

Board hears from state politician



By Linda Schneider
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It was an interesting November meeting for the Cheylin Board of Education. At the request of the members, John Faber, Kansas House Representative for District 120, was present to answer their questions and concerns about the state funding cuts for public schools.

School funding cuts

The board members had Rep. Faber on the hot seat asking questions about what is being done for small community schools because of state funding cuts.

Superintendent Bruce Bolen opened discussion by telling the board he had also contacted Rep. Ralph Ostmeyer to speak at the meeting, but Rep. Ostmeyer was harvesting and unable to attend.

Superintendent Bolen continued with saying that it has been said that if a school increases in student enrollment, no funding is lost. He added that is not true, the school still loses additional funding.

"I am not on any education committees anymore," said Rep. Faber. "Now I am on agriculture committees."

He added that last year was really tough, it was then the House decided on a 2.75 percent cut in education.

Rep. Faber said this past September was the first time anyone has been able to look at what the revenue was going to be down \$65 million in tax cuts. He added that a month has been spent just trying to get a handle on last year's budget before starting the new one.

After Rep. Faber discussed the bleak outlook for any assistance from the state in the upcoming year, he said the governor has been asked in a report by the Commission on Education not to make any further cuts in education funding and asked the legislature to put back \$270 million. In addition, raise the education mill levy from 20 mills to whatever it will take.

"I could talk all night, but I am not sure we will get to the heart of the matter," said Rep. Faber.

David Frisbie, board member, asked him what he thought about putting the responsibility back to the communities.

"Could our Local Option Budget be raised?" asked Mr. Frisbie.

Rep. Faber answered by saying he had attended a meeting in Oakley and asked the schools to put together a plan. He said raising the Local Option Budget would be good for counties like Johnson were increasing one mill could mean millions, but for small communities it would be just thousands.

Jan Busse, board member, told him the small community schools are frustrated and don't know what to do, \$250 cuts per student could close a school overnight.

"It is a tough year for schools," said Rep. Faber.

Superintendent Bolen added that what is tough is the state is taking back money that has already been budgeted, it would be easier if it was announced no more funding was available.

Rep. Faber ended the discussion

by saying that he would check into raising the mill levy and bring back the report. No further discussion.

School insurance

Darvin Strutt, EMC Insurance representative, presented to the board the renewal school insurance policy.

He told the board the premium is up \$30 from last year, the increase reflects the 8-percent increase of materials costs since the previous policy.

Mr. Strutt went over the various liability coverage the school will have. In addition to the standard insurance coverage, the policy will include the new corporal punishment liability for teachers.

The board discussed at length with Mr. Strutt the coverage parents will have for driving students to school sponsored events. Mr. Strutt added that the school also has insurance to cover borrowed vehicles from other schools, with proper notification. Concerns over accidents and liability were expressed. He said the insurance from non-faculty drivers will have to come into play.

"Our main objective is to protect the school's interest," said Mr. Strutt.

The board instructed Mr. Strutt to get some figures on lowering the deductible and bring them back for discussion. No further action.

Policies

The board approved a new nepotism policy that would address non-elected faculty family members by the board of education.

The policy uses caution by allowing the related board member to not to vote, not to exert pressure on other board members, and to be absent during discussion.

The board also approved long-term substitute policy.

Commendations

The board recognized and commended cross-country state qualifiers, Naomi Reeh, second place; Stephanie Busse, 14th place, and Vance Churchwell, 51st place.

Gifts

The board accepted a gift of \$500 from the Cheylin Booster Club to use toward the purchase of a video camera.

They also accepted, a \$300 gift from Dale and Stacey Hazuka to use toward paying game officials.

Miscellaneous items

Other discussion included:

- Appointing Anita Pochop, board member, to Site Council Committee.

- Approving the audit contract with Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball for Cheylin for fiscal years 2010 through 2012

- Approving training rules for junior high boys' and girls' basketball for 2009-2010 school year.

- Approving training rules for high school boys' and girls' basketball for 2009-2010 school year.

- Superintendent Bolen will emcee the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 14.



