

Cougar Tales

From everyone at Cheylin Schools, we hope you had a great holiday season and were able to spend some quality time with family, friends, and food! This is a great time of year to count our many blessings and tell those who mean the most to us how important they are!

One of the many reasons my wife Emily and I moved to Cheylin Schools was because of the quality of the music program. The students involved in our vocal and band program continue to provide our community with excellent entertainment through the fall school musical and the Christmas Concert. This entertainment comes from the many hours of hard work from our students pre-kindergarten to 12th grade under the direction of Rose Hengen. I am very proud of the quality of music that comes from our students and only wish that we could hear more! Thank you to everyone involved with the fall play, including all the behind-the-scenes folks, as well as the students and Mrs. Hengen. The Christmas concert was great, my only wish is that we could have even more junior high and high school selections to enjoy!

We are beginning our busy season of Scholars' Bowl for our junior high and high school. Both seasons end the first part of February so we will be busy the next few weeks. Mr. Schields is in charge of the junior high students with help from Jane Brubaker and Kevin Dixon is in charge of the high school team. We did get good news last week that Regional Scholars' Bowl for our high school team will be held in Brewster this year. That is great for our travel expenses and time away from school. Our hope for this year is that the high school team will make it to state competition!

As mentioned in the paper last week, another change that you will see this week is the Cheylin Schools website. Under the work of Susan Jensen and her yearbook students, our new site should be live by the time you read this. The web address will remain the same, www.cheylin.com, but you will be directed to a new site that is hosted by SOCS. Our hope is that the new site will be easier to use, and more active than the last one.

I would like to ask your patience as we are under construction and may have some things to work out as we get it up and running. If you have suggestions, problems, or concerns, please call me at 734-2341. We welcome your input!

Budget projections from Dale Dennis are not very positive for next year. It is getting increasingly difficult for our schools to retain programs and keep the needed staff to ensure the success of our students. Our best supporter in the Kansas Legislature is Ward Cassidy. I am excited to have him represent our schools and communities, but know it will be a struggle with our current financial situation. I know he will do everything possible to keep our schools, health care, and communities as viable as possible.

Three of our board of education members are up for reelection in April. The filing date is Jan. 25 and there is a \$5 charge if you are interested in filing. Dale Hazuka, Lori Janicke, and David Frisbie have done an excellent job guiding our district through this difficult year. I want to thank each of them and our other members for their tireless dedication to making Cheylin Schools the excellent school system it is today. As you know there is no pay for this position, it is all volunteer work done for the good of the students and community. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact me at the school office, 734-2341, or stop by and I will be glad to share any information on budget, curriculum, or the general operation of the school that I have available. It will be another challenging budget year next year with more difficult program and staffing decisions that will need to be made. Prayers would be appreciated for our school and our state during this time.

Please let us know what we can do to make Cheylin Schools the best possible. This is a team effort with students, staff, parents, and community. It is a great place to work.

Until next time,
Bruce Bolen
 Superintendent/Principal
 Cheylin Schools

New hospital board members set

By Karen Krien

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Six people applied to serve on the Cheyenne County Hospital Board. On Monday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners made their selection.

Two seats previously filled by Traci Neitzel and Joy Anderegg, were filled by Mike Bandel and Erika Zimbelman. Other candidates were Ryan Murray, Randy Wieck, Jerry White and Jared Douthit.

Commissioners, Dale Patton and Ernie Ketzner, made the selection. Andy Beikman was out of town.

"It was a difficult decision," said Mr. Patton. "All were good applicants."

"We appreciate the interest," Mr. Ketzner added.

Candidates were asked three questions: 1) What interests you about the hospital board? 2) What talents can you bring to the board? and 3) What are your expectations of being on the board.

Erika Zimbelman

Erika Zimbelman formerly worked at the Cheyenne County Clinic and says she is still very interested in health care. We need to keep the hospital strong, she said. She still serves as an emergency medical technician.

In answering the second question, she said that, by having a history with the hospital, she will be some strength. She also has a good understanding of the financials of a critical access hospital. I'm a committed person, she said, noting that she is also on the St. Francis Community Foundation Board.

