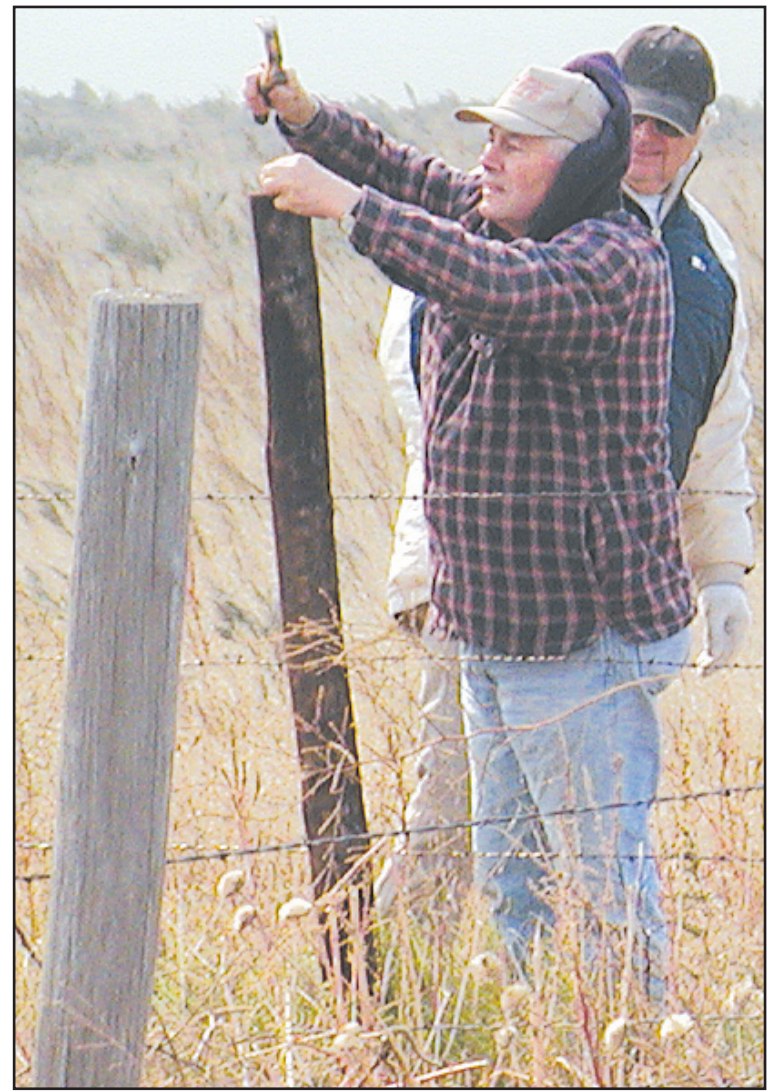


FIRE QUICKLY SPREAD, burning between 200 and 300 acres of Cheyenne County grassland. The 60 mile-per-hour wind hampered firemen's efforts.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



BRACELIN BROTHER'S cattle were in the line of the fire. Rodney Bracelin let the fence down so cattle could be moved to another pasture. Billy Krien was there to help. Left, Craig White, Bird City fireman, had just let the goats and other animals out at the Reeser-Hagney farm on U.S. 36.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Fire burns around 300 acres

By Karen Krien

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The wind had blown all day Thursday, sometimes reaching 60-mile-an-hour gusts. At about 2 p.m., the firemen were called to put out a grass fire north of St. Francis. The fire jumped several country roads, two asphalt roads and the railroad tracks before it was stopped.

"It has been dry and, with the wind and high humidity levels, the fire traveled fast," said George Harper, St. Francis fire chief.

He said the fire was "electrical" and, at the time, was unsure if a line had broken in the wind or if wires had touched, causing a spark.

