

CHEYLIN SECOND GRADERS opened the National Honor Society basketball games by leading the crowd with our country's national anthem.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheylin elementary kids come out for basketball

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The McDonald gymnasium filled up with friends and family of Cheylin's second, third, fourth and fifth graders to watch them play basketball during the National Honor Society games.

Before the games started, the Cheylin junior class worked the concession stand and served hot cheesy potato soup and barbecue brisket sandwiches.

For many of the players, it was the first time they had ever been on the court, and the energy the

teams generated could have lit up the entire northwest corner of Kansas!

To make it a fair game, second and third grade students combined and then split up to make two teams - the gold team was called the Lucky, Lucky Golden Coins, and the green team the Jackrabbits. It was high energy from the start and the score ended with a tie, 24 to 24.

The second game, like the first, combined the fourth and fifth graders then splitting the group into two teams. The red team,

the Spartans moved out ahead in the first quarter, even having a 10-point lead. Then the orange team, the Hot Shots made their move in the fourth quarter and won the game 28 to 24.

In the final minutes of each game, all the players came out on the court to play. One three-pointer was made by fifth grader Derek Vandike.

Coaches and referees were Craig Busse, Sydney Busse, Justin Miller, Naomi Reeh, Chris Walden and Mandie Walden.

New clerk hired, payments approved

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City Council members covered a lot of topics during the March monthly meeting held Monday night. One was the hiring of the city clerk and the council voted to hire DeAnza Ambrosier.

Finalizing lagoon payments

With the generator for the lift station still to purchase, the council approved the request needed to receive the finances to allow Don Wright Electric to move forward with the purchase. The new generator will cost \$13,350 including installation.

In addition, Miller and Associates made a request for final payment for engineer inspections for \$2,529. Motion carried to make the payment.

Craig White, city maintenance, had an observation concerning seepage from a sink hole in the northwest corner of the wastewater lagoon.

After some discussion, Mr. White reported that BSB Construction inspected the sink hole, determined it was due to settling and repaired it. Mr. White said he would watch it.

Old lumberyard

Rod Young, Bird City, was on hand to answer any questions the council members might have concerning the burn permit request from Century II Development Foundation.

Mr. Young reported the Roy Shrader would be doing the demolishing and burning of the lumber. He said Mr. Shrader would contact Craig White, city maintenance, to locate a good place to dig a burn pit.

Discussion from the members concerned the amount of lumber that would be burned at a time.

"Would the tin be separated from the lumber and taken to the landfill," asked Kari Gilliland, county attorney.

She continued by saying precautions needed to be taken because of the heat the tin would generate. Mr. Young replied that some, but not all, of the tin would get into the pit. The burned materials would be put out and covered every evening. Furthermore, the burn pit will be cleaned out as it filled up.

Mr. Young told the members that some local farmers were interested in grinding up concrete, reusing it and using chunks in various other ways. Once the lumberyard is cleared away, trees, fences, etc. grass will be planted to prevent erosion. Motion carried to sign the burn permit.

Public pool

Once again the council discusses how funding is going to come from the Recreation Commission to keep the pool open this summer.

Phyllis Carson, city treasurer, was present to discuss some of the problems that can happen if the funds were not properly dispersed.

Mrs. Gilliland said that a contract

could be drawn up with the Recreation Commission to allow the city to write checks and make specific payments.

"This year, the city will just have to hobble through it and next year set the budget," said Mrs. Gilliland.

She continued by saying that she could draw up a contract that would satisfy both with the auditors and state requirements - this was in response to Mrs. Carson's concern about the operating the pool without a budget in place.

Mayor Troy Burr mentioned that during a recent discussion with Cathy Domsch, executive director of Century II Development Foundation, an application for a grant to help get the city through this year may be approved based on goals that had been set by the council.

Councilman Wade Carmichael continued saying an Operations Committee was being considered with Jane Young and himself on board. He asked if anyone from the council would consider helping out, Councilman Ray Magnani said he would.

Councilman Magnani mentioned that it would be a good idea to have the council members do a walk through along with Mr. White and Brad Schneider, city maintenance, to assess what needs to be done.

It was also discussed that advertising for pool lifeguards and employees should be put in the paper so that students can plan on the work and not have to look elsewhere. No further discussion.

Eggers Emergency Building

Council approved pay request from McGilvary Farms for work done up to Feb. 25, on the Eggers Emergency Building training room.

