

Fourth annual entrepreneurship fair is Thursday

Thursday the Fourth Annual Entrepreneurship Fair will be held in the Cheylin Gym at 9:15 am. Exactly 50 years ago to the date the Bird City School had planned to hold their fourth Science Fair. Due to the 40 mile winds and over a foot of snow that was dumped it had to be rescheduled for the next week. According to the present weather forecast, that will not happen for this E-Fair on Thursday.

In 1963 the Science Fair was the outstanding event of the school's academic program. On this year the grade school students contributed over 50 projects and over 800 people attended the event.

Eighteen Bird City science students took their science projects to the Junior Academy of Science in Hays bringing home nine of the 17 awards given out. Sharon Hempler and Robert Bottom continued on to State in Emporia.

Students who received superior ratings at the Junior Academy of Science in Hays were; Douglas Hempler, Phyllis Lamb and Ronnie Haack. Verna Kruse, Gregory Versch, Pat Cress and Johnny Deeds received excellent ratings. Others who went to Hays were; Ronnie Miller, Sherri Busse, Amber Vanderput, Beverly Busse, Terry Kite, Janice Leach, Candace Childers, Janet Sager and Carolyn Query. Phyllis Lamb was interviewed and received commendation on her project on solar energy. Her paper was published in the Bell Journal of Science.

Cheylin's fourth annual E-Fair will not be this well attended because the school is not as large as it was 50 years ago, but last year they had 15 participants, 13 were from grades seven-12.

The top first place winner was Michael Barnett with his Hunter's Hotel. Second place went to Jessie Smith with her

Papa Charlie's Cornmeal. She used her award money to establish her business for the Tri-State Thresher Show, and craft fairs of the area. Third place went to Evan Kemp and he used his funds to partly pay for a lawn mower to establish his business and spend the summer mowing lawns around Bird City.

Additional Awards given through the Bird City E-Community Fund were awarded to Elizabeth Keltz with her Elizabeth Pigs, Heath Churchwell with Wonderful World of Corgi's and Nakita Schneider with Nakita's Kitchen. She fixes meals for the harvesters and delivers them to the fields.

Three students went on to the Regional's in Atwood. They were, Jessie Smith who took first place, Michael Barnett, second place, and Nakita Schneider, third place.

The E-Fair is sponsored by Century II as an opportunity for Cheylin students to learn how to plan, set up and establish their own business. Entrants with the best organized business, tactics and goals are awarded \$500, \$300, or \$200 toward establishing their business and starting it up.

With the most recent predicted snowstorm behind us and school back in operation after spring break the students who are participating in this year's E-Fair will be ready for giving top notch presentations. The participants and staff from Cheylin School, and Darci Shields from Century II Development have put lots of work and effort into making this one of Cheylin's best events. Plan to attend at 9:15 a.m. to view the participant projects and visit with the resource partners. A local entrepreneur will be the special speaker at 10:15, and the award winners will be announced at 11 a.m.



MARCH BIRTHDAY cakes were cut by Larry Schults, Bob Brubaker, Barbara Waters, and Dee Dorsch. Cakes were sent for Norman Dorsch, Ruth Rooney and Dean Knapp, who were not present. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Legislative News By Ward Cassidy, 120th State Representative

Taxes

Last session, the largest tax cut in state history was signed into law. The bill dropped the top state income tax rate from 6.45 percent to 4.9 percent and the low rate from 3.5 percent to 3.0 percent.

Until last session, Kansas had the highest rates of any of its surrounding states. The plan might be working, as there were 1,500 more business filings in 2012 than in 2011—and surrounding states, such as Nebraska, are scrambling to lower rates to remain competitive with Kansas.

This year, the Governor has called on the legislature to cut income taxes further so as to

glide to zero state income tax. The latest proposal is to drop the top rate from 4.9 percent to 3.5 percent by 2017.

The bottom rate would be dropped to 2.5 percent in 2014 and then to 1.9 percent in 2016. Rather than expanding government, the governor has asked that any revenue that comes in above 4 percent during this time be used to buy-down the tax liability of Kansas. The plan would leave the current sales tax rate in place and eliminate the state home-mortgage deduction.

Although the state home-mortgage deduction would be eliminated, the deduction for charitable contributions and the

earned income tax credit would stay in place. I received countless e-mails to keep the earned income tax credit in place when it was being considered last year.

There are 70 percent of Kansans that do not claim the home-mortgage deduction; instead, they claim the head of household deduction that is \$9,000. Most taxpayers do fall under the standard deduction. The federal mortgage interest deduction will still be available.

There are still many questions, and the top one might be: how do we replace the revenue if the sales tax does come off?

The two-year budget plan is also being proposed by the Governor.

I personally like this proposal as it will allow the state more time to heal from the recession and to plan for the future.

What has been overlooked in this year's tax plan proposal was an elimination of the state individual income tax deduction on property tax paid on homes. This deduction would be worth \$68.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

What happens next?

There will be a tax plan from the Governor; there will be a House tax plan, and a Senate tax plan. There will be agreement and disagreement and in the end we will see the amount of revenue we have to work with.

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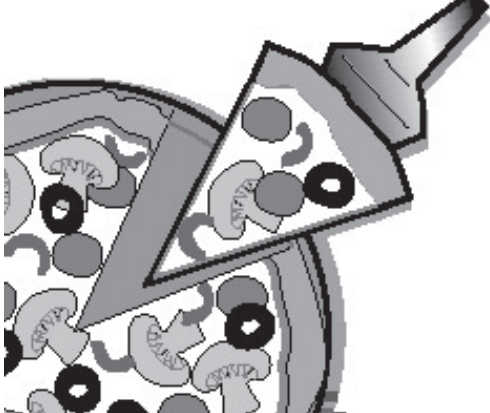
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