



# The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

12 Pages

Thursday, July 17, 2008

124th Year, Number 29

## \$1,000 drawn on Saturday



Get ready to spend \$1,000 in scrip!

On Saturday, one lucky person will win \$1,000 in scrip to spend in one of the participating St. Francis businesses. The Christmas In July drawing will be held at 11:30 a.m. in front of Jaqua Abstract on Washington Street. Casey McCormick, advertising manager for *The Saint Francis Herald*, reported that it has been hard to keep up with the entry blanks as many people are signing up.

"We have had to empty the containers each week so there is room for more entries," he said.

The businesses, listed on Page 10 of this issue, are planning in-store and sidewalk sales. Some of the Farmer's Market sellers will be at Bud Houtman's lot east of the theater.

The Brownie Scouts will be having a cake judging contest (for cakes the Brownies and their mothers have baked and decorated) in front of the United Methodist Thrift Store. They will be auctioned off before the drawing.

The drawing will not take long so everyone is encouraged to be there on time. Some might want to bring a lawn chair.

The winner of the Christmas In July scrip money will have until Monday at the close of business to spend their money. While he/she is on their spending spree, there will be a Herald photographer following them around, snapping shots of the fun the winner has while handing out the

money in exchange for items.

Those businesses participating in the Christmas in July Shopping Spree are: Bumper To Bumper, St. Francis Equity, Thrift Store, Schultz's, K-Store, St. Francis Super's and *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Contest rules include:

- The winner must be at least 18 years old.
- Employees of sponsoring firms are not eligible to enter at their place of business.
- The deadline for entering is Friday, July 20.
- The scrip must be spent by 6 p.m. on Monday.
- The winner must be present to win. Someone else cannot pick up a ticket for another person.
- The \$1,000 will be given in scrip and can be spent only in participating businesses.
- The winner must allow Herald staff to photograph them while they are shopping with the scrip money.
- The winner agrees to release *The Saint Francis Herald*, sponsoring merchants and others associated with the promotion from any and all liability.

"There should be many people in St. Francis for the drawing," said Karen Krien, publisher of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

"While in town, stop by the businesses and see what they have to offer. Better yet, scope out the businesses before the drawing. After all, you might be the winner of the \$1,000 scrip!"



**SLEEPING ON THE JOB!** Janea fell asleep while her mother, Peggy Moberly, was painting fair signs on NAPA's store window.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Cops in high speed chase

On July 4, the Cheyenne County Sheriff's deputies attempted to make a traffic stop on a vehicle suspected of a hit-and-run collision.

The vehicle was driven by John Stephens, St. Francis. He failed to stop and this resulted in a chase reaching speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour on dirt roads. The chase covered over 26 miles of Cheyenne County roads and a wheat stubble field.

Sherman County Sheriff's officers and the Kansas Highway Patrol responded to assist in the chase which ended 4 miles into Sherman County with Stephens being arrested.

Stephens is currently charged with fleeing and eluding and driving under the influence of alcohol. He is currently being held on a \$10,000 bond.

A passenger, Nick Raile, St. Francis, was released.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen said that he appreciated the help of the Sherman County officers and the highway patrol as they helped in stopping the chase.

## Tornado siren is working

St. Francis now has a new tornado siren which can be sounded at a moment's notice anytime — night or day.

Carol Gamblin, dispatch director, reported that the siren was installed on July 3 after equipment was back ordered several times. The old siren, located at the power plant, could be sounded immediately if it was during working hours.

The tornado siren has sounded several times this summer as tornadoes were spotted in the immediate area. Fortunately, there had been no tornado warnings during the evening and night.

A tornado siren is the wavering or up and down sound. The all-clear is a steady siren.

Mrs. Gamblin said the all-clear siren will only sound for 30 seconds.

In the future, there will be some test tornado warnings. They will be scheduled and announced in the newspaper. However, if the weather that day appears to be stormy or there could be a tornado, the test will be canceled until another time.

