

Board selects new superintendent

By Linda Schneider
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It was the last Cheylin board of education before school let out and the May meeting ended with the board selecting the new superintendent/principal, but began with discussing the league merger.

Superintendent selected

After a late-night executive meeting, the board moved to offer Bruce Bolen the position of Cheylin superintendent/principal.

Mr. Bolen will be offered a one-year contract at the salary of \$81,000 and \$2,500 for the district-owned house.

Health insurance will be provided according to the district's negotiated agreement. In addition, the superintendent/principal will pay \$2,500 per year for renting the district house.

League merger

Max Keltz, athletic director, reported that he would be attending a meeting May 29 with other schools to discuss and decide if there would be a merger of the Western Kansas Liberty League with Northwestern Kansas League.

"I need direction on what the board thinks about a merger," said Mr. Keltz.

He continued by saying that at the upcoming meeting, there has to be a majority or three-quarters in favor vote for the merger to take place. He wanted to know how the board felt. In addition, a few schools like Triplains and Healy have reservations about the merger, the rest are moving to vote in favor of the merger. Discussion of pros and cons followed.

One concern is the numbers. Cheylin's numbers are in question over the next 5 years and presently, it is just not there in a couple of the sports divisions. This could cause discouragement when competing with schools of larger population.

Mr. Keltz did mention at the League meeting it was discussed setting up the schools into north, south, east and west divisions by school population.

Something in favor of the merger would be more events for the teams to participate in, such as cross-country and wrestling. These two events are presently

not part of the Cheylin sports curriculum and Mr. Keltz said cross-country could benefit a few of the students, however, left that discussion for another time.

Another large concern was scheduling games and travel time. At the end of the discussion, members expressed they liked the league the way it was and directed Mr. Keltz to vote no on the merger.

Insurance presentation

Becky Antholz, AFLAC agent, presented to the board an AFLAC and 125 Plan.

The members listened as Mrs. Antholz talked about the advantages of transferring to this insurance. She expressed complete confidence in the policies of her company as well as offering local support to the clients. She added the agent of the present policy is currently overseeing 42 other schools. Mrs. Antholz said she would work closely with Jane Young, district clerk, in administering the plan.

As for personal compensation, she says it would come from referrals, but mostly she would have

the opportunity to serve the community and work in the school district.

Mrs. Young told the members there was still time to make any decisions concerning insurance policies and suggested she would do more research and invite other AFLAC agents to speak to them.

Board commendations

The board formally commended Cheylin students for receiving the following ratings at the Kansas State High School Activities Association State Music Festival, Sydney Busse, I rating vocal solo; Nikki Johnson, II rating vocal solo; Max Hengen, II rating vocal solo; Naomi Reeh, II rating vocal solo; Anna Ponce, II rating flute solo, and Debi Banister, II rating clarinet solo.

In addition, formally commended Cheylin junior and high school band, I rating and Cheylin choir, II rating at the Kansas State High School Activities Association Large Group State Music Festival.

Summer help

The board approved the hiring Justin Miller for summer help at

the rate of \$7.25 per hour. In addition, they approved the advertisement of part-time summer help at \$6.55.

Board accepts resignations

Jan Busse, board member, submitted her resignation as concession stand supervisor and Scholar Bowl sponsor. The board accepted her resignation.

In addition, the board approved Amy Hendrick's resignation as cheer sponsor.

Cheylin projects

The board approved to allow the administration to advertise for bidding to redo the electrical wiring in the Cheylin cafeteria.

Motion carried to accept the bid of \$3,545 by J and M Construction to replace the ceiling and lighting in the elementary kitchen.

The board will also allow J and M Construction to install emergency lights in the severe storm shelters for \$415.

Superintendent Bill Porter presented a couple of summer projects that needed attention. One project concerned several doors around the school that

were sticking and jamming. He suggested opening bids on getting them fixed.

He added the grade school and junior high shower room roofs should be inspected. It was suggested asking Wade Carmichael to do the inspection.

Cheylin purchases

The board approved the purchase of an automatic floor scrubber for \$4,340. The scrubber would also be used in the Cheylin and McDonald gymnasiums.