While working with hospital administrator, Les Lacy, Mrs. Zimbelman said she has also maintained a working relationship with Mr. Lacy even though there were some disagreements.

She now works for Farm Service Agency in Goodland and noted that her boss is a member of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, Goodland. I feel that we will be able to exchange ideas and, she has already agreed that I will be able to attend the hospital board meetings.

She said she expects accountability out of the board members, including herself, if selected. Board members need to talk to the patients and the staff. That feedback, she said, is needed. A board member needs to make sure all issues are followed up and carried out. The board, she noted, is serving the county taxpayers.

Mike Bandel

Mike Bandel said he had been in the community for years and wanted to do something to "give

back." I knew the opening for the hospital board was available and the hospital is important to the community," he said. "Being on the board is something I can contribute to."

He went on to say that he didn't have all the answers but his experiences with the bank and community could help. I have a strong background in finance, he said. Being on the board will be challenging and I expect it will continue to be.

As for what his expectations are, Mr. Bandel said that he doesn't have any preconceived expectations of the board. At first, he said, I will probably sit back and listen until I know what is going on. He saw no problem in getting away from his job at Bankwest to attend the meetings and any training's that would be necessary. Bank officers, he said, are encouraged to become involved in the community.

Ryan Murray

Ryan Murray said he was interested in being on the board because the hospital is a critical part of the infrastructure to the county. We need to keep the building up to code as the budget allows.

Mr. Murray, now the emergency preparedness manager, previously worked at the hospital as the director of diagnostic imaging and was also the hospital's emergency preparedness manager.

I have an insider's view and know the needs and capabilities of the hospital as well as the relationship between the county and Great Plains Health Alliance.

My expectation of a board member, he said, is to improve the hospital. I know that the board doesn't have direct supervision but it is important to retain a good staff.

Mr. Murray said he left the hospital to advance his career but felt that he could communicate with the employees.

Jerry White

Jerry White said he has been traveling for the last 10 to 20 years and places where he has been have had bad and good medical facilities. We need good medical facilities and, if we lose our hospital, we are in trouble! With modern transportation, the hospital can med vac out, he said, but the patient needs to be stabilized here.

Mr. White said he served on several different boards of international organizations dealing with 12 to 14 countries. He realizes that a board is to make sure everything is in place and has the tools for the facility to run. It is also important there is good communication.

"I would be a solid voice (on the board)," he said. "We need to figure out what it takes to make the hospital sustainable."

Employees need to be happy and the patients want to go to the facility. We need to make sure that the hospital can supply the services. If there is a good facility, out-patient doctors will come and the people will come.

He said he would be able to attend the meetings and training.

"When I make a commitment, I will stick to it," he concluded.

Randy Wieck

Randy Wieck said he had always had an interest in the hospital board but didn't think he could serve as his wife was an employee. For the last 30 years, he has been going to school and he is now working on a masters in management information in disease control.

His computer expertise has led him to the Goodland hospital where he is the computer tech. He has been a dispatcher and has emergency medical service experience. I have a wide base of things I have done and I am doing. He is current on information on government mandates for rural emergency medical service as well as volunteer fire departments.

He feels that being on the board will help him as he continues his education and it will also give him the opportunity to give something back to the community.

Jared Douthit

Jared Douthit started the interview by asking if having his wife, Candi, working at the hospital would be a conflict of interest. If there is a conflict, there is no sense going on with the interview, he said.

The commissioners said the bi-laws do not forbid hospital board

members from serving if their spouse is a hospital employee.

I have no axes to grind and I know the board makes no staffing decisions, he said. I am more concerned with the financial part of the county. I feel that landowners need a voice on the board. Mr. Douthit is a farmer/rancher.

The hospital knows what equipment is needed. However, he said, there needs to be some accountability for the purchases.

People don't appreciate how viable and good the hospital is to the county. There are tons of grants out there but they are terribly time consuming to write and, then there is the follow up after the grant money is received.

He recognized that the obstetrics department is growing but it needs support. We need to market this department better, support our providers and do whatever we can to help them.

