

Jubilee helps raise money

By Karen Krien

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The Diamond Jubilee will be held Sunday, May 31. There will be fun, entertainment and food in Sawhill Park beginning at 2 p.m.

It is time to celebrate the past 75 years of the park. However, this is another way to raise money to refurbish the band shell.

At just a glance, the band shell appears to be in good condition but, after a tour through the back interior, there are some obvious problems including water damage. The roof is in bad condition, the downspouts are missing and the drainage is poor. The plaster on the outside is actually contributing to the water damage, allowing water to seep between it and the original exterior brick walls. This has caused the lath, plaster walls and ceiling to crumble.

There are four murals which were hand-painted by Howard T. Sawhill, one of the originators of the park. These murals have been damaged but they are not completely lost. There are plans to restore them but, until then, three high school students, Jacob Riedel, Tyler Larson and C.J. Douthit, will be replicating them on canvas or paper. Their works will be put on postcards and sold as another way of raising money for the band shell.

Because the park is on the National Historic Register, it qualifies for a restoration grant of at least \$90,000. Since these are 80/20 matching grants, it is necessary to have 20 percent of the requested amount in hand before ever submitting the grant.



DETERIORATION is evident in the northeast corner of the backroom in the band shell. Much of the money raised will go to renovate these areas.

The money raised at the May 31 Diamond Jubilee Celebration, said Janet Carman, committee member, will go toward that 20 percent.

Dorothy Smestad, committee member, said the amount to match the grant is right at \$22,000 and they have already raised almost \$2,000 but it is a far cry from the money needed.

In addition, on the afternoon of the Jubilee, several youth groups will be selling food and drinks to help raise money for the restoration. The Christian

Youth Fellowship will be selling homemade ice cream; the Luther League will be selling lemonade; The Methodist Youth Fellowship will sell iced tea and cold water. Throughout the afternoon, the 4-H'ers will help sell cookies, brownies and Rice Krispie treats.

Everyone can get involved in supporting the restoration of the Sawhill Park Band Shell by attending the Jubilee which begins at 2 p.m. in the park. The event will begin with a patriotic ceremony and a 75-balloon salute. Entertainment in the band shell will follow. At 5 p.m., the Lions Club members will serve a hamburger meal.

To order a balloon for the launch, stop by any St. Francis bank. Your donation of \$25 will go into the restoration fund.

Join the 75th celebration and support this restoration effort, Mrs. Carman said.

St. Francis school board struggles to keep costs down

By Karen Krien

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The Kansas Legislature came out with the amount of money which will be allotted to schools and it is going to have a serious effect on the St. Francis school budget next year.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, told the board of education at the Thursday meeting, that, after spending a great deal of time accounting for the cuts from the state and projected fewer students, the school will be short about \$186,000 next year.

The board and administration went over some of the possible ways of cutting costs to come up with enough money to make up the \$186,000.

First on the list was cutting a bus route but, Mr. Schiltz pointed out there are students living in the far corners of the district and that would put them on buses for a very long time each day. It was decided to continue with the same amount of buses.

Next on the agenda was going to all-day kindergarten. This would cut the noon kindergarten route which would save the school almost \$11,400. If there is a large class of kindergarteners, there are half-time teachers which could help in the classroom. The board agreed to go to all-day kindergarten.

Earlier, the board had agreed to cut some of the assistant coaching positions. The summer-weight program will go from three to two supervisors and the recreation commission is considering paying for part of the program costs.

Having summer school this year was discussed at length because, by eliminating it, there would be a savings of \$8,120. However, the board agreed to continue summer school this year but the program would probably be eliminated next year.

Mr. Schiltz said it was hard to tell how much summer school helped those students but he also thought that it certainly didn't hurt students to have another month of instruction. The teachers tested students at the beginning of the summer and, when the school ended, they were tested again. Mr. Schiltz said the tests almost always showed progress.

Earlier, the board had discussed closing the lunchroom at the grade school and having breakfasts and lunch cooked and served at the high school lunchroom. This would

eliminate the cost of having two lunchrooms as well as eliminating one food service person. There were some issues that would need to be worked out and Mr. Schiltz recommended implementing this plan with the start of the 2010 school year.

