

Board tours school, now it's back to school

By Peggy Horinek

Today is the first day of school and the Cheylin School Board toured the grade school, finding everything looking clean and in tip-top shape for the students to return to the classrooms. Except for a few last-minute details the new heating and air conditioning system is up and running. All the wall repairs and painting have been done.

What really caught the eye of board members was the new mid-wall borders put in the bathrooms, offices and some classrooms. As the school board was meeting, new carpeting was being installed in the high school library.

Tammy Carmichael, teacher and volleyball coach, addressed the board regarding new uniforms for the volleyball team. She showed the shorts and

shirts that had been delivered and Mrs. Carmichael and the board decided to return the shorts and keep the shirts. It was approved to order five more tops and she will continue looking for shorts.

The NFL Flag-Football team has asked that they be allowed to use the football field for their Sunday afternoon games. Rod Young said their

practices would be at the playground on Thursday afternoons and they had only four or five games. He also stated that they have their own insurance. There are 40-plus kids playing flag football and the school board voted that they could use the football field.

A bid of \$3,000 for the 1995 Ford Crown Victoria by Diane Simmons was accepted.

The board approved Jackie Roesener as high school girls assistant basketball coach and Clayton Janicke as high school boys assistant basketball coach. Also Marian Howland was hired as kitchen aide.

James Milliken, the school's district attorney, informed the school board that random drug testing of participants in extra-curriculum activities has

been okayed by the courts. (See article on drug testing).

At the school board meeting in July, Eric Churchwell was elected president and Cheryl Wilkinson, vice president for the 2002-03 school year. School board meetings are held the second Monday each month at 7 p.m. February through November and at 1 p.m. during December and January.

Drought discussed at August meeting

Cattle, drought, and economics focus of Aug. 20-21 meetings

Economic and management considerations for cows and calves in response to drought conditions will be the topic of a meeting to be held at four sites in northwest Kansas Aug. 20 and 21st.

"Producers are being forced to make many tough decisions given our extreme drought conditions," Sandy Johnson, Livestock Specialist for Kansas State Research and Extension in Colby, said. "We hope this meeting will help producers to be more informed when making plans to keep or sell calves and/or cows."

Rodney Jones, Kansas State Research and Extension Livestock Production Economist, will address the implications of the current economic and environmental conditions on management strategies for individual producers.

Economist Johnson will discuss management options to deal with the

lack of pasture and typical winter feedstuffs along with problems associated with high nitrates and prussic acid in what feed is available.

Economist Johnson encouraged producers to bring questions as ample time for discussion will be built into the program.

One of the meetings will be at the American Legion Hall in Bird City. It will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 20.

Also on Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. Norton will host one of the meetings.

On Aug. 21 a meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Circle S Restaurant in Osborne and at 6:30 p.m. at the Western Cooperative Association Building in WaKeeney.

Please RSVP your attendance to Bird City to the Cheyenne County office at (785) 332-3171. A meal is planned at the American Legion Hall.

Contact Norton (785) 877-5755, Osborne (785) 346-2521 or Trego (785) 743-6361 county offices for more details and to RSVP your attendance.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK is on the move as helpers loaded a few items up Tuesday. The new location of the bank will be at the corner of Bird Avenue and 3rd Street.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek



BACK FOR A BRIEF VISIT Clarence and Sharon Kamla, right, enjoyed visiting with old friends and neighbors. Among those having coffee with the Kamla's were Val Coleman, left, and Darlene Boyson, second from left.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Former residents return for visit

By Peggy Horinek

Clarence and Sharon Kamla, former Bird City residents, were joined by many of their friends at the Blue Bird Cafe Monday for coffee and to catch up on the times. The Kamla's moved to Nevada, Mo. about four years ago

and enjoy living among the trees.

Traveling with the Kamla's were Sharon's mother, Marge Biber and brother, Kenny Biber, both of Nevada. They arrived in Benkelman, Saturday to help Sharon's aunt, Marian Shaw celebrate her 80th birthday. They have

all been visiting with friends and relatives in Benkelman, St. Francis, and Bird City. Clarence and Sharon surprised many people by attending church in Bird City Sunday unannounced.

They left Benkelman Tuesday to drive back to Nevada.

Chairman ousted-Big upset in state race

By Tom A. Dreiling

Connie who? That question has now been answered.

Connie Morris pulled one of the biggest upsets in Tuesday's primary election in Kansas when she ousted incumbent I.B. "Sonny" Rundell from the 5th District Kansas Board of Education seat he has held for 14 years. He is currently serving as chairman.

Mrs. Morris, a St. Francis Republican — and a newcomer to the political arena — is an elementary school teacher who happened to have a bumper harvest this year, as in harvest of votes.

Mrs. Morris collected 17,047 votes, while Mr. Rundell, a Syracuse Republican, received 11,598. The win assures Morris of a seat on the state board as the Democrats failed to attract a candidate. The only obstacle now standing in her way would be a write-in effort at the Nov. 5 general election.

