



**CHEYLIN STUDENTS** Max Hengen and Jacob White look on as wood shop teacher, Dennis Hengen, goes over plans for a building project. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Cheylin board of education holds first meeting of the year

By Linda Schneider  
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The Board of Education opened their first meeting of the year at 1 p.m., instead of 7 p.m. However, other than that it was business as usual.

The Education Board asked Cathy Domsch, Century II, to update the board members on the Bird City Strategic Plan as it pertains to the educational goals that are conducive to the development of the community.

Mrs. Domsch reported that there had been three town meetings and they were well attended. The community showed interest in what the Plan proposed.

The educational goals of the board Mrs. Domsch talked about concerned a journalism class and entrepreneurship education for both students and adults. Presently, the only journalism class at Cheylin is the yearbook class.

She also talked about the cost of such classes, which would run around \$500 to \$1,000 for class materials and be nine-week courses. She went on to say that classes would teach that starting up a new business is not something to fear.

Students would be encouraged to follow his or her dream, get the education and come back to Bird City to fulfill that dream.

Another area of interest to the board was developing a scholarship/mentoring program. Presently, Century II has two scholarship programs, Edgar and Mabel Robertson Scholarship and the Business Development Scholarship. Mrs. Domsch said that she has talked to Cheylin seniors about both of the scholarships. More information about these scholarships can be obtained at the Century II office. Applications are on the Bird City website.

Mrs. Domsch moved onto the Cheylin Initiative Association, made up of both Bird City and St. Francis individuals. It has to do with mentoring. Keri Meyer of St. Francis expressed a desire to help coordinate job shadowing and mentoring.

On behalf of a Bird City resident, Mrs. Domsch asked the board about increasing access to the school's weight room and adding some improvements.

Jan Busse, board member, commented on the entrepreneur program in other areas and they were having some success. The Soph-bucks Coffee shop was brought up, how well it was doing, and it was a good start toward an entrepreneur program.

The discussion then turned toward the availability of time for an entrepreneur program between lessons, tests and studying — should an entrepreneur program be made available to the students?

Mrs. Domsch mentioned the class could include fund raising, such as creating business cards, T-shirts, business stationary, etc. for such events as the senior prom or senior trip. Set goals and have awards.

Hal Antholz said, "The board needs to support the community as much as the community supports the school."

Mrs. Domsch finished her report by suggesting to the board a Youth Advisory Board. It would be much like a Junior Bank Board. Allowing students to make some decisions, getting them started on a business foundation.

Motion to support the Bird City Strategic Plan was passed.

The board asked Mrs. Domsch about changing the Cheylin Endowment Foundation from private funding to community funding. A meeting with the Cheylin Endowment Foundation Board was set for recommendation.

She also passed out the 2006 Bird City Century II Development Foundation Annual Report. Copies of this report are available at the Century II office.

### Action items

The board accepted the Knights of Columbus Donation of \$690.90 for use by Cheylin special education department. The donation was raised by a Tootsie Roll drive to be divided by the two county schools.

The board approve Sharon Hendricks as Pre-Kindergarten Program Certified Coordinator with pay set at \$250 per semester.

The board accepted Kathy Weber's combined classroom supplemental contract resignation. Mrs. Weber will be teaching second grade only.

The board agreed to accept the resignation of two long-time staff members, Judy Poore, fifth grade teacher and Roseanna Underwood, school clerk. Mrs. Poore is retiring after 27 years of service. Ms. Underwood is retiring after 17 years of service. Their retirement will begin at the end of this school year.

Ms. Underwood said she would be available for the school if there were a need for a more smooth transition.

It was expressed by board members their great regret at having to accept both resignations. All were grateful for the contributions they both have made.

After an executive session, the

board agreed to accept the bid from Schultz's, St. Francis, for carpet to be installed in the elementary east hall, old art room, district office and board room in the amount of \$13,879.95.

### Website update

The Cheylin website is progressing. There will be a beta version up by the end of this school year for the board members to look over during the summer. The live version will be completed by the next school year.

### Junior high cheerleaders

Mrs. Busse discussed the seventh and eighth grade cheerleaders and asked, "Is there any objection to allowing sixth graders to be cheerleaders?"

She wanted to know if there was any reason for not allowing sixth graders to be cheerleaders. Lori Janicke, board member, said it was like that when she was in junior high and it has just always been that way. The games could use more cheerleaders. No decision was made.

### Junior high sports uniforms

It is time to buy new uniforms for the junior high sports games. Uniforms do not match and some uniforms are being taped to hold together. Discussion went around the table for the need for uniforms, but no decision was made.

### Sign-out sheets

Mrs. Busse asked the board to clarify when it was needed to use sign out sheets for school events. She said that at a recent school sporting event, some of the students were told they didn't need to sign out.

Superintendent David Zumbalhen checked with secretary and said the students had signed out. Sign out sheets for school events will always be required.

### Reports

Superintendent Zumbalhen talked about the shortage of 1,400 teachers last year. He asked the board to email Kansas representatives for our district, Representative John Faber and Senator Ralph Ostmeyer to support teacher education in our colleges. Their email addresses are, [ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us) and [faber@house.state.ks.us](mailto:faber@house.state.ks.us)

# Avid hunter brings home rack that could be in record book

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One of the best-kept secrets here in the northwest corner of Kansas is its hunting.

