

Technology used to build math skills

The Cheylin Board of Education met on Monday, Feb. 14, 2011, at 3 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. due to a basketball game in McDonald.

Kathy Weber conducted the first portion of the meeting in the elementary school Computer lab. Mrs. Weber with her second graders demonstrated how technology is used to build math skills.

Upcoming election

As reported by Mr. Bolen the following candidates: Dave Frisbie and Nick Ketzner are running for District I, position 5; Belinda Serrano is running for District 2, position 2; and District 2, position 4 is open. Dale Hazuka has agreed to run as write-in campaign for this position. The board briefly discussed changing the voting format to all positions being at-large.

Bus purchase

An older suburban bus has been breaking down and the board was advised it was time to replace it. Approval was given for the purchase of a 2011 Blue Bird Microbird 20-passenger bus with seat belts and air conditioning from Kansas Truck Equipment Company for \$49,037.

Sale of McDonald high school

Discussion was conducted on the disposal of McDonald high school. The board advised Mr. Bolen to contact a realtor and advertise the sale.

Students to be commended

Mr. Bolen recognized Chris Walden on his award for first team to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Academic Team, Craig Busse, who received honorable mention was recognized, but not present.

Senior trip

The seniors request to raise the funds needed for their senior trip that was approved, and the funds are to be deposited in the Endowment Funds where the money to finance their trip will come from.

A suggestion was made that in the future, each individual could reimburse these funds to the Endowment Fund on a voluntary basis. By doing this, it will allow the students to take part in assuring funds will always be there to keep the school open in the future years.

Absentee policy

Students are required to sign an absentee paper every time they are going to be absent from school. They are then required to make up the homework. At the present time the students are not held to be accountable for doing this.

The board members would like to revise this paper to hold the students more accountable for keeping the staff aware of their absence and in completing their homework assigned for that day.

Volleyball and track

Discussion was held on renewing the Brewster Cooperative

Agreement and the consensus was to proceed on dissolving this agreement. In order for this to be done, both Cheylin and Brewster have to be in agreement to the resolution of the contract. It is now up to Brewster to determine.

Discussion was held on if Cheylin had an adequate number of coaches for track? It was determined that Mr. Blair would be having his physical education class at the track field, so he could help out with the junior high track. If additional track coaches were needed, they could only hire more coaches if the funds for their salary is donated.

Donations

A donation in the amount of \$350 from the Frisbie Memorial was accepted. These funds are to be placed in the Cheylin Activity Fund.

Bruce Bolen has been looking for a trophy case to purchase. The Douglas Klepper family had a cabinet in the amount of \$1,250 they wished to donate. Plans are to display all the trophies for the academic year in this cabinet. Each year the trophies would be rotated out. This will enable Cheylin School to display all the trophies from the current year in one area where they can better be seen.

The board went into executive session at 5:25 p.m. No actions were taken when they returned to regular session.



THE FIRST WATER BREAK of the year has happened. Brad Schneider was out on Fourth Street Saturday checking out a leak from a water meter that was not insulated good enough. He said they had 16 breaks last year, and with spring coming, pipes are going to start breaking once again. Mr. Schneider is doing the best he can to keep everyone with water. He is to be commended for the good job he has done in keeping the streets repaired from the breaks, and has done a super great job of keeping them clear during the snow storms.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Nursing home plans revealed at commissioners' meeting on Monday

By Karen Krien

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It has been over four months since the Good Samaritan Village fire. At the Monday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, answers and information concerning what the Good Samaritan Society plans to do was revealed.

Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations, was at the meeting along with Greg Hensley, Altman Charter, an architect firm; Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator; Kevin Berens, Village advisory board member and chairman of the Long Term Care task force. Also present was James Foster, Department of Commerce, Colby.

Mr. Fitzgerald read a statement he had prepared, starting off by commending the Village staff and members of the community. His mission and goal, he said, has been to figure out a way to re-open the Village as soon as possible.

To date, he said, the total property loss has been \$667,260. The Society had a \$100,000 deductible on their insurance policy and a \$94,512 depreciation cost.

So far, the Society has received \$472,748 from the insurance carrier to cover property losses. The Society has also been reimbursed \$578,000 to cover inventory and equipment losses.

The Society has invested close to \$100,000 to make the Village west wing more modern and appealing to the residents, family members and the community. Mr. Paulsen estimated that so far, the entire renovation costs have been \$250,000. Mr. Berens pointed out that the Society had covered the cost of one and a half months payroll for the staff which amounted to around \$150,000 which was paid out of the insurance money.

By March 7, the Society plans to have 22 beds available for residents and they will be moving back from the different nursing homes they were taken to after the fire. Renovating the west wing, kitchen and lounge marks the end of Phase 1.

