

## Board discusses school cutbacks

By Linda Schneider  
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Much of the Cheylin Board of Education meeting was spent going over ways of making cuts in order to keep the school doors open. Superintendent Bruce Bolen had some suggestions for financial cutbacks.

The discussions about the much needed cutbacks were about some common sense ideas, such as turning off computer monitors at the end of the day, turning off lights when room is not occupied, and even cutting back on printer supplies.

Many ideas were tossed around, and some of the discussed cutbacks will not affect the 2009-2010 school year. One possible cut could be changing the company that compiles the school yearbook.

As possible cuts were mentioned, it was noted that even as the small things can add up, it is the big cuts that will make a difference. There was even discussion on staff cutbacks.

At this time, James Milliken, city attorney, suggested that the school think about not having him sit in on the meeting and not

having to pay the approximately \$2,400 annually.

He added that he would make himself available for any counsel on an issue by a phone call. The board approved 4 to 2 to have Mr. Milliken on standby.

Dave Frisbie, board member, did not want to release Mr. Milliken stating that he felt it was important to have him sit in for reasons that were numerous.

There was some good news, Superintendent Bolen told the board that because 11 teachers are taking the English Language Learner course and the migrant grant,

Cheylin is only \$21,000 short on the funding, not \$70,000 as was expected.

"Next year is a real concern," said Superintendent Bolen. "And cuts are going to be necessary."

Contracts for 2009-2010 school year will stay in effect, but there may be some changes that may affect the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and their services provided. Such as the Teacher In Service program, may cut a day or two.

Mr. Frisbie suggested that a Town Meeting be called to let

the community know that state funding cutbacks are real and they are going to have to step up to keep Cheylin open.

"I believe our communities will do it, if they understand the situation," said Mr. Frisbie.

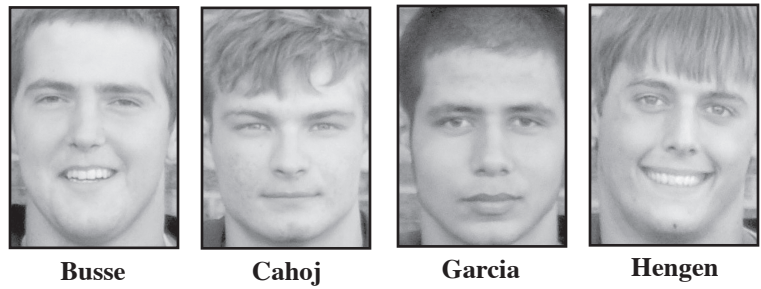
While the seriousness of the discussion continued, the members talked about the cuts they will do to help, such as bringing blankets to meeting to keep heating costs down. Every small cut adds up they agreed.

Another idea was approaching local businesses with funding field trips, asking parents to

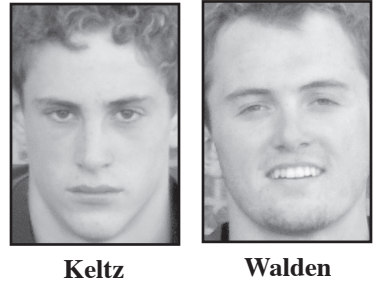
help with costs, and asking the FFA program to fund their own field trips.

In addition, Mr. Frisbie thought of asking more teachers to participate in the English Language Learner for the extra funding the school will receive. However, classes have already started and new participants would have to finish at another location.

Superintendent Bolen said that he was going to present the same list to the teachers and staff to get their ideas. No further discussion.



Busse Cahoj Garcia Hengen



Keltz Walden

## Students receive commendations

By Linda Schneider  
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It was the last Cheylin Board of Education meeting for 2009, and the majority of the evening was spent discussing financial school cutbacks (see related article). But, before they began the discussions, the board commended Cheylin athletes, approved donations, adopted a cell phone policy, and approved the purchase of property and liability insurance.

### Commendations

At the November meeting, Superintendent Bruce Bolen told the board he would like to begin to formally commend Cheylin athletes that qualify for state sport events.

He suggested inviting them to attend a meeting to receive a certificate and have it recorded in the meeting minutes.

Naomi Reeh, placed second, Vance Churchwell, placed 51st, were present as the board formally commended them for placing in the state cross country meet and presented with a certificate. Not present was Stephanie Busse, placing 14th, who also qualified.

The board also commended eight students to the Western Kansas Liberty League, All-League. Eleven schools participated and the nominations and selections are voted by the coaches.

Naomi Reeh (all-league) and Stephanie Busse (honorable mention) for selection to the all-league volleyball team.

Craig Busse (second team-guard), Chris Walden (second

team-tight end/receiver), Caleb Keltz (honorable mention-quarterback), Max Hengen (second team-defensive line). Jared Cahoj (second team-defensive back), and Adrian Garcia (honorable mention-defensive line) to the all-league football team.