Next year, the board agreed to eliminate sack lunches sent with high school sports teams. Scott Carmichael, principal, accompanies the teams. He said that one-fourth to one-third of the lunches are wasted. He said that most of the schools in the state don't provide lunches and the cost of lunches had doubled in the last 10 years. This would mean a savings of almost \$5,200.

Earlier, the board had agreed to put in windows in the west side of the high school. The cost of the windows comes out of the capital outlay fund which can be used only for projects such as the windows, school maintenance, and to purchase buses, just to name a few. By installing new windows, the 30-percent savings on utilities will be \$4,500 a year.

There were several other savings including raising the book fees and breakfast and lunch prices (see related article for more information).

Totaling all the numbers, Mr. Schiltz found the school would still need \$131,000. He and the board agreed that they did not want to cut staff or programs such as art, music or industrial arts. The only other way

to raise the money would be to increase local option budget.

The legislators, Mr. Schiltz said, are constantly voting "no" to raising taxes. However, they expect schools to function, giving students the best education. The bottom line, he said, is the local people will pay.

"I am hoping our people will pay a little more for better education," Mr. Schiltz said.

Our assessment scores, he said, show that we are giving students a very good education.

The board agreed that they would rather use the resources available before cutting staff or programs.

Schools are allowed to raise the local option budget up to 30 percent of the general fund. At the present time, the school still has not maxed the amount of money they can raise from the local option budget. Mr. Schiltz said by raising the mill levy approximately 4.28 mills, they would be able to raise the needed money. A mill equals \$30,973.

Mr. Schiltz had a printout from the Kansas Association of School Boards showing that there are several schools which have raised all they can with the local option budget. Unless there are changes in the state legislature, those schools could face closing the doors in a year. The St. Francis schools will still be able to draw on the local option budget for two years.

Sign up for program

The Summer Reading Program at the library is an exciting time for students.

Any young people in kindergarten through sixth grade, who can read on their own, may come to the library and sign up for this program.

Sign-up for the reading program will begin on Wednesday, May 27 and end on July 25.

Prizes are given after every 10

books are read. Top readers will receive special prizes.

Every week a name is drawn for a Dairy King treat.

"We hope by doing prizes and treats that it will be an incentive for young people to continue reading during the summer," said the librarian.

"We encourage all students to have fun reading during the summer."

