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The Saint Francis Herald

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Pool temps turned up

By Margaret Bucholtz
 margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

The St. Francis City Council discussed the swimming pool at the June 17 meeting.

The pool has been drained and refilled and the temperature of the water has been pretty cool. The pool was becoming cloudy and workers thought that maybe keeping the water cooler would

help keep the water more clear. However, they had had several complaints and have turned the temperature up.

The pump had broken and they are now using their backup pump. It appears to be running fine.

The speakers have been replaced and the pool employee's were asked to keep the volume down.

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Lucky winner receives \$1,000

By Karen Krien
 karenk@nwkansas.com

It may be hot but people and businesses in St. Francis are thinking "Christmas." That is, Christmas In July which will give some lucky person a chance to win a \$1,000 shopping spree.

The Christmas In July fun begins today (Thursday). Merchants have not officially announced activities for the Saturday drawing on July 19, but a large crowd is expected.

The winner, when his/her name is drawn, will be given the opportunity to spend their \$1,000 scrip in any one or all of the participating businesses. The money has to

be spent by Monday, July 23, at 6 p.m. and they have to agree to let a member of *The Herald* staff follow them around and take photos during their shopping spree.

The contest ends on July 18.

Businesses participating are: Bumper To Bumper, K-Store, Schultz's, St. Francis Equity, St. Francis Super's, United Methodist Thrift Store and *The Herald*.

Look for the special advertisements in *The Herald* this week. Check them out and plan to shop these businesses because these are the only places a customer can enter the contest.

Contest rules are found on Page 7 in this issue.



NO, IT'S NOT HALLOWEEN! Sarah Guthmiller and Adam Guthmiller were among those younger people working in the Join Hands project. They were helping clear out school rooms so the rooms could be cleaned and waxed. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Help's there for feed

The Department of Agriculture has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, according to Ed Schafer, Agriculture Secretary.

"This action will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program," said Mr. Schafer. "Eligible farmers and ranchers will be able to plan for harvest of forage after the end of the primary nesting season this summer."

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular.

More than 24 million acres of land enrolled in the conservation will be eligible for this critical feed use program. The department estimates that this program will make available up to 18 million tons of forage worth \$1.2 billion.

"In authorizing this critical use of reserve program acres for forage, the department is also taking strong measures to preserve Conservation Reserve Program's environmental benefits," said Mr. Schafer.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after the end of the primary nesting season. Also, some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. In many instances, the removal of some of the grass cover will increase the diversity of the stand and provide long-term benefits for wildlife. Further, the most environmentally-sensitive land enrolled in the program will not be eligible.

The land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged to process this contract modification.

Signup for interested participants will begin June 2, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All

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SOD BLOCKS were found under the plaster and lath when Esther Confer, right, and her daughter, Tammi Sherlock, remodeled the 1889 house. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

1889 house remodeled; owner finds sod blocks

By Karen Krien
 karenk@nwkansas.com

Esther Confer recently bought the house at the corner of South Scott and Spencer streets, from Ethel Whitten. Even though Mrs. Whitten had lived there for 20 years, many still referred to the house as the "Postlethwaite house."

The house was built in 1889 and, while Mrs. Confer liked the outside of the house, she wanted to do a little remodeling inside. She and her daughter Tammi Sherlock, began taking the plaster off the living room wall so they could put in a larger front door. Behind the plaster and lath, they found sod blocks held together by cement.

"Frosty Crum said the house was once a sod house but I didn't believe it until we took off the plaster," Mrs. Confer said.

The house was built by William W. Elder, who was the county treasurer. Mr. Elder also owned the Brewington Hotel.

Margaret Bucholtz and Marilyn Holzwarth, who had gathered information about the house and Postlethwaites, knew little about the Brewington Hotel or Mr. Elder except his wife was Catherine (Hemmings) El-

der and they had three children, Walter, Hattie and Daisy.

Mrs. Holzwarth had found in the Cheyenne County Rustler, May 24, 1894, Mrs. Elder and children had left Monday for the farm home in Iowa to spend the summer and possibly their future home.

In 1915, Minnie Lawless purchased the house. When she died in 1951, her daughter Ruth Postlethwaite inherited the house. She and her husband Don lived in the house until Mr. Postlethwaite died 1979, and Mrs. Postlethwaite died in 1987.

Ethel Whitten bought the house around 1988 and then sold it to Mrs. Confer this year.

Mrs. Confer likes the fact that the house has quite a history and she plans to keep many of the historical features. The little coal/wood stove still remains as does the small antique broom.

While the Postlethwaites lived in the house, they added a kitchen and family room to the back of the house. While it made more room in the house, it complemented the historical integrity of the small old house.

Mrs. Confer plans to make some changes to the house so it is more comfortable and usable for her.

300 at Sainty alumni

By Karen Krien
 karenk@nwkansas.com

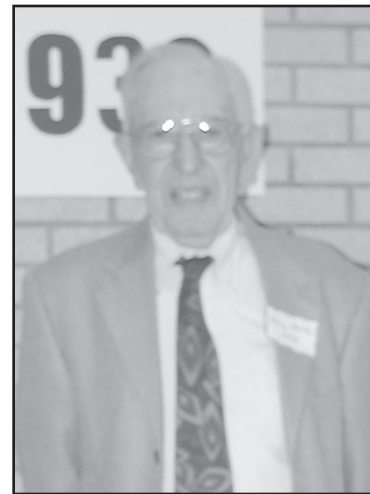
The St. Francis Community High School Alumni celebration was held over the weekend with many of the people meeting at homes, the swimming pool and other places on Friday.

Shirley Zweygardt, Alumni secretary/coordinator, said there were about 300 people attending the banquet Saturday evening which was held in the high school cafeteria.

"The reservations were a little slow coming in this year but, toward the end of the week, there were a number of people calling," she said.

Harry Roelfs was the oldest graduate attending and he represented the class of 1933. Mr. Roelfs lives in Vancouver, Wash. He drove himself to the airport in Portland, boarded the plane and flew into Denver. Then he rented a car and drove to St. Francis. Age didn't stop him!

Pictures were taken of honor classes and then the people filed into the cafeteria where they were served a meal of baked steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw and strawberry shortcake.



Harry Roelfs

Business features mowers

By Karen Krien
 karenk@nwkansas.com

A new business featuring Hustler Mowers and PJ Trailers has opened 1 mile east of St. Francis on U.S. 36.

Norman Morrow's large lot now has mowers and trailers lined up, on display for the local customers as well as those traveling down the highway.

Mr. Morrow opened the business this spring and has already sold a number of the mowers. He said that Mike Cochran, who owns Cochran Farm Supply, Edson, was wanting to expand. Since St. Francis is close to Colorado and Nebraska, Mr. Morrow had the ideal place to set up the business.

Mr. Morrow said he liked the idea that the mowers were a Kansas manufactured mower, made in Hesston. He also liked the fact that he could easily get a mower and, when needed, parts within an hour and a half.

Mr. Morrow has been a mechanic for years so is experienced in making any repairs. He also said he has plenty of land for the prospective owner to practice driving the "joy stick" steering



NORMAN MORROW demonstrates how easy it is to run one of the new Hustler mowers. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

mower. He said that while it looks a little different, anyone can drive one of the mowers. It also has zero-turning radius and attachments such as snow blowers which can be purchased.

The largest mowers have a 34-horsepower diesel engine and up to a 6-foot cutting span. They use about 1 gallon of fuel an hour and have around an 8,000-hour engine, or, as Mr. Morrow says, "a long-life."

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