Councilman Loren White had a concern over some of the work done and mentioned that Mort Plunkett, architect, should meet with them and walk through the building. Council agreed to have the city clerk contact Mr. Plunkett with the request.

Mayor Burr's main concern was that construction still be under budget. Councilman White replied that it was, but he was expecting order changes. No action was taken.

Discussion continued with the emergency generator that would need to be purchased for the building. Mayor Burr informed the members he had talked with Mrs. Domsch, and she asked if the \$10,000 grant that had been approved through Century II Development Foundation was going to be needed for the construction. He told her that at least a portion would be for the purchase of the generator. No further discussion.

Mayor Burr reported that he had talked with the Cheyenne County Commissioners about payments for utilities and storing of equipment at

the Eggers building. He added that an estimate was taken of last year's bills and they averaged out to nearly the amount of \$300 the county was already paying. Motion carried to sign the Mutual Cooperation Agreement contract with Cheyenne County for \$300.

City hall remodeling

Councilman Carmichael reported, that to date, \$11,960 had been spent on the remodeling with the project budgeted for \$20,000. The total included floor and ceiling tile already purchased.

He continued that the stuccoing was nearly completed and ready for the next phase, which would be to paint. Carpet still needed to be ordered and he presented a bid for approximately \$4,200. In addition, Councilman Carmichael updated the members on the handicap-accessible bathroom; the doors had been cut to 36-inches wide and asked the members about custom-built cabinets. Some discussing followed with Councilman Magnani saying that with the cost of ready-built cabinets, the way to go was with the custom-built because of the better quality and workmanship.

Councilman Carmichael added that the remodeling was still under budgeted, but the furniture had not been considered yet. He continued by adding that when he and the mayor had met with Mrs. Domsch concerning other issues, they had talked with her about possibly applying of a grant to finish up the project, he reported that Mrs. Domsch said it was possible.

Miscellaneous items

With most of the pressing items taken into consideration, the council member addressed the following issues:

- Linda Schneider said that a Cinco de Mayo celebration would be taking place on May 3 in the Van Doren Park and Shelter House.

- Craig White said the chief of police of St. Francis had a request to purchase the "No J-turn" signs. Some humorous conversation followed with Mr. White saying, "At least there are no shotgun holes in them."

- Approved request from Phyllis Carson to attend a budgeting conference and adding the city clerk should also attend.

- Approved to proceed with the Floodplain Ordinance. This would allow for flood insurance.

- Councilman White updated the members of the arrival of the new tractor coming in May.

- Gravel for the street has been ordered.

Next meeting

Next meeting of the city council will be held on April 6.

Bird City hosts 59th annual awards dinner to large crowd

By Linda Schneider
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The Cheyenne County Conservation District held its 59th meeting and awards dinner at the Bird City Legion Hall last Thursday.

Members and local residents enjoyed a dinner of roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans with bacon, rolls and poke cake prepared and served by Deanna Nelsen and Avis Hazuka.

Spencer Schlepp, chairman, welcomed the crowd and Lonnie Willis, treasurer, said grace before dinner.

The walls were lined with posters submitted by kindergartners through sixth graders from St. Francis and Cheylin elementary schools. Later in the evening winners were announced.

Roger Orth, vice-chairman, gave the annual report including the finalized guidelines for the Herman Antholz Memorial Scholarship. Starting this year, the District will sponsor one scholarship for a college junior or senior who is a resident of Cheyenne County and majoring in agriculture or wildlife.

Clint Bursch headed up the elections with Roger Orth and Randy Rueb keeping their seats for another three years.

As the crowd finished their meals the award presentation began. Randy Rueb, Myra Hyde and Roger Orth started with the elementary poster awards.

The coloring contest winners from Cheylin Elementary were: honorable mention; first grader Kaylynn Hendricks, for second grade, first place went to Leigh Brown, third place; Granite Bock, second; Yordi Gutierrez, third; and honorable mentions to Destany Clemans, Jessie Frisbie, and Josie Frisbie.

For third and fourth graders poster winners were: second place went to Bergan Bock, honorable mentions to C.J. Antholz and Rachel Keltz. For the fifth graders, first place went to Reece Leonard. The winners were given t-shirts with their winning poster drawing on it.

