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8 Wonders announced; The Breaks didn't win

The votes are in and Cheyenne County's Arikaree Breaks didn't win.

More than 24,000 people from all 50 states cast votes to determine Kansas' most important natural or manmade wonders.

The winners were announced by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in a ceremony at the Capitol on Kansas Day, Jan. 29. The winners were selected from 24 finalists; eight attractions were chosen because the Kansas Sampler Foundation, organizer of the project, bases its criteria on eight rural culture elements.

The winners are (in alphabetical order): the Big Well, Greensburg; Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Barton and Stafford counties; Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Abilene; Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, Hutchinson; Kansas Underground Salt Museum, Hutchinson; Monument Rocks & Castle Rock, Gove County; St. Fidelis Church (Cathedral of the Plains), Victoria; and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Chase County.

Representatives from all 24 finalists as well as over a thousand fourth and fifth graders and other fans of Kansas were on hand to hear the announcement.

"It's very exciting to announce what the public chose as our very best in terms of places totally unique to Kansas or sites that are iconic," said Marci Penner, director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. "We'd love it if the fun of the contest would launch a wave of exploring Kansas!"

The 8 Wonders of Kansas is a project of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, a non-profit whose mission is to preserve and sustain rural culture and believes that educating the public about what there is to see and do in the state helps make a difference for all Kansas communities, regardless of size.

Following is just a bit about what makes each Wonder unique. More information and photos can be found at 8wonders.org.

• Big Well: The construction of the 1887 well was an engineering marvel in its day and it is the

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SINGING VALENTINES will be delivered by the St. Francis high school music students. Forms can be found at the post office and several business offices. Gavin Smull practices singing to Cara Hunt.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Public invited to view building

By Karen Krien
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An open house at the new emergency building will be held on Saturday so people can come see how work is progressing. The doors will open at 1 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

"We have had people asking how the building is coming along so we decided to hold the open house so people can check it out," said Carla Lampe, St. Francis City Council member.

Building needs completed by March 15

The emergency building on U.S. 36, St. Francis, will house the county's fire trucks, emergency management and emergency medical service offices, along with the ambulances and other emergency equipment.

To comply with the KanStep Grant, the building needs to be completed by March 15.

The sides of the building went up this fall and, then weather slowed down the construction of the roof.

Crews took advantage of the cold, snowy weather by working inside of the Jensen Construction building to get the inside petitions ready to put in place. They were then transported to the building and put in place.

Windows have been installed in offices, sheet rock has gone up and the staircases built. Much of the electrical work has been done and the cable installed.

However, there is a great deal more to do. Volunteers are needed.

Work days are Monday and Wednesday evenings and all Saturdays.

"We are gaining but there is still a lot to do," said Dale Weeks, one of the coordinators. "We need help."

Everyone who is willing to help with the labor or even go for supplies is needed. In a week or two, they will be putting up insulation and even more help will be needed.

The open house on Saturday will give people a chance to see what is happening. Plan to stop by between 1 and 3 p.m., take a look at the progress and enjoy the refreshments.

Best hand wins



The February days can be long and cold but 10 St. Francis businesses have decided to put a little flare in the air by participating in the "Don't Gamble With Love" game. The two winners will take home a Valentine bouquet supplied by Goodell Greenhouse and Floral.

Businesses participating are: Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Owens True Value, Hilltop General Store, Krien Pharmacy, Schultz's, Donna's Gift Palace, L & L Liquor, and Video Connection.

Each time a customer visits one of the businesses and makes a transaction, they are entitled to randomly pick a playing card. The object is to collect the cards, then people are to pick their best natural poker hand and bring it into *The Saint Francis Herald* office, 310 W. Washington, by noon on Monday, Feb. 12.

If there are more than two people with winning hands, there will be a draw off with the highest number/suit being the winner.

Check out the businesses and the specials they are offering for Valentine's Day. The special ad with information is located on this issue.



GRACE ANNE, daughter of Pastor Jeff and Becca Landers, was the first baby born to Cheyenne County parents in 2008, making her the winner of the First Baby of the Year Contest.

Baby Grace wins contest

By Karen Krien
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Baby Grace has arrived, making her and her parents the winners of the First Baby contest.

