

It was a full house at the Senior dinner

By Linda Schneider
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The Senior Citizens' Christmas dinner was held on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Cheylin School gymnasium in Bird City. They served approximately 116 guests.

As the honored guests arrived, they were greeted by Cristi Antholz's fifth grade class. Coats were taken and guests were shown to their seats. The tables were decorated with ornaments made by Cheylin elementary students. It was a great time, as guests could exchange ornaments with the grandparents of the students who had made them and could place them on their tree at home.

Once the guest were seated, Kale Schield's sixth grade students along, with Ms. Antholz's students, were attentive as beverages were served. Superintendent Bill Porter opened the dinner by welcoming all the guests and then turned it over to Pastor David Rossbach, Lutheran Church pastor, for the meal prayer.

Before the prayer, Pastor Rossbach told the story of the "Candy Cane." After prayer, guests enjoyed a traditional holiday meal of turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, a delicious cranberry-orange relish and pumpkin pie prepared by Avis Hazuka and Diana Carson all served by the fifth and sixth graders. Coffee and water was also served.

After the meal, the guests settled into the Christmas program presented by the Cheylin students in kindergarten through 12 grades and Rose Hengen. During the program, Lori Janicke, board of education member, drew for the beautiful poinsettias that had been the centerpiece at each table.

The program started with the kindergartener students welcoming everyone to the show. From



CHEYLIN STUDENT Derek Vandike assists Meta Dankenbring to her seat during the Senior Christmas Dinner.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

there the high school choir sang "On This Still Silent Night" and "One Child." Following was the song "Good Christian Men Rejoice," by the flute quartet of Bergan Bock, Jaime Davison, Danae Magnani and Mary Anne Orten. The audience learned that Kayla Bursch's first graders did not want any more underwear for Christmas from a funny poem called, "A Gift from Auntie Flo." Afterward the first graders, Allie Frisbie and Colleen Montevilla played "O Come, All Ye Faithful" on the clarinets. With still more to come, the fifth and sixth grade students made sure everyone's beverage cup was full.

Kathy Weber's second grade class sang "Tomorrow is Christmas," and Teryn Carmichael sang a solo, "Who Could Imagine a King."

While dinner was settling, the fifth and sixth grade choir sang, "Christmas in Coming and We

Are Getting Fat!" Indeed, everyone on stage looked stuffed from eating Christmas dinner!

Then it was time for the kindergarten through fourth grade choir to sing, "Up on the Housetop" with Rachel Keltz and Alex Hazuka having solo parts. They continued with "Silent Night" and finishing with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The finale was the junior and senior high school band playing "Children's Christmas March," "Feliz Navidad" and "Christmas Festival Overture."

Mrs. Hengen gave a special thanks to her husband, Dennis, and to the teachers who were patient for rehearsals. The meal also had the assistance of Denise Keltz and Leah Rambat.

On Friday, the students repeated the Christmas program for the community, with Pam Johnson on the piano.



CLAPPING IS SOMETHING everyone can do! It was all smiles and laughter as these students put on their best faces for their performance at the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheylin receives award

U.S. News and World Report released a list on Monday of public high schools that had been found to be the very best across the country.

Working with School Evaluation Services gathering information and data from more than 21,000 public schools and looking for the most outstanding public high schools, Cheylin Junior/Senior High School was awarded a Bronze Medal.

With Gold, Silver, Bronze Medals and Honorable Mention categories, Kansas schools were awarded two Silver Medals and 34 Bronze Medals.

For more information on the selection process and other Kansas' schools, go to www.usnews.com, locate "Education," and click on "search by state."

Bring your blanket!

A traditional Christmas "in the barn" is being held at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, at the farm of Steve and Jan Busse. You are welcome to attend. Bring a blanket to stay warm and a penlight or flashlight to sing "Silent Night." Those attending will celebrate that first Christmas with the children and the animals.

Travel to Bird City to County Road 26 (1 mile west of Bird City) and turn south for 5 miles.

You are also welcome to worship with the congregation at a Christmas Candlelight service at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 24.



MARY MOORE READS clues to (L) Anamarie Crespin, Ellie Pochop and Jaime Davison to help them match the pictures of children with the correct seasonal holiday celebration.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students learn about holiday celebrations around the world

During the Christmas season, Mary Moore, speech therapist aide for Debbie Grace, wanted to expand Cheylin students' view of how different cultures and religions from around the world celebrate.

Mrs. Moore has always enjoyed contests and this year she thought up a great one! For grades three through six, students would try to match up pictures of children dressed in their native country's costumes, hear

about customs, and guess which matches.

The pictures are numbered and Mrs. Moore reads aloud the clues, the students then write on an entry sheet their answers. The winner is to be announced during the Christmas party on Friday and the student with the most correct answers will receive a prize, in the event of two or more winners; prizes will be given to each. However, no student walks away empty handed,



each entry comes with a candy cane.

Two scholarships are being offered

By Casey McCormick
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Two FFA scholarships are being offered by Yost Ford Mercury. An eligible student will be chosen from St. Francis Community High School and Cheylin High School.

As part of the Built Ford Tough college program, two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to a member of each school's FFA group. The program, started in 1997, has awarded more than \$5 million in scholarships to over 5,000 students.

Justin Haislip with Yost Ford Mercury announced the scholarships.

"We're pleased to be able to support the local FFA chapters," said Mr. Haislip. "These scholarships will help kids attend the college of their choice."

Students who are interested in applying for the scholarships should visit Yost Ford Mercury to pick up the application information.

"Enrollment began in December, but the students need to apply by Feb. 15," said Mr. Haislip.

Ford Motor Company's 2009 commitment includes support of National FFA events, and \$1,000 college scholarships for up to 700 FFA members.

"FFA develops students' leadership, business skills and community service in preparation for a career in agriculture," said Mr. Haislip, "which accounts for one out of five jobs in the United States."

For more information, contact Mr. Haislip at Yost Ford Mercury, 785-332-2188.

Junior high team participates in Atwood

The Cheylin seventh and eighth grade Scholars' Bowl teams participated in the Atwood Scholars' Bowl on Monday, Dec. 8. This was a chance to compare themselves to some of the bigger schools in the area, and the students performed very well. Schools attending included Colby, Hoxie, Goodland, Oberlin, Oakley, Rawlins County, Golden Plains and Cheylin.

The eighth grade finished in a five-way tie for second place with a 4 - 3 record, and was awarded second place based upon the margin of victory tiebreaker. Competing eighth grade students were Stephanie Busse, Joshua Keltz, Adam Orten, Keenan Reeh, Grant Shradler and Jessie Smith

The seventh grade competed

very well, but finished with a 1-6 record. The team lost two matches on the last question of the round, and their lone victory was 60 - 10 over Hoxie who finished in second place. Competing for the seventh grade were Ty Carmichael, Eddie Frisbie, Shayla Hubbard, Walker Janicke and Ellie Pochop.

The next action for the Cheylin Scholars' Bowl teams will be on Monday, Jan. 26, in Brewster. They will also attend the Freedom League scholars bowl in Tribune on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Individual results

Eighth graders that scored were Busse, 190 points; Orten, 140 points; and Keltz, 50 points. For the seventh graders, Janicke scored 155 points, Carmichael 120 points, and Hubbard 40 points.