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Friday, May 22 from 7 - 9 p.m.
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2001 Ford F250 Super Duty Long Box, diesel, Crew Cab, 7.3 Powerstroke, new Exhaust Brake, 5th Wheel, 100,000 mi.; 2002 Keystone Montana 33' Trailer, Arctic Package, fully loaded, 3 slide outs, Model 3280 RL; 2007 750cc Honda Shadow Spirit, w/ 400 mi. Black, Cobra Pipes; 1976 IH 1586 Tractor w/ cab, air, 2 new rear tires, 161 hp, diesel, 5,753 hrs.; 1971 JD 4000 Tractor, 3 pnt, 97 hp, 540 PTO, single hyd., diesel, 18-4-34 tires, cab, SN 254270R; 1974 Chevy C60 Truck, 15' Knapheide Steel Box & Hoist, wood floor, rollover tarp, 350 mtr., 4 spd trans., 10,497 mi.; 2002 New Holland 688 Bale Command, like new w/ 1500 bales baled; 1071 Westfield Grain Auger; 1958 Fordson Major Diesel Tractor, new clutch, new rod; 1975 Stideman Gooseneck Stock Trailer, 5x20, tandem axle; 1982 Wilson Fat Cattle Pot w/ 11R24.5 tires, Model ADCL-806, VIN 1W1FGA8E4D55X8015; 400 bu. Paris Wilkens Grain Cart w/ New Rollover Tarp; Toro Riding Lawn Mower LX425, Twin Cam, 42" cut, Hyd. Stat Drive w/ Koehler Courage 20 hp Motor, 13 hrs; 1996 Polaris 425 4 Wheeler, 4x4; 3-JD 9300 Drills, 10", 10" spacing w/ hyd. transports, spear pnts, hitch, SN 001175, 77, 78; Sunflower 5'x5' Sweeps w/ Sunflower Pickers; Bumper Pull Flatbed Trailer, 8'x16' w/ Single Axle, dual Wheels; 4'x6' Single Axle Mower Trailer; JD 3 pnt. Rotary Mower, Model 603, 6'; Shaver 3 pnt. Post Hole Digger, Model 301, 8" auger; Hobart Beta-Mig 250 Power Source Wire Fed Welder; Pickup Stock Racks; 6' Coop Stock Tank; 250 gal. Top fill Propane Tank; 110 gal. Fuel Tank w/ hand pump, rectangle; 2'x6' Hog Waterer Tank; 12v MJM Elec. Drill Fill Auger; 12'x8' Grain Cart Frame for Roll Over Tarp; 14' Gate; 50-3.5" x 6' Used Wooden Fence Posts; 60-Big T Steel Posts; 2-International 150 Drills, 10" Spacing w/ Steel Press Wheels, Lever Lift, Hitch, Markers, 12' & 14'; Parmark 110v Electric Fencer; Insulators; Large Tow Rope; 50' 220 Extension Cord; 3' Stock Tank; 2 New Lawn Chairs; Wicker Patio Furniture; Canning Jars; Utility Shelf; Coleman Cooler; Circle Y Handmade Roping Saddle, 15" seat; Bolt, Nut, Screw Cabinet Assortment; 16" B & D Elec. Hedge Trimmer; Come-a-Long; Craftsman Hedge Trimmer; 10" Table Saw; Tarp Straps; Battery Charger; Super 98 Fence Charger; Wood Clamps; Elec. Motors; Elec. Drill Bit Sharpener; Extension Cords; Elec. Lawn Edger; 2 Rolls of 5" Lawn Edging; Garden Hoses, Soaker Hoses; Tarps; Wheelbarrow; Lawn & Garden Tools; Window Weights; Fishing Poles, Minnow Buckets; Alum. Crossbody Tool Box; BBQ Grill; Croquet Set; Hand Truck (Dolly); Amana Chest Type Freezer; Gold Rush Express Train; Oscillating Fan; White Milk Glass; Table Lamps; Florescent Bulbs; Misc. Game & Toys; Wall Hangings; Wood Drop Leaf Table w/ 6 leaves; Blonde BR Sets; 3-Chest of Drawers & 2-Dressers; Rocker Recliners, Rockers; Floral Hide-a-Bed; Couches; Metal High Chair; Baby Bed; Misc. Kitchen Items; Buffet; Duncan Phyfe Table w/ 6 Chairs; Full Size Blonde Bedroom Set; Queen Mattress & Box Springs; Bar Stools; TVs: 14', 19' w/ Remotes; Book Shelf; End Tables; Wicker Rocker; Metal Cabinet; Sewing Machines Cabinets; Bedroom Set w/ Dresser, Mirror, Headboard; Fedders Window A/C; Kitchen Cabinet; Lawn Ornaments; Corningware; Decorative Windmill; Oak Stand; Smoke GEN Pit Smoker; 33 Albums; Table Cloths; Cookie Jars; Glassware; Books; Oak Shelf; China; Lots of Dolls; Cedar Chest; Sewing Misc.; Pink & Green Depression Glass; Carnival Glass, Cut Glass; Painted Plates by Margaret Stasser; 2 pc. Circular Ottoman, 5, ea.; Red Tulip Bar Stool; Lots. of Misc. - Too Much to List!

AUCTION TERMS: Announcements made day of the sale take precedence over printed material. All items to be paid for on sale day! Cash or Good Check - No Credit Cards. Not responsible for theft or accident. Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC clerks. Lunch will be served!

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- Republican River Water & Drought Portal
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- Pathways2Market

All at The Gateway, 1 Morgan Drive, Oberlin, Kansas
(At the corner of Highways 83 & 36)

May 27, 2009 • 9:30 a.m.

This meeting and lunch are free, but pre-registration is appreciated for planning purposes. Please submit this form by Friday, May 22, 2009.

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
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Please submit registration to: Southwest RC & D,
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