Grace Anne is the daughter of Pastor Jeff and Becca Landers, St. Francis. She was born at 4:13 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2008, at the Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21-inches long.

Her big brother, Jayce Aaron, who is 3 years old, had been to the hospital to visit and said his new sister was "beautiful."

Grace was the third baby born in the Cheyenne County Hospital since Dr. Rebecca Allard arrived in August. The hospital staff has turned Room 5, one of the new, larger hospital patient rooms into a birthing/delivery rooms. (The new labor/delivery room should be completed in 2008.)

Baby Grace's parents were very pleased with the delivery care provided at the hospital.

The Landers' first child was born in a large hospital in the Dallas area. They said that they might have had a slight concern because there were so many more services available in the larger hospital but, found the local hospital to have everything they needed.

"The staff was excellent and everyone was so kind and caring," the Landers said. "We had so much personal care and we now have a new-found respect for our local medical family."

Grace's grandparents are Brad and Deborah Carl, Garland, Texas; and Bob and Jeanette Landers, Mesquite, Texas. Great-grandparents are David and Barbara Dunn, Logan, Ohio; Bill and Mona Ault, Saginow, Mich.;

Doris Mullen, Dallas; and Bill and Barbara Viser, Gilmer, Texas.

Prizes and gifts

Grace's parents will receive a \$25 gift certificate from St. Francis Super's, a \$50 bond from Western State Bank, a \$50 bond from First National Bank, Bird City/St. Francis, a baby photo album or frame from Schultz's, a baby gift from Owens True Value, a baby gift from Krien Pharmacy, two bottles of champagne from L & L Liquor, and a year's subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

The first baby also received a special quilt from the Prairie Piecemaker Quilt Guild. The quilt may be picked up at *The Herald* office.

The parents of the new baby will need to collect their gifts or claim their services within 60 days after the birth.

Hospital board applies for grant; income tax credits

By Karen Krien
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For the last year, the Cheyenne County Hospital Board and administrator have been looking at two projects: remodeling the hospital kitchen and dining area; and turning two hospital rooms into a labor/delivery room.

Bids were let and estimates made but, when it came down to starting the project, the board realized that both projects were going to cost more than they had anticipated. At the December meeting, the board asked Les Lacy, hospital administrator, to get ready to apply for a Community Development Block Grant and a Kansas Department of Commerce Community Service Program (Income Tax Credit).

The Kansas Income Tax Credit application is due May 2, but award notices will not be made



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until early July. Mr. Lacy said that they will need letters of support from people in both the St. Francis and Bird City communities to send in with the grant application. Mr. Lacy also explained that this is a competitive process with no guarantee that the hospital will get tax credits.

The application will state that there is a need for an obstetrics service in the area and there is no ideally suited location in the hospital for the service. While the latest bid was over \$200,000, Mr. Lacy recommended limiting the size of the tax credit proposal to \$180,000 to make it more competitive. He pointed out that, as of the January meeting, there are 11 deliveries scheduled by September and this is a project that needs to be completed as soon as possible.

The kitchen project is estimated to cost at least \$150,000. Mr. Lacy had contacted the Amy Griffey, representative of the Community Development Block Grant, but was still waiting for

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Bank presents building plans

By Margaret Bucholtz
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At the Jan. 22 St. Francis City Council meeting, the branch manager of Western State Bank, St. Francis, presented blueprints for a new building.

Troy Hilt, manager, said the bank owners have signed an intent to buy property to build a new bank. The lot is located on the corner of Washington and North Francis. It is already zoned commercial/residential.

"I am here just to inform you of the plans and to see if you, as a council, have any questions," he said.

The council thanked Mr. Hilt for

bringing the blue prints in. The bank construction is scheduled for 2009.

911 board

There were questions about the 911 service board. Since the 911 is a separate entity, it is operated by a board. The board is made up with 51 percent law enforcement members.

"Kansas law requires a board to run the 911 communications," Carol Gambin, communication director, said.

The board members are Craig Van Allen, sheriff; Cody Beeson, undersheriff; Michael Blehm and John Lanz, deputies; Justin

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