

CK BEAT

September
2018

Summer Projects

Superintendent: Adam Lambert

It felt like one of the fastest summers in a while, but I've been told that summers seem to go by faster the older you get. I am writing this article to try to keep you up to date on all the projects that happened over the break.

This summer we made lots of improvements to both school buildings. Kilgore saw a new playground go up, which all of the students really love playing on. We also added window air conditioners to all of the classrooms, which has really benefited the learning environment for our students.

If you live in Kilgore and or drove by Kilgore this summer and thought it looked like a jungle, you are right. At the end of last year our riding lawn mower burnt to the ground, and it has taken a lot of time for the school and our insurance company to keep moving forward on a replacement. Up to this point we have been pulling a mower over from the Cody campus to mow it down, but not as frequently as we would have liked. A new mower was delivered this week and once we finalize a storage place in Kilgore, we will have a mower on site again and will be able to maintain the grounds much better.



If your child attends the Cody campus, you will see two major improvements to the flooring. Our custodial staff worked extremely hard this summer hand-scraping all of the old, dirty wax off of the main hallways and then applying a fresh clean coat of wax on top. The floors are shining bright and white. The other floor improvement was finishing the other half of the building's carpet. Last summer we updated a couple rooms with new carpet and we completed the rest of the school this summer.

Additionally, at the very end of last year our coach bus was making some funny sounds. We sent it down to our coach bus mechanic in Kearney, NE to get it looked over. Unfortunately, the required repairs to the bus cost more than the bus was worth, so we decided to trade it in for a newer bus. If you see the newer bus driving around, you now know why. It is a used 2007 Van Hool brand coach bus. It shifts gears much better than the old bus as it has a twelve speed automatic transmission. It also has plenty of power with over 400 horse power. There were a couple times last year that we had to scramble for a way to get our students to their events because the old bus kept breaking down. This new bus will hopefully allow our students to ride in a safe, reliable bus.

Other projects that have happened and or will be happening are some hail damage repairs around both campuses. The west side of the bus barn in Cody will need repaired along with our green house. All of our school vehicles (cars and vans) will need to be repaired as well due to the hail storm. Two more additions to the district is a hydrant being installed at the football field so students and patrons can get a drink when they get overheated and we have also added cameras on our two large route buses.

All in all, we keep chipping away at making small updates here and there. I want to thank our custodial staff for the excellent work that they do. They do a great job keeping our schools clean and looking fresh while making updates over the summers. Please thank them if you get a chance as I am very grateful that our students get to attend schools that are clean every day.

Cowboys and Cowgirls Start the Season with a Win!



The Cowboys and Cowgirls travelled to Stapleton, Nebraska on August 25, and came home with stunning wins!

Come Support the Cowboys and Cowgirls this season!



Budget

Superintendent: Adam Lambert

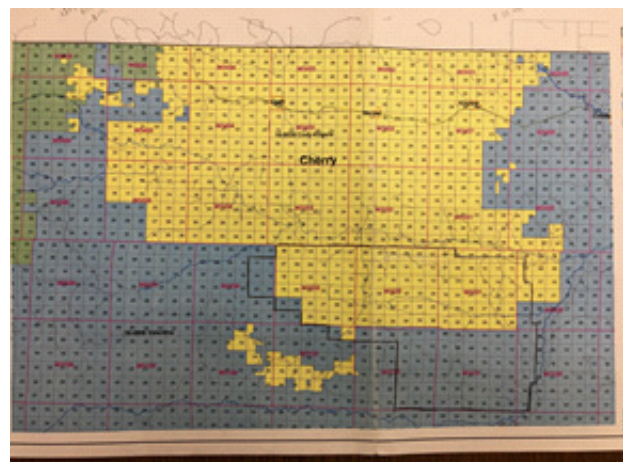
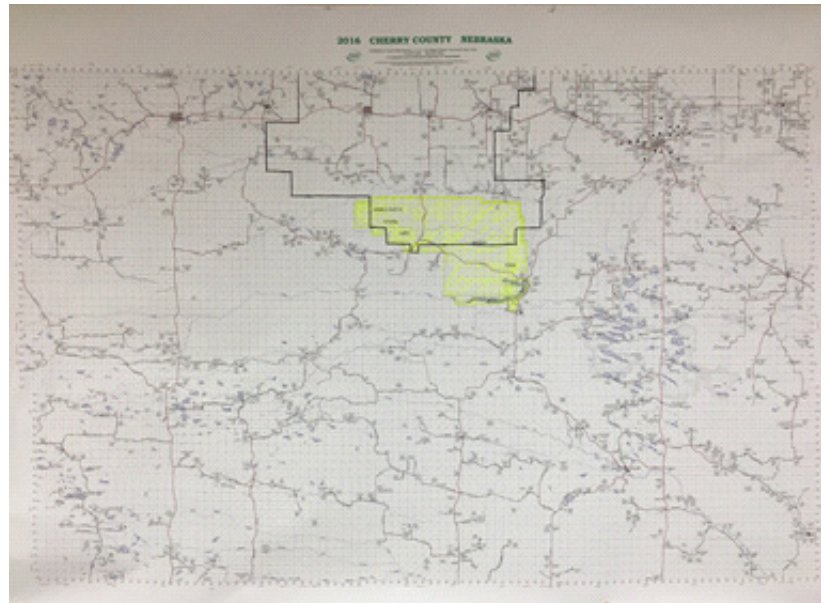
Every September tends to be the most stressful time of year as I try to prepare our school budget. Last year I wrote an article explaining that taxes may go up if we continued to lose state aid, and, unfortunately, we did. For this '18-'19 school year our state aid dropped around \$120,000. This was also compounded with the land valuation dropping over \$300,000. State legislators have stated that they are trying to find new ways to fund local school districts, but have not taken any action. One organization, Nebraskans United for Property Tax Relief, led the way last year and had great traction, but they stopped abruptly, leaving everyone involved scratching their heads.