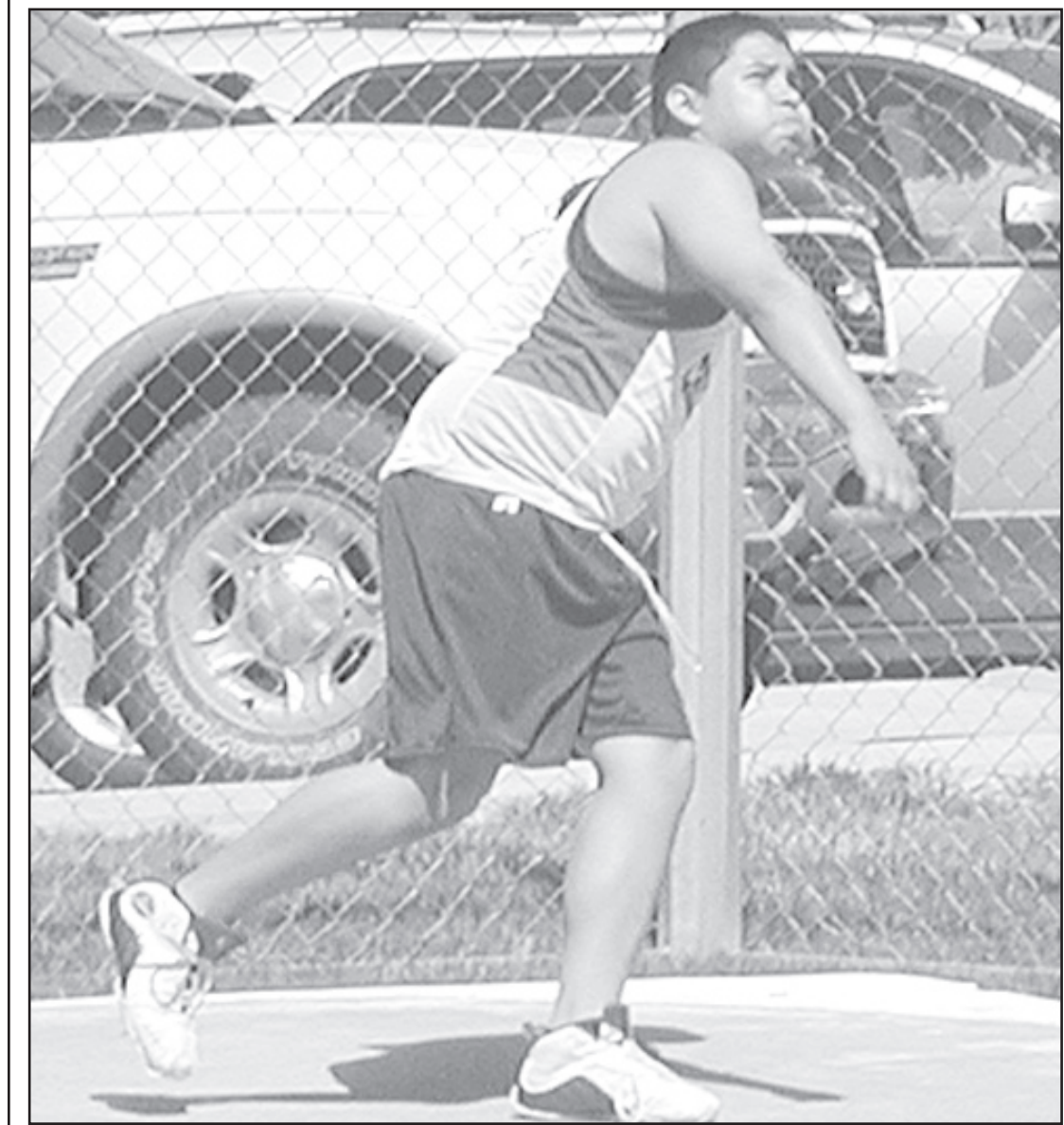
They also purchased a 2001 Chevy Girardin, 14-passenger vehicle for \$19,900.

Executive sessions

Continuing into the night with executive sessions and upon convening with the regular meeting, motions carried to accept recommendation of the administrator to open all assistant coaching positions for the 2009-2010 school year.

In addition, the board approved the supplemental duty assignments for the 2009-2010 school year and approved the classified staff contracts for the 2009-2010 school year.

Next meeting June 8



LUIS SOLIS HAS A GOOD THROW during the track meet at St. Francis.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Graduation ceremony honors Cheylin seniors

By Karen Krien
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Eleven Cheylin Seniors will be graduating at 11 a.m. on Saturday in the Cheylin gymnasium in Bird City. In St. Francis, 30 seniors will graduate at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the high school gym.