### Cell phones

The board approved the amended cell phone policy to the 2009-2010 Cheylin handbook.

Superintendent Bolen reported that he had met with the Cheylin student body government and received good feedback from the students about the amendments. He said that he was proud of how they reacted to the new policy changes, even adding that Hudson Louderbaugh said that students should be able to live without their cell phone during school hours.

He continued by telling the board that a letter had been sent out to parents containing the changes.

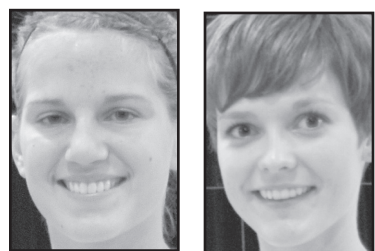
Changes in the policy would include not allowing students to carry cellular phones on their person during school hours and must be placed in hall lockers when entering the building.

Consequences have three levels beginning with confiscation of cell phone for seven days and serve seven hours detention, and receive a discipline referral.

For a third offense, the student will receive a five-day, in-school-suspension and the cell phone will be kept for the remainder of the semester.

### Insurance

The purchase for property, lia-



Busse Reeh

bility and vehicle insurance from EMC Insurance Company was approved at the cost of \$31,412 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Later in the meeting the board discussed and approved changing the deductible for electronic data processing equipment from \$1,000 to \$250. This would increase the annual premium \$43. The board agreed it would primarily concern computer equipment, and replacements would typically be under the \$1,000 deductible.

### Donations

Accepting a donation from Wheeler Cooperative Mercantile Equity of \$1,000 for the athletic department was approved.

A donation of \$400 to use toward school field trips from Dale and Stacy Hazuka was also approved to accept. Members express their thanks for both donations.

### Miscellaneous items

The board discussed the following topics:

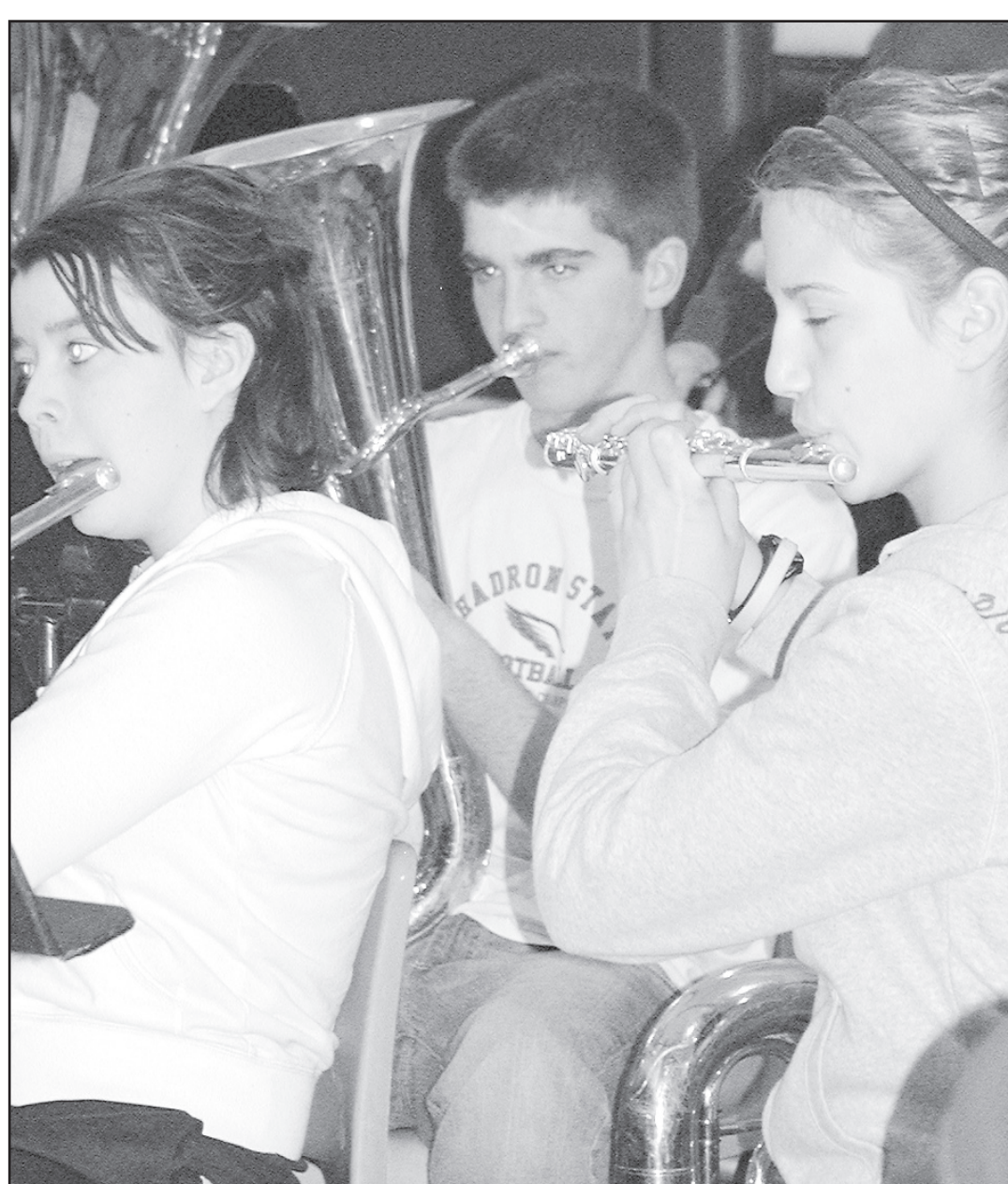
- Goal setting meeting scheduled for Feb. 2.
- The November Board of Education luncheon with staff.
- Making the school building doors more secure.
- Adult supervision for students when on school property

