

Cheylin eighth grader wins the County Spelling Bee

By Amanda Miller
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St. Francis Grade School hosted the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee for the St. Francis and Cheylin schools. After a tough competition, Cheylin eighth grader Rachel Keltz walked away, winning the competition.

Cheylin seventh grader Alexandra Hazuka won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee last year, making this the second year in a row that a Cheylin student has won the competition.

Students in fourth through eighth grade participated, with the top three spellers in each class in the bee. Thirty participants began.

Bruce Swihart conducted the bee, and began by announcing the rules. After the practice round, each student has the opportunity to correctly spell the word given to them. If incorrect, they may go sit down with their class or parents. If correct, they sit back down and move forward to the next round.

During the championship round, the student that spelled the last word correctly must then spell an additional word correctly, or everyone who was eliminated during that last round may return for a chance to win. The winner, therefore, had to spell two words correctly in a row to clutch the win.

Kari Gilliland and Angie Chmielewski were the two judges at the bee.

Participating from St. Francis were:

Fourth grade: Kara Maybury, Mia Morrow, and Amanda Neitzel

Fifth grade: Seth Grice, Jasper Hunt, and Emma Johnson

Sixth grade: Karly Bandel, Taighe Weeter and Hannah Zimbal

Seventh grade: Kyla Hicks, Taylor Kinzer, and Shelby Wolff
Eighth grade: Devin Patton, Tressa LaBarge, and Janeth Perez-Medina.

Participating from Cheylin were:

Fourth grade: Mitchell Howard, Audrey Moore, and Grace Wright.

Fifth grade: Colton McCarty, Joseph Melton, and Andrew Shields

Sixth grade: Kaylynn Hendricks, Loren Mellinger, and Kimberly Velazquez

Seventh grade: Bob Havel, Ja-



KYLA HICKS was the last St. Francis student competing in the spelling bee before being knocked out in fourth place.

Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller

cob Serrano and Emily Trail

Eighth grade: Alexandra Hazuka, Jordan Janicke and Rachel Keltz

The practice round gave all the students a chance to walk to the microphone and practice spelling a word. Most students spelled the word correctly, but all returned to their seats to begin the Spelling Bee.

The Cheyenne County Spelling Bee was then kicked off. Each student approached the mic and spelled their best. During the first round, four students were knocked out of the bee. The second round saw an additional two students leave.

The third round brought some more difficult words. One student misspelled "cohesive" and was eliminated. Another misspelled "introverted." The competition was getting more difficult. Eight more students were eliminated.

The fourth round began with 16 students. However, they were rapidly eliminated. One by one, students fell to difficult words such as "betrothal," "propulsion" and "extinguish." Ten more students were eliminated.

Four students were left. Kyla Hicks from St. Francis, and Jacob Serrano, Rachel Keltz and Audrey Moore from Cheylin.

St. Francis' Kyla Hicks fell to the word "ragamuffin" in the next round. Cheylin's Audrey Moore misspelled "chancellor" to be eliminated.



WORKERS were busy this week remodeling the west entrance of the Good Samaritan Village.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

I appreciate the positive comments about my attempt to keep northwest Kansas informed about events and policy in Topeka. It is not possible to highlight every event, but I like to share with you what I find interesting.

Being a representative from northwest Kansas, I am well aware of the importance of agriculture to the State of Kansas economy. I spend a lot of time trying to convince other representatives and senators that we should always strongly consider how new legislation and appropriations will affect our area.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas, valued at more than \$35 billion, accounting for 25 percent of the state's total economy. In Kansas, there are 52,320,102 acres of land. Farm-

land accounts for 88.6 percent of all Kansas land. Eighty percent of our population lives on 20 percent of our land mass. There are 28 million acres in Kansas devoted to growing crops, and 16 million is pastureland for grazing animals.

Kansas is a strong part of the animal health corridor. Between Columbia, Missouri and Manhattan, Kansas sits the single largest concentration of animal health interests in the world.

The comment about where our population resides means the 20 percent of us who live on 80 percent of the land have to fight harder for a voice and recognition. I believe family-owned farms are the backbone of Kansas.

The McCarty Dairy has done an awful lot for northwest Kansas. The dairy has put us on the map

with Topeka. Kansas is quickly becoming the new dairy frontier in the United States. Kansas is home to 123,000 dairy cows that produced more than 2.7 billion pounds of milk in 2012.

With positive growth being shown, the Governor has proposed more dollars for rural housing. The new tax plan has also made more companies consider moving to not only Kansas City but to rural Kansas.

It is now up to each of our communities to look for ways to grow and ways to encourage others to come and experience the "good life" Northwest Kansas has to offer.

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To view the work site, contact the Village Administrator, Jeffrey Paulsen, at 785-332-2531.

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Sealed bids may be submitted to the Cheyenne County Clerk or to the Village Administrator. Deadline for submission is 12:00 noon, March 7, 2014.

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