



ENJOYING THE CRAFT FAIR—Ruth Houston and her great-granddaughter Allie Ritche visit with other shoppers.  
*Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.*

## Superintendent talks about waiver

By Norma Martinez  
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Bruce Bolen attended the Kansas Association of School Boards Fall Education Summit meeting in Colby on Oct. 6. During the Oct. 10 board meeting he talked about the "21st Century Accreditation" waiver.

What that means, said Superintendent Bolen, is if this waiver is accepted, it will change how we are accredited. By doing this, we will finally be getting back to what education is about. This means the Adequate Yearly Progress (No Child Left Behind) in math and reading will no longer be in existence.

Doing this means instead of the Adequate Yearly Progress of math and reading scores presently used, accreditation will be based on five components: relationships, relevance, responsive culture, results and rigor. The results will be based on: assessments, attendance at or above 90 percent, graduation

rates at or above the state standard, and test participation rate at or above 95 percent.

Accreditation may be based on quality and performance in each of the five categories. Other options that we have to choose from at this time are:

- A 50-percent growth in six years between the general education population and our sub-group populations and the differences in their scores.

- A growth model which means by 2020 every student would have to be 100 percent proficient. "We already know this would be impossible," Mr. Bolen said.

- Setting a goal the school feels is an attainable target. Cheylin scores are higher than many schools, so we would have to set a higher attainable target. This, he said, would be a good avenue, as it would mean we still have to grow.

The school's accreditation would be based on what we have done in regards to relationships,

relevance, responsive culture, results and rigor. Each category will be based on points, and what each district does to provide growth in these areas. It has less to do with test scores, but a lot to do with academics.

What Mr. Bolen thinks is interesting is that Cheylin will be scored on their integration of technology, and that's what he has been pushing for since coming to Cheylin schools.

The relevance of the 21st Century Accreditation would mean students and teachers would no longer have to stress over Adequate Yearly Progress tests, and can sleep at night. Academics will no longer be based on how well they do in three days of testing on math and reading, but how well they perform in the five different categories. Cheylin has many opportunities for growth to reach their goals and they can do it, Mr. Bolen said.

## Warmer temperatures will welcome hunters

Pheasant hunters will be rolling into the county starting Friday so they will be ready for the first day of hunting season. The weather is expected to be warmer with little to no chance of rain or snow which makes better pheasant hunting conditions.

Wildlife officials are saying the population is a little smaller than last year's pheasant crop, but still better than most years, and the northwest corner is better hunting than in most of the state.

Jim Pitman, small game coordinator with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, said there's a lot of variation from county to county. Some areas will have more birds than others, depending on the

weather in June and July when the chicks were hatching.

Last fall, Kansas recorded 892,000 birds harvested, the most since 1982. In northwest Kansas alone, said Mr. Pitman, hunters took 230,000 birds.

Even with a decrease in the population, he said, hunters still should find plenty of birds to hunt.

Keep in mind, he said, that a lot of the Conservation Reserve Program grassland was open to emergency haying and grazing this year because of the drought in other areas. Some of those areas are also leased for walk-in public hunting. Those areas won't make the best habitat this fall.

In the long run, though, said Mr.

Pitman, the disturbance on that ground might be a good thing for the birds, as the grass grows back.

Pheasant hunting, said Mr. Pitman, is a huge boon to the economy in western Kansas. The season attracts 150,000 hunters each year, half of those from out of state. Hunters buy food in the towns, fill up with fuel and rent hotel rooms, he said. The state estimates the total spent is a little over \$85 million.

Even with the decrease in bird numbers, hunting in the northwest still will be substantially better than almost anywhere else in the state.

"There is still some good hunting in northwest Kansas," said Mr. Pitman.

## Gifts still needed for our military

Shopping for a Christmas gift for our military overseas is fast coming to a close.

"We have one more week before it will be taken to the distribution center," said Hulda Dorsch, coordinator. "We have some very nice food items collected but it is not even close to what we had last year nor is the cash gift for postage adding up very fast.

"We know that many of you have been busy in harvest with this nice fall weather. However don't forget the men and women that make it possible for us to live in a free country and doing without most of the comforts of home that they make possible for us to have.

Please consider giving a gift or a gift of cash to bring joy to our men and women who are serving in the military overseas.

The items collected will be boxed and mailed out to them in the next week.

Listed are some items that are needed:

Heat and eat meals - Chef-Boy-Ar-Dee, Dinty Moore meals, Ragu Express Pasta - No pork items, easy Mac-N-Cheese.

Powdered drink mix (pre-sweetened Kool Aid, lemonade, iced tea.)

Canned snack food.

Puzzle books, crossword puzzle books, paperback books.

Snack crackers, tuna and chicken salad mixes, jerky.

Dried fruit, small cans of fruit with pop top lids, snack size puddings.

Gum, Tootsie Rolls, jelly beans,

hard candy, licorice, nuts, granola bars.

White tube socks, batteries (AA and AAA).

Seasonings - Onion and garlic salt, cayenne pepper, Italian seasoning, salsa.

Coffee (small instant containers or singles).

Breakfast cereal (Raisin Bran, Corn Pops, Lucky Charms, Frosted Flakes individual small boxes), Pop Tarts.

Powdered laundry soap (Soap is packaged into 20 ounce soda and water bottles).

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream (male/female) disposable razors, deodorant, shampoo (trial sizes work best), chapstick, sunscreen

Packing items - Zip Lock bags - quart or gallon size.

Large paper bowls (not styrofoam) to go with pudding. Plastic spoons and forks

We divide packages of socks and put two pairs per quart-size bag.

All the powdered drink mixes need to go in plastic bags. The soldiers re-use these bags for a variety of things.

Since these are to be holiday boxes, some holiday decorations such as garlands would be nice including Christmas lights (50 or less lights per strand), lightweight Holiday decorations and short extension cords.

For more information, contact Mrs. Dorsch, chairman, Bird City American Legion, 785-734-2792 or Christy Wurm, 4-H chariman, St. Francis, 785-332-2650.



CHECKING OUT the goodies at Tana Dale's (right) Avon booth during the craft fair is Deanna Nelsen.

*Times staff photo by Norma Martinez*

## Salute our veterans