

Commissioners proceed with 911

By Karen Krien

Cheyenne County has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to implement a 911 emergency system. At the Feb. 15 meeting, the Cheyenne County Commissioners discussed the details involved with putting in the system.

Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County Sheriff, and Jim O'Loughlin, Allied Information

Solutions, said that, according to the grant provisions, the system would need to be installed by the end of December.

Mr. O'Loughlin has experience, having overseen the installation of other 911 emergency systems. He said that he will be able to get a good professional system and it will be one of the most up-to-date systems in the state. As the project leader, he will be get-

ting everything together.

Sheriff Gardner said the 911 system would be moved from the city power plant to the vacated sheriff's office on the second floor of the courthouse. He said that the 911 system would need three full-time and one part-time person to man the system. At the present time, city workers are taking care of the 911 calls as well as overseeing the en-

gines in the plant.

Mr. O'Loughlin said the county would need aerial maps. He had a company which would make high-quality aerial photos which are necessary to the 911 personnel. The matter will be further discussed with the appraiser.

Besides the grant, the county has been collecting a tax on phone service. The fund

has paid for emergency equipment and radios but there is still around \$83,000 which can be used for the new system.

The commissioners were concerned about the electricity going off. Mr. O'Loughlin said there was a back-up battery that would keep the system going for an hour. The commissioners thought there

See 911 on Page 11

Farm offices remain open

Cheyenne County and other northwest counties, were not in the list of county Farm Service and National Resources Conservation Service offices to be consolidated. Those offices to be consolidated are: Cottonwood Falls, Coldwater, Olathe, Junction City, Howard, Yates Center, Medicine Lodge, Elkhart, Alma, Leavenworth and Gove.

State conservationist Harold L. Klaege, Salina, said on Feb. 15 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service would follow the plan proposed by the Farm Service Agency in consolidating offices across the state.

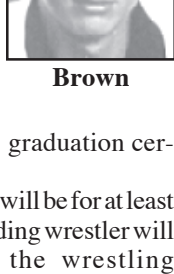
"With budgets becoming tight for federal agencies," Mr. Klaege said, "United States Department of Agriculture partners are trying to find ways to effectively and efficiently serve their clients and in National Resources Conservation Service's case, get more conservation on the land. As a United States Department of Agriculture partner, it makes sense that National Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency locate together to serve their clients."

"It is our intent that office consolidation be a smooth transition," said Mr. Klaege, "and that farmers and

See OPEN on Page 11

School receives scholarship gift

The family of Kevin Brown has established a memorial scholarship for an outstanding St. Francis senior wrestler. The first scholarship will be given during this year's graduation ceremony.



Brown

The scholarship will be for at least \$100. The outstanding wrestler will be selected by the wrestling coaches. Parents, Mark and Barb Brown, will be notified.

Superintendent Carl Werner said that the amount of the scholarship was undetermined at the time of the Feb. 12 meeting but will be awarded for at least the next 10 years. This

wrestling scholarship will replace the Francis Sherlock Scholarship which ran out last year.

Kevin, 22, died on Jan. 28. He began wrestling when he was in the first grade and going to Kansas Kids Wrestling tournaments. In his obituary, it said that neither Kevin nor his dad knew much about wrestling to begin with, but they were both hooked on the sport after the first practice. When he was a senior, he placed third in state.

Kevin had begun to put his wrestling knowledge to use as an official, having officiated several events since the first of the year.

"Kevin and Mark always liked wrestling and we felt like a wrestling scholarship in Kevin's honor would be a nice way to keep his memory alive," Mrs. Brown said.



SPOTLIGHT OF Betty Petersen's life is grandson Preston. They spend time at the office reading books and playing ball.

Realtor selected for city honor

By Karen Krien

At the Feb. 6 St. Francis City Council meeting, Betty Petersen was given the Spotighting The Postive award.

Mrs. Petersen was honored for promoting the city, for her community involvement and pursuing businesses to come to St. Francis. She sports a positive at-

titude in all that she does, whether it is at work, on community and church projects or bringing the St. Francis Booster Club back to life by helping with hamburger feeds before games.

One of the owners of Western Auction and Real Estate, Mrs. Petersen, along with her husband Skip and children Robin and Brett

work together in showing and selling real estate as well as holding regular and special auctions in their business place on U.S. 36 and River Street.

Mrs. Petersen sees the traffic that comes through St. Francis. In the past few years, people from the cities have come to St. Francis to live. While many are retired people who

see the town as a safe, warm community to live in, there are a number of younger people who have found jobs in the area.