He talked about the county's emergency medical service and that it should be showing a profit. Mr. Patton said it does.

"I want to keep the hospital moving forward," he said. "Being younger, we are going to be the ones representing the community in the future. If these people are not on the boards, they won't have a clue on what to do or where to go. I want to learn more about the hospital, its functions with the community and state, and learn the actual financial facts and know the accountability, which I know is a complicated issue."

He referred to the fire at the Good Samaritan Village and the stress it had caused. The same thing, he said, could happen to the hospital. No, he said, it may not be a fire, but we could lose the hospital at a slower rate and we don't want to lose our hospital!

Sheriff's Report

In the month of December the Cheyenne Sheriff's office responded to a larger number than normal dog complaints. Of these complaints, three warnings were issued to dog owners for dog at large. Dogs running loose has apparently also gotten out of hand. The law states that all dogs are to be confined to their own yards either on a leash, or within a fenced area. The sheriff's deputies plan to strictly enforce these complaints and in the future, dog owners will be issued tickets.

Sheriff's deputies performed over 127 hours of patrol and case work in the city of Bird City during December. These hours consisted of one reckless driver complaint, two welfare checks, one property damage complaint, seven traffic warnings, one suspicious vehicle investigation, one motorist assist, five dog complaints and three warnings for dogs at large. Deputies also responded to calls to service by residents as well as performing patrol and checking doors of businesses.

Baby items sought by pro-life group

During the month of January, the Cheyenne County Knights of Columbus is sponsoring their annual Pro-Life baby shower and

will be collecting items that are needed to raise an infant.

The items will be donated to the Mary Elizabeth Home for Unwed Mothers in Hays, which does an excellent job of teaching the mothers how to take care of an infant through the age of 2. Everything most of these mothers do is through donations.

Most of these mothers are young teenage mothers that have nowhere else to go and everything they do is done through donations.

Some of the items which are needed are diapers, bottles, clothing for infants, infant bathing supplies, blankets and any other items needed to raise an infant. They can also use office supplies.

Those who don't have any items to donate may also make a cash donation if they wish. If an item is purchased to donate, please leave the price tag on the item for the report that is needed to send to the state at the end of the month.

Items may be left at the Catholic Church in Bird City or St. Francis or contact either Dennis Wright (785) 734-7044 in Bird City or Mike Antholz (785) 332-3482 in St. Francis.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Alan and Bethel Goldt met Amy Waters in Hays Wednesday. Amy and Bethel enjoyed a day at the spa before returning home.

Kelly, Tayten, and Tru Dewey and Barb Morton traveled to Manhattan Friday to help Braxton Springer celebrate his sixth birthday.

Ellen Dewey met her sister, Laura Craig in Oberlin Monday for lunch. Afterwards they visited Jean Huss in the hospital.



George and Kathy Banister attended the Cheylin - Dighton basketball games in McDonald Friday.

Lincoln Pochop and Sam Hengen were Sunday evening and supper guests of David Banister and his family.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Kent Chapman, Emporia; Sharon Kamla, Nevada, Mo.; Janice Churchwell, Bird City; Bonnie Burr, Bird City; Ted Burr, Bird City; Robert Brubaker, Bird City; Pat Cooksey, Houston, Texas; Maj. Michael Lusk, San Antonio, Texas; Ken Beougher, Bird City.

Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, have 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent. We are offering free cable television for one year to new tenants. Applicants must income qualify for this property. For more information and an application you may contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 or pick up an application at Century II in Bird City.

For Sale
 Carpet & Upholstery
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For sale to the highest qualified bidder - Carpet and upholstery cleaning equipment with attachments and a 1997 Chevy Astro Van with lift. Bids will be accepted on van or equipment. Will take bids till 01-31-11. All located at First National Bank, 210 Bird Avenue, Bird City, KS. Call 785-734-2100 for additional information. May send bids to FNB, P.O. Box 40, Bird City, KS 67731.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER MEETING

Stockholders are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting:
WEDNESDAY
JAN. 26, 2011 @ 1:00 P.M. CT
 Bankwest Basement, St. Francis

Plan to attend as we decide the future of St. Francis Sale Barn

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