Nebraska is 49th in the nation for state support of public education, requiring 58.7% from local tax payers. New Hampshire is 50th asking 61%. The national average is 44.54%. In a 10 year span our state's school funding formula has dropped 5% for public schools while University support has declined 3%. Another example of the lack of funding for public schools is the lack of support in maintaining and updating facilities. There are only 4 states in the U.S. that do not support infrastructure assistance for public schools, and Nebraska is one of them.

By comparison, state funding for Medicaid has gone up 6% and the corrections sector increased almost 1.5%. This information is not to say that one is more important than the other, but to show that school funding has been declining while other areas have been increasing.

School district administrators are doing an excellent job allocating funds despite the lack of state aid. Nebraska ranks 3rd in the nation for highest percentage of funds going directly to the classroom. On average, 65.11% of a Nebraska schools budget goes to the classroom.

Because Nebraska has always used strictly property taxes to support public education, that directly affects a local school district's levy. If the valuation of land goes up, then the levy in most cases goes down. If a valuation stays the same or goes down, then you will see the tax levy go up. In our case, the tax levy and valuation are extremely sensitive because our school district's land valuation is extremely low. Values are not low because land isn't worth much; rather, they are low because our district boundaries are small. This top map of Cherry County shows our district boundaries. I have also shaded the McKelvie Forest, which is non-revenue-generating land that takes up about 20% of our already small district boundary. The lower map shows Valentine Public Schools' boundary surrounding us to the west, south and east.



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So why does school boundary size matter? Size really doesn't matter: what matters most is valuation. Because our school boundary size is small, it affects our school district's overall valuation. For instance, for every levy cent CKUS asks taxpayers to pay, it is worth a little over \$18,000. Compared to our neighboring district of Valentine who has a larger district boundary and higher total valuation, for every levy cent they charge their tax payers, they receive over \$100,000.

Why is this important to understand? When a higher valuation school district loses revenue such as state aid, it doesn't affect their levy as much as a district with a lower valuation. For instance, if CKUS and Valentine public both lost \$100,000 in state aid revenue, that amount would have to be made up through a tax. Valentine would have to charge 1 levy cent to make up for that size of a loss while CKUS would need to charge 5.5 levy cents. Since CKUS lost both valuation and state aid this year, that is a double hit and will affect our levy significantly.

It's truly a tough situation for all parties and a double edged sword for land owners. If you are a land owner and the valuation goes up, you pay more in taxes. If your valuation stays the same, your taxes may still go up because government entities, including school districts, have to raise their levy to be able to sustain their budget. There may be some years where the levy drops significantly and you would think you will be saving on taxes, but since the valuation went up the property owner still ends up paying more.

So what's the answer? I can't say that I have the perfect answer. The reality is that the state continues to take away funding for schools and keeps passing the burden on to property owners. Unfortunately, we rely on the state to fund around 50% of the CKUS budget. Truthfully, the state needs to figure out a way to either tighten their budget or find other revenue sources like income tax, taxing trades, internet sales tax, or regular sales tax, etc. to fund schools, which have all been mentioned but not acted on. Legislators continue to point the finger at school districts, but as I showed above and in an article last year, we and all of the public schools in Nebraska have tightened our belts pretty tightly.

