

Public libraries receive grants for computers

By Stan Dorsch

Public libraries in the Northwest Kansas Library System area have received \$112,797 in grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide equipment, software, and wiring for public Internet access.

Bird City Public Library received a new computer, a new printer, and surge protectors for existing computers. The new computer has an interactive Spanish keyboard.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation of Seattle, Wash., operates numerous giving programs, including the United States Library program. The U.S. Library Program works in partnership with public libraries to provide access to computers, the Internet and digital information for patrons in U.S. communities with at least a ten percent poverty rate. Technology training, ongoing technical assistance, and additional support for grantees are provided as part of the grant because of the pivotal role librarians play in helping patrons use computers and navigate the Internet. The Foundation hopes that citizens will come to think of the public library not only as a champion of books and knowledge, but as a major access point to the benefits of the digital age.

All of the public libraries in the Northwest Kansas League area received grants. Northwest Kansas Library System serves Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Norton, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego and Wallace counties. Computers were installed in the month of August and are available for public use.

Statewide, 213 Kansas libraries applied and over \$2.2 million was granted. Over 600 computers are being added throughout the state, including training labs in six locations.

Stop by and check out the new equipment during regular library hours.

Students gather at flagpoles for prayer

Lifting up prayers for America, its leaders and its youth, students throughout the United States will join together around their school flagpoles on Wednesday, Sept. 18, for the 13th annual See You at the Pole (SYATP), a grass roots prayer event that began in Texas in 1990. Students will gather around their school flagpoles at 7:30 a.m.

Cheylin students, both Junior and Senior High, will gather at that time. The event is generally well attended locally, as well as worldwide. The school's teachers and staff are encouraged to join the students at this time.

"Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down" is the 2002 See You at the Pole (SYATP) theme, quoting from Isaiah 64:1-2. The

prophet's cry for God to reveal Himself and "make His name known" is echoed in the fervent spirit of many teenagers as they have gathered for See You at the Pole over the years.

In 2001, barely a week after the terrorist attacks on America of Sept. 11, more than three million young people met for SYATP in all 50 states of the United States. Many prayed passionately for the nation in crisis. There were also reports from countries on six continents, including Australia, Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Swaziland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.



CHEYLIN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS entertain their grandparents and parents on Grandparents Day by singing a variety of songs.

Time staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Seniors honored Friday

Cheylin Elementary classrooms and halls were a busy place Friday afternoon as grandparents and parents toured the school for Grandparents Day. With 91 children enrolled in the elementary classes this year, there was a very large turnout. Each grade met in their classrooms and showed what they had done since school started this year and some classes put on demonstrations of what they have learned.

The school cafeteria was full for their program as the classes sang, recited poems, and put on a great performance for their grandparents. Drinks and cookies were served and there were a lot of proud grandmas and grandpas.



PROUD GRANDPARENTS admire what the children have accomplished already this school year.

Cheyenne County Fair Board commended on a job well done

By Lezlie Hilt

Cheyenne County Fair Board had guests who commended them on a job well done at the fair held the first weekend in August. Those guests attending the Sept. 5 meeting included Dale Weeks, representing the Extension board; Bill Ehrman and Greg Walz representing the Amusement Authority.

Mr. Ehrman asked for permission to repair and move a hydrant and to also have two more hydrants put in at the fairgrounds. The proposed new hydrants would be placed by the amusement building and another a little further down to help with the watering of the plants.

The Amusement Authority is planning to purchase another octopus and checking on a kiddie Ferris wheel. They would like to put the octopus either south of the twister and east of the swing or over by the Ferris wheel. If they purchase the kiddie Ferris wheel it would go where the pony ride cement slab is located.

After some discussion the members agreed that placing the octopus by the twister and swing would probably work the best. Mr. Ehrman then invited the fairboard members to a community appreciation potluck that the Amusement Authority is holding in the park on Sept. 22.

Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, was also at the meeting, representing the flower and garden show. Mr. Kellner was concerned about the low entries at the fair and was there for suggestion on how to improve and hopefully obtain more exhibitors. He wondered if the fair board could pay more in premiums as people have to bring their best vegetables and the premiums were not enough for some people to want to do this.