## Forum's planned

Plans are progressing for a candidate forum to be held on Monday, July 28. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Community High School auditorium.

All but two of the candidates for the Aug. 5 primary election have been contacted. All of the individuals running for county offices, as well as the three district court judges have been invited to attend.

Each candidate will be allowed to speak and a committee made up of people from St. Francis and Bird City will be preparing questions for the forum. If time allows, some questions may be taken from the audience.

Following the forum, refreshments will be served in the cafeteria to allow for more informal discussions.

Most candidates have expressed interest in attending the forum.

## Board proceeds with bond for new gym

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The St. Francis Board of Education, at the Thursday meeting, decided to proceed with plans for building a new gym on the south side of the present gym. After a lot of discussion, they said that, in the end, the voters would decide at the November election.

The board has studied the mat-

ter of building the new gym for several years, looking at the cost as well as how to fund it. They have found that prices have just continued to climb.

At a prior meeting, a chart of what would be the approximate additional cost to the taxpayer if the gym bond passed. At the last meeting, they were given figures that were incorrect and those fig-

ures almost stopped the board from pushing forward. However, Bonnie Zwegardt, board member, also works in the county appraiser's office. She did some figuring and found the correct figures.

The board agreed to see if the public will be willing to support a \$2,500,000 bond to build the gym. There would be a 15-year

payback and it would raise the mill levy approximately 4.97. There is some good news as with the gas exploration and discovery, it will ease the taxes in the county. However, it is uncertain how long the taxpayers can count on the gas boost.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said it is important to note that all the following figures are esti-

mates.

Right now for the amount of \$2,500,000 at a 15-year payback, the taxpayer would pay, yearly, an extra \$21.47 on 160 acres dry-crop land; \$35.78 on 160 acres irrigated land; \$3.82 on 160 acres grass land.

Broken down to a monthly amount, the taxpayer would pay

See GYM on Page 8

## County fair set for Aug. 6 thru 9

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The Cheyenne County Fair is just a little over a month away, starting on Aug. 6. The fair board has been planning for the four days of activities since it ended last year.

They have lined up grandstand activities for the kids and adults with the derby happening Saturday evening. This year's derby is a welded and a hobo derby. Clay Zimelman is the chairman of the Derby Committee and, at a recent fair board meeting, said he is expecting more cars and action than in previous years.

The Amusement Authority members have been hustling. They are painting the rides and booths, putting roofs on the booths and covering the Ferris wheel seats. These are just a few things because there is still the cleaning up of the grounds, getting the prizes unpacked and mowing the grounds.

Every Thursday evening, they are at the fairgrounds working. They said they need help. Anyone who would like to volunteer their help, whether it be painting, mowing or running errands, is welcome.

### Parade

The parade is set for Saturday, Aug. 9, in downtown St. Francis. People come from miles around to see one of the larger parades. Chil-

dren love the parade because there is candy — lots of candy thrown to them from the different floats and entries.

To make this one of the best parades, people, groups, organizations and businesses are asked to enter a float.

This year's theme is "A Day in Paradise," which is a little different from themes of year's past. However, there are many interpretations and there should be a variety of floats fashioned within the theme.

Carla Lampe, one of the coordinators of the parade, said people have been asking about the theme and seeing if there are any changes.

"We will be keeping the same parade route, starting at the high school and traveling west down Main Street," she said.

There will be no entry registrations but, if people are going to have a float, they are encouraged to contact Mrs. Lampe or call the Chamber office at 785-332-2961. Closer to the day of the parade, a map of where the different entries are to meet before the parade will be printed.

The parade is coordinated by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We are urging everyone to start planning now," she said.



**HARVEST IS ALMOST OVER** — Only a few fields need to be harvested. Martin Estrada, St. Francis Equity employee, opened the end gates for the wheat to fall into the elevator pit.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*