



Employee wages increase

By Karen Krien

Wages for the county were compared with similar jobs in the city, state and other counties when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Wednesday, Aug. 15. They found that the county's employees were the lowest paid so, next year, instead of a 3-percent increase, they will receive a 5-percent in their paycheck.

Because this will take an additional \$20,606 to pay the 30 people hired in that department, it was necessary for the commissioners to revise and publish the budget for next year.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, compared the county

road and bridge department wages to comparable jobs in Bird City and Saint Francis, as well as the state. He showed that Cheyenne County wages are significantly lower.

Mr. Flemming also presented highway permits to be approved and signed. Noble Energy wanted to bore steel gas lines across the road. These permits were approved and signed.

Permission to purchase a portable, gas powered air compressor was also given.

911 plans

Steve Nolan, St. Francis city dispatcher, asked the commissioners about the 911 system, where the

See WAGES on Page 8

Breaks tours conducted by local historian

By Karen Krien

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For a number of years, Tobe Zwegardt, local historian, has been giving tours of The Arikaree Breaks and other historical places in the county. His mind is sharp and his memory is remarkable. As he travels with visitors, he can tell them who lived in this vacant farmstead and where this creek ran and where an old country school stood

Audrey Kalivoda, videographer of "Canyon Lands, The Arikaree Breaks," recently wrote to tell Historical Society that there will be a short article about The Breaks in August's issue of "Midwest Living."

"Mr. Zwegardt deserves our community's appreciation for all the tours he has conducted this summer," said Janet Evans, vice presi-

dent of the Historical Society. "Interest in The Breaks has steadily mounted because of the Eight Wonders of Kansas competition."

Mrs. Evans said the museum gets frequent calls from Kansans who want to personally view The Breaks before casting their votes. These tourists are referred to Mr. Zwegardt, who enthusiastically and willingly gives tours to all who call.

His tireless efforts will certainly play a part in Cheyenne County winning recognition as holding one of the "Eight Wonders of Kansas."

See BREAKS on Page 8



Zwegardt



THUMBS UP!!! Matthew Berens, left, thought the Relay for Life activities was lots of fun Saturday evening. So did Preston Witzel, who was going to check out the popcorn.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Council hears wind-power proposal

By Lee Nichols

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A proposal to sell electricity through wind power was presented to the St. Francis City Council at their regular meeting on Aug. 7. The council made no decision until they could further study the proposal.

Dan Rasure, Goodland, a representative of Sunflower Wind, said the firm is seeking to build a 50-megawatt wind farm in Cheyenne County. It would be supplemented with a 4-megawatt hydrogen generation plant with a 5- to 25-megawatt generator powered by methane to be added.

Plans are to be started with the

project by June 1 and to be in full operation Jan. 1, 2009. If up and running prior to Jan. 1, Sunflower Wind will offer the city the electricity at the current market rate at that time or negotiate a rate.

Intentions are to sell most of the power locally and then open it up to others.

Two options are offered to the city. The first option, starting Jan. 1, 2009, would be at 5 cents per kilowatt hour with increases each year in January for the next 7 years to a 5.75 cent rate for 13 years with an additional two 5-years at 5.75 cents.

With the second option, the rate beginning Jan. 1, 2009, would be locked in at 5.75 for 20 years with

an additional two 5-year option. A guarantee of 10 megawatts of production is made with two full-time employees. Production would be guaranteed at 99.9 percent with less than 8.5 of down time. A back up of hydrogen would still be available for 7 hours of production.

As an economic development, Mr. Rasure said the project would bring 50 to 75 employees during construction and then four to eight full-time employees after that. It would also be a research and development site requiring two hotel rooms a week. The \$5,000 turbines would bring \$100,000 in revenue to Cheyenne County landowners. Another incentive is 1 percent discount

for power used by existing small businesses and others increasing their usage to 2 megawatts. Other sites under consideration in the area are Oberlin and Sharon Springs.

If the contracts were signed, they would become effective on the date of the signing.

Council member Carla Lampe inquired if a "letter of intent", would be acceptable but Mr. Rasure said that would not be acceptable within the time frame needed for the contract approval.

Of concern was the fact that the city would be required to cancel existing contracts. This might not be accomplished without penalty. If

See WIND on Page 8

School started Wednesday; sports activities begin

By Karen Krien

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School has started. The first high school volleyball game will be held at Golden Plains on Tuesday. The first football game will be on Greene Field in St. Francis against the Oberlin Red Devils.

With it the start of school are a number of activities. The St. Francis Booster Club and PTA members are welcoming back students with a hamburger fry, auction and dance on Friday.

The Booster Club will be frying hamburgers and all proceeds will go to the club.

The soap scrimmage for football and volleyball teams will begin at 7. Everyone is encouraged to bring a couple of bottles of water.

The DJ, "Big D" from Goodland will be back to kick off the school year with music starting immediately following the soap scrimmages. He will be located outside behind the high school. The dance, sponsored by the PTA, is free for all ages.

An auction will be held at that time and a variety of items will be going to the highest bidder. Some of the items on the block are four Colorado Rockies baseball ticket; two K-State football tickets and NASCAR Big Truck tickets.

Meet the teachers

At 7 p.m. on Monday, the "Meet the Teachers Night" classroom orientation and ice cream social will be held at the grade school in the gym. Teachers will be giving instructions and there two 25-minute session in classroom orientations.

There will be major changes for the fourth-, fifth -and sixth-grade classes so parents are urged to attend.

There will be playground supervision for the kids during orientation.

Ice cream, provided by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, will be served.



SERIOUS PRACTICES — Volleyball and football practices have been taking place for almost two weeks and players should be ready for the first games next week. Fans in the bleachers are always appreciated by the players and coaches. Above, Kattie Ford, left, and Holly Keller are practicing serving the ball. Left, this unidentified football player had a great catch.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

