



The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

10 Pages

Thursday, August 21, 2008

124th Year, Number 34



STARTING YOUNG — These pre-school girls were part of the cheer leading camp which was held last wee. Pictured, l to r, are Paige Hamilton, Alex Lauer, Hadleigh Hilt and Bailey Workman. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Board agrees to bring bond issue to vote

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

At the Thursday meeting, the St. Francis Board of Education agreed unanimously to put the building of a new gym on the November general election ballot. The voters will be asked if they approve of the issuing of general obligation bonds.

The building of a new gym has been discussed for the last 9 years, going from a grand gym, to a very basic gym, to the modified gym that is now on the drawing board.

Kelly Gienger, board member, said that all through the discussions, he has questioned the building of a new gym. Now, he said, we will see what the people think.

I vote "yes," said John Knodel, board member, simply to put the

matter into