Mrs. Morris credits her win to campaigning. She took advantage of fair parades, manned booths at fairs, and talked to as many potential voters as she could. On the other side of the coin, Mr. Rundell wasn't as active on the campaign trail as he had been in the past.

In Cheyenne County, Mrs. Morris collected 398 compared to Mr. Rundell's 213. Thomas County sided heavily with Mrs. Morris' effort, giving her 809 votes, while Rundell has to settle for 265.

In an earlier article which was printed in *The St. Francis Herald*, Mrs. Morris said, "We need to do something because the financial path we are now following will not allow our western Kansas schools to keep the doors open.



Morris

"I know I'm a greenhorn but I feel that with my experience and ideas, the bits and pieces can be put together and come up with a workable plan."

She noted that both Rep. John Fabor and Sen. Stan Clark are also concerned and think along the same lines as she does when it comes to education.

She is concerned about illegal immigrants draining the school system of tax dollars and hampering teachers' ability to focus along with administration restructuring including reducing and/or eliminating high-cost positions.

Mrs. Morris taught in the Idalia school as a first grade teacher and was recently appointed by Gov. Bill Graves to serve a four-year term on the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

She lives in Kansas with her husband Kelly who is a business owner and farmer. She has two daughters, Jessica and Lacy.

Primary election over—different rules apply for the general election

By Karen Krien

The primary election has come and gone and people are now thinking about the general election which will be held Nov. 5

There are rules in elections and some differ between the primary and the general including:

- Declaring a party before being allowed to vote in the primary.
- No write-in candidates in the primary.
- Candidate signs and posters must be 250 feet from the entrance of a polling place entrance.

"It is your right to vote and we urge everyone to vote," said Terry Miller, county election officer. "We try to make it as easy as possible and we also understand some election laws don't make a lot of sense to everyone."

Unaffiliated voters

To better explain these differences in primary and general election laws, Mr. Miller said that it is the law that unaffiliated voters must declare a party before being allowed to vote in a primary election. Now, they may change their affiliation before the books close prior to the election or they may declare a party at the polling place on the day of election but, according to Kansas Statute 25-3301, the officer at the primary polling place will give the voter a ballot

of his or her party affiliation and, in the county's primary election on Aug. 6, there were only Republican and Democratic ballots.

"Unaffiliated voters, by law, must declare a party as we are not allowed to give out both a Republican and a Democratic ballot to one voter," Mr. Miller said.

The Statutes goes on to say that no voter shall be allowed to receive the ballot of any political party except that with which such voter is affiliated.

"Voters who have registered to vote as unaffiliated must declare a party before voting in the primary. If the voter then wants to vote as unaffiliated in the General election, they must remember to contact the clerk's office and fill out a change of party card.

"I know it is an inconvenience but that is the Kansas state law," Mr. Miller said.

No write-ins

Kansas Statutes 25-213a specifies that there will be no write-in candidates in a primary election except for precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen. That is why there are no blank lines anywhere on the ballot except for in the precinct section. And, to make sure the ballots are printed right, the Secretary of State sends samples to the county clerks

and there is little room to change their format.

Signs at a distance

This year and in other years, a few candidate signs have been removed to be in the law that signs do have to be at least 250 feet from the polling place door.

Moving? Let them know

If you have moved recently, please inform the county clerk's office so they can update the voter registration.

Mr. Miller said that those working in the clerk's office try to send cards to people they hear have moved but they don't hear about everyone.

"The most common discrepancy we run into on election day is an incorrect address," Mr. Miller said. "Please help us keep your address up to date."

Problems and concerns

"If you have problems and concerns on election day, please call or come by the county clerk's office," Mr. Miller said, noting that he is in the office from 6:30 a.m. until after the polls close.

"Our election workers are well trained and understand the current laws. If you are told something you don't agree with, please feel free to come to the county clerk's office and let us explain or show you the election laws we have to follow.

"It is your right to vote and we urge everyone to vote."

Drug testing in school for students discussed at school board meeting

In the Monday Cheylin Board of Education meeting, the school's attorney Jim Milliken informed them on court action concerning drug testing in the school. After discussion, the board agreed to discuss this at a later date.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a five to four decision, held a drug testing program for students involved in extracurricular activities did not violate the Fourth Amendment. In board of education of the Independent School District No. 92 vs. Earls, the court held the drug testing policy was a reasonable means of furthering the school district's important interest in preventing and deterring drug use among its school children. Prior to this decision, in Vernonia School District 47J vs.

Acton, the Supreme Court had upheld a drug testing policy for student athletes.

In reaching this decision, the Supreme Court determined requiring students to submit to random drug testing was not overly intrusive because students participating in extracurricular activities had voluntarily subjected themselves to many of the same intrusions on privacy that athletes had and thus did not have a sufficient expectation of privacy. The level of regulation diminished the students' expectation of privacy.

The court focused on the school's need to "prevent and deter the substantial harm of childhood drug use," and concluded it was "entirely reasonable" for the school district to enact this type of policy. The Court specifically rejected the notion that

school districts must first establish a pervasive drug problem in the school before implementing a random, suspicionless, drug testing program.



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