

Cougar Chronicles

Menu

Mon. March 12

Breakfast; Egg and Cheese Biscuit, cereal, toast, juice, milk.

Lunch; Ham and Cheese Stromboli, chips, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Tues., March 13

Breakfast; Pizza, cereal, toast, juice, milk.

Lunch; Sophomores Favorites; Cheese enchiladas, cheesy broccoli, strawberries and bananas, mandarin oranges, salad bar, popsicles, milk.

Wed., March 14

Breakfast; Pop Tarts, cereal, toast, juice, milk

Lunch; Oven Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Thur., March 15

Breakfast; Breakfast Burritos, cereal, toast, juice, milk.

Lunch; Hamburgers, baked beans, salad bar, fruit, milk.

• Long weekend ahead! Cheylin students get Thursday off for Spring Break making a four day weekend.

• The FFA had a good turn-out for their 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Saturday.

• On Sunday two new members, Mandi Walden and Sydney Busse were inducted into the Cheylin chapter of the National Honor Society.

• Many Cheylin students participated in the Teens for Christ basketball games on Sunday to raise funds for the American Heart Association.

• Junior high and high school track practice begins on Monday, March, 12.

• Tuesday, March 13, will be class pictures and spring individual pictures.

• Elementary students are busy practicing for the annual National Honor Society basketball games planned for Thursday, March 15, in the McDonald gym (which got a facelift this week with the installation of new doors.) The junior class will be serving concessions that night with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans and dessert.

• On Thursday, March 15, the fourth graders will be traveling along with Mrs. Hendricks seventh grade science class to the National Weather Service in Goodland as part of their weather unit studies in

science. They will enjoy lunch at the Pizza Hut with their tour guide David Floyd, who is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the station and then take a tour of the facility.

Mrs. Hendrick's biology class is doing dissections this week and next as the beginning of their units on the classifications of animals. They have been practicing their techniques on pickles.

• The sixth graders recently completed a chapter on integers in math. As a culminating activity they created tessellations, a repeating pattern of figures that fill a plane with no gaps or overlaps. The tessellations they created are hanging in the elementary hall stairway for all to enjoy.

• The sophomore class rescheduled their after-church soup dinner for Sunday, March 18.

• In class this week Mrs. Dixon's junior class is studying *Hamlet*, the sophomores are reading the play *Our Town*, and the freshmen are finishing *The Miracle Worker*, which is the story of Helen Keller. The seniors are reading the novel *A Separate Peace*.



Sherry Oren, right, from the Northwest Kansas Educational Center in Oakley, conducts a vision test on Phoenix Clemans while Mom tries to keep him focused.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Couple plans April wedding in Damar Catholic Church

Gary and Mary Moore of Bird City announce the engagement of their daughter Sara Moore to



Cole Keiswetter of Hill City. The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Cheylin High School and a 2006 graduate of Colby Community College. She is currently employed by Palco Grade School.

The groom-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Hill City High School and a 2006 graduate of Colby Commu-

nity College. He is currently employed by the Graham County Highway Department.

Sara is the granddaughter of Bob and Leona Scantland of Greeley, Colo., and Willard and Dorothy Moore of Bird City, and the late Maxine Moore.

Cole is the son of David and Pauline Keiswetter of Hill City. He is the grandson of the Delores Keiswetter of Hill City and the late Leonard Keiswetter, and the late Duane and Anna Newell.

They will be married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Damar on April 14.



Keiswetter - Moore

Senator visits with public Saturday

By Karen Krien

Between 18 and 20 people were up early to meet Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber at Captain Hook's Fine Dining in Wheeler Saturday morning.

They discussed many issues including schools, the closings of government farm offices, health care and prairie dogs.

Carl Werner, superintendent of the St. Francis Schools, said some people and teachers do not understand that teacher's salaries cannot be taken out of the Capital Outlay Fund. What he would like to see is to allow insurance on the buildings, technology and utilities out of Capital Outlay. By taking these items out, it would keep more money in the General Fund and would help give teacher's raises.

The Legislators talked about the weighting factor which helps fund rural schools with low enrollment. They said Johnson County Legislators would like to do away with the weighting factor and, if this happens, it could close the doors to schools in western Kansas.

Rep. Faber said Kansas ranks in the top 10 in the national average composite score for reading and mathematics on the American College Test (ACT) assessments. However, the salaries paid to Kansas teachers are low. He said it is just a matter of time until Texas and Florida will be taking our teachers by offering them

higher salaries, offering benefits along with paid moving costs. Kansas will not be able to compete, he said.

Sen. Ostmeyer said he had nothing against those who want prairie dogs on their property but they needed to keep them off their neighbor's land. He said with the drought, they are moving east.

He was also concerned that there were Kansas children who were without health care insurance. Somehow, he said, the escalating costs for health care needs to stop.

Senator Ostmeyer said the problems with health care still remain but the Legislature is working on them.

The senator said the issue of expanding gambling will come up again but doesn't expect anything to come from it. He said he was against gambling and, it may not go anywhere this year, it "raise it's ugly head again in the future."

Rep. Faber said revenues are up in Kansas so there will be a few extra dollars. He thinks education has been secured for a couple of years but what the schools up and down U.S. 36 need is more people. He said that economic development is so important to the rural communities.

He expressed concern about the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park's involvement in government. He said the Wildlife and Parks people want to do away with statutes and go with only rules and regulations, which he thought would be a mistake. He also said that the Department wants to turn all land in western Kansas back



SATURDAY MORNING Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer to discussed several issues with the public.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

into grass because there is big money in hunting. However, he said that raising grain is important to the economy of this part of country.

There were a few other issues discussed before the Legislators finished their hour stay in Cheyenne County and were on their way for another meeting in Atwood.

Commissioners agree now is time to control prairie dogs

By Karen Krien

A chemical to control prairie dogs will soon be restricted to allow only certified people to use it. The commissioners agreed that prairie dogs needed to be controlled starting as quickly as farmers and/or the supervisor could get in the fields.

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog supervisor, said Rozol, a chemical used to control prairie dogs, is going to be restricted. If farmers buy the chemical now, they can still use it without being certified. However, within a month or two, those applying the chemical will need to be certified. Many of the farmers with prairie dogs will not be certified.

He said the snow had slowed down the baiting of prairie dogs but chairman Andy Beikman said he had seen new prairie dog mounds in a field within the last day or two. He wondered if the supervisor shouldn't be using the bait as soon as possible to help control the animals.

The supervisor said there is a movement to put the prairie dogs back on the endangered species list.

The supervisor had more bids for a new pickup for his department. The commissioners questioned why the noxious weed department received less of a discount (\$5,000) than the sheriff's department (\$7,500)? The supervisor didn't know why.

After reviewing the bids, the commissioners asked that Mr. Schlittenhardt get bids for a regular cab pickup instead of a four-door pickup and bring the bids back to the next meeting.

Firemen apply for grant

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had a cooperative agreement with the Kansas State Forestry Service which the commissioners signed. The agreement will let the county borrow fire equipment from the service if the county ever needs it.

He told the commissioners that he would like to apply for a 50-50 grant through the Kansas State Forestry Service. With the money, the firemen could get two receiver hitch winches for the new fire trucks. He

said that they winches will seldom be used but would be very useful when then are needed.

The commissioners agreed to move forward with the grant.

County purchases dozer

The commissioners decided to offer Martin Tractor \$90,000 for a dozer to be used at the county landfill. They will have more information at the next meeting. They again mentioned the plan to use a paper-mache type of covering instead of dirt at the landfill.

A highway permit was signed to allow Priority Oil to place a pipeline along the county ditch. The company will pay \$10 per rod.

The supervisor asked for executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made upon returning to regular session.

Tony Vandike has accepted the equipment operation position with the county road and bridge crew.

Backup system for repeater tower

Ambulance director Jannelle Bowers presented a bid from Prairie States Communications for a back-up system for the repeater tower. The bid was for a battery system. After discussion, it was decided to see about getting a generator versus a battery system. (It was learned after adjournment that the Road and Bridge shop has a generator for back-up purposes and the process is handled by the road department.)

Mrs. Bowers noted the ambulances were due for inspection and Yost Ford would be doing the work.

New pickup purchased for sheriff's department

The board agreed to purchase a 2007 Ford F-150 from Yost Ford-Mercury for \$15,910 plus trade-in of two department vehicles: 1999 Chevy Blazer and a 2003 Ford Explorer.

Sheriff Troy Gardner said he plans to trade-in a vehicle every year. The department has three vehicles. He figures that Equipment Reserve Fund will have sufficient

money for the trade-in each year and, this way, the vehicles will be up-to-date, be covered under warranty and have a good trade-in value.

In other business

• Roxie Neitzel, Neitzel Insurance Agency, and Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance Agency, reviewed the county's insurance plans. A few changes were made to the policy.

• The plans for the 911 emergency system were once again discussed. See related article.

• The handicap drive on the west side of the courthouse will be widened. See related article.

• The fair board had sent a letter asking the county to purchase the chemicals for spraying weeds and they would take care of the labor and equipment used to get rid of the weeds.

• A wage agreement was signed for Carol Whipple to work part-time in the county appraiser's office.

• Chairman Beikman signed the loan agreement for the Bird City Dairy Community Development Building Grant.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting is set for 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Council reschedules meeting

By Melinda Basnett

The Bird City Council members gathered at the Bird City Hall on Monday evening but were unable to conduct a meeting of the governing body due to the absence of many members. There were not enough present to make a quorum. The meeting is being tentatively rescheduled for next Monday, March 12.

Bizarre Facts

• "Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be excellent riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages are \$25.00 a week." This is a mid 1800's help wanted sign for the Pony Express.

• In 1980, a Las Vegas hospital suspended workers for betting on when patients would die.

• In 1980 the yellow pages listed a funeral Home under "frozen foods."

• It would take half the people in the United States between the ages of 18 and 45 to run the nation's telephone system if it were not computerized.

• In 1944, Fidel Castro was voted Cuba's best schoolboy athlete. A lefthanded pitcher, Castro was later given a tryout by the Washington Senators but was turned down by the baseball club.

Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.

John D. Ferris, MD will be at: 291 15th Street Burlington, CO

Wed., March 21 Sat., March 24

For information or appointment, call 1-800-593-0009



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American Heart Association HEALTHSAVER PEDIATRIC FIRST AID & CPR

Cheyenne County Hospital Clinic Basement

Sat., March 24 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 (A 30 minute break will be allowed for lunch)

Class Size is limit to 12

Registration \$15.00 to cover cost of books

*Books available now (registration due when book picked up)

Contact Brenda Hays at Cheyenne County Hospital • 785-332-2104