Financially Cody-Kilgore is still doing well, but I think it is important to be educated on how all of this works. All Boards of Education have the authority to charge \$1.05 levy and we work extremely hard to not ask for the full authorized amount. In fact, I communicated with Senator Groene, the head of the education committee, explaining to him that we have infrastructure needs and too small of a valuation to address everything. His response to me was charge the full \$1.05. I don't agree with that suggestion as it burdens our district's patrons.

If the levy increases this year, which it will, and you want to sit down and talk about it, please give me a call and I would gladly talk you through it. My goal is to not raise our overall school budget, but due to the loss of state aid and decrease in property valuation, the levy will need to increase to maintain the same standard of education we have provided in the past. We will continue to run the school as efficiently as possible. It might look like we are raising our budget on paper, but our overall budget will remain the same and I would gladly sit down and show you.

New Staff



The 5th grade teacher at Cody-Kilgore Elementary is Becky Lancaster. She has previously taught at Chadron, Sutherland, and Valentine school systems. Becky earned her degree in Elementary Education K-8 with a minor in Mild/Moderate Disabilities at Chadron State College. She and her husband Casey are past Cody-Kilgore graduates, and are happy to be raising their two boys, Carson and Blake, in a rural agricultural community. Outside of school, Becky enjoys doing almost anything outdoors. She and her family stay busy with helping on the family ranch, horse shows and rodeos, and camping.

My name is Joslyn Nollette. I am the new 4th grade teacher at Cody-Kilgore. I grew up in Crofton NE, and received my Bachelors in Elementary Education from Wayne State College. After graduating from Wayne State I worked at Head Start in Kearney, taught preschool in Amherst and most recently taught kindergarten for three years at Sandhills Public Schools. My husband Justin is a 2009 Cody-Kilgore graduate, he is the current Agricultural Educator and FFA advisor for Cody-Kilgore. Justin and I welcomed our first daughter Bexley into the world this past March. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, camping, spending time outside and most importantly spending time with my family. I am very excited to be part of the CKUS staff educating our youth!



My name is Justin Nollette, I am the current Agricultural Education teacher and FFA Advisor at Cody-Kilgore. I am a 2009 Cody-Kilgore graduate, I grew up in Nenzel. I attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln and received my Bachelor in Animal Science. I later completed the transition to teaching program through the University of Nebraska Kearney. I started my teaching at Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools and most recently I served as the Ag Educator and FFA Advisor for Sandhills Public Schools in Dunning for the past 3 years. My wife Joslyn is currently the 4th grade teacher in Kilgore, this past March we had our first daughter Bexley, and just recently moved to Cody. In my spare time I enjoy working on the family ranch, catering, spending time with family, and watching Husker Football. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to return to the community and lead our youth.

Cowboys Ride in Style



2007 Van Hool Coach Bus



Mr. Lambert gave the students of all grades a bus safety lesson.



Cody-Kilgore students will ride in style!

Cody-Kilgore High School
PO Box 216
Cody, NE 69211

Cody Office - 402.823.4117
Kilgore Office - 402.966.2291

cknews@cody-kilgore.com



Community-Wide Revitalization Meeting

Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 PM
At Cody-Kilgore High School

Hosted by: Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

**ALL AREA RESIDENTS, BOARDS,
ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES
ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

Plans for the meeting include:

- Complete list of Big and Small Ideas, vote and tabulate
 - Sign up for Revitalization Steering Committee
 - Sign up for committee chairpersons
 - Sign up as an individual or organization
 - Set date for next meeting



Cody Movie Night

Cody movie night is a real thing. The village board has purchased equipment and licensing to show movies. The movies will be shown at the Community Center. Currently the Media Production class is preparing the equipment and the Community Center. They hope to have the first movie night in September. At this time it is not known if there will be a concession stand or a "bring your own picnic". Any group that maybe interested in the concession stand please contact Ms. Richie.

Giving Back and Paying It Forward

Staff and students at Kilgore will be enjoying the comfort of air conditioning in the classrooms this year. The school board had approved the upgrading of electrical system and installation of air conditioners over the summer. That would be something to look forward too when school started.

Then it happened, a single phone call.

Stan, Rita and family covered the entire cost of adding the air conditioning to the Kilgore Elementary building. This included the wiring, labor, and air conditioners in every classroom. If you went to Kilgore, you know how uncomfortable those classrooms could get in August and September.

