

NEEDED

Continued from Page 1A
 agency medical technician recertification class will be held on June 10.

Mrs. Bowers said the tires on one of the ambulances had been rotated several times and it would be needing new tires before long. The commissioners agreed that they didn't want a blowout or flat on a road while carrying a patient. They also pointed out that having to replace a tire on a run could cost more money than to have them all replaced now.

Mrs. Bowers said the ambulances had been inspected and it went well. Any deficiencies had been corrected immediately.

The commissioners gave permission for McKenzie Grace to ride along on ambulance runs. Her parents said she was considering going into the medical field.

It was noted that the backup batteries at the tower east of Wheeler were in and had been tested.

Sign off on grant money

Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, needed the commissioners to sign off on \$650,000 in the Bird City dairy project Community Development Block Grant. The full amount of the grant is \$657,500 and was to be used for equipment and livestock. However, the manager of the dairy was asking that all but \$7,500 be spent for livestock.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, wanted to know where the money was going to come from to purchase the equipment and other items named in the grant. Ms. Griffey said that she really didn't know but she said that there was money coming from Bird City Century II as well as some loans and cash.

The matter was discussed further and, then Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that he didn't think it really made any difference to the county (concerning the grant) as the county was basically just a "paper trail." The entire dairy operation will cost \$5,250,000.

Silver Hair Legislator

Rick Reeser, St. Francis, is the new Silver Hair Legislator. He took the position vacated by Elmer Kellner. These legislators relate the needs of senior citizens to the legislators in Topeka.

He asked that the commissioners reserve \$300 in the budget to help with travel expenses. He said he has an economical car but, on the last trip to Topeka, he had been paid \$70 which did not cover his gas expenses, let alone his motel stay. He said that some meetings are held in Salina and/or Colby which are much closer.

The commissioners agreed that,

if they helped with \$300, they would need to place it into the budget. They will talk to the auditor and consider the request when they are making out the budget.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the work the crew had completed including blading and elevating roads. The Edson Road, south of Bird City, was wrapped up last week. A road permit was signed for Nobel Energy. He also said Overland Pass Pipeline will be crossing the county starting in October. It will take six months to complete. The pipeline will carry liquefied materials.

Two of the commissioners had received calls from John Kamla, one of the farmers who had lost their home and other buildings during the March 28 tornado. He wanted the county crew to come to his farm with some large equipment and remove some trees.

The commissioners agreed that Mr. Kamla had the equipment to put a chain around the trees and pull them out. It was also pointed out that there are people who pull out trees for a living and the county's policy is to not do work where people can hire it done.

In other business

In other business:

- Kim Zweygardt and Pastor David Butler, representing the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, asked that the county remember the organization when budgets are made. See related article.

- Wage agreements were signed for Cody Beeson, road and bridge department, and Kate Jenkins, part-time help in the clerk's office...

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 15, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

EVENTS

Hondas in town

Aurora Honda will be riding into St. Francis around noon to attend the Fly-In. The fliers which the members have distributed says they are "riding to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital while seeing the nation's largest gathering of World War I type aircraft."

While in town, they plan to see the interesting and historical sites in the area.

FLAG

Continued from Page 1A

from Hartford, Conn., during the summer of 1861; and by "the late 1800s, schools all over the United States held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities."

Boston Public Library reports that Flag Day celebrations began in the late 19th century, with the 1889 school program of George Bolch, who ran a kindergarten for poor children in New York City. This program is generally cited by various sources as the first such event.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 should be observed as Flag Day.

DUTIES

Continued from Page 1A

with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce where he raised funds and support for the organization.

Pastor Butler and his wife Jackie moved to St. Francis in 2006. They have quickly become involved with the community, where Mrs. Butler is an aide at ABC Preschool and their children Jonathan and Jacob have finished up the school year and ready to begin the ball season.

Anyone wanting to get involved with county development should contact Pastor Butler, (785) 332-4345. The office, located at 107 W. Washington, is open Tuesdays thru Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



JOINING HANDS ACTIVITIES held Thursday found Heather Hnizdil, painting the sign at the high school, with adult, Liz Weber, looking on. Mrs. Weber designed and painted the sign a number of years ago.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

RATTLER

Continued from Page 1A

sheds, a new, dark link of the rattle appears. So the bigger the rattle, the older the rattlesnake. They can live to be 25 years old.

