



## Soup cookoff and spook parade is set

Get ready for lots of great-tasting soup and a spook parade.

The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the American Legion in Bird City. There will be a soup cook-off with last year's winner, Theresa Knapp, Bird City, challenging all area cooks to make a batch of their favorite soup and enter it in the contest.

There will also be hot dogs and a dessert bar.

There will be a free-will offering and funds will be used for community-sponsored projects.

"So far, four other people have volunteered to make soup and are up for the challenge," said Deb Smith, one of the organizers of the cook off, adding that more cooks are needed!

Those interested in making soup should call Mrs. Smith at 785-734-2517.

### How it works

Everyone attending the cook off

will be given one ticket so they can vote for their favorite soup. The winner will be awarded bragging rights for an entire year.

### Spook parade

The spook parade will start at 6 p.m. with all the "spooks" receiving candy to kick off the traditional night of trick-or-treating.

New this year will be the pumpkin decorating/carving contest for kindergartners through eighth grade. Age divisions are kindergarten through fourth grade; and fifth through eighth grade. The top three winners in each division will win a prize.

Pumpkins must be at the Legion hall by 5:30 p.m. in order to be judged. Pumpkins can also be picked up after the soup cook off.

"Mark your calendars for a fun-filled night to view the spooks, jack-o-lanterns and enjoy the cook off," Mrs. Smith said.

## Time changes back on Sunday

At 2 a.m.... on Sunday, residents will observe a ritual that began more than 200 years ago as a way to cut down on the cost of candles. Before going to bed on Saturday, everyone should set their clocks back one hour.

It was Benjamin Franklin who, as minister to France, suggested in 1784 that an extra hour of daylight would save French shopkeepers 1 million francs per year.

It was not until 1918, however, that daylight-saving time was first implemented in the United States. Those in favor of the daylight-

saving time say that there is more time for recreation reduced energy demand decrease crime and increased traffic safety. Those against daylight saving time have consisted mainly of farmers, whose hours are set by the sun instead of the clock.

Remember, "fall back" one hour on Sunday morning or you will have a wait before church begins.



## Fur harvest course offered on Sunday

By Karen Krien

Two furharvest education courses are being planned this weekend. The first is set from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Bellamy Farm, 1615 Rd. 51, 11 miles south of Goodland. The next day, Sunday, Oct. 29, a class will be held at the Cheyenne County Gun Club, 1/3 mile south of St. Francis on Road 14, south of U.S. 36. Times are the same.

Mike Hopper, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officer, said anyone hunting/trapping or possessing a furbearing animal or pelt is required to have a furharvest license and to take furharvester education course.

If someone is hunting coyotes with a gun, they are not required to have a furharvester license but they are required to have a hunting license. If they plan to sell the pelts, they need the furharvester license.

Furbearing animals are badger, bobcat, beaver, coyote, gray, red and swift fox, mink, muskrat, pos-

sum, raccoon, stripe skunk and weasel.

These are the first furharvester education classes to be held in this area. There will be a number of different classroom settings and demonstrations from how to set up a trap site to the market and sale of fur and processing the meat.

Officer Hopper said there are ethics in regards to different laws and how to furharvest and do it right.

Cliff Semler, St. Francis, is an avid trapper and thinks more people, if they knew more about it, would enjoy trapping animals. "I'd rather trap than fish or hunt," he said. "It (trapping) is a lifetime hobby."

In the last 10 years, Mr. Semler has trapped 25 bobcats as well as many other kinds of animals. He plans to be at the class held in St. Francis.

Pre-registration is needed and lunch will be served. Call Officer Hopper, 785-899-5199, for more information or to register.

## Junior high fall sports end



Cheylin Junior High boys shut out Wheatland/Grinnell in their last game of the season when they played at home on Thursday. Craig Busse, 72, does a good job blocking.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett



Coach Dan Carson gives the Junior High volleyball team a pep-talk during the game on Thursday as they hosted Wheatland/Grinnell. The ladies played well, but needed to get pumped up. They were defeated in three games.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

## Rate increase for Midwest Energy

St. Francis customers of Midwest Energy may see a \$5 increase for delivery charges in their gas bills starting in October, depending on how much gas they use at their homes.

"Most residential bills will go up \$5.15 per month on average," said Bob Helm, Midwest spokesman in Hays. "The increase is only the second since 1995, and the first change in gas delivery rates since early 2003."

The delivery charge for Midwest Energy varies depending on how much gas is used, he said, and may be more or less than \$5 a month.

Earnie Lehman, president and general manager of the co-operative, cited several reasons for the increase, including replacement of aging pipelines, increasing material costs and declining gas sales, which mean remaining customers have to bear more of the costs of replacement.

"The good news," Mr. Lehman said, "is that our customer-owners are continuing to improve the efficiency of the space and water heating systems in their homes. The bad news is that some farmers have reduced their use of gas for irrigation in response to

wholesale gas-cost increases."

Regardless of how much gas is flowing through the pipes, Mr. Helm said, Midwest has to continue maintenance and replacement to maintain safety standards.

The increase was approved in mid-September by the Kansas Corporation Commission, he said.

"The cost of plastics, associated with pipe, have gone up 58 percent and steel pipe is up 80 percent," Mr. Helm said.

Mr. Lehman said Midwest's request affects only the delivery part of bills. The cost of gas has

been driving bills up much faster, since those increases are passed along to customers dollar for dollar.

"Three-fourths of the total gas bill is in wholesale gas, which in the last few years has gone up 400 to 500 percent," he said.

A customer-owned co-op, Midwest Energy serves about 42,000 gas customers in 34 counties. It bought the gas system in St. Francis from KN Energy in 1998.

The firm serves 46,000 electric customers, whose rates are not affected by this increase, Mr. Helm said.

## Flu shots will be available Oct. 30

Chilly weather has set in and the leaves are falling, which means winter is right around the corner, and with it, flu season.

The Cheyenne County Clinic and Health Department at 221 W. First St. will be giving flu shots starting Monday. Office hours at the health department are: St. Francis - 9 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Bird City - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays.

Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, reminds people 65 and over and those with chronic illness should have a flu vaccine.

There is enough flu vaccine available to adequately vaccinate all those needing it.