Phase 2 will include putting in an 8-foot wide corridor through the north side of the middle wing which had the majority of the fire



CHECKING OUT THE VILLAGE — Bonnie Henderson, Bonnie Burr, Manette Henderson and Vernetta Haack visit at the open house held on Sunday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

damage. There will also be a dining area on the west end of this wing.

After these projects are finished, the rooms in the west wing that were converted to a temporary kitchen, dining, therapy and office, will house 10 more patients, bringing the total to 32.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that with 32 residents, the Society would be losing money. For the first year, it is estimated that they will have a loss of between \$150,000 and \$200,000. They have committed to operate the facility at this loss until July 1, 2012.

This time span will give the commissioners and the residents of the county time to make plans to take over the operation, expand the Village campus to include an addition for 12 more residents and an assisted living facility for 10.

The Society plans to turn over the entire campus including the apartments for \$1 with the Society operating the center through a lease agreement.

If the residents decide not to take the ownership of the facility with the intentions to expand, the Society will close the nursing home.

Mr. Fitzgerald said this should

not be considered as a threat. It is a matter of economics. We cannot continue to operate at a loss and, without the additional beds and assisted living, it will not make the money needed to support it.

Mr. Hensley had drawings of the Village as it is today (Phase 1); the plans with the hallway and dining area (Phase 2) and a proposed plan for the additional resident's rooms and the assisted living. (Phase 3).

The cost for the additional buildings was estimated at \$4.3 million to \$4.5 million. It was less than what a completely new facility would be and, could come in even less than the proposed figures.

Mr. Keller asked Mr. Fitzgerald about placing the assisted living in Bird City. Mr. Fitzgerald said it would probably lose money. With all the services on the same campus in St. Francis, there is a need for only one kitchen, one laundry, one cleaning service... and the list went on. The only duplication for the Bird City assisted living would be the administrator and he felt this person could oversee both, despite the miles.

Mr. Fitzgerald estimated that it would take about three years to finish the entire project.

Mr. Keller asked why, when the west wing was renovated, didn't the Society install the new air conditioning and heating project, which had been scheduled before fire.

Mr. Fitzgerald said they were focused on getting the facility open as quickly as possible and the funds were no longer available.

Come before the voters

The future of the Village will go before the voters. Terry Miller, county clerk, said the general election in November 2012 will be too late because the Society plans to turn the facility over to the county by July 1, 2012.

That will mean a special election will be held, he said. However, the date and time are yet to be set.

Mr. Keller, who is one of St. Francis' Community Builders, will see about organizing public meetings where residents can ask questions and hear what Mr. Fitzgerald has to say.

In the meantime, the commissioners will look into what it takes for bonds and other funding. Mr. Foster said the state tax credit program will still be available for another year and there may be other grants and funding available.

Legislators plan town meetings

The area's state legislators plan to be in St. Francis on Saturday to talk with voters and taxpayers at a "town hall" meeting.

Rep. Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, plan to be at Main Street Java from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The meeting, which everyone is encouraged to attend, will give the two Republicans a chance to talk about what's going on in Topeka and for people to ask questions.

Rep. Cassidy is serving his first term in the House of

Representatives, 120th District. He serves on the Education, Education Budget and Corrections and Juvenile Justice committees.

Sen. Ostmeyer, who has served since 2005, is the chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and a member of Federal and State Affairs, Agriculture, Local Government, Energy and Environmental Policy and Reapportionment committees, and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

Tickets available to Army big band concert in Colby

The Jazz Ambassadors—America's Big Band is the official touring big band of the United States Army.

This concert, sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association, will be taking place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14, in the Colby High School Auditorium. To obtain free tickets, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Ziegelmeier, CCC, 1255 S. Range, Colby, KS 67701. Please allow turnaround time for the post as well.

This 19-member ensemble, formed in 1969, has received great acclaim both at home and abroad performing America's original art form; jazz.

Concerts by the Jazz Ambassadors are designed to entertain all types of audiences. Custom compositions and arrangements highlight the group's creative talent and gifted

soloists. Their diverse repertoire includes big band swing, bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards, popular tunes, Dixieland, vocals, and patriotic selections.

The band has appeared in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Japan, India, and throughout Europe. Notable performances include concerts at international jazz festivals in Montreux, Switzerland; Newport, R. I.; Toronto, Canada; Brussels, Belgium; and the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands. In 1995, the Ambassadors performed in England, Wales, Belgium Luxembourg, and the Czech Republic in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The band has also been featured in unique joint concerts with major orchestras, including the Detroit and Baltimore symphonies.

