

Schoolboard meets about tech issues

During the Feb. 10 Cheylin School Board meeting, Matt Wilson and Shelly Angelos presented a detailed plan of the Technology Chromebooks proposal that was presented for discussion at the January board meeting.

The proposal contained technology expenses projected over the next four years, fees and buyouts, a student perspective, sample user policy, and professional development plan that will be necessary. This program will be used by grades seven-12 during the fall of 2014. The technology will increase the capacity at the district level, increase student and teacher access, build user capacity and skill levels, increase technical support, and student user parameters. Board members gave unanimous approval for moving forward with the purchase.

New windows installation
Rod Rodenbeck from Colby Glass gave an update on the window replacement project. In addition to the current plans, Mr. Rodenbeck said, Colby Glass will add one vented window in each of the preschool, first, second, fifth, sixth, and special education rooms. The "A" windows have been ordered for the first phase which includes the first and second grade rooms.

The project will begin sometime in the spring. Mr. Rodenbeck discussed times and dates that are workable for scheduling the remainder two phases. The project is to be finished by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Colby

Glass is not asking for a down payment and the board will be billed at the end of each month once the work begins.

Senior trip itinerary
The board approved the itinerary of the senior class trip, as presented by Connor Hazuka, assisted by the senior class sponsor Abbi Dixon.

Seniors will leave on Thursday, April 3, for San Antonio, Texas, and return on Saturday, April 5. Highlights of this trip will include dinner on the River Walk, dinner at Tower of Americas, exploration of Adventure Cave and a visit to Sea World.

Pride in Your School day
Mark your calendars for "Pride in Your School Day".

Plans are underway for students to become involved in organizing projects to clean the school and schoolgrounds. "Pride in Your School Day" is scheduled for Thursday, May 15. Lunch will be provided as an all school barbecue.

In other business:
• Due to the small classes that have presently been registering, discussion has been ongoing of the possibility of Cheylin being unable to have enough students to field sports teams. During the February board meeting, further discussion was held in acknowledgment of what will happen to Cheylin sports programs if this trend continues.

• A donation of \$75, that was donated to the Cheylin band during Match Day, was accepted by the board.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY KIDS (from left to right), Sharon McCann, Darlene Burr, Paul Roesener, Shirley Statley and Lee Amsberry celebrate at the Senior Center
Times Photo by Norma Martinez.

Commissioners discuss hospital issues

By Karen Krien
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Health insurance issues and the hospital were discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday. Both issues were for information and no decisions were made. Representing the hospital were Judy Rockwood, administrator; Heidi Tice, Shawna Blanka

and Roxie Neitzel. They had a printout with statistics and other information.

Ms. Rockwood said the hospital had purchased a used 2009 Dexiscan machine which measures bone density. Two weeks before the first of the year, the hospital staff had been notified that the service which had been coming to St. Francis would no longer make the trip. She said Darrel Reed had started looking for a Dexiscan, and had found this used machine, which had been purchased for \$16,000. The machine will be put in the area where physicians used to sleep. That room will also be used when the sleep lab is established the first part of April.

The sleep lab, Ms. Rockwood said, will have two beds, and patients will be in the lab from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. so it will not interfere with the other service. Ms. Rockwood said the hospital still needed a part-time cook and a full-time registered nurse. Both positions are being advertised.

The county hospital is a critical access hospital. Ms. Rockwood briefly explained that, to be a critical access hospital, the facility must be located in a rural area and be over 35 miles from another hospital; 15 miles from another hospital in mountainous terrain or areas with only secondary roads and-or be state certified as a necessary provider of health care services to people in the area.

She also reported that the county hospital was one of 22 hospitals in the state to be designated as a "Level Four Trauma Center." The nearest other designated trauma center is Norton. See related article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Health insurance problems
Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had been contacted by a county employee's spouse, telling that the family had been contacted by a collection agency because the county's health insurance was not paying. Dale Patton said he had experienced the same calls.

For years, Mr. Patton said, the county was recognized for the good health insurance provided to employees. That made up for the lower wages paid. But, today, we can't even brag about the insurance benefits.

They agreed to call Tim Carson, Corporate Plan, the county's health insurance representative. Mr. Carson reported that he would personally take any calls from employees having problems with collection agencies and see what he can do.