Cheylin

Nikki Johnson and Jayden Cahoj will give the welcome at the Saturday graduation. Anita Burton will hand out the awards and scholarships.

William Porter, principal and superintendent, will present the class of 2009. Jan Busse and David Frisbie will present the diplomas to the seniors.

Amanda Walden will give the farewell.

Graduating seniors are: Debra Banister, Sydney Busse, Jayden Cahoj, Nikki Johnson, Jay Keithline, Justin Miller, Tyler Miller, Tia Sager, Amanda Walden, Rex Weishapl and Jacob White.

St. Francis

Class president Joni Pevler will give the senior talk and Jami

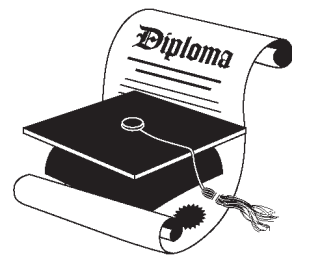
Pevler, class vice president, will bid farewell on behalf of the seniors on Sunday in St. Francis.

The class will sing "The River," and the concert band will present "Stick Figures."

Pastor Ken Hart, Peace Lutheran Church, will present the message along with the benediction and invocation.

Each year, St. Francis seniors are the recipients of many scholarships provided through local organizations and individuals as well as those provided by colleges and universities. The scholarships will be awarded by Principal Scott Carmichael and class sponsor Steve Jenkins. The presentation of diplomas will be made by Kelly Gienger, board member, with the help of Mr. Carmichael.

St. Francis graduating seniors are: Chase Barnhart, Sidnee Crabtree, Courtney Douthit, Scott Ford, Elizabeth Gienger, Megan Gilliland, Sarah Guthmiller, Trevor Hilt, Andrea Holzwarth, Casey House, Cara Hunt, Talon Jones, Taylor Kennedy, Lacey Kibel, Trent Kinen, Logan Lampe, Tyler Larson, Lance Owens, Jesse



Pacheco, Jami Pevler, Joni Pevler, Taryn Richard, Jacob Riedel, Sam Sowers, Kimberly Voeller, Shawn Warren, Matthew Whitmore, Candice Wiese, Hailey Woodcox and Ethan Zwegardt.

Honor guards are Brooklyn Hnizdil, Trent Raile, Dale Northrup, Amber Smull, Kaycee Williams and Drew Zwegardt.

Special section

In this week's issues of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* is a special section with photos of the seniors from St. Francis, Cheylin and Idalia schools. Some photos also include the senior's baby photo sponsored by his or her parents.

Take time to recognize these outstanding seniors and the businesses and individuals who sponsored them.

Construction on steps begin

By Karen Krien
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Demolition on the courthouse steps in St. Francis started April 29 and, by the next morning, most of the concrete had been removed. On May 1, the sand and dirt used for fill had been removed, leaving the courthouse basement wall exposed as well as the pillars for the new stone which will soon be laid.

Cary Stupka, Concordia, is the general contractor. Kansas Concrete of Salina has been removing the old concrete steps and landing.

At the Cheyenne County Commissioners' Thursday morning meeting, they discussed how much of the courthouse step approach to remove. The current plan called for 10 feet but it was pointed out that there is a substantial crack at 20 feet. The commissioners, along with clerk, Terry Miller, took a break and went outside where the work was going on to look at the crack.

Mr. Stupka said the remove-and-replace cost from the original bid is \$584 per square foot. No decision was made.

The final bid for replacing the steps and other related work came in at \$135,900, which was \$139,061 lower than the other bid submitted by Schamber His-



Cheyenne County Courthouse

toric Preservation, Damar.

The original cost of the project was estimated to be \$97,980, with a Heritage Trust Fund grant for \$78,384 to cover the majority of the costs. The county would pick up the remaining \$19,596.

With the higher bid, now, the county is faced with paying \$41,520.

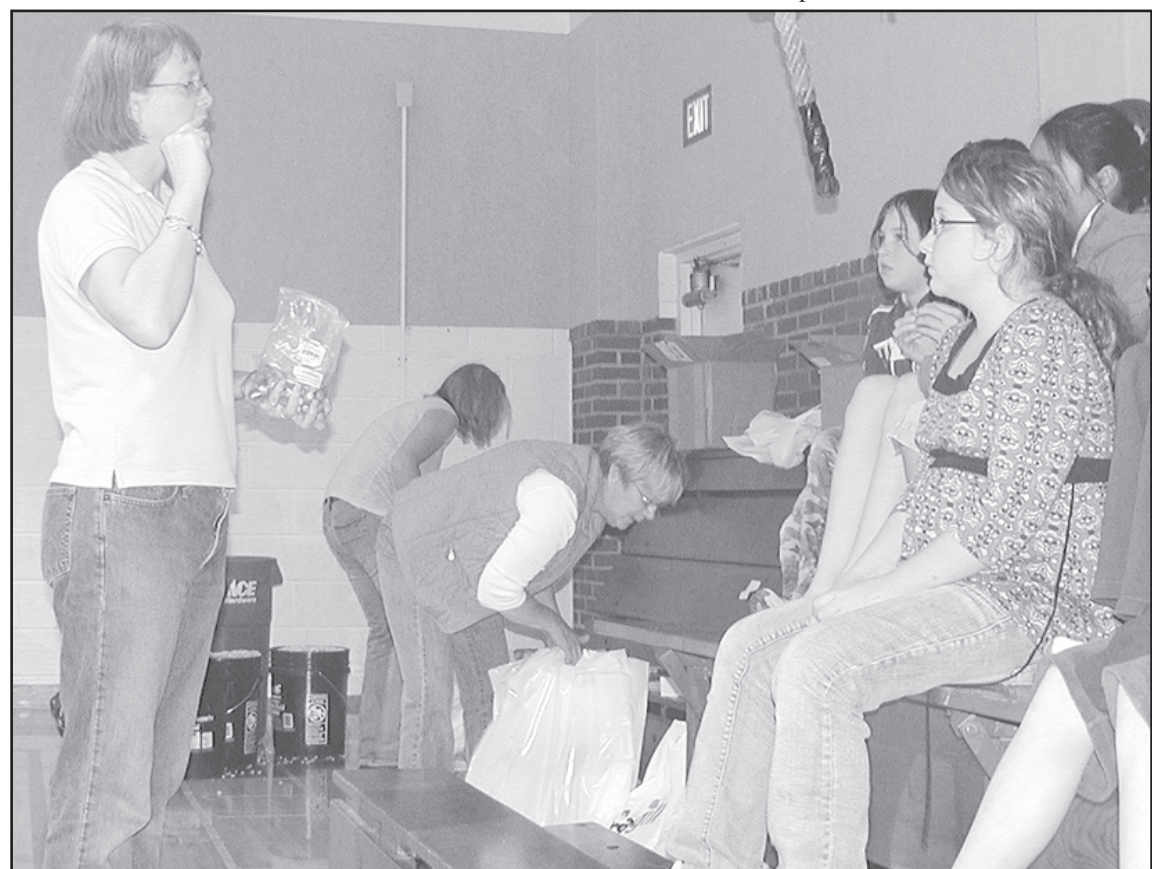
This time, said Andy Beikman, commissioner, we want it done right!

Greg Kite, Wichita, a former resident of St. Francis and president of the Wichita Historic Preservation Alliance of Wichita and Sedgwick County, had originally written for the grant. Following the progress of the commissioners and clerk, he

wrote the Kansas State Historical Society asking that the society consider giving an additional \$11,758 to help with the cost.

As you can see, said Mr. Kite in his letter to the Society, this has been a long and tedious effort by the county clerk, commissioners, as well as the architect. They have opted, not for a quick fix or to cut corners, but to have this project achieve a result that is as close as possible to the original plans.

The steps to the courthouse have been closed for over two years after the insurance company deemed them unsafe. The new steps are expected to be ready for use by July 1, if not sooner.



SHERRY NESTOR (left), GIVES CHEYLIN STUDENTS a presentation on farm and off-road vehicle safety. Following the demonstration, Ms. Nestor asks questions and gives out prizes for answers.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students learn farm safety

Recently, Cheylin Elementary students attended a farm safety presentation sponsored by Bird City and Rexford dairies, in partnership with the McCarty family.

It was a recent tragic accidental death of a toddler at the Rexford Dairy that prompted Cargill, an international food and agricultural supplier, to want to donate a memorial

fund. Instead, it was decided to present a farm safety class to students pre-school through sixth grade.

Sherry Nestor, Cargill representative, has presented the program to Selden Elementary, Golden Plains middle school and now Cheylin.

Ms. Nestor provided useful information concerning farm safety

and off-road vehicle safety, she even included safety on mowing lawns.

The students got involved by asking questions and getting some surprising answers to safety. After the presentation, Judy McCarty and her grandsons, Colton and Logan, handed out bags full of safety information.