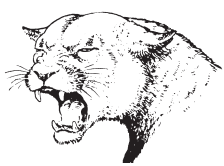


Cheylin holds information forum



By Linda Schneider
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The Cheylin Board of Education and staff felt it was time to give the communities of Bird City and McDonald information about Cheylin School's financial situation, school programs, and suggestions how to save money.

Cheylin superintendent, Bruce Bolen, gave two separate presentations, one in Bird City and one in McDonald, with about 30 residents, parents, and facility in attendance at each.

In addition, Cheylin School Board members, Hal Antholz, board president; George Loud-erbaugh, board vice president; Jan Busse, Dave Frisbie, Dale Hazuka, Lori Janicke and Anita Pochop were present.

While both presentations were taken up with a lot of numbers, it was an open forum and the attendees were able to ask questions and receive clarification on a number of important issues.

Superintendent Bolen discussed many different topics such as where funding was coming from, how salaries are being paid and from what school account, how grants are applied for and on what basis they are granted, and how local and state taxes play into school finances.

One of the topics Superintendent Bolen clarified was teacher's salaries and how they are paid. He explained there have been some discrepancies about what Cheylin teachers are being paid and adding that he knows of school districts that are paying teachers \$60,000 and more.

"That is not happening here," said Superintendent Bolen. "In fact, Cheylin teachers are doing more and receiving less pay than many other districts I have worked for."

As the presentation continued, Mrs. Busse added that the one thing that hurt the school budget/finances was state cuts of the money that had already been budgeted for the 2009-



SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE BOLEN (right), spoke with members of the community about school financial planning.

2010 school year and now they have to look into ways to fill in the gaps.

Superintendent Bolen said that because of the prudent decisions on the part of the past and current school board members, Cheylin's financial situation is not as bad as many of the other districts; however, if state funding cuts continue the school will have to make some tough decisions.

Some of the financial numbers talked about were cuts that have been made and possible future cuts, this brought up the subject of program cuts — something no one wants.

There was also discussion on how to increase school revenue such as charging for junior high games, increasing high school gate entry at sport events, and private donations from the community.

It was mentioned that community residents are now making donations toward school-sponsored sporting events such as official's salaries and transportation. Jane Young, Cheylin dis-

trict clerk, mentioned that donations from the private donors are tax deductible and can be made directly to the school and not through a foundation.

"The donor can designate where the money should go," said Mr. Antholz. "Or they can write in the notes, 'as needed'."

Superintendent ended the discussion by saying that schools are the heart of any community; businesses rely on the school to bring people to work and to buy products, and without schools many communities close down.

"Now that is said, Cheylin is one of the greatest schools I have worked in," said Superintendent Bolen. "The staff and faculty have been willing to step up on many money saving ideas, such as cleaning their rooms after class is over."

He added that, realistically, it is going to take more than that and the communities need to know what is happening in the school and how the facility, board of education, and the community can work together to be a part of the solution.



CHEYLIN FRESHMAN AUSTIN MANNERS has the altitude for the jumping event at the first track meet of the season held on March 26. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Members make plans for the 125-year celebration in June

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On March 24, the Bird City Quasiquicentennial Committee held a meeting in the Senior Center.

Ken Krien, chairman, said that the commemorative rifle and quilt tickets sold well during Bird City Santa Day; however, only 50 commemorative belt buckle were sold. He added that the first commemorative rifle made will be auctioned and the 10th rifle will go to the winner of the drawing.

While many of the events and programs have been planned, others are still in the development stages.

Rod Young, activity chairman, told the members that he had sent out a letter to local businesses and organizations with a list of activities for sponsorship. He added that some have been selected, but there is still a need for more help. And as always with large community events, volunteers would be appreciated.

Events that have been planned are a horseshoe tournament, a Triathlon, children's inflatable devices, and an Anything-on-Wheels display, and adding that Mike Boyson has volunteered to organize a sidewalk art contest.

Also planned is one night of celebration set aside for a street dance. Mr. Young said the Bird City City Council had approved the event. It was discussed that the best area to have the dance would be in front of the American Legion Hall since there were no resident homes close by.

The members thought it would be a good idea to have food and craft vendors on Bressler to begin on Friday evening, June 11, and



DURING THE QUASQUICENTENNIAL meeting, Ken Krien (clockwise), Rosemary Powell and Linda Carroll take part in the planning discussion.

continue through the event. Carol Marsh was appointed to head up the sidewalk food and crafts.

Also discussed was having a church service on Sunday morning with a potluck following sponsored by the local churches. Mr. Young asked about renting tents to accommodate meals and programs that would take place at Van Doren Park. He also suggested adding portable restrooms for the increase of visitors to Bird

City. Wade Carmichael was asked to select the hats and T-shirts for the three-day event and bring samples to the next meeting.

Rosemary Powell and Dorothy Mast presented an opportunity to perform a historical play written by Mrs. Mast. The play, "The History Detective Finds Bird City," was performed during the Kansas Day celebration. It was suggested that a booklet be made.

Easter Bunny is coming to town

The annual Bird City Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Van Doren Park, weather permitting. In case of bad weather, the hunt will be held in the Cheylin Elementary gymnasium.

Cheylin youth from pre-school to fourth grade and toddlers are invited to hunt for Easter eggs.

Along with the hunt, the Easter Bunny will be making an appearance at 10:30 a.m. to hand out treats for the kids.

There will be games and prizes as well as drinks and cookies for everyone to enjoy. Finally, the kids can register for two grand prizes, one girl and one boy, to be given away by the Easter bunny himself!

This community event would not be possible without the support of Bird City Community Club, Century II Development Foundation, Hometown Market and Cheylin Schools.



LEARNING HOW TO DOUBLE DUTCH JUMP ROPE was part of the fun students had while jumping for the American Heart Association. Jeremy Stefan, teacher, (l) helps Danea Magnani (center) and Elizabeth Keltz. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students jump to fight heart disease

The Cheylin Elementary students participated in a fund raiser for the American Heart Association. Coordinated by Jeremy Stefan, physical education/health teacher, students jumped rope during physical education class for three weeks.

The "Jump Rope for Heart Program" is a nation-wide fund raiser sponsored by the American Heart Association to help find and prevent cardiovascular disease and stroke through research. Last year Cheylin Elementary

students raised over \$3,000, and this year over \$2,200 to give to heart research. "The kids really enjoy jumping rope, and it is fun watching them learn tricks and having fun with it," said Mr. Stefan.