Appreciation expressed
Rod Klepper, representing several organizations in Bird City, thanked the commissioners for allowing the items collected in the heavy trash pick up in Bird City, to be dumped at the landfill. He said it was so

successful that they plan another such pick up in the fall. They might also have a lighter pick up in the spring.

The county road and bridge crew had spent several hours at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show doing the dirt work for a new building which will be erected.

The last announcement he made was the Bird City Community Club was going to hold a benefit for volunteers including firemen, emergency medical technicians, and any others.

In other business
In other business:

• The commissioners approved the ambulance department's insurance write offs of \$2,334.

• Audit proposals are being sought. Adams, Brown, Berans and Ball had submitted a proposal. They will look at other companies.

• Dave Flemming, public works director, talked about buying a loader. He will research the purchase and report back at the next meeting.

• Mr. Flemming asked for 10 minutes executive session to talk about land purchases. No decision was made when they were out of the session.

Next meeting
The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, in the courthouse in St. Francis.

Fairboard discusses outstanding check amounts from the 2013 fair

By Amanda Miller
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The Cheyenne County Fair Board met as regularly scheduled on Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Cheyenne County Courthouse commissioners room. Marty Fear, extension agent, reported to the fair board. In addition, the fair board will be reissuing all uncashed checks.

Extension agent report
Mr. Fear presented the 4-H club submissions for the 2014 fair theme. After some discussion, the board decided to use "From Cowboys to Cadillacs" as the theme. The winner of the submission was the Bird City Go-Getters, who will be awarded with a pizza party.

Mr. Fear reported that the Spring Show will be on Saturday, May 24. President Dick Bursch noted that the fair board will need to be thinking of a spring workday before that show.

The fair book will be sent to Manhattan to be printed and assembled. The board discussed selling ads for the book. After some discussion, it was moved that the 2014 ads sell for \$30, rather than \$40 like last year. The board hopes to sell more ads this year with the decrease in cost.

Finally, Marty asked if the fair board wanted to continue with the fair posters as they have done in the past years. Teri Richardson has

designed and printed them. The board agreed to continue making posters with Mrs. Richardson.

Uncashed checks
Treasurer Sarah Kinzer reported that there is still \$6,000 in outstanding checks from the 2013 fair. She will be contacting all parties who have not cashed those checks.

The Cheyenne County auditor Jack Eldridge has retired, and the county commissioners have not reappointed a replacement yet, said President Bursch. The concern is that when the new auditor does take over, he can tell the fair board to reissue all the uncashed check's balances to the state, without notice. This would remove the money from Cheyenne County and give it to the state instead. There are several uncashed checks from the 2011 and 2012 fair.

President Bursch appointed Mrs. Kinzer to reissue all the uncashed checks at this time and issue a letter of explanation, in hopes to keep the money in county.

New business
Danielle Holzwarth, with the Cheyenne County Conservation District, asked the board if she could reserve the show arena and livestock barn for the delivery of conservation trees. She will need the area April 6 - April 20.

There was some discussion on if the board would like to change how the 2014 premium sale is set

up. Members of the board said they will discuss with businesses if they would like to change how the money is given to the 4-H'ers after the sale. The check cashing issue could possibly be resolved by changing the premium sale. No decision was made, however the board continues to discuss the best way to handle the situation.

After the Coyote Calling Contest, coordinator of the event, Brent Rueb, said that he would like to donate additional tables and chairs to the building. President Bursch said he would contact Mr. Rueb about the donation.

A demolition derby judge has been located. The judge comes from Pratt. Blake Krien said he will price motel rooms for the judge and get him booked.

Next meeting
The next meeting for the fair board will be Thursday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the commissioners room.

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A study of the residential real estate market indicated that the market is stable with no general upward or downward trend.

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Vacant
A study of the vacant real estate market indicated that the market is stable with no general upward or downward trend
Cheyenne County Appraisers Office

Business Directory To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

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BANKWEST OF KANSAS
is hosting a Question & Answer session on
"USING FUTURES & OPTIONS TO MARKET GRAINS & LIVESTOCK"
March 6 • Basement at BANKWEST, St. Francis
Coffee & donuts beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Steve Ziegelmeyer from ZEZ Commodities on hand at 10.

- No Charge. • All interested people are invited to attend.
- Contact Mike or Tye at 785-332-3333 with questions.