FOR WEEKS FARMERS in the northwest corner of Kansas anxiously waited for the fields to be dry enough to drive on to get the crops out. Last week the fields dried out for many, and Laverne Young was one farmer who began harvesting. Helping to get the crops in the bin is Dick Bursch driving the tractor.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Romance during wartime theme for dinner show

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The Cheylin High School music department held the annual dinner theater last Saturday. This year's musical presentation was "South Pacific."

The guests were served by the cast to a meal that began with a mandarin orange salad, followed by roast beef and gravy, parmesan potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and ice cream dessert, and abundant coffee and tea.

The play took place in the South Pacific during World War II and, as the first scene began, the audience was on the terrace of Emile's plantation. For the next two and one-half hours, the gymnasium was a tropical island filled with laughter and some tears as Emile (Hudson Lauderbaugh) and Nellie (Naomi Reeh) shared their experience of romance during the difficulties of wartime. Along with Emile's children, Ngana (Alex Hazuka) and Jerome (Jorge Chacon).

Rose Hengen, Cheylin music teacher, directed the Rogers and Hammerstein's 1949 production,

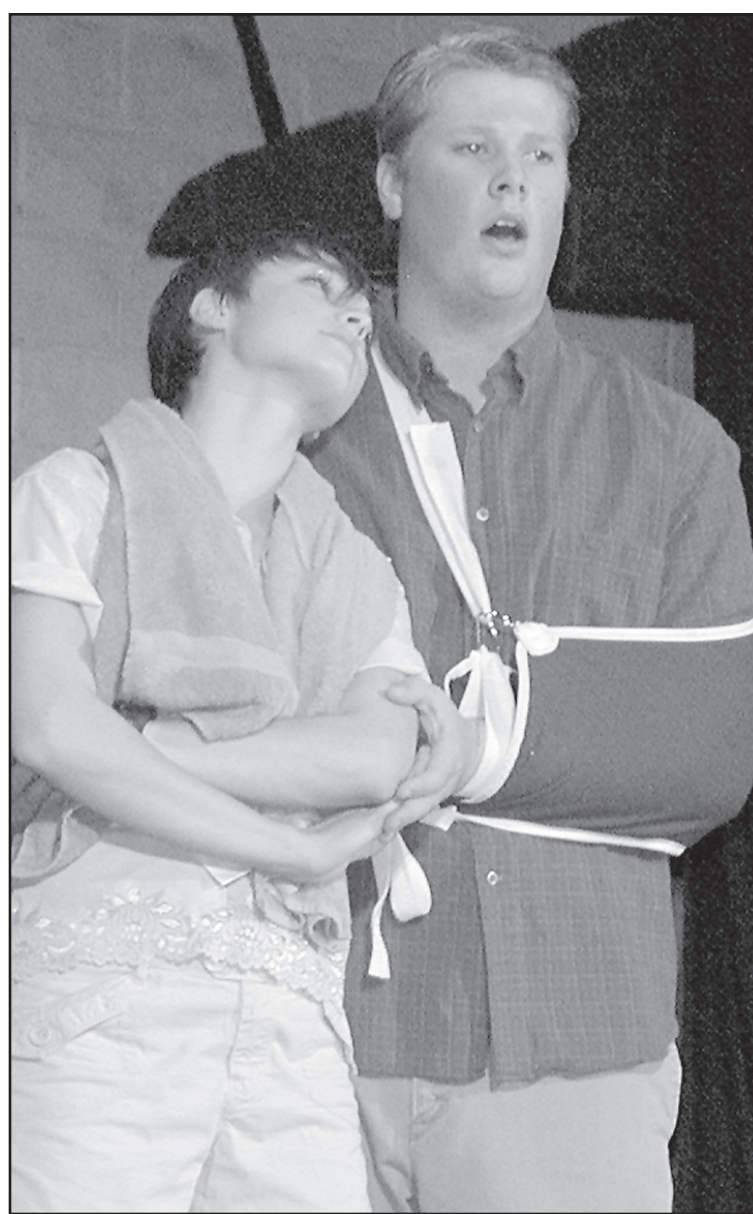
with the assistance of her husband, Dennis Hengen and piano accompaniment, Janice Churchwell.