When the firemen reached the fire, it had already traveled about a half mile and was just north of Bennie Weber's house at Road 15. It swiftly traveled down a wide ravine, east of the sewer ponds, and on east of the St. Francis Cemetery. The wind was from the north/northwest but it seemed to shift from time to time.

The Charlie Draper place seemed to be in the line of the fire for awhile but it moved east where Steve and Deb Christy had horses and cattle in a pasture. It burned much of the pasture but the animals were able

to reach an area that did not burn. Todd Krien's horses were within a 1/4 mile of the fire.

The fire jumped the old Wheeler Road which is asphalt. The Bracelin brothers had cattle in that pasture and Rodney Bracelin cut the fence wires so the cattle could be moved to an adjoining pasture.

Now, the homes of Jo Hagney, Rick and Laura Reeser, Dr. Brett and Cynthia Poling and Eddy and Sherry Schultz were near the path of the fire.

Both Ms. Hagney and Mrs. Reeser had climbed up to one of the sand piles west of their home only to turn around to see the fire almost on top of them. They ran to their house where they were met by Bird City firemen, Gary Brubaker and Craig White, who told them to evacuate "now!"

"We were terrified," Ms. Hagney said.

Firemen and other volunteers had let the animals out at Reeser's so they could seek safety.

The Sherman County Firemen had been stationed on U.S. 36. From a distance, the black and sometimes green smoke billowed into the sky between the Wheeler Road and

*See FIRE on Page 8



WATER CAME FROM nearby towns. Frontier Ag sent over a truck and firemen transferred the water to the rural truck.

Right, Gary Rogers, emergency manager, was making contact with other firemen.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Couple repeat vows in Bloomington

Angela Sciarra Basolo and Chad Delbert Raile were united in marriage May 5, 2007, at McGraw Park in Bloomington, Ill. The 5 o'clock double-ring wedding ceremony was celebrated by Rev. Dennis Livingston of Ulysses.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and mother. She is the daughter of Fred and Marcia Basolo of Bloomington, and the granddaughter of Pat Leverich of Danville, Ill.

The bridegroom is the son of Delbert and Marilyn Raile of St. Francis and the grandson of Eleanor Illingworth of Evans, Colo., and Hulda Raile of St. Francis.

The bride's sister, Melissa Basolo, was her maid of honor and her bridesmaids were Tricia Basolo, Bloomington, sister of the bride, and Jessica Feigenbaum, Bloomington, Annie Ginzke, Chicago, and Bridget Vercurryse, Chicago.

Kimmie Detwiler of Bloomington was the flower girl.

Ryan Bond of Christopher, Ill.,

cousin of the bride, was the ring bearer.

The best man was Heath Leinen, St. Francis, and the groomsmen were Justin Allen, Dallas, cousin of the groom, Cody Raile, St. Francis, Nick Raile, St. Francis, and Matt Raile, St. Francis, brothers of the groom.

The ushers were Alyce Miller of Chicago, Michael Rice, Bloomington, cousin of the bride and Scott Winter of Bloomington.

A reception was held at The Chateau in Bloomington. Chad and Angie honeymooned in Oahu and Maui and recently moved to Burbank, Calif.

Angie received degrees in music and business from Indiana University in 2005. She recently moved to Burbank to pursue her acting career.

Chad graduated from Kansas State University in 2004 with a degree in kinesiology. He started modeling in New York City in 2001, and has moved his modeling career to Burbank. He is also a personal trainer.



Mr. and Mrs. Chad Raile

Craft show set for Nov. 3 in Sainty

By Karen Krien

The 12th annual Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 3. The doors to the St. Francis Elementary School will open at 10 a.m. and the show will run until 3 p.m.

Besides the number of crafts to see and buy, a quilt show will be held in conjunction with the show. See related article.

"We will have a good show Saturday with a really nice variety of items," Tammy Grice, co-coordinator of the show, said.

Some of the items include holiday and decorating crafts, herbs, paintings, metal, iron and wood crafts, baked goods as well as jellies and jams, scrapbooking and jewelry, just to name some. There are also a number of non-profit organizations selling different things to raise money.