She sees the area needing jobs. "We need more business options," she said but she also adds that there are options out there. "We just have got to keep trying."

See SELECTED on Page 11

Board agrees to pursue new gym

By Karen Krien

The new gym project was on the St. Francis Board of Education agenda when they met on Feb. 12. The board agreed to continue looking into the costs and more will be known at the March meeting.

Carl Werner, superintendent, said that the board could reasonably finance a \$1.5 million project from the current and future Capital Outlay funds. Rather than take the entire

amount from the current Capital Outlay funds, he suggested taking \$1 million from the fund and the \$500,000 would come from bonding against future Capital Outlay funds.

Each year, 4 mills are collected just for Capital Outlay. From this fund, school buses and equipment are purchased and major building improvements are made. Teacher's salaries cannot be taken out of the fund.

In the next five years, Mr. Werner estimates

that the Capital Outlay fund will have an additional \$600,000 which will cover the bond payments.

The present gym seats around 850 people. The proposed gym would seat 1,500 people. It would be used as the "first" gym with the present gym used for B-team games. A bigger gym would also give the school the opportunity to hold regional tournaments.

See GYM on Page 11

Wrestlers go to State

By Betty Jean Winston

The Indians, with 129 points, earned a third-place finish at the Regional wrestling tournament in Norton on Friday and Saturday.

"We had an outstanding crowd (at Regionals)," Coach Mike Frewen said. "We appreciated the support both Friday and Saturday."

The Indians will take two first place finishers, Jordan Gienger, 152 pounds,

and Russell Rogers, 171 pounds, and two second place finishers, Gavin Smull, 130 pounds, and Brennon Wilger, 285 pounds, to the State meet to represent St. Francis Community High School.

"We are taking four boys and four medals is our goal," Coach Mike Frewen said. "We feel this is a very attainable goal."

This will be the fourth trip to State for

See WRESTLERS on Page 11

Weather changes

After seven weeks of bitterly cold weather, it has warmed up and the piles of snow are melting.

In last week's article, the inches of snow and moisture were not filled in. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather person, called to let the Herald know. The number of inches of snow from Dec. 19 through Feb. 15 was 30 inches and there was 2.87 inches moisture.

Mrs. Woodcox said last year was a different story. During that same period of time, there was 4.75 inches of snow and .29 moisture.

The temperatures are much warmer this week. The high was 50 degrees on Monday and that trend is expected to continue throughout the week.

| Date | High | Low | Prec. |
|---------|------|-----|-------|
| Feb. 13 | 13 | -4 | |
| Feb. 14 | 16 | -10 | |
| Feb. 15 | 13 | -9 | |
| Feb. 16 | 42 | 27 | |
| Feb. 17 | 41 | 18 | |
| Feb. 18 | 46 | 24 | |
| Feb. 19 | 50 | 20 | |



ICE WAS THICK and fishermen could do some ice fishing at Keller Pond on Feb. 11. However, temperatures have warmed with the high being 50 degrees on Monday.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Basketball Substate begins first of week

By Betty Jean Winston

Substate basketball action for the Indians and Lady Indians begins next week with the boys playing on Monday night and the girls on Tuesday night.

As in the past, teams seeded first, second, third and fourth hold the opening games (unless the distance between the two school is large and then the visiting team can request a neutral location between the two schools). St. Francis is involved in the Hill

City Substate this year so the semifinals and finals are being played at Hill City.

The Sainty Indian boys have a 13-5 record going into the final two games of the regular season (Hoxie and Colby).

"We (the boys) are going to have a first-round game here," said Coach Ward Cassidy. "We had a chance to get the first seed at Substate if we would have defeated both Quinter and Hoxie."

See BASKETBALL on Page 11

Driver eludes law officers

Cheyenne County and St. Francis law officers aided in a chase which began in Dundy County following an accident. Dundy County Sheriff Bob McBride said there was an accident on Saturday at about 8:56 p.m. when a 1988 Chevy suburban hit a 2003 Ford Expedition belonging to Scott and Brenda Lutz and a 2000 Honda Civic, owner not known. There were no injuries but the driver of the Chevy left the scene of

the accident and went into Cheyenne County. Cheyenne County law officers were called to apprehend the driver of the Chevy but Sheriff Troy Gardner said the chase, which had speeds in excess of 90 miles per hour, led the officers over muddy, country roads. The Chevy was a 4-wheel drive vehicle and the driver was able to travel

See OFFICERS on Page 11