

ELIZABETH GIENGER AND JAMI PEVLER are busy painting lines in the parking lot of the hospital as part of a Join Hands project.

#### Hearld staff photo by Karen Krien

# Fire fighters stay busy

By Karen Krien

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St. Francis firemen have spent a busy week putting out fires caused by lightning and fireworks. They also put out a fire caused by an irrigation pump.

On Thursday afternoon, lightning was the cause of a pasture fire on the Douthit Ranch just south of Burnham Bridge, southwest of St. Francis. Lightning also caused a pasture fire across the road at the River Valley Ranch. At this fire, the wind changed directions and the tires of a PrairieLand truck, trying to cross the pasture, were caught on fire. No one was hurt.

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, said the fire department from Hale, Colo., was

"We were fortunate to have help from the Hale firemen as well as the help from area farmers," Chief Harper said.

Later he made a call for St. Francis firemen to relieve those who had been fighting the fires most of the day.

That evening while some were still fighting the fire south of town, the wind came up and the firemen were summoned to the north part of the county to fight a fire on Drew Kaup place.

Thursday morning, around 5 acres of wheat burned on land southwest of town belonging to Roger Zweygardt. Again, lightning was suspected.

Saturday morning, an irrigation motor was believed to have started

a fire on land south of St. Francis belonging to Patty Wieck-Wauffle and farmed by Tom Bandel.

Two fires were started by fireworks. On Sunday, firemen were called to Keller Pond, northwest of St. Francis, to put out a fire. Then, on Monday, they were called to the Mark Jamison resident at 116 S. River Street. Minor damage was

#### People cautioned

Chief Harper said the National Weather Service has Cheyenne County classed as a "moderate drought area."

"It's extremely dry," he said. "That grass is like gasoline."

While there is no burn ban yet in place, he warns people to be extremely careful when burning and setting off fireworks.

# Medical director recruits for first responder class

By Karen Krien karen.k@nwkansas.com

The emergency medical service director reported that she had sent out 42 letters to people who might be interested in taking a first responder class. The announcement was made at the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.

Jannelle Bowers, director, said an informational meeting had been planned for Tuesday, July 1. She was hoping that some of those who had received letters would come to the meeting.

She said Mike Hanson is trained to teach the class. There is a chance, she said, that they might be able to get an educational grant which would pay \$320 per student. In return, the students taking the class will give one year of service back to the county.

She talked about having a railroad Medicare claim. In order to process the claim, she would need a different computer and program. She said Midwest Billing in Newton will bill \$50 per

She said she had talked to personnel from Prairie State Radio about getting the base radio at the hospital fixed. There was one at the the ambulance office but it was very old. If it could be fixed, it would still need parts which might be next to impossible to get. The repairman said Prairie States has radios which are being traded in which will serve the purpose in receiving radio transmission while in the basement of the hospital. The commissioners asked her to get a price on one of the used radios.

Mrs. Bowers was given permission to attend a service director training workshop in Salina. She also asked to take Mr. Hanson and possibly another technician. The commissioners also approved for the cost of \$200 per person plus the mileage, rooms and meals.

Mrs. Bowers had submitted the 2009 ambulance department budget. She said when the commissioners review the figures, she, other technicians and Dr. Mary Beth Miller would like to be present. She said that she had

also included what it would cost to have full-time technicians, noting that volunteers often have to drop their job and they lose their pay for that time. She said that Dr. Miller's idea is to keep the service of volunteers as it is presently.

# Noxious weeds become a concern

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com The county noxious weed supervisor was concerned about bind weed in the county, especially south of Bird City.

Supervisor Dan Schlittenhart said bind weed at the Gary and Deb Winter place was getting out of hand. He had sprayed the ditches last year but it is back again and it is coming from the land owned by the Winters. It is spreading from the ditch, over the road and to the opposite

Mr. Schlittenhardt said he had been accused of being rude and trespassing as Mr. Winters said he had been on his property to inspect the bind weed growth. Mr. Schlittenhardt said, that as county weed inspector, he has the right to go on property to check for noxious weeds (bind weed is considered "noxious"). He also said that Mr. Winter had received letters from the county attorney concerning prairie dogs but, when Mr. Schlittenhardt was out at the Winter's property, a dog ran across the road and they have made mounds on the roadside and in the ditch.

"He is uncooperative," Mr. Schlittenhardt said, noting that the Sherman County weed supervisor had the same problem on the Winters' land in that county.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said he had

recently spent two hours spraying bind weed in that area. Commissioner Andy Beikman said to figure the hours he had spent in that area prior to this time. A letter from the county attorney will be sent to the Winters addressing the noxious weed problem.



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Fri., July 18

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com Two people were sitting in booths at the K-Store, U.S. 36, St. Francis, when a car came crashing through the windowws, sending them diving for cover. The accident happened about 7:45 p.m. on Sunday.

Jim Walters, St. Francis police officer, said the brakes failed on the 1992 Camero driven by Patrick Leonhardt, 28, who is temporarily living in St. Francis. The car went over the curb and into the windows.

It took out three double-paned glass windows and the frames. Fortunately, there were no injuries and only minor damage to the vehicle.

included Jami Passengers Tagmeyer, 21, St. Francis, and

# Voting deadline for registration

Those who have not registered to vote need to do so on or before July 21. That is the date the voter registration books for the primary election will be closed.

People wanting to register can go to the county clerk's office in the courthouse or the St. Francis city clerk's office during regular business hours. In Bird City, people can register at First National

To register, the person must be

18 years old or older..

registration will be good until he or she changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings: or changes residence.

Application forms need to be filled out and signed.

Tuesday, Nov. 4.

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The primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 5. Voting places and candidates will be announced closer to the election. The general election is set for

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