



RELAY FOR LIFE COMMITTEE has been meeting early this year as the annual walk around Sawhill Park has been moved from August to June. Watch for more information in the near future. Pictured eating lunch at

Main St. Coffee, St. Francis, is (l to r) Gloria Bracelin, Betty Petersen, Carol Ross, Susan Dinkel, Susie Walz, Marsha Zimelman and Sherry Schultz.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Cheylin school board agrees to split first and second grades

By Linda Schneider
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When the Cheylin Board of Education voted to combine the first and second grade classes for the 2006-2007 school years, it was about the numbers.

Then at the December 2007 board of education meeting when the members voted to separate the first and second classes, it was about the numbers again.

When the decision to combine the classes was made, Kathy Weber, who had taught first, second and third, then became both the first and second grade teacher. Because the first grade class had only three students and there were seven in the second grade, the decision to combine was made to give the students a better social atmosphere.

Since combining the two classes, the school population had increased because of families moving into the Cheylin School district, 17 new students were enrolled in 2007.

The increase of families moving is partly due to the new dairy opening nearby. Furthermore, as the dairy continues to build toward completion, hiring must done to keep up with the growing needs of operating the dairy. The result is, with more hiring, there is the potential of having more students. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the combined first and second grade classes.

When the classes were first combined in the 2006 school year, Mrs. Weber had the assistance

of Jeri Antholz, a teacher aide. With 10 students, there were challenges, but students were still able to get the one-on-one attention Mrs. Weber wanted to give them. In 2007, the combined class increased to 16 students.

Sixteen students is by no means a large class, but now Mrs. Weber was teaching two different classes — each with their own distinct curriculums — each with their own social needs, and she could not teach the first graders together with the second graders.

Kayla Bursch joined the Cheylin School staff for the 2007-2008 school year as a student teacher to finish her requirements to graduate with a teaching degree. For her assignment, she was joined with Mrs. Weber in the combined first and second grade classes. She finished her student teaching assignment and graduated December 2007.

The most Mrs. Bursch had hoped for was to get a substituting teacher position after she graduated. However, when the education board decided in to separate the first and second graders, she applied and she was approved for the position of first grade teacher.

"The quality of education, nor the budget, has never been the issue in combining or separating, it has always been about the student numbers," said Superintendent David Zumbahlen.

Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Bursch now are teaching in separate classrooms and giving their students that one-on-one attention that the students need.



KATHY WEBER, second grade teacher, helps Ena Salinas Muniz with her art project. Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Club Clip

Bird City/McDonald Red Hatters

The year 2008 was joyfully started off on Jan. 15, as the Bird City/McDonald Red Hatters enjoyed lunch at The Frosty Mug in McDonald. Excitement grew as each of the ladies arrived bearing an antique and the story surrounding the treasures. There was a wide variety ranging from novelty, jewelry, household and the covered wagon era to challenge the expertise of Royce and Jan Rambat at what they felt an auction price would be.

Queen Phyllis Wingfield read some fitting stories before the business meeting was held. The Feb. 19 meeting will be a potluck at the McDonald Senior Center. Salads will be coming with the Bird City ladies while the McDonald ladies will be providing the main dish and desserts. Each will showcase their talent with a Valentine box containing a \$5 gift to be exchanged.

Red hatters attending were Ana Antholz, Florence Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Vernetta Haack, Bev Higgins, Diane Kribbs, Betty Lewis, Iris McIntosh, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Joan Tongish, Phyllis Wingfield and Marlene Young.

ERROR

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a gas company needed access to a drilling spot. Even though it was a minimum maintenance road, the commissioners felt that the county was still responsible for making it passable. The supervisor said he will see if a farmer in that area would be willing to open the drift using his snow blower.

Raises

Supervisor Flemming said he'd like to increase the pay level for department employees, Tal Earl and Tony Vandike. The commissioners approved. He then suggested merit raises for the department employees. After discussion, it was decided against merit increases, but the commissioners agreed to look into longevity raises. They will do this at budget time in June of 2009.

Emergency medical service report

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, presented the department's year-end budget figures. Write offs in the amount of \$23,479 were approved. These write offs include many bills that have been turned over to the Kansas Setoff Program.

Mrs. Bowers asked for five minutes executive session to discuss financial matters of the

third party. Executive session was granted. No decision was made after coming out of the session.

New furniture for the new ambulance building was discussed with no decisions being made.

In other business

In other business:

- The commissioners agreed to pay \$4,596 for reimbursement of training fees to the city of St. Francis. This is for the training of sheriff deputy Michael Blehm.

- Those given permission to attend meetings or workshops were: Treasurer Jenik and Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor.

- The agreement to treat weeds for Kansas Department of Transportation was signed.

- The 2008 audit and budget contracts with Anderson and Eldridge were signed. Other agreements signed were: Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas; and the updated Corporate Plan Management Agreement. The Northwest Kansas Planning and Development dues of \$1,977 were approved.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse, St. Francis.

TUESDAY

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Woodston, Dr. Oliva continues to farm and write history.

He is the author of *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail*, six of the eight volumes in the Kansas Forts Network series, and *Fort Union and the Frontier Army in the Southwest*. He writes a weekly newspaper column, "Our Kansas Heritage," and is editor and publisher of the *Santa Fe Trail*

Association quarterly, *Wagon Tracks*, now in its 22nd year. As a frequent lecturer on Kansas history, the frontier army and overland trails, Dr. Oliva brings history alive for his audiences.

Area residents are welcome to attend the entire Kansas Day festivities at Bird City and to hear Dr. Oliva speak.

CHORUS

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most folks agree because of the tight harmony, a whole orchestra can be heard.

"We hope the community of St. Francis and surrounding area have as much fun when you attend on Sunday as we have had putting this show together," Mrs. Carmichael said.

At a recent educational weekend in Denver, Windsong was honored to receive a traveling

plaque honoring member retention which is very unique when many members travel so far. They also received the Region 8 chorus "Harmonize the World" award which goes to the chorus which gives the highest percentage of performances in recognition of their efforts to harmonize their community. This represented choruses from a six-state region so the Windsong group know their members really are committed.



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