

## Cheylin gets learning tool

By Linda Schneider  
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At the November Cheylin Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Bruce Bolen invited members to see a demonstration of a new teaching tool that makes learning fun for students.

Once in the Cheylin science room, Amy Hendricks, science teacher, gave a brief presentation on the Mimio - interactive teaching technology.

The Mimio is the newest computer technology that allows everything from a computer to be accessible to a whiteboard, or just about any flat surface by way of a small bar-like attachment.

Teachers can program lesson plans right into the computer for later, even the teacher's voice. Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, etc., any program on a computer can become an interactive lesson. In addition, there are numerous websites that classroom lessons are already designed and can be downloaded. This makes Mimio ideal for substitute teachers to use.

Mrs. Hendricks said the Mimio replaces the more expensive "Smart Board" much smaller, desk-type model.

"It began with a technology grant in the elementary school about 5 or 6 years ago," said Mrs. Hendricks. "There is a Smart Board in Tammi Carmichael's fourth grade class that was purchased with that grant."

She continued saying the challenge for teachers today is coming up with ways to make classroom learning fun, challenging and entertaining. With the Mimio, students want to participate. Not only are the teachers excited about the Mimio, so are the students. Caleb Keltz, senior, says he

likes the less talk and more action about the Mimio.

"The animation helps in memory recall," said Danny Frisbie. "And we don't have to clean the whiteboard when the lesson is done."

With more and better interactive graphics, students Chris Walden, senior, and Jared Cahoj, junior, say they are more likely to participate in classroom learning.

Some advantages are not just educational, Mitchel Jensen likes the fact he doesn't get dry eraser on his shirt sleeves.

Superintendent Bolen initiated the purchase of the Mimio based on a visit to a science conference he attended several years ago. He said the Mimio was nearly a third of the cost of the Smart Board, at only \$680 compared to \$1,600 to \$1,800. He mentioned it is affordable and portable, and needing only a computer and a projector, which is in nearly every classroom now.

When asked about school funding and budgeting, he said the funds for the Mimio come out of the Capital Outlay Budget that is used for building maintenance, transportation, and computer technology.

Superintendent Bolen's hopeful goals are to eventually get several Mimios for Cheylin, and get lessons online and accessible to students who want to get more out of classroom learning at home.

Mrs. Hendricks said, "Even in the current financial situation, it is great to have a supportive school board and administration that are willing to keep classrooms updated with the ever changing computer technology."

Superintendent Bolen has invited anyone interested in a demonstration of the Mimio to contact him at Cheylin High School and he will schedule a presentation.



WHITNEY CHURCHWELL demonstrates the Mimio interactive learning tool on the whiteboard in the science room. Amy Hendricks, science teacher, watches as Whitney chooses the answer and if correct, the answer will highlight. The Mimio bar is located on the upper left hand side of the whiteboard. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## City clerk receives certificate for municipal clerk training

DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk of Bird City, completed the first year of the Municipal Clerks Certification Institute, attending classes from Nov. 9 to 13 in Wichita.

The certification institute provides 120 clock hours of instruction and is accredited by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Mrs. Ambrosier received theoretical and practical instruction in public administration, leadership, interpersonal and technical skills. The program aids municipal clerks and finance officers in

improving job performance and recognizes the professionalism of their office.

Upon graduation, she may apply the institute training hours toward qualifying to become a Certified Municipal Clerk with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

The four-year certification program is sponsored by the Center for Urban Studies, Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Wichita State University and the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas.



Ambrosier

## Time to ring in the season

A revered holiday tradition will soon return to street corners and store fronts in Cheyenne County!

The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign kicked off Saturday and continues through Dec. 24. The Red Kettle campaign goal this year is \$2,800.

"Salvation Army bell ringers are a cherished symbol of Christmas," said Stephen Burpee, service extension field representative for The Salvation Army. "They represent the caring and giving spirit of

the holiday season."

Of the money collected during Cheyenne County's Red Kettle Campaign, 88 percent will support local Salvation Army programs throughout the coming year, including rent, utility and food assistance, emergency disaster assistance and youth and senior programs.

"We continue to see higher numbers of people turning to us for help than ever before for basic needs like food and shelter,"

said Burpee. "Any amount that people can give to the kettles this holiday season will help us provide assistance to those in our own community who are struggling, day in and day out, to make ends meet."

Anyone wishing to donate by credit card may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Checks may be mailed to The Salvation Army, The Courthouse, Attn. Dolores Jenik, 212 E. Washington, St. Francis, KS. 67756.



MAX HENGEN HOLDS ONE of auction items for bidding. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Property tax statements not correct

By Karen Krien  
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Cheyenne County residents recently received their green envelope which included their personal property tax statements.

Dolores Jenik, treasurer, reported Monday that the statements are not correct.

There was an error, she said,

and new tax statements will be sent out as soon as possible.

In the meantime, residents are asked to disregard the statements they just received. If payment has already been made in person or by mail, the resident will be compensated if they have paid too much or, if they still owe, will receive another bill letting them know they still owe more money.

By law, tax statements do not have to be sent before Dec. 15 however, Mrs. Jenik said she likes to have them sent out earlier for the convenience of the customers.

The deadline for paying personal property taxes will still be Monday, Dec. 21. (Ordinarily the taxes are due on the 20th but since it is a Sunday, the deadline is a day later.)

## Bird City has kick off auction

Last Saturday, area residents piled into the Bird City American Legion Hall to kick off the Bird City 125-year celebration while sitting down to a generous turkey dinner with all the trimmings served by Cheylin students and faculty, and an auction.

Items on the auction block were donated by residents with the proceeds going towards funding upcoming events, programs, and

special memorabilia for the celebration that will be held in June.

Donated items ranged from homemade baked goods such as angel food cakes, pickles, and jellies, to weekend get aways in Keystone, Colo., to handmade quilts and pillows.

The auctioneer for the evening was Royce Rambat and assisting with the auction were Stan Dorsch, Vance Churchwell, and

Max Hengen.

There was something for just about everyone who attended, even Mr. Rambat who bought a package of scissors. He quipped that he had recently spent half an hour looking for a pair.

The evening ended with the last bid on the air-hockey game and it got heated, but the winner was Andrew Schields, Cheylin first grader.