



Cheylin High School Choir led off the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner program on Wednesday.



Left: Debi Banister and Kelsie Malm played clarinet as part of the bands performance for the program. Right: The Cheylin Junior/Senior High Band perform Christmas Carols as guests are encouraged in a sing along of familiar tunes.
 Times Staff photos by Melinda Basnett



Board asked to look at attendance policy

By Melinda Basnett
 Concerned parent Deb Smith addressed the Cheylin Board of Education on Monday evening. The attendance policy was the cause for her concern.

Under the current policy when a student misses four classes, a letter is sent out to the parents. When the child misses six classes, the parent receives a second letter stating that the student has been placed on attendance probation and advises that on the seventh absence and all subsequent absences, he or she will receive ze-

ros for all work missed.

These grades may be appealed to the Review Committee to grant credit for the work if the requirements are met. Mrs. Smith said she had not received the four-day letter and was very upset to get the six-day one. She stated that she had notified the school of her daughter's impending absences due to a serious injury and she felt that the policy needed to be revised.

Board members sympathized with Mrs. Smith and examined the policy and its enforcement in detail. Many arguments for and

against the policy were given.

When the policy was created, the school was worried that problems with attendance would cost the district money in school funding. If a school is placed on improvement lists, funds are withheld. There were many unnecessary absences that could have been avoided.

Since the implementation of the policy much of those have stopped.

After much discussion, the board decided that the policy will be revised to state that missed

classes excused with a doctor's written note will not count against a student's accumulated total for attendance probation. The revised policy will take effect beginning second semester.

Other business

In other business:

- Members moved to approve the resignation of Dan Carson as junior high track coach.
- A committee was formed to plan a staff appreciation event for the spring.
- The school vehicles were reviewed and board members ex-

pressed interest in seeking bids on a new suburban or nine passenger van to replace aging ones.

- A video and brochure were presented on a SawStop Table Saw. Members would like to do more research on the saw and find out the quality comparisons.
- Board members voted to make Choir Duty a supplemental position if at least half the time continues to be outside the current duty time period.

Crisis plan

The crisis plan for the school was reviewed.

"It was used a week ago, and we need to do some work on it," Superintendent Dave Zumbahlen said. "It served its purpose but there is room for improvement."

Members plan to get staff suggestions and discuss that plan more in January. Some things that need to be addressed are rooms without locks, speakers in some areas to announce the warnings, and possible ways to notify staff of the nature of the threat.

The board went into a 15 minute executive session to discuss a student issue and after reconvening the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor collects furniture

Pastor Dan Carson, Bird City Wesleyan Church pastor, is organizing a collection of used furniture to help those who need these items.

"Often people have furniture that is still good but don't know what to do with it," Pastor Carson said.

Instead of throwing it away, Pastor Carson is suggesting that the furniture be collected for those who are in need of some of these items.

He said he really hasn't worked out all the details but possibly the furniture could be given away or sold for a reasonably low price or even exchange work for the items.

Pastor Carson is asking for input. "We need to see that there is a need for the furniture and also see if there are people with furniture that they don't know what to do with it," he said.

There is also the problem of where to store the furniture.

Interested people can call him at 785-734-2727 (church) or 785-626-2076 (cell).

One lucky person to win \$1000 on Monday's draw

By Karen Krien

It is just days until Christmas and one lucky person will win \$1,000 in the big Christmas On Us giveaway on Monday.

The Christmas On Us drawing will be held in conjunction with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce drawing. Santa will be on hand at 5:30 p.m. in front of Jaqua Abstract to start the activities.

Rachael Keller, St. Francis, claimed a \$50 Instant Winner prize by matching her ticket number with the number in the Chamber's ad on page 1B. She said her ticket came from Bier's Hometown Store.

"This week we have eight new



Keller

numbers the Christmas On Us ads on Pages 1, 2 and 3B," said Casey McCormick, advertising manager. "There are only six Instant Winner prizes left but we want everyone to have a better chance to claim the remaining numbers."

The first six people to match their tickets will be the lucky winner. People are urged to check their numbers as soon as they get the paper and, if they are a winner, they need to bring it down to *The Herald* as quickly as possible (the deadline for claiming the Instant Winner tickets is noon on Monday).

"We have already given away around 32,000 tickets so that means there has already been \$320,000 spent in St. Francis," Mr. McCormick said.

Any Instant Winning scrip dollars not claimed by Monday at noon will be drawn for that evening.

Besides the \$1,000 grand prize, a second prize of \$100 will be drawn.

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Christmas activities

By Melinda Basnett

Many area festivities are planned for the days ahead. Saturday marks the annual Santa Day in Bird City with the luncheon served by Community Club to begin at 11 a.m. The program will follow at 12:30 and a visit from Santa Claus closes the afternoon. The winners of the lighting contest will also be announced during the program.

The Cheylin Winter Concert is the evening of Monday, Dec. 18. The youth in the school show off their talents and get the holiday spirit soaring.

McDonald Christmas celebrations are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 23, beginning with the Lions Club Pancake dinner. Many other activities are scheduled throughout the day including Bingo, Turkey and Ham Shoots, Pitch, and a



visit from Santa Claus. Community activities keep the towns strong and thriving. The holidays are so much richer for family and friends coming together to celebrate. Stay safe and enjoy all our towns have to offer in the holiday spirit.