



**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

The new Chase County Schools (CCS) activity bus doesn't have its name on the side and "Home of the Horns" on the back yet, but you can't miss it.

That is one large, long white bus. The 2008 Bus Coach International will be getting its lettering put on in the next few weeks.

The former charter bus was purchased from Masters Transportation of Kearney for \$150,000 and trade-in of two smaller buses the district wasn't using, according to Superintendent Brad Schoeppey.

Although it has 240,000 miles on it, the diesel engine in the bus can take up to one million miles, he noted.

The bus has 57 seats and a bathroom, all in a maroon and black color.

It replaces the 1996 Van Hool Longhorn bus, which will still be used as backup and for short trips, Schoeppey said.

"We looked at trading in the old Longhorn bus but we were getting so little money we made the decision to keep it for backup," he said.

The board decided to purchase a new Longhorn bus because it was hard to get parts for the old one, according to Del Rehn, bus mechanic. The '96 also had high mileage.

As for the new bus, it's easier to get parts, Rehn said, it's longer and the passengers sit up higher.

Since it's also two inches taller, it doesn't fit in the bus barn. The school will raise the door to the barn, Rehn said.

There is also a camera in the rear of the bus that activates when the bus is being backed up.

The district also has a yellow activities bus that can be used on the bus route if needed.

That brings the total of CCS vehicles to three activity busses, seven route busses and two sub busses if needed. There are also six vans.