

# Board wins award for conservation

The Cheyenne County Natural Resources Conservation Service board was the winner of the Kansas Earth Team Volunteer Group award for National Association of Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The board was selected from nominees across the state of Kansas for their significant contribution to conservation efforts in the state.

Recognition, said Joan Gienger, District conservationist, is for volunteer efforts above and beyond what their elected duties require.

Board members are: Spencer Schlepp, chairman; Randy Rueb, Lonnie Willis, Clint Bursch and Roger Orth. Myra Hyde is an associate member. The award was presented by Dan Meyerhoff, assistant state conservationist, at the annual conservation awards banquet held Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Some of the accomplishments of the board last year included:

- The five members of the District board of supervisors contributed 76 hours of volunteer service above what was required of their elected positions. Besides time spent representing their county at state and area meetings, the members have participated in conser-

vation programs presented to the Cheylin and Saint Francis schools. Their presentations were in the classroom and as part of an all day sixth grade conservation tour. As farmers and ranchers, they were able to share with the children their "real life" experiences and commitment to conservation.

- Members came in an extra day to specifically update a 15-year-old long-range plan. In addition, individual board members have represented the District on related conservation boards and committees. These include the local Resource Conservation and Development advisory board and the recently formed Upper Republican River Basin Conservation Projects Alliance.

- Individual board members hand-delivered posters to the grade schools and Soil Stewardship materials to the county ministers. One board member visits directly with the local Ministerial Alliance each year.

- In past years, when the District manager was on extended sick leave, board members filled in at the office. They attended to District business and prepared for the upcoming annual meeting.

- "Tree day" has become an



**THE CHEYENNE COUNTY** Natural Resources Conservation Service board received an award. Dan Meyerhoff (left) presents a plaque to the members. Also pictured are Jeanne Dunn, District Manager, Roger Orth of the service board and Joe Leibbrandt the County Extension Agent.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

annual event in which the board members take a leading role. Besides driving to eastern Nebraska to pick up part of the trees, they spent the major part of a day hand-bagging individual orders and another day distributing them to customers who pre-ordered. This year, they bagged and distributed nearly 3,400 shrubs and trees. Since 1984, the District has distributed approximately 137,000 trees and shrubs.

- In 2006, the District board began a partnership with the county commissioners, via the county road supervisor, to help address roadside erosion. This has been a win-win situation: the landowner corrects his/her erosion problem; the county (and taxpayers) reduces their cost for road repairs; and the Cheyenne County Conservation District accomplishes their goals of resource protection.

- Another unique activity began by the board is conducting a spot-check tour of practices that were cost-shared under the Kansas Water Resources and Non-Point Pollution cost-share programs. This came about when the supervisors questioned if practices and grazing plans were being maintained for the required 10 years. Now they randomly select one contract from each of the past 10 years and go out to each site to see how they

are functioning and being maintained. Any irregularities found are brought to the attention of the contract holder for correction.

"The members of the Cheyenne County District Board have become very visible in their community," said Mrs. Gienger. "Visibility promotes acceptance to the concept of conservation and to the concept of volunteerism. They are well deserving of an award for a job well done."

# Director attends meeting

The directors of the High Plains Food Coop attended the Ogallala Commons' 20th Southern Plains Conference on Feb. 25 in Lubbock, Texas.

Directors, Chris Schmidt, president; Chris Sramek, vice president of consumers; Becky Roberson, vice president of producers; and Jo Hagny, treasurer, attended the conference with the theme "Eat, Drink and Be Merry: Rebuilding Local Food Systems."

Featured speakers included Gary Paul Nabhan, author of "Coming Home to Eat: The Pleasures and Politics of Local Foods and Renewing America's Food Traditions," "Saving and Savoring the Continent's Most Endangered Foods; and Mark Winne, author of "Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty."

On Tuesday evening, prior to the conference, a "Fat and Local" soiree was held spotlighting local foods. All meals provided were prepared from items produced in the local area including elk, chicken, beef, lamb, squash, greens, beans, apples, salsa and yogurt dressing, among other items.

For more information on the conference, visit [www.ogallalacommons.org](http://www.ogallalacommons.org) and click on the "Foodshed" box on the home page.

After the conference, the directors continued on to Rocky Ford, Colo., where they conducted a recruiting workshop for High Plains Food Coop. The coop is growing rapidly but there is still room for additional members.

Products will be available for pick up in Saint Francis on the third Friday of every month.

# Assessments due soon

Cheyenne County residents will need to have their personal property assessments in by Monday, March 16, in order to avoid a penalty.

The deadline applies to all people who have personal property in the county. All assessments must be personally signed.

Taxable items include pickups and trucks with 16 M or larger tags, boats, golf carts, snowmobiles, jet

skies, campers, mobile and business equipment and fixtures, just to name some. A full listing can be found in an ad located in this issue of the newspaper.

Any real estate improvements or structural changes should be reported to the appraiser's office.

Questions can be addressed by calling the appraiser's office at 332-8830.

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**Girls High School Basketball Team:** Back Row: Mandie Walden, manager; Teryn Carmichael, Jim Poore, assistant coach; Whitney Churchwell, Forrest Burr, Deb Pochop, coach; middle row: Samantha Robertson, Ana Ponce, Naomi Reeh; front row Tia Sager, Sydney Busse.

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