President Dick Bursch explained that the board is only allotted so much money and the allocations have been the same for the past several years, so it would not be possible to give more for premiums. Mr. Kellner then asked about painting a farm and garden mural on the wall in Jenkins Hall to improve the looks and also to add art work. He suggested that maybe the art classes would be interested in doing

something similar as those murals at the theater in St. Francis.

Mr. Kellner talked about having a farmers' market at the fair maybe in Jenkins Hall. The members were all in favor of this idea and asked him to find out more information and report back with more information.

Kirby and Tina Elliott were the last of the guests and they were there to report on the mud volleyball contests held on Saturday afternoon of the fair. There were 16 teams again this year and they felt like the contests went well.

The Elliotts had heard that the fair board had been talking about moving the pits and they wondered why? Mr. Bursch assured them that if they did

decide to move the pits it would be to make it more accessible and benefit them. They then discussed improving the existing pits as they are now stable, some of the ideas were to extend the drainage tube allowing for more room between the two pits and maybe some type of shading could be put up. They also discussed bleachers and landscaping that would improve the area. No decision was made.

In other business

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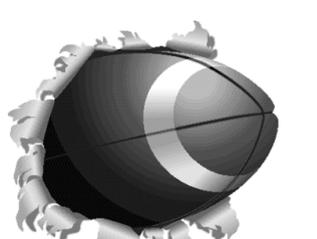
• It was announced that a clean-up demolition derby was set for Sept. 14. The members discussed advertising and decided that with the football game in Fairplay that day it would probably not do much good.

• Board member Mark Mills had been approached by the band "Mad Cow" wondering if the board would be interested in hiring them for a dance on Sept. 21 at the fair building. Board secretary Rita Koros suggested that the band rent the building and then they charge admission to the dance. The board would receive the rent for the building and whatever the band brought it would be theirs.

• Thank you notes were read from Rodney and Kay Shay, Rex Dunn family, Alecia Zimelman, Meg Rice and A.J. McAttee.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the fair board has been scheduled for 8 p.m. on Oct. 3 at the courthouse in St. Francis.



46 play in Flagfootball

On Sunday afternoon the Cheylin Football Field looked like a Friday night high school game as the 2002 NFL Flag Football team took to the field. With 46 boys and girls playing, this is the first year that Bird City has been able to have their own Flag Football games.

The kids excitement is very contagious and they love the cheering from the sidelines as much as the high school team. There are four kindergarten through third grade teams and two fourth and fifth grade teams. The kids will be playing on Sundays during the month of September at the football field.



NFL FLAG FOOTBALL pulled in six teams at the Cheylin football field Sunday afternoon. The games will last through the month of September.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Tech help available in Bird City on Sept. 19

Tom Betz, Internet service director and troubleshooting technician for the nwkansas.com, will be in Bird City on Thursday, Sept. 19, and St. Francis on Wednesday, Sept. 18, to assist people with their Internet service. nwkansas.com is expanding its technical support services by coming to each of the communities on a rotating basis.

Mr. Betz was in McDonald two weeks ago and enjoyed putting a face to some of the people he has helped over the last few years. McDonald was chosen as the first tech stop as the number of customers is dwindling and, if more customers do not sign up within the next month, the Internet service from nwkansas.com in that community will probably be dropped.

Mr. Betz will be in Bird City in the morning from 10 a.m. to noon. He will be at The Blue Bird Cafe to meet and visit with people. That afternoon he will be at The St. Francis Herald office to visit with customers having internet problems or just having questions

about internet service.

He is welcoming people to stop by so he can meet them and, while they are at the office, they might enjoy some iced tea and cookies. He is also willing to make house calls while in town.

nwkansas.com has been providing Internet service in Bird City and St. Francis for about four years, and is one of the few available in the area who have local contacts and personal technical support.

While in St. Francis and Bird City, Mr. Betz will have signup sheets and welcomes anyone wanting to try nwkansas.com. The price of internet service in St. Francis is \$19.95 per month or can be obtained at the special rate of \$99.75 for six months or \$179 for one year. In Bird City, the price for one month is \$24.95 or \$99.80 for five months or \$198 for one year (\$16.50 per month).

To make an appointment with Mr. Betz (which is not necessary), call the Times office at 785-734-2621 or the Herald office at 785-332-3162.