



CHEYLIN SENIORS honored their parents with a Parent Appreciation night at the basketball games in the McDonald gymnasium on Wednesday.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Farm Service Office to stay in county

Cheyenne County and other northwest counties, were not in the list of county Farm Service and National Resources Conservation Service offices to be consolidated. Those offices to be consolidated are: Cottonwood Falls, Coldwater, Olathe, Junction City, Howard, Yates Center, Medicine Lodge, Elkhart, Alma, Leavenworth and Gove.

State conservationist Harold L. Klaege, Salina, said on Feb. 15 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service would follow the plan proposed by the Farm Service Agency in consolidating offices across the state.

"With budgets becoming tight for federal agencies," Mr. Klaege said, "United States Department

of Agriculture partners are trying to find ways to effectively and efficiently serve their clients and in National Resources Conservation Service's case, get more conservation on the land. As a United States Department of Agriculture partner, it makes sense that National Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency locate together to serve their clients.

"It is our intent that office consolidation be a smooth transition," said Mr. Klaege, "and that farmers and ranchers records be available in the county where the United States Department of Agriculture Service Center is located or if the client desires, a neighboring county.

"Regardless of the office location," he said, "farmers and ranchers should be assured that National Resources Conservation Service will be there to serve them and to provide the conservation technical assistance they want and to deliver the voluntary programs that Congress has authorized and funded, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and others.

"Today, with the latest portable technology at their fingertips, such as laptop computers, geographic information system technology, printers, cell phones, and more, National Re-

sources Conservation Service field staff can meet with a farmer or rancher on the land and develop a conservation plan on site."

In Kansas, National Resources Conservation Service has an office in 103 counties. In December, the Sedan Field Office consolidated with the Howard Field Office.

NRCS and local conservation districts have shared office space and equipment and office staff since the passage of the

Conservation District Law in the late 1930s. A steering committee made up of representatives from the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, the State Conservation Commission, the Employees' Organization, and National Resources Conservation Service are working together to determine how local conservation districts will maintain a presence in their county when National Resources Conservation Service consolidates.

As new information becomes available, National Resources Conservation Service will issue a news release, or contact the National Resources Conservation Service public affairs specialist at 785-823-4571 to arrange an interview with Mr. Klaege.

Program information is available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

The Kansas Farm Service Agency County Office Restructuring Plan can be obtained at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

County receives 911 grant

By Karen Krien

Cheyenne County has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to implement a 911 emergency system. At the Feb. 15 meeting, the Cheyenne County Commissioners discussed the details involved with putting in the system.

Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County Sheriff, and Jim O'Loughlin, Allied Information Solutions, said that, according to the grant provisions, the system would need to be installed by the end of December.

Mr. O'Loughlin has experience, having overseen the installation of other 911 emergency systems. He said that he will be able to get a good professional system and it will be one of the most up-to-date systems in the state. As the project leader, he will be getting everything together.

Sheriff Gardner said the 911 system would be moved from the city power plant to the vacated sheriff's office on the second floor of the courthouse. He said that the 911 system would need three full-time and one part-time person to man the system. At the present time, city workers are taking care of the 911 calls as well as overseeing the engines in the plant.

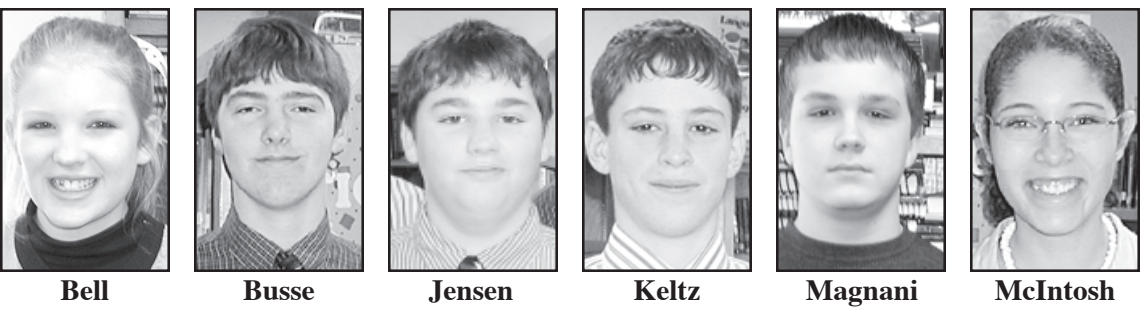
Mr. O'Loughlin said the county would need aerial maps. He had a company which would make high-quality aerial photos which are necessary to the 911 personnel. The matter will be further discussed with the appraiser.

