



ARIKAREE BREAKS, located north of St. Francis, are a wonder 12 months of the year.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

County canyons one of 24 finalists

By Karen Krien

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Never mind the Kansans who sneered that there's nothing wonderful in their state!

The nonprofit group behind the Eight Wonders of Kansas contest got hundreds of submissions and has now selected 24 finalists. And, Cheyenne County's "Arikaree Breaks" is one of the finalists.

People are urged to study the information or, better yet, visit them and get to know them first hand.

When ready to vote online, just click "register and vote" on www.8wonders.org. Those going online will be asked to register by providing their e-mail address, city and state. The e-mail address is the identity in the system and helps monitor the number of times the person votes. The e-mail address will not be sold or given out for any use.

One e-mail address is eligible to be used three times so everyone's friends and family without e-mail can vote. The deadline is midnight, Dec. 31. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will announce the 8 Wonders of Kansas on Jan. 29, Kansas Day, at the state Capitol.

One of the oddities on the Wonders list is the big ball of twine in Cawker City, but buildings, historical sites and striking landscapes claimed most of the 24 spots.

That's in keeping with the philosophy of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, the organization that educates people about Kansas and is running the contest.

Nominees had to be publicly accessible and reflect one of the eight elements of rural culture the foundation uses to promote communi-

ties: architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history and people.

The 24 finalists are:

- Arikaree Breaks, Cheyenne County, which feature rugged canyons and windblown silt areas called loess.

- Ball of Twine, Cawker City, billed as the largest ball of sisal twine in the world at a current 18,032 pounds.

- Big Brutus, West Mineral, the world's largest electric coal shovel at 160 feet tall.

- Big Well, Greensburg, among the world's largest hand-dug wells.

- Brookville Hotel, Abilene (formerly in Brookville), a restaurant serving icons of Kansas cuisine (skillet-fried chicken, relishes, baking-powder biscuits) since 1915.

- Chase County Courthouse, Cottonwood Falls, built in 1873.
- Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Barton and Stafford counties, migratory stops for North American waterfowl and shorebirds.

- Cimarron National Grassland, Morton County, more than 100,000 acres.

- Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton, the 151-year-old building where the Lecompton Constitution was drafted in 1857.

- John Steuart Curry murals, State Capitol, Topeka, depicting John Brown and the anti-slavery movement in Kansas Territory.

- Davis Memorial, Hiawatha, one man's memorial to his wife featuring 11 life-size statues of the couple.

- Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Abilene, containing the papers of the only five-

star general to become president of the United States, serving from 1953 to 1961.

- Fort Larned National Historic Site, Pawnee County, considered one of the best-preserved frontier Indian posts in the American West.

- Garden of Eden, Lucas, a folk-art sculpture garden built from 113 tons of concrete.

- Gypsum Hills Scenic Drive, Barber County, stunning canyons and bluffs of rock stained red by iron oxide.

- Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, Hutchinson, with collections of U.S. and Russian space artifacts including spacecraft from all three early manned space programs.

- Kansas Underground Salt Museum, Hutchinson, where visitors travel 650 feet below ground to view natural geologic formations and artifacts left by miners over the past century.

- Keeper of the Plains, Wichita, the 44-foot sculpture by artist

Blackbear Bosin.

- Lake Scott State Park, Scott County, with craggy canyons, scenic overlooks and historic connections to the El Cuartelejo Pueblo Indian ruins.

- Monument Rocks/Castle Rock, Gove County, also known as the Chalk Pyramids and designated a National Natural Landmark.

- Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic County, once home to as many as 1,500 members of one of the most powerful tribes in the Central Plains.

- St. Fidelis Church, Victoria, built in 1911 and dubbed by William Jennings Bryan "The Cathedral of the Plains."

- St. Mary's Church, St. Benedict, the only known G.F. Satory-painted church to be preserved.

- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Flint Hills, Chase County, known as the last significant example of the tallgrass prairie in North America.

FIELDS

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price. As of Tuesday, Mr. Burr said wheat was running over \$5 — at least a dollar higher than last year.

On Sunday, many wheat producers test cutting, determined moisture levels as they got in the fields after weeks of rain.

Ed Crittenden with Two Rivers Coop in Arkansas City, reported that in their locations in Kansas and Oklahoma they have received only 250,000 bushels with test weights dropping over the past few weeks and yield reports that are not good. Crop insurance adjusters have been busy in their area.

