

OOPS!! TOOOOOO BIG! Journey Lee, one of the Brownies visiting the firehouse Monday evening, and found the hat way too big!

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

## Brownies visit firehouse



**By Casey McCormick**  
 Members of Brownie Troop 76 completed their mission of "Spread the Bread" on Monday, March 12. Each girl presented a poster and loaf of banana-nut bread to the firemen of the St. Francis Fire Department. After giving out the bread the Brownies presented a banner saluting the firemen and saying "You are our heroes."

Deb and Lori Gohl were with Troop 76 as leaders.

"Spread the Bread is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to nurture children's innate generosity with the goal of sparking a life-long commitment to helping others," said Mrs. Gohl.

The Brownie's chose the firemen for their willingness to help others at any moment.

The girls were picked up at the Scout Hut by the firemen and rode on the fire truck to the station. Af-

ter the "Spread the Bread" ceremony the Brownies were given a tour of the firehouse and tried on the firemen's uniforms.

Brownie Troop 76 is made up of girls from first through third grade. They are Kattie Jenik, Kayla Reed, Kylie Sherlock, Hannah Stafford, Hannah Wolff, Emily Elfers, Journey Lee, Carol Eve Harris, McKenzie Taylor, Sydney Sundstrom, Makayla Rogers, Sophie White, Jenna Confer, Matthisen Witzel, Hanna Bracelin, Jacey Jones and Zoe Sundstrom.

Along with Deb and Lori Gohl, Barb Fromholtz is also a leader.



DOESN'T FIT! Kattie Jenik, above, and Hannah Wolff, right, enjoyed trying on the firemen's clothes.



## City council hires new police officer

**By Sandy Barnhart**  
 At the St. Francis City Council approved the hiring of a new officer for the police department.

Troy Gardner, chief of police, said at a previous city council meeting he had hired Michael Blehm, 41, from Denver. Officer Blehm had worked with Chief Gardner when

both were with the Colorado State Parks Service. Later, Officer Blehm had worked in Log Lane Village near Fort Morgan, Colo., where Chief Gardner was working.

Officer Blehm is married and his wife will join him when the lease on their house is up.

He said he likes St. Francis

and the people.

He has had training in Colorado but will still need to attend the Kansas Academy.

**911 system**  
 Chief Gardner at the Tuesday, March 6, city council meeting, updated the council on the 911 system meeting with the commissioners on

Feb. 28. Those attending the meeting along with Chief Gardner were Scott Schultz, mayor; Troy Burr, Bird City mayor; and Roger Jensen, councilman.

He gave the council a handout of the projected costs of the 911 system. He explained that the \$200,000

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## Government is us; our right is to know

This is a week of Thanksgiving. No, it's not November. It's March 11-17. That is when we give thanks that we live in a society where the people are presumed to be wise enough to govern themselves.

It's Sunshine Week, a time to remember that the government is us — and we have not only the right but the obligation to know what we are doing.

As president of an organization of thriving community newspapers, I have the opportunity to speak with journalists and their readers from Boston to Arizona and from states as far as my home state of Texas and

as blue as New Jersey, where my friends, the Parker family, are deeply committed to covering local government.

It is rewarding to know that my newspaper friends AND their readers deeply believe in open government. Sunshine on government is the Vitamin D for democracy. It makes us whole and healthy. When we know what is going on, we are better able to make wise judgments on those few things that need to be confidential for a time in order let our public servants function.

Tom Brokaw, NBC News anchor

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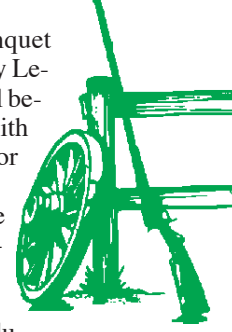
## Wildlife banquet set for March 23

**By Karen Krien**  
 The annual Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Bird City Legion hall on Friday, March 23. The auction will begin at 8:15 p.m. Besides a dinner of prime rib with all the trimmings, there will be drawings and door prizes awarded.

Cheyenne County Wildlife is extremely active in the county and the money used from the banquet and auction proceeds help with cost-share tree plantings, stock trout in Keller Pond. The organization also gives four scholarships to graduating students.

This year, the members saw the great need to feed the pheasants, quail and other wildlife during the

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## Snow travel ordinance explained

**By Sandy Barnhart**  
 The St. Francis City Council, at the March 6 meeting, approved and passed the heavy snow traffic emergency amendment be added to Ordinance 540.

The addition to the ordinance came after weeks of snow and ice in St. Francis.

The ordinance, before the added amendment, prohibited parking or traffic on emergency routes until the snow could be cleared. This ordinance has been in place for some time and ensures access to medical facilities and movement by law enforcement and emergency medical personnel.

The addition to the ordinance would give the mayor, or in his ab-

sence, the superintendent, the authority to require motorists to stay off the streets unless they have a 4x4 vehicle or chains on the tires of their vehicle in the event of a heavy or paralyzing snow (13-507).

The ordinance will be in effect only for the time it would take for city crews to clear the streets. The notice would be on cable television, radio, and in other media.

The council does not anticipate the heavy snow restriction to be in place for a long period of time and it is not intended to restrict the mobility of people. Rather, it would allow city crews to clear streets quicker, thereby improving the community's ability to get where they need to go.

## Board agrees to first-class lab upgrade

**By Karen Krien**  
 The St. Francis Board of Education agreed to remodel the old home ec room, with the end results being a "first-class computer facility."

The school no longer offers home economics to students. The home ec room, located on the main level of the school, has been used for a computer room but the layout is geared toward sewing machines, not computers.

Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent, had a plan drawn which was distributed to board members. Since the school does not have the electrical wiring for a computer room, Mr.

Schiltz's plan called for putting in a false floor for wiring. The room would be painted, computer tables built, and a new suspended ceiling and new lighting installed. There would also be an overhead projector, surround sound system and the computers will be updated. For security, an entry card system would be installed.

The room now has 16 computers but most classes have more students. When a teacher uses the room for students, some students need to go to other places in the building and there is no supervision.

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## Elderly receiving obscene late calls

**By Karen Krien**  
 Over the weekend, there were multiple phone calls made late in the evening and early morning hours to a number of people in the St. Francis area. The calls were still being made at the first of the week.

Sheriff Troy Gardner reported that the calls threaten to break in and/or sexually assault women. Calls were made from a phone where the number was blocked. Consequently, the number does not show up on the phone's caller ID service.

Sheriff Gardner was at the senior center to reassure people that this matter was being covered by officers. He went on to say that part of the time when officers have been notified concerning the harassing phone calls, the officers were working on other cases.

"We are not a large agency and, if officers are involved in other calls, there may be a delayed response time," the sheriff said, noting that on Monday evening, there was an ambulance call at the same time one of the harassing phone calls was reported.

He also noted that officers may be on the scene and others may not be aware of their presence.

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Sheriff Troy Gardner talks to senior citizens about late-night phone calls.

## People talk about needs in 12-15 years

What do you see as assets for Cheyenne County in the next 12 to 15 years?

What do you see as needs for Cheyenne County in the next 12 to 15 years?

What does Cheyenne County really need to be vibrant, healthy and prosperous by 2020?

In a Cheyenne Initiative Association forum, Cheyenne County residents will be able to reflect on these

questions and possibly find answers. The forum starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 30, in the cafeteria at the St. Francis Community High School.

The forum will be led by outside professionals from the Ogallala Commons organization. People will focus on county assets and needs, starting in small group discussions. The assets and needs selected by

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