, Mrs. Burr oversees the extension program for the Sunflower District (Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties), as well as helping plan programming to fit the needs of county residents.

She sees two major problems facing the council: 1) budget; 2) keeping youth involved.

Budget is always an issue, Mrs. Burr said. As a district board, we have full authority over the mill levy that is set and therefore, have the responsibility of spending the taxpayers' money wisely.

Mrs. Burr was born and raised in St. Francis and now lives in Bird City. She is a program technician at the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office in St. Francis. She and her husband Troy, a farmer and rancher, have three children, Natasha, Shannon and Matt. They also have five grandchildren, Bailey Merklin, Taylor Wilson, Hunter Wilson, Alix Wilson and Tylee Wilson.

Tammy Grice

Tammy Grice is running for a position on the Sunflower Extension District Number 6 board. There are two positions open and she will be replacing Penny Gienger, who chose not to run.



Grice

I am running because I want to do everything possible to make sure Cheyenne County and northwest Kansas gets as many opportunities to expand in 4-H, economics and agriculture, as well as promoting St. Francis and Bird City, Mrs. Grice said.

As a board member, some of the future challenges and problems she sees include: managing the costs of programs; getting people of the area to give programs; and spreading the funding fairly.

If anyone has ideas for programs, grants or other ways of benefiting the county, Mrs. Grice urges them to call her or the extension office.

Mrs. Grice was born and raised in Cheyenne County. She graduated from St. Francis Community High School and went on to earn a degree in elementary and secondary education as well as a master's degree in special education.

She married Gary Grice, who is deceased. Daughter, Allison, is 14 years old and a freshman at St. Francis high school.