"We expect a full gym and items will be displayed in the hallway," Mrs. Grice said.

Cheyenne County Health Department will be on site to give information on healthy eating and will be

offering flu shot. They must be paid for at the time.

Throughout the day, there will be door prizes drawn.

Lunch served

The Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians will be serving a soup lunch including chili, cheesy potato soup, relishes and cinnamon rolls. All proceeds will go to the county technicians.

Trade show

Also on Saturday, some of the small home businesses are holding a trade show at the senior citizens center on Main Street. This show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Teri Richard, 785-332-2712.

Bring quilts to show

For the third year, there will be a quilt show held in conjunction with the annual Craft Fair weekend. Last year, there were around 25 quilts at the show and they were enjoyed by many of those coming to enjoy and shop the Craft Fair.

The quilts are brought in by people in the community and surrounding communities. More than one quilt can be exhibited at the show.

"Everyone enjoys seeing the quilts and, even if they were on display last year, we would like to have them again this year," Bonnie Zweygardt, coordinator, said. "People never get tired of looking at the beautiful quilts."

Those planning to bring quilts need to have them at the grade school between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The cafeteria doors on the south side of the school will be open.

Owners will be asked to fill out a card which will be put with the quilt.

"It is nice to have the name of the owner, and the name and history of the quilt," Mrs. Zweygardt said.

The quilts will be on display during the show. Owners are asked to pick their quilts up around 3 p.m.



Whitmore Whitmore Archibald Hamilton Miller Schoenrogge

Students qualify in auditions

Auditions were recently held for the 2007 Kansas Music Educator's Association Junior High Honor Band. Junior high students from the 22 counties in the northwest Kansas district submitted audition tapes from which judges selected the best musicians to participate in the Honor Band.

Students from St. Francis who were chosen were Logan Whitmore, who will be playing first chair trumpet, and Sarah Whitmore, who will be playing sixth chair flute.

Four St. Francis junior high vocal students will be participating in the Junior High Honor Choir. Selection for the Honor Choir is by teacher recommendation. Those students selected from St. Francis are Taylor Archibald, Nariah Hamilton, Chloe Miller, and Christina Schoenrogge.

The St. Francis junior high music director is Debbie Fiala.

The students will travel to Hays, on Saturday Nov. 3, for the mini-convention at Hays High School.

They will join other Honor Band and Honor Choir members for rehearsals

throughout the day followed by a public concert in the afternoon.



Grice Nicklos Bell Zweygardt

Students attend seminar

Allison Grice, Ross Nicklos, Tilyn Bell and Ty Zweygardt, St. Francis junior high students, attended the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center seminar about the history of the old west on Oct. 10.

One-hundred-and-seven students and numerous sponsors from the 19 school districts served by the Service Center attended the event.

Presenters were Don Rowlinson, curator of the Cottonwood Ranch establishment; Marla Matkin, Libby

Custer impersonator; Kirk Shapland, Buffalo Bill impersonator and Mark Barry, California Joe impersonator.

Students also toured Fick's Fossil Museum, guided by director Janet Bean and volunteers Ruth Clark and Tom Deppes Schmidt. Students learned about topics that included cowboy culture, prehistoric people, Kansas archeology, scouting on the plains, and more.

Tammy Grice from St. Francis Junior High was a sponsor.

Band plays Sunday

The Shirtlifters band will perform in Goodland at 3 p.m. central time on Sunday at the Goodland High School. The performance is presented by Western Plains Arts Association.

The Skirtlifters authentically recreate the music of the 19th century riverboat, stage and parlor, enlivened by humor, skits and period costumes. The four-piece band features acoustic banjo, fiddle/violin, guitar, mandolin, voice and percussion.

Their diverse repertoire includes jigs, reels, rags, gallops, marches, waltzes, ragtime and swing.

