

The Saint Francis Herald

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WEIGHTS ARE NOT JUST FOR GUYS — Today, Jenna Hill, eighth grader, was among the class lifting on Monday. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Kansas Day celebration is Tuesday

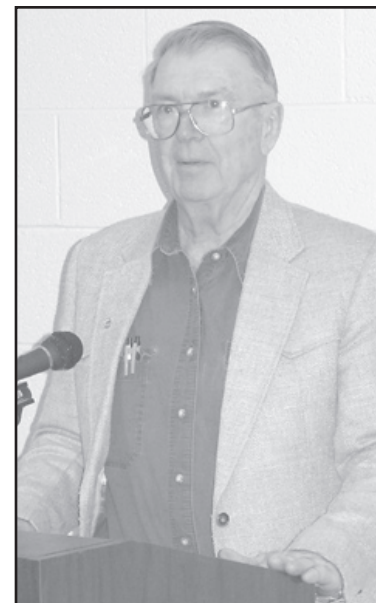
Kansas will be celebrating its birthday and the 79th observance of Cheyenne County's Kansas Day has been set for Tuesday, Jan. 29, in Bird City.

Registration will start at 10 a.m. at the Legion hall followed by a potluck meal held at noon.

The program will begin at 1 p.m. with Leo E. Oliva, Kansas historian, as the guest speaker. In addition to Dr. Oliva's presentation, entertainment will include performances by Cheylin and St. Francis students, the St. Francis Singers and the Swingin' Seniors.

Dr. Oliva has been studying and writing about Kansas history since 1959. His topic will be "Rowdy Kansas Territory: Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Our Turbulent Times."

The presentation is a series of vignettes of a few important events that help better understand the troublesome territorial period and the struggle to make Kansas a free state.



Dr. Oliva

Dr. Oliva, a graduate of Fort Hays State University, earned graduate degrees at the University of Denver. A former university professor who retired to take over a family farming operation near

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Commissioners relieved to find minus was an error

By Karen Krien

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At the Jan. 15 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, they were surprised to find that an accounting error had been made and the county's general fund was not in the hole!

At the Dec. 31 meeting, the commissioners were shocked to find that the county was nearly \$94,000 over

budget. Andy Beikman, commissioner chairman, said in November, there was still 19 percent of the budget left — more than enough to pay everything to the end of the year. However, it appeared that the county's health insurance had some large claims against it and that must be the reason for going over budget.

At the Jan. 15 meeting, Dolores Jenik, treasurer, informed the commissioners

that there had been a \$300,000 accounting error and that, in the end, the 2007 General Fund was well within budget.

"It was a relief," Mr. Beikman said.

Grant

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the county had received a safety grant for up to \$50,000. This grant pays for 90 percent of any project that will help improve safety. The county will

be liable for 10 percent of the project as well as picking up the engineering costs.

The supervisor felt that the Armknecht curve, located in southwest Cheyenne County, near the Colorado-Kansas line. The road has a 90-degree curve which would be rounded out.

The first part of November 2006, a 24-year-old man was killed on the curve. In March, Raymond Armknecht, St.

Francis, had offered the county land to change the lay of a curve on the county road. Mr. Armknecht said there had been several wrecks but no one had been killed before.

The grant was signed.

Minimum maintenance road

A minimum maintenance road was discussed. The road was drifted shut and

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WINDSONG CHORUS is made up of women from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. They will be singing on Sunday.

Windsong chorus performs Sunday

When Windsong Chorus of Sweet Adelines comes to St. Francis on Sunday for their big Nashville Show, it means that four of the members won't have to do the driving this time. Instead of traveling 130 miles to Sterling, Colo., Carol Ross, Sarah Guthmiller, Neala Carmichael and Colleen Gardner, all St. Francis residents, will be among the chorus performing at 3:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium, 100 S. College.

Sunday's performance is "Windsong Salutes Nashville ...Sa-loot!" The audience will enjoy hearing memories of the old TV show, "Hee Haw" and "The Grand Ole Opry." A combination of humor and harmony will abound. Such old standbys as "Where O Where Are You Tonight," "You Are My Sunshine," "Turn Your Radio On," and "Crazy" are just a few of the musical renditions which will be sung during the show.

Three quartets will be featured: Sterling Silver of which Mrs. Carmichael is a member; KC Connection which Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Gardner are members; and a quartet from Scottsbluff, Neb.

Windsong is a group of 34 women who sing all year long. Their more recent performances have been in Sterling, Scottsbluff, Yuma, Akron and Holyoke. Members travel from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas to participate.

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Gardner have been singing with the group for 12 years while Sarah has sung in the last two shows. Mrs. Carmichael, the director, has just completed her 35th year. She, along with husband, Bill, moved to St. Francis last summer.

What makes this chorus unique, as of all Sweet Adeline choruses, is that they sing without accompaniment. But

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NEALA CARMICHAEL, is the director of the chorus. She recently moved to St. Francis from Sterling, Colo.

Herald photos by Carol Ross

Blood drive held in Saintry today

By Karen Krien

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The American Red Cross blood drive will be held in St. Francis on Thursday (today). The doors will open at 8 a.m. and people are urged to give blood until 2:30. The Red Cross is setting up in the grade school gym at 307 E. Webster.

Donating blood is safe and easy. Each donation can save up to three lives.

"When you give blood, you give another laugh, another hug, another birthday," said Cinda Dankenbring, coordinator. "Your blood could mean the world to someone who needs it and their family."

Commissioners make assignments

At the first of every year, the Cheyenne County Commissioners reorganize, appoint committees, banks and decide on meeting times, just to name a few.

The first priority is selecting a chairman for the coming year. Andy Beikman was re-elected for this position.

Mutual agreements with Cheyenne County Municipal Airport, city of Saint Francis for Fire Department, and the city of Bird City for fire and Ambulance were approved and signed.

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times were designated as the official county newspapers. First National Bank and Bankwest were designated the official county banks.

The commissioners will continue to meet on the 15th (or day closest to the 15th if the 15th is on a weekend) and the last working day of the month, with meetings starting at 8 a.m.

Commissioner Ernie Ketzner was appointed as the Kansas Legislative Policy Group representative and Commissioner Beikman as the alternate. Dues of \$827 were approved.

Kansas Association of Counties dues of \$1,084.24 were approved.

The commissioners will check with their respective Airport Authority Members and see if they are still interested in being on the Board. Members are Ron Loudon (District 1), Rick Rogers (District 2), and Mike Callicrate (District 3).

Dr. Mary Beth Miller was appointed as the county health officer.

Terry Miller, clerk, Justin Barrett, county attorney, will work on the employee handbook and the update regarding a sick-leave pool.

The commissioners agreed to give a 5 percent cost of living raise.

Holidays

Holidays designated for employees include:

- President's Day, Monday, Feb. 18.
- Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.
- Independence Day, Friday, July 4.
- Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1.
- Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 13.
- Veteran's Day Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28.
- Christmas Day, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25 and 26.
- (The courthouse will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 31.)
- New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1.