Besides the grant, the county has been collecting a tax on phone service. The fund has paid for emergency equipment and radios

but there is still around \$83,000 which can be used for the new system.

The commissioners were concerned about the electricity going off. Mr. O'Loughlin said there was a back-up battery that would keep the system going for an hour. The commissioners thought there should be a generator. Sheriff Gardner said that possibly Homeland Security money might be used for a generator. The county may also qualify for a grant to purchase a generator.

The commissioners decided to move forward with the system and signed contracts with Allied Information Solutions to take care of purchasing and installing the 911 equipment and to Sanborn, Inc. for the mapping project.



Bell Busse Jensen Keltz Magnani McIntosh

Seventh grade scholars earn second place

On Jan. 24, Cheylin Junior High Scholars' Bowl teams competed in the Freedom League Scholars' Bowl tournament held in Tribune. It was a good day for the seventh grade as they captured second place in the league.

They lost first place to Greeley County in the head-to-head competition. They did receive first place honors in most points scored by a team, 460, and also were first in least amount of points allowed by opponents, 210.

Wil Orten was hot on the buzzer and was the point leader with 200 points. Others scoring were Tilyn Bell, 120; Ethan Young, 70; and Dalton Magnani, 60.

The eighth grade started out the

meet going strong and winning their first two matches, but faltered later on to end up fifth in the league standings.

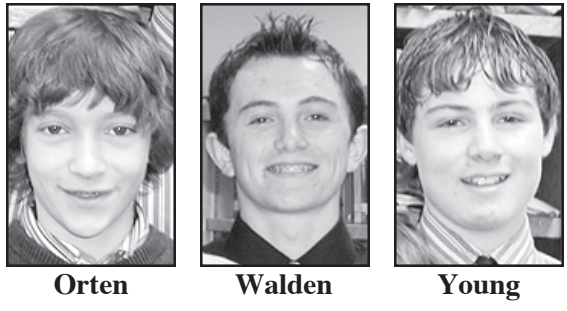
Doing a great job on the buzzer for the day was Chris Walden with 170 individual points. He was followed by Mitchel Jensen with 100, Caleb Keltz, 30, and Taylor McIntosh, 20.

The following Monday, Jan. 29, the Cheylin Junior High journeyed to Goodland to compete in the Grant Junior High Scholars' Bowl meet. There were 10 teams represented at the meet, and both teams had a good showing with the seventh grade team earning third place and the eighth grade team receiving fourth place hon-

ors.

Tilyn Bell scored a season high for individual points at a meet with 270 points. Wil Orten followed with 120 points; Ethan Young with 70; and Dalton Magnani with 50. On the eighth grade team Chris Walden again earned top accolades by scoring 200 individual points, followed by Craig Busse with 190, Caleb Keltz, 100, Taylor McIntosh, 60, and Mitchel Jensen 20.

Both teams have been outstanding competitors and have shown great team effort at the meets with all players contributing points in their quest for wins, said coach Marjean Zumbahlen.



Orten Walden Young



Sharon Hendricks shares a book with grandson Mathew at the Conservation meeting dinner held on February 12.

Times Staff photo by Casey McCormick

Cheylin students achieve the State Standard of Excellence

On Feb. 2 there were 32 students from Cheylin honored during the Cheylin basketball games for achieving the Standard of Excellence on the Kansas State Assessment Tests. Mr. Zumbahlen recognized each student with a certificate for their achievements.

In addition to the individual winners the Reading Standard of Excellence was achieved by the fourth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade and eleventh grade. The Math Standard of Excellence was achieved by the fourth and fifth grade. The

Cheylin Elementary was recognized by the Kansas State Board of Education for the achieving the Building Level Standard of Excellence on the 2005-2006 Kansas State Assessment in Reading. Also, the Cheylin Junior/Senior High was recognized by the Kansas State Board of Education for achieving the Building Level Standard of Excellence on the 2005-2006 Kansas State Assessment in Reading.

Those students receiving certificates were: Jacob Brubaker, Mary Ann Orten, Edward Frisbie, Walker

Janicke, Shayna Johnson, Shayla Hubbard, Adam Orten, Stephanie Busse, Megan Els, Kenan Reeh, Jessie Smith, Tilyn Bell, Forrest Burr, Wil Orten, Roberto Ponce, Ethan Young, Craig Busse, Whitney Churchwell, Daniel Frisbie, Caleb Keltz, Christopher Walden, Vance Churchwell, Nicholas Els, Maxwell Hengen, Vanessa Antholz, Christopher Basnett, Kaedra Dixon, Colleen Shrader, Zaiba Ahmed, Josh Johnson, Aubrey Kehlbeck, and Devin Keister.