



By Jan Schultz

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The two show choirs from Chase County Schools garnered gold last weekend at the Old West Choir Festival in Scottsbluff.

Director Randy Hayes said both the 9th St. Stingers and junior high school choir represented Chase County Schools and the community very well, and both worked hard to get prepared for the festival.

Hayes said format for the festival's sponsorship changed this year from the local radio stations to Scottsbluff High School.

With that change, the junior high groups could compete for trophies, including gold, but could not be eligible for the finals. As the host, Scottsbluff show choirs performed only in exhibition for critiquing, but were not eligible for the competition or the finals.

The junior high show choir was ranked first among the five performances and earned a Gold Trophy.

After also earning a Gold Trophy, the 9th St. Singers were invited back for the evening performance, where they were ranked first in Division 3A.

Hayes noted at the finals that night, only the top three competing groups from all classes were awarded, and the 9th St. Singers just missed out with fourth place. There were a total of 15 high schools competing throughout the day.

Other schools with choirs in the festival included Alliance, Bayard, Bluffs Middle School, Kimball, Hershey, Sidney, Mitchell, Chadron, Gering and two from Aurora, Colo.—Rangeview and Gateway High Schools.

The Gateway Athenians won the day's outstanding trophy, topping all other high school groups. Adjudicators for the festival were from the Millard School District near Omaha.

This was the 9th St. Singers' 14th appearance in Scottsbluff and the junior high choir's fourth time there.

The 9th St. Singers' next performance will also be on-the-road today (Thursday) in Omaha at the Nebraska Association of School Boards' annual conference at the LaVista Convention Center.