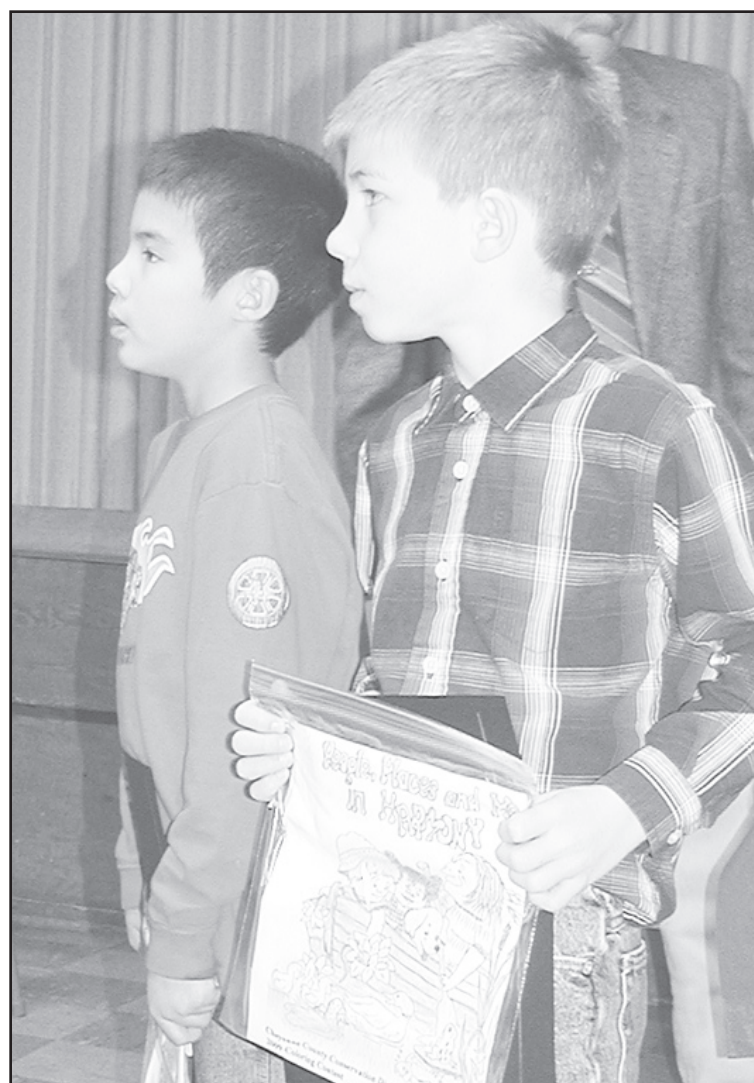
Following the poster awards Kermit Bear, president First National Bank, Bird City, announced the Kansas Bankers' Awards. The Farm/Ranch Award

went to Feikert Farms, Bruce and Sharon Feikert, and Ruben and Darlene Feikert. The Windbreak Award went to Rethke Farms, Kip and Patsy Rethke, and the Wildlife Habitat Award went to Tim and Joanna Kraus.

During the presentation of the Kansas Bankers Awards, a slideshow of each farm with Joe Liebbrandt, extension office, explaining each slide, telling that wildlife, even weeds, are beneficial.

After all the awards were given out, the drawing for door prizes began. Prizes were given out in envelopes, but a couple of the prizes were "wrench bouquets" that had been center pieces on the tables. There was \$500 in door prizes, furnished by the Cheyenne County Conservation District.

With all the prizes and awards out, Mr. Schlepp gave recognition to the sponsors of the evening's meal, First National Bank, Bird City, and St. Francis, Bankwest and Western State Bank and also to all the volunteers that helped out in the preparations.



RECEIVING THEIR POSTER AWARDS during the Cheyenne County Conservation District dinner are Yordi Gutierrez (left) and Granite Bock.

Free screening offered

An Early Childhood screening will be conducted on Wednesday for children ages birth to 5-years-old and will include vision, hearing and developmental areas. It is sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in conjunction with the Cheylin School District.

The screenings are free of charge and provide valuable information for a parent/guardian. Consequently, the screenings help the school to plan and prepare to meet the requirements of the child's developmental needs.

The screenings are at the Bird City United Methodist Church located at 116 E. Bressler Street. Appointments are necessary and can be made by contacting Deanna Nelsen at Cheylin Elementary School at 785-734-2351.

Use the east entrance to the building closest to Demick Avenue and proceed upstairs to the registration room.