Sunday afternoon Randy Ackerman at the Meade Coop Elevator and Supply, reported that harvest is trying to get started with buckets of wheat coming in but most is still too wet. They took the first

load of the harvest on June 7 with 10,000 bushels coming in on the 8th. **Linking farmers with harvesters**

The Department of Commerce will continue to link farmers with workers through the Department's Workforce Centers. Centers are located in 20 communities throughout Kansas with the closest to Cheyenne County being Thomas and Ellis.

Bud Erskin, Majestic Service, St. Francis, has again volunteered his services and will be able to give information to both harvesters and farmers. He has been volunteering his time for a number of years and said he knows many of the harvesters coming through.

His business phone is 785-332-2905 or 785-332-5256 (cell). Phone numbers for the center in Hays is 785-625-5654; and in Colby, 785-462-6862.

GYM

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old home ec room is being transformed into a computer technology room.

Out-of-district student approved

Gus Jardine, an out-of-district student from Haigler, will be attending seventh grade in the St. Francis school. His mother Kris Jardine had written a letter making the request.

Earlier, there had been a legislation that forbid students from out-of-state attending Kansas schools but that legislation had been reversed.

The board agreed to let Gus attend school, waiving tuition charges. Bus arrangements will be worked out when school starts.

- Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent, said two used school buses had been sold on e-Bay. The 1996 23-passenger GMC was sold to Luke and Heidi Payne of Missouri for \$5,000; the 1996 23-passenger Chevrolet was sold to Rocky Mountain Bus Sales of Monument, Colo., for \$4,050. The 1990 suburban was a "no sale" as it only brought a bid of \$362.

In other business

In other business:

- Former board member, Myra Douthit was reappointed to serve on the Northwest Kansas Technical College Board, representing St. Francis.

- Mr. Schiltz reported that the preliminary Kansas Assessment results show 100 percent of the third graders scoring "Meets Standards" or above in both math and reading.

Most likely, the St. Francis schools will again meet the Adequate Yearly Progress reports in every category.

- Both Scott Carmichael, principal, and Mr. Schiltz told about the Join Hands protect where adults and students had helped improve a project at the grade school. The load of pea gravel used was donated by Pete Jensen, St. Francis Sand and Redi-Mix.

- Matt Whitmore, St. Francis, had approached the assistant superintendent with the request to landscape the area on the west side of the high school gym as an Eagle Scout project. The project will need to be approved by the scout council before work can begin.

- Kelly Gienger, board president, presented outgoing board member Cliff Raile with a plaque for serving 24 years on the board. Mary Beth Miller will assume the position.

Executive session

Bonnie Zwegardt, board member, called an executive session in order to project the confidentiality of student matters dealing with scholarships. After five minutes, the board came out of the session with no decisions being made.

Next meetings

The next meeting of the board will be a special meeting starting at 7 p.m. on June 29 at a local restaurant. The board and administration will be finishing fiscal year-end business. The next regular meeting of the board will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, in the high school library.

TRAINING

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allow technicians to be able to insert an IV in an emergency when the patient was in danger of going into shock or quickly going "downhill," or to help with a patient who has an IV already inserted and is being transported from the hospital to another facility.

There are only three technicians who qualify for inserting IVs and it would help if there were more, especially in the Bird City area where there are none. There is the possibility of getting a grant which would pay \$565 per student.

Mrs. Bowers said there are seven people showing interest in the class and Goodland might have three more. This would help keep the cost down, especially if they are not able

to get the grant.

The commissioners committed to fund the class but urged Mrs. Bowers to try for the grant and see if there are others who would be interested in taking the class.

Mrs. Bowers had \$4,999 in contractual write-offs for the ambulance.

The commissioners agreed to have Bumper-to-Bumper, St. Francis, supply the oxygen for the ambulance. They agreed to a contract for 10 years and the cost will be \$190 per bottle. The service maintains three bottles.

It was noted that technician, Nancy Semler, had resigned her position as representative to Region 1 meetings. Mr. Hansen and Cynthia Poling were selected as the new representatives.

TOUR

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2 miles east of St. Francis on U.S. 36, Jo Hagney and Laura Reeser will be talking about growing herbs in Kansas. They know the types which grow well in this area and can tell people about the many uses of herbs.

Other speakers on the tour include:

- Carol Topliff, Goodland, will be talking about gardening with the elements. There is a difference in raising

gardens in the country and in town.

- Gary Coon, Goodland, will tell about the watering and drip systems, the installation, maintenance and correct systems to use.

- Christie Rasure, Goodland, will be discussing ornamental grasses.

- Dana Belshe, Goodland, will talk about turf grasses and the up-keep of lawns.

For more information, contact the Extension office, 785-332-3171.

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