The group assures its audiences that in spite of their name, no offen-

sive material is ever included in their program.

The group will also present a program for fifth and sixth graders at the Goodland school on Monday.

The Sunday admission will be by Western Plains season tickets or at the door.

This presentation is supported by Mid-America Arts Alliance with generous underwriting by the National Endowment for the Arts, Kansas Arts Commission, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

Birthday celebrated

Bonnie Doggett will be celebrating her 60th birthday on Oct. 29. Her family is holding a card shower to help her celebrate the occasion.

Birthday wishes may be sent to Bonnie Doggett, 113 W. North St., St. Francis, KS 67756.



Doggett

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

U.S. 36, which had been blocked to keep traffic out.

Traffic was backed up on both roads. Some of the people were those out seeing what was going on while others, including a huge oversized load, several semi trucks and farm equipment, sat on K-27 waiting for the blockade to lift.

The fire moved southeast, barely missing the Ed Morris place and, at that point, jumped across the highway.

Chief Harper said that Sherman County firemen were able to put out the fire before it could spread further.

He said the support during the fire was tremendous. Fire departments came from Hale, Colo., and Bird City to fight the fire and there were other departments standing by. Anyone having big trucks to haul water arrived; the county, Goodland Greenline and farmers supplied equipment and manpower to plow up ground for a fire line. Local law enforcement, state troopers and emergency medical technicians were also there to lend a hand.

Even though many acres burned in the fire, there was no structural damage, there was only one injury when a fireman fell and no animals were lost. During the fire, power was lost in the country and some of St. Francis. Radio power was also down momentarily until the standby batteries at the tower kicked in.

"Since the fire, we have had phone calls and people thanking us for being there," he said. "It's a good feeling."

Wal-Mart and Presto Convenience Store, Goodland, donated bottled water and Gatorade. Salvation Army provided money and St. Francis Supers donated food and bottled water.

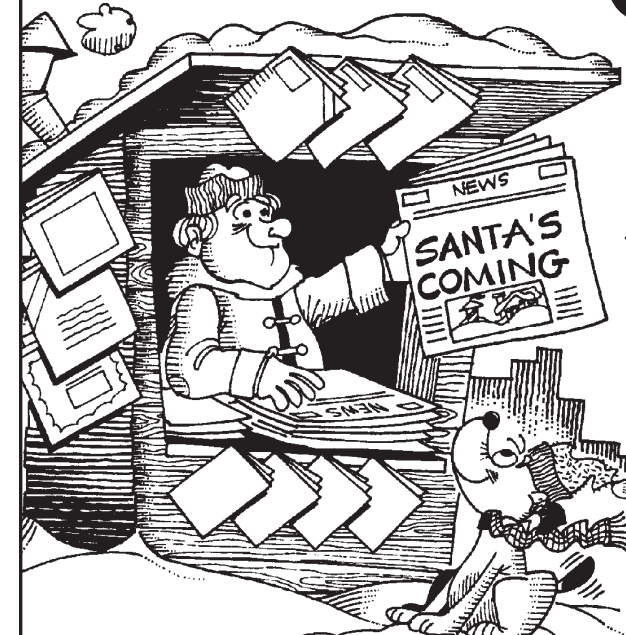
After the fire, Judy McKee, from the Goodland Community Emergency Response Team, was there along with Dolores Jenik, Salvation Army coordinator, Mary Rath, Deb Lindsten, Susan Dinkel, Carol Rogers and Deb Harper, to serve food to the firemen..

Although the fire appeared to be out, the area was patrolled much of the night. Law officers reported a hot spot on a railroad bridge about 3 a.m. on Friday and Chief Harper went out to extinguish it.

HERALD HAPPENINGS

Christmas ON US

Watch upcoming issues of The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times for details!



Christmas & New Year's Supplements

These supplements will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for well wishes!

For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

Bird City Times
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