

New school website to be launched

By Norma Martinez

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Cheylin's Board of Education met on Dec. 13. The main topic of discussion was the presentation by Susan Jensen on the new website.

The site will be designed to give daily announcements, school information, teacher lesson plans on line, high school academics, a complete photo roster including names, grade five journal, school information, and the school calendar shows up on every page. Additional information will be scholarship applications, guidance counseling, and student services.

The website, Mrs. Jensen said, is presently under construction with a goal for completion after the first of the year.

Board-staff luncheon

David Frisbe gave a report on the board of education/staff luncheon he attended in October. They talked about computers; laptop vs console and possible needs of replacement. Dale Huzuka was appointed to attend the December meeting.

Property insurance

The contract to purchase EMC property, liability and vehicle insurance costing \$32,415 for the 2010-2011 school year was discussed. However, it was found to check into the coverage necessary to keep on the old McDonald gym as it is rarely used.

Kansas to celebrate its 150th birthday

Join in the celebration of Kansas 150th birthday on Jan. 29, 2011 at the Legion hall in Bird City. In the meantime, Janet Carman, co-curator at the Cheyenne County Museum, invites everyone to take a few minutes to dust off that history book and review some of the early day stories of Kansas.

For millennia, the land that is currently Kansas was inhabited by native Americans. The first European to set foot in present-day Kansas was Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, who explored the area in 1541.

In 1803, most of modern Kansas was secured by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Southwest Kansas, however, was still a part of Spain, Mexico and the Republic of Texas until the conclusion of the Mexican-American War in 1848. From 1812 to 1821, Kansas was part of the Missouri Territory. The Santa Fe Trail traversed Kansas from 1821 to 1880, transporting manufactured goods from Missouri and silver and furs from Santa Fe, N.M. Wagon ruts from the trail are still visible in the prairie today.

In 1827, Fort Leavenworth became the first permanent settlement of white Americans in the future state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act became law on May 30, 1854, establishing the territories of Nebraska and Kansas, and opening the area to broader settlement by whites. Kansas Territory stretched all the way to the Continental Divide and included the sites of present-day Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo.

Missouri and Arkansas settlers were sent into Kansas all along its eastern border. These settlers attempted to sway votes in favor of slavery. The secondary settlement of Americans in Kansas Territory were abolitionists from Massachusetts and other free-staters, who attempted to stop the spread of slavery from neighboring Missouri. Directly presaging the

Junior high girls' basketball coach

The board approved the supplemental contract for Sylvia Hubbard to be hired as the assistant junior high girls basketball coach for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

Transportation repairs

Randy Miller, transportation director, discussed the repairs billed for the Moby bus that had been billed the transportation department. Since the mechanics were unable to get it running the board did not think they should have to pay the full fee. The board decided to send a letter explaining their reason for not paying the bill in full.

Summer maintenance

It was noted that arrangements for the summer maintenance of the gym floors need to be made now. Plans are to remove the lines they no longer need and take it down to the bare wood at a cost of about \$4,000.

In other business

- Terms for board members, David Frisbie, Dale Hazuka, and Lori Janicke will expire in June of 2011 and the new members need to file by Jan. 25.

- Hal Antholz, George Louderbaugh and David Frisbie were appointed to represent the board on the negotiation team for 2011.

Next meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. following lunch in the cafeteria.



SNOW STORMS moved through Cheyenne County on Thursday leaving the ground covered with snow.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Storm hit earlier than predicted

What a surprise to get up Friday morning and find the first snow storm had hit earlier than predicted. The weather reports were it would miss Bird City and St Francis. Checking out the situation showed St. Francis got it

worse than Bird City. Casey and Lezlie McCormick came home from Denver where they received at least 4 inches of snow to find the wind had left their driveway full of big drifts.

Bird City might have received

more than it looked as the wind blew it around. It was cold enough the chickens did not want to leave their warm hen house, and the snow still has not melted. Now that it is warming up the moisture would be great, but it did not stay

in the fields where it was needed. It just accumulated along the roads where it became ugly brown colored from the dirt.

My wishes for you all is May You Have A Happy New Year!

Legislator meets with constituents

Ward Cassidy, representative-elect of the 120 District, was at the Bird City Library on Dec. 30, to meet with constituents from Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Phillips and Norton counties.

He will be heading to Topeka shortly and sworn in on Jan. 10. He expressed several concerns including the fact that less than 50 percent of the registered voters in Northwest Kansas vote and, of that 50 percent, around 15 percent don't pay attention to issues or what the legislature is doing. He will be writing columns for the newspapers in the 120 District, hoping to raise awareness as to what is happening in Topeka.

Mr. Cassidy has been appointed to three committees: the Education Policy, Education Budget and Correction and Facilities. He said he was disappointed not to be on the Agriculture Committee as he felt that decisions made in this committee are important to the farmers. Water will be a big issue. He said that, even though he is not on this committee, he planned to sit in on as many of the meetings as possible.

He talked about the state's \$500 million debt when the stimulus money goes away. We, in this part of the state, have cut back on budgets but we have not suffered, he said. He has visited with practically every legislator in Topeka as well as governor-elect, Sam Brownback. Mr. Brownback, he said, has some plans for stimulating the growth in Western Kansas. This is

encouraging, Mr. Cassidy said.