### Executive session

Executive session was called for non-elective personnel. Upon reconvening, no action was taken.

### Next meeting

Next meeting will be at 11 a.m., Jan. 11. Board members will eat lunch in the cafeteria prior to meeting.



CASSIE RUCKER (l), LANCE LEONARD and Stephanie Busse are practicing for the Cheylin Winter Concert that will be presented on Monday. The elementary classes will also be performing 'The Littlest Christmas Tree.' Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Crowd braves cold weather to hear winner of drawing

By Karen Krien  
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It was freezing cold outside Monday but that didn't keep a gym full of people from coming with the strings, bags and cards of tickets to see if they might be the lucky winner of \$1,000 in scrip. The winner was Danielle McAtee, St. Francis.

The Christmas On Us drawing, along with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce drawing, was held at the St. Francis grade school with Santa making a visit to help draw tickets and names and to hand out prizes. The ABC Preschool parents and teachers were serving steaming cups of chili and many of those attending enjoyed their chili while they waited for the drawing to begin.

The Chamber drawings were held first. The coloring contest winners were announced along with the two Christmas lighting contest. (See related articles.)

Throughout the Christmas On Us promotion, there have been instant winners. There was one instant winner that had not been claimed along with two gift prizes. Those three prizes were given away with Aimee Northrup winning \$50 in scrip; Matt

Smull, a gift at Schultz's and Cindy Neitzel, a gift at Owens True Value.

Margaret Hilt had the winning ticket to claim the second place prize of \$100 scrip.

Mrs. McAtee had received her winning ticket from Owens True Value; Mrs. Hilt's ticket came from Majestic Service; Mrs. Northrup's, from Park Hill Restaurant and Lounge; Mr. Smull's, from Hilltop General Store; and Ms. Neitzel's, Bier's Hometown Store.

### This week's winners

Throughout the season, the Christmas On Us promotion had eight \$50 Instant Winner prizes which were claimed by readers matching their ticket numbers with those printed in ads in both *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. Seven of the prizes had been claimed with Aimee Northrup claiming hers Monday at the drawing.

Those having the matching Instant Winner numbers the past week were Carla Schiltz and Amy Busse. Their tickets came from St. Francis Tire and Service and Parkhill Restaurant and Lounge.

Besides the two gift winners at the drawing (listed above), win-

ning the six business Christmas gifts by matching their numbers in the newspaper were Kim Boyer who received a snuggie and a toy from St. Francis Tire and Service; Darlene Feikert, who received gloves from Bumper To Bumper; Vance White, who was the recipient of a turkey from St. Francis Super's; Becky Roberson, who took home a \$25 gift certificate from Bier's Hometown Store; Victor Zwegardt won a first aid kit from Republican Valley Auto Supply and Bing Stinnette, who won a year's subscription to *The Herald* from The Saint Francis Herald. Their tickets came from: Parkhill, Bier's, Hilltop, Majestic, St. Francis Tire and The Herald.

### Tablecloth drawing

The drawing for the table cloth embroidered by Phyllis Roelfs was held and the winner was Tina Kehl. She said that she has relatives in England, several who have suffered with cancer. Since the money raised for the tablecloth went to the Relay For Life cancer walk, she thought it would be fitting that the tablecloth be sent to England and used for another cancer fundraiser.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS! It was quite a snow fall on Dec. 8 in Bird City. Businesses closed early and residents snuggled in for the day. It was also a snow day for Cheylin students and many of the kids were out in the snow playing and having a good time, even in sub-zero temperatures. Joslyn Ketzner (l), Ivan Kemp, Jayden Ketzner, and Joseph Augusta get a spin around town from Noel Ketzner.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Santa Claus is coming To Bird City On Saturday

