



Airport receives funding from state

By Karen Krien

Twenty-four projects have been selected to receive safety and service enhancements through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement Program.

Cheyenne County will receive an airport improvement award with the Kansas Department of Transportation contributing \$31,500 for a seal and remarking of the airport runway and taxiway. The county will contribute the remaining cost of \$3,500.

"The Airport Authority and airport manager are very diligent about maintaining the asphalt at the airport," said Dave Yost, Airport Authority chairman.

The existing runway will be a part of the new proposed longer and wider runway. "This is why it is so important to take care of the asphalt that is already in place," he said. "We appreciate the state for helping smaller airports to keep in good operating condition."

The projects funded by the state will address maintenance, geometric improvement and facility and equipment needs at non-primary public use airports. These are airports that are classified as having less than 10,000 passenger boardings a year.

"This program has made major improvements to Kansas aviation," said Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller. "It has contributed significantly to the health and economic well-being of Kansas and the many communities that have received grants."

Recognizing the importance of air service to the Kansas economy and emergency health care services, the Kansas Department of Transportation established the Kansas

See FUNDING on Page 7A

Best hand wins flowers



The February days can be long and cold but 10 St. Francis businesses have decided to put a little flare in the air by participating in the "Don't Gamble With Love" game. The two winners will take home a Valentine bouquet supplied by Goodell Greenhouse and Floral.

Businesses participating are: Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Owens True Value, Hilltop General Store, P & L Meat Market, Krien Pharmacy, Schultz's, Donna's Gift Palace, Burr Liquor, Tangles and Video Connection.

Each time a customer visits one of the businesses and make a transaction, they are entitled to randomly pick a playing card. The object is to collect the cards, then people are to pick their best natural poker hand and bring it into The Saint Francis Herald office, 310 W. Washington, by noon on Monday, Feb. 12.

If there are more than two people See BEST on Page 7A



LUNCH TIME WITH HEAD START students is always fun. Getting ready to enjoy their meal on their own dishes are: (l to r) Dakota Morris, Christina Stafford, Sierra Robbins, Cassie Cooks, Seth Prentice, Joseph Milton and Cloey Jones.

Herald staff photo by Caesy McCormick

Board looks at writing for tax credits

By Karen Krien

Writing another Kansas Income Tax Credit was discussed when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met Thursday.

Jerry Toler, chairman, said he was looking for a general opinion from the board considering the Kansas Income Tax Credits and what projects might qualify for the tax credits. Administrator Les Lacy said there are three areas which qualify

for tax credits: 1) community service; 2) crime prevention; and 3) health care.

In the past, Kansas Income Tax Credits have been used by local as well as businesses and individuals outside the county. Both Mr. Toler and Joy Anderegg, board member, agreed that the community should be offered the tax credits.

If the board and administration agree to apply for the tax credits,

they would need to submit a plan. Some of the many options included: hospital parking, kitchen and laundry remodel, obstetrics and cardiac monitoring.

In an earlier meeting, Mr. Lacy reported that much of the kitchen and laundry equipment is old and needs to be updated. At the Thursday meeting, he said the dishwasher had broken down but was repaired.

Out of the options suggested, he

thought the hospital parking would be the least likely to be approved.

In the past, the hospital board has generated \$780,000 in donations using this program to improve the ambulance entrance, replace the hospitals heating/air conditioning which was put in when the hospital was remodeled, and to assist with the clinic remodeling.

The matter will be discussed at the See CREDITS on Page 7A

22-year-old man killed in accident

By Karen Krien

Kevin Brown, age 22, died in an accident early Sunday morning. The accident happened in Idalia.

His sister April said Kevin and his friends had gone to a dance in Idalia. Before going home, he went to jump into the back of the pickup and, to the best of their knowledge, he slipped and fell.

April said her brother had always been a little clumsy. His friend jumped out to see if he was all right and Kevin responded that, yes, he was fine — let's go home. About the time the group reached the county line, they noticed that Kevin was extremely pale. He continued to laugh and joke until they were almost to St. Francis. His friends took him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

An autopsy was done in Hays and the report said his ribs had severed the liver when he had fallen and he had bled to death.

Kevin, the son of Mark and Barb Brown, St. Francis, graduated with the class of 2003. Following graduation, he attended Northwest Kansas Technical College where he studied to be an electrician, graduating in 2005.

He was working for the St. Francis Equity at the time of his death. For at least seven years prior to going to the Equity, he worked for Yonkey farms.

"Kevin was a great kid — always happy and smiling — nice to have around and was excellent help," Gary Yonkey said. Kevin liked to hunt and fish and especially liked demolition derbies. He fixed up his cars from start to finish and then competed. He started wrestling when he was in the first grade and competed until he graduated from high school. This year, he had begun refereeing matches.

His greatest love was farming and his goal was to eventually own a farm. He leaves to mourn his parents, sister April and her husband Ryan Brown of Stockton; and many more relatives and friends. A complete obituary will be printed in next week's Herald.

Funeral services have been set for 2:30 p.m. on Friday at the First Baptist Church in St. Francis.



Brown



MAKING IT A SPECIAL DAY — Singing Valentines are being delivered by St. Francis Community High School singers: Pictured (l to r) are: Candice Wiese, Heather Hnizdil, Taylor Kennedy, Amber Smull, Brooklyn Hnizdil and Brandon Rueb.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Students to deliver 'singing Valentines'

The St. Francis Community High School Music Department students are offering their annual contribution to the "Holiday of Love" with Singing Valentine Telegrams.

Seniors through freshmen students will be joining in song

once again this Valentine's Day. Singing Valentines consists of a helium-filled balloon with a small bag of candy and a love song.

This year, students are also offering the option of an additional gift (a small plush Valen-

tine animal) for a few extra dollars.

The profit produced by the Singing Valentines goes toward a year-end trip taken by the music department students to a dinner theater playhouse in Denver.

Telegram order forms are avail-

able at the high school office, the post office bulletin board, or from any band, vocal or advanced music student.

"Don't miss out on your chance to give a one-of-a-kind Valentine," said Heather Hnizdil, student.

No weapons allowed on hospital grounds

In response to a recent law enacted in Kansas allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons, the Cheyenne County Hospital will be enforcing a policy prohibiting handguns, pistols or revolvers in the facility (and on all hospital property), which includes Cheyenne County Clinics in St. Francis and Bird City.

The new law, which took effect July 1, allows private entities such as the hospital to ban weapons on the premises. Individuals with a license to carry a concealed weapon are not exempt from the

hospital's weapons ban. The hospital's new policy, which goes into effect Feb. 1, states that weapons are strictly forbidden on the premises and all off-site buildings operated as part of the hospital (visitors may store firearms in vehicles, as long as they are stowed in accordance with Kansas law).

The no-weapons policy applies to all patients, employees, visitors, medical staff members, clinical practitioners, independent contractors, volunteers, vendors and any See WEAPONS on Page 7A