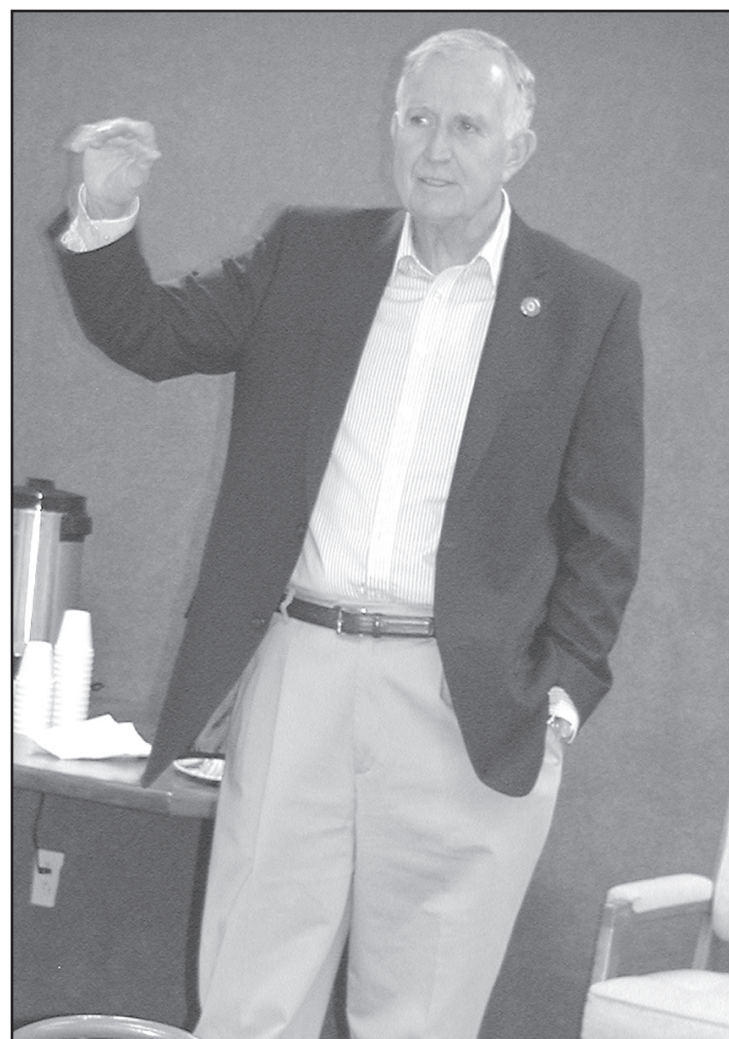
He is also working closely with five other representatives from Western Kansas. "We are on the same page, wanting the best for our districts."

As an educator as well as a representative for the area, he is concerned about the schools and feels that he will be effective. He talked about one of the legislators that thought there should be only one school per county. Three of the five counties Mr. Cassidy represents have two schools. What these people don't realize, he said, is that there are kids in St. Francis and Bird City who ride the bus 45 minutes one way.

There is also talk of shifting the school funding from the state to local. However, the state constitution reads every child is entitled to a fair and equitable education and the state provides the funding. Right now, 66.7 percent of the state's budget goes to education. If and when cuts are made, some will most likely come out of the biggest part of the budget.

Mr. Cassidy said he will be in contact with Dale Dennis with the Kansas Department of Education. Mr. Dennis, he said, is the guru of school finance and Mr. Cassidy feels that he can be a wealth of information.

He noted that he has already learned a lot about being a representative and realizes there is a lot more to be learned. However, he is happy to be representing Northwest Kansas



WARD CASSIDY, Representative-elect, talks with locals before heading to Topeka.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

and the residents who live there.

He was asked about answering e-mails and letters. He said he will do his best. He said his day starts early in the morning and generally runs until 9 in the evening with committee meetings filling up much of his time.

There was also discussion on illegal immigration. The conversation ended with "illegal is illegal and the laws should be enforced."

Among the people attending the meeting were Leslie Bell, director of the Northwest Kansas Libraries, George Seaman, assistant library director, Norton, Carol Redding representative of Kansas Silver Haired Legislature, Chuck Kribs, Economic Development director, Edwin Raile, Dave and Marcia Hickert, and Darla Dible, Bird City librarian, along with Gloria Cassidy and Tate Busse.

Eighth annual winter conference planned

Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance are hosting the Cover Your Acres Winter Conference for crop producers and consultants on Jan. 18 and 19 in Oberlin.

The conference will focus on the latest technology, methods and conservation practices to improve crop production on the High Plains. It annually brings in over 500 attendees from the surrounding area.

This year it will feature university specialists and industry

representatives discussing issues such as no-till, effect of stripper on stubble height, spray application technology, the K-State wheat breeding program and double-cropping wheat behind corn or soybeans. The same programs will be offered both days of the conference.

Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m., with educational sessions ending at 5:40 p.m. followed by a "bull session" where attendees can visit with industry and university specialists.

The conference will be held at the Gateway in Oberlin. Early registration must be postmarked by Jan. 11 and include a check. The conference fee includes refreshments and meals. For more information, contact the extension office at 785-332-3171.

Mail registration, with a check payable to KSU, to the Northwest Area Office, ATTN: Brian Olson, P.O. Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701. To view the conference flier, please visit the K-State Research and Extension Northwest Area office

website at /www.northwest.ksu.edu" at "blank" www.northwest.ksu.edu.

Major sponsors of the conference include Lang Diesel, Hoxie Implement, Pioneer, Brothers Equipment, Crop Production Services, National Sunflower Association, Cargill AgHorizons and McCook National Bank.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office or cfeard@ksu.edu with questions or comments.

Till next week - Marty