There are things that happen in life that stick in your mind. One that has always stuck in Stan's memory was the one of several reasons that Stan, Rita and family recently contribute to the Cody-Kilgore Schools.

Stan remembered a local rancher donating basketball backboards when he was in high school at Cody. He can recall the feeling of amazement that someone would do that for the students, they cared. Stan only played basketball for half-a-season because he was needed at home for chores. However, he says he did make one basket, when he took that shot he was praying it would just go in.

Rita's mother, Marguerite Wobig (Clark), graduated from Cody in 1932. Stan and Rita did not comment on how many Schneiders and Wobigs have attended Cody, Kilgore, and Cody-Kilgore but those that have lived in the area will know it is a rather substantial number.

"We have a good school system, this is one improvement to create a better teaching and learning environment." Stan, Rita and family.

This donation was about giving back: acknowledging past attendance and memories while paying it forward, to help create a comfortable learning environment for future generations of Cody-Kilgore students.

The staff and students Thank You!

Cody-Kilgore will no longer be using The Cube to broadcast home games, concerts and graduation. You will find our broadcasts on YouTube Live. Go to www.youtube.com and search for Cody-Kilgore Schools.

**Digital Journalism
Class
Michaela L., Hayley S.
Emmy C.,
Ms. Richards**

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Financial Literacy Concert for HS Students @ Springview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 PM HS & JH Cross Country @Ainsworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM JH Volleyball vs. Arthur Co. @ CK 11:00 AM JH Football vs. Arthur Co. @ CK 1:00 PM HS Football vs Arthur Co. @Cody 3:30 PM HS Volleyball vs Arthur Co. @Cody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Gregory HS Volleyball Tournament @ Gregory
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Day NO SCHOOL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Meetings 7th Hour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureFest 5th grade field trip @ Valentine 10:00 AM Bookmobile @ Cody 12:30 PM Bookmobile @ Kilgore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 PM JH Football vs Hay Springs @ Hay Springs 5:00 PM HS Volleyball vs Valentine JV/ Reserve @ Cody 5:30 PM JH Volleyball vs Hay Springs @ Hay Springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Inservice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT TEST DATE 10:00 AM HS & JH Cross Country @ Chadron 	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM FFA Meeting 7:00 PM School Board Meeting @ Cody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 PM JH Volleyball Valentine Triangular @ Valentine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autumn Art Workshop @ Halsey Husker Harvest Days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Reports 5:00 PM HS Volleyball vs Gordon Rushville @Cody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30 PM HS Volleyball vs Minatare @ Minatare 6:00 PM HS Football vs Minatare @ Minatare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFA Jacket Application Due 9:00 AM HS & JH Cross Country @ Alliance 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ainsworth College Fair for Juniors & Seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASVAB Testing for Juniors School Pictures Area Range Judging @ Blaine Co. 10:00 AM Bookmobile @ Cody 12:30 PM Bookmobile @ Kilgore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 PM HS & JH Cross Country @ Gordon-Rushville 5:00 PM JH Volleyball vs Gordon Rushville @ CK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Recognition 1:00 PM HS Football vs Hay Springs @CK 3:30 PM HS Volleyball vs Hay Springs @Cody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM HS Volleyball Tournament @ Brady 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP TESTING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Range Judging @ Chase Co. 6:00 PM Financial Aid Workshop -DL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Pictures - Rain Date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Health Checks 3:00 PM HS & JH Cross Country @Atkinson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM JH Football vs Crawford @ Crawford 2:00 PM JH Volleyball vs Crawford @ Crawford 4:00 PM HS Volleyball vs Crawford @Crawford 7:00 PM HS Football vs Crawford @Crawford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM HS Volleyball 4Corners Tournament @Mullen 	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFA Roster/POA/Budget Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Meetings 6th Hour 1:00 PM JH Volleyball vs Mullen @ CK 1:00 PM JH Football vs Mullen @ CK 3:30 PM HS & JH MNAC Cross Country @ Sargent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Bookmobile @ Cody 12:30 PM Bookmobile @ Kilgore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM FFA Labor Auction & Coronation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Inservice Homecoming 11:00 AM JH Football vs Hyannis @ CK 11:00 AM JH Volleyball vs Hyannis @Cody 1:00 PM HS Football vs Hyannis @Cody 3:30 PM HS Volleyball vs Hyannis @Cody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM HS Volleyball LW Triangular @Cody 	