With characters like Billis (Max Hengen), Bloody Mary (Teryn Carmichael) and General Brackett (Caleb Keltz), the show was lively and entertaining.

Adding to the fun were sailors O'Brien (Craig Busse), Stewpot (Jared Cahoj), Professor (Adrian Garcia), Harbison (Lance Leonard), Quale (Wil Orten), and the ill-fated love of Lieutenant Cable (Heath Antholz) and Liat (Iliana Reynoso).

The show had nurses, Ana Ponce, Samantha Lampe, Kayla Stately, Cassie Rucker, Jessie Smith, Whitney Churchwell, Stephanie Busse, and Nakita Schneider. In addition, a boatload of crazy naval men, Danny Frisbie, Austin Cobb, Adam Orten, Grant Shrader, Clint Burns, Steven Pham, Josh Keltz, Kenan Reeh, and Sean Smith.

Helping with the stage props were Mary Anne Orten and Connor Hazuka. The South Pacific island backdrop was painted by Mike Boyson.



AFTER TRYING TO WASH that man right out of her hair, Nellie (Naomi Reeh) is right back in Emile's (Hudson Lauderbaugh) arms.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Organization discusses important issues with city council

By Linda Schneider
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During the Bird City City Council meeting, Chuck Kribs, Cheyenne County Development Corporation representative, discussed many important community issues and reported on the Center's activities over the past year.

Mr. Kribs expressed what he knew everyone was well aware of, Kansas is in trouble financially; school funding cuts, sales taxes revenue, etc. He added that the state must keep revenue streams and taxes dollars in Kansas, within our own county.

A concern Mr. Kribs said was not sending tax supported awards to out-of-state contractors. In ad-

dition, locals should buy materials within the state and certain percentage within the project's jurisdiction. He added that he is not talking about Public Works projects.

"According to people in Commerce, four bills to keep money in state have been defeated in the legislation due to heavy lobbying by out-of-state contractors," said Mr. Kribs.

He continued by saying that he is now in the process of assisting with introducing another bill to the legislator to keep Kansas tax dollars in Kansas. However, he expressed he was not optimistic about the bill passing due to the lobbyist.

Mr. Kribs reported that since Cheyenne County Development Corporation reported last year, they have been working to rebuild public confidence through improved communications such as attending Commissioners and City Council meetings, and newspaper articles and columns, and updated the Cheyenne County Development Corporation (CCDC) website with highlights about jobs and business opportunities. The office in St. Francis is now opened four days a week.

He reported that a grant for wind generators had been rejected. It had been determined the area was not a good candidate because wind generators need a constant

wind and not just the gusts that are normal for the area.

Mr. Kribs told the members the CCDC had taken a survey of local businesses and found that one of the biggest problems within the county was the people. The surveyed businesses said it was the availability, motivation, and skill level in the hiring pool. However, the businesses said once the hiring was done, the motivation and skill level improved, but 50 percent added it was finding the help that was the main problem.

He continued with reporting from the survey that businesses in the county were satisfied with the community, city and county or-

ganizations. Of the local businesses, six people said they would be selling or closing their businesses within the next 5 years. Mr. Kribs added that they will be working with those businesses to figure out how to keep them open. For more information about the survey conducted, contact the Cheyenne County Development Corporation in St. Francis.

One item Mr. Kribs mentioned among the many business opportunities is the jail and detention facilities.

"Lincoln County, Neb. shown a margin over cost of nearly \$2 million in the first eight months of this year," said Mr. Kribs. "Prisons and jails are big money

businesses."

After talking to the Immigration Naturalization Service, incarceration would be short term and create 20 jobs. In contrast to long-term inmates, where families would be moving in the area and drain the social services, illegal immigrants would be incarcerated only 30 to 61 days before deportation.

"We are going to be looking into private investors," said Mr. Kribs.

Mayor Burr commented that the CCDC certainly has done more than anyone realized and presented a lot of good ideas.

Mr. Kribs said for next year, the CCDC will spend more time in front of City Councils..