Reproduction

Female rattlesnakes can only reproduce about every two years and they give birth to around 10 live baby snakes. The babies are independent minutes after they are born and have venom that is just as toxic as their mothers, however, they have no rattle. When they are one to two weeks old, they shed their skin and the first of their rattle is created.

Lay where it is warm

A lot of snakes are killed on roads. The snakes love the heat from the pavement and will often sit on the road and bask, which puts them in a lot of danger. Ward Cassidy, who rides his bike along the old Wheeler road, says he sees rattlesnakes on the pavement when the temperatures begin to cool down.

Swimmers

Rattlesnakes are wonderful swimmers. They push against the water, just like they do on the ground. They don't hunt in the water through. They are such good swimmers that some rattlesnakes have actually been found several miles out to sea.

Dens

In the winter, they live in dens to keep warm. There can be hundreds of

rattlesnakes in one den. It is one of the few times that rattlesnakes will tolerate each other. They are usually loners.

Prairie rattlesnakes can be thieves. They will actually steal the underground den of a prairie dog. If the rattlesnake gets in while the prairie dog is away, there is nothing that the prairie dog can do to get the snake out.

When winter comes, the baby snakes will see their mother again (she left them shortly after they were born). They will follow their mother's scent trail and use the same den to hibernate in.

The same dens will be used by the same snakes (and future generations) for many, many years. Some dens are known to have been used for 100 years.

Watch out

Walkers or joggers need to watch for rattlesnakes. They can be out night or day and, while they don't generally

go after humans, they will strike if they are startled, provoked or stepped on.

If bitten, the person should seek medical care immediately. Around 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the United States each year but the death rate is less than 4 percent when antivenin is applied in time.

Trivia

Just a little bit of trivia information. According to the internet, the earliest fossil found which can be definitively identified as a rattlesnake was discovered near Driftwood Creek in Hitchcock County, Neb. (Trenton area). An exact age of the specimen is difficult to determine. The fossilized remains usually consist of ribs, which makes accurate species identification a problem, as even many species of modern rattlesnakes have nearly identical vertebral characteristics.

Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:
 P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162



The Saint Francis Herald



Flag Day

Featuring those famous flags for you to display in your window showing your patriotism

ALUMNI!!!!

The St. Francis Community High School's 50th Alumni Reunion is set for June 16. This year's honored classes: 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987 and 1997 will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* the first of July.

An issue to treasure!



Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show
 Coming Soon ...
 July 26, 27
 and 28



WANTED

Bird City Times Associate-Editor

Looking for an energetic person, living in the Bird City area. The applicant must have some computer, writing and some photography skills, get along well with customers, be able to cover meetings, school activities and other happenings within the communities of Bird City and McDonald.

To apply or for more information, contact Casey McCormick or Karen Krien at the St. Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.



IRS Public Auction



Pursuant to an Order of Sale entered in *United States vs. Donald W. Dawes; Phyllis C. Dawes; and David Larry Smith and Derek Dane Dawes as Trustees of the Plainsman Property Trust also known as Plainsman Property Company* defendants, Civil Action No. 03-1132-JTM, United States District Court for the District of Kansas, the United States will offer to sell at public auction, to advertise and sell, without appraisal and subject to any unpaid real property taxes or special assessments, to the highest bidder, according to law and pursuant to the terms and conditions set in herein, the real properties in which Donald W. and Phyllis C Dawes have an interest.

Included in the sale is a house with 2,689 sq ft of total living area on the south edge of Goodland KS, grain bins and a machine shed in Brewster KS, and approximately 1,600 acres of agricultural lands located in Sherman, Thomas and Wallace Counties.

Sales will be held at the respective county Court Houses on June 20, 2007

Thomas County 9:00 A.M. Central Time
 Wallace County 11:30 A.M. Mountain Time
 Sherman County 2:30 P.M. Mountain Time

For more information and a complete description of the property being offered go to www.irsauctions.gov Or call Steve Hopkins at 651-308-5260

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