"And the locals like it that way," says David Nelsen, long-time resident of Bird City.

Mr. Nelsen is an avid hunter. It is common knowledge around the Bird City area that when he sets his sights on a target he will bag it.

During the 2007 hunting season, Mr. Nelsen shot a deer that could very well be the record for the books.

That book is the *Boone and Crockett Book*. Before the deer is registered in the *Boone and Crockett Book*, it has to meet certain criteria.

The main criterion being that the deer must be shot and not found dead. While that may sound strange, deer that have been hit by a car can get be scored for some records, but not for the *Boone and Crockett Book*.

Stories have circulated about dead deer found in unusual ways. Mr. Nelsen related one such story:

Two deer were found locked together by their antlers, one alive dragging the other deer around. It appeared that their antlers became locked during a fight and one died in the process.

The game wardens were called and when they arrived, they cut the antlers off the dead deer. The live one ran off, nearly dead from exhaustion and hunger. When the war-



**THIS DEER RACK** could be one for the record books. Shot in Cheyenne county.

den came up on the dead deer, they found that the coyotes had already started eating on it.

The other criterion is quite naturally the measurements. David researched the measurements to see how his deer measured up. First, a person needs to understand how a deer is measured. The measurements come from the deer's "rack." Each point of the deer's rack is measured, even the antlers over the brow, then all measurements are added.

When submitting the measurements to the *Boone and Crockett Book* the numbers need to be 160 inches to get a "typical" rating and 180 inches to get a "non-typical" rating.

Now for Nelsen's deer measurements, 235.5 total inches minus 7.625 inches for B & C, that equals

227.875 inches. That is nearly 50 inches more than the "non-typical" rating! The outside width of the rack was measured 27.5 inches, in inside 23.875 inches.

When all is said and the measurements in, his deer is called a "12x12" rack. The deer missed being a "13x13" by just 1/8 of an inch.

David's deer will be mounted by Bob's Wildlife Taxidermy owned by Robert Juleson who will do the official scoring and give Mr. Nelsen a "Green Score," but unfortunately, Mr. Juleson is not an official scorer for book.

Even if this deer does not make it into the *Boone and Crockett Book*, it will get recorded somewhere and talked about. In addition, it will make a great mount in Mr. Nelsen's home!

## Bird City needs superintendent, arrangements made for advertising

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The city needs a new superintendent. At the Jan. 7 council meeting the matter was discussed and arrangements for advertising made.

Mayor Troy Burr and Ray Magnani, councilman, got together to propose an advertisement the hiring of a city superintendent.

Mayor Burr suggested starting the advertising immediately, running it through the month of January. Cut off date for accepting applications will be Feb. 1. After sorting through applications, interviewing could start as early as Feb. 11, making a selection by Feb. 15 to be hired March 3. This would give the person chance to give a two-week notice.

Kari Gilliland, city attorney, said that a committee could be set up by the council to do the interviews and make a proposal at a special meeting to get approval from the council. This gives the council time to review all the information and get a chance to interview the applicant if desired.

Some discussion was about the pay scale and making it available to the applicants. Before doing that, they will look into surrounding areas and compare pay.

Health insurance was discussed. Mrs. Gilliland suggested a group policy would be the best. Group policies will give the employees options such as dental.

The city does not have enough employees to do a corporate plan. Mrs. Gilliland said she had talked to Kari Miller about it. She will make initial contact and get information to council.

When discussing where to place ads, the *Country Advocate*, *Bird City Times*, *St. Francis Herald*, *Mile Saver* were suggested. In addition, put it on the Bird City website.

Mayor Burr suggested a special meeting around Feb. 15 to Feb. 18 to get council approval for new employee. Council appointed Mayor Burr, Ray Magnani and Loren White to do interviews and recommend applicant to council for approval.

Moving on to the subject of a contracted certified operator licensed under the Waste Water Municipal systems for the city, Mayor Burr had talked to Theresa Schylar. Theresa said that the operator has to be currently licensed.

The contracted certified operator is responsible for the collection of the water samples; he does not have to do the physical work, just oversee that it is done properly.

Mayor Burr said the contracted

certified operator would have to inspect the wells to make sure they were maintained and functioning properly.

He also asked Ms. Schylar if there was a time frame the city could operate with a contracted certified operator. She answered indefinitely. There is no requirement to have a full-time operator on staff. If a full-time operator were hired on staff, there would be no need to contract one.

Sam Beeson is currently contracted with the city until the end of January 2008 to be the contracted certified operator. He has submitted a proposal to the council. Mayor Burr appointed Ray Magnani, Loren White and himself to negotiate for a contracted certified operator and will bring findings to next meeting.

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## Full-Time Help Wanted

The City of Bird City, Ks. is seeking applications for a position with the city maintenance department. Duties will consist of general maintenance with City water/sewer, street maintenance, park and recreation equipment, and other duties assigned by the City.

A High School diploma or GED equivalent is required. State Certifications in municipal water/waste water systems would be beneficial but not required. Compensation based upon experience for 40 hours per week plus occasional overtime.

Applications may be obtained from the city clerk's office at 111 E. 4th, P.O. Box 219, Bird City, Ks. 67731, or phone 785-734-2616.

All applications must be returned to the city clerk's office by Feb. 4, 2008 for interview scheduling. Applicant will be subject to drug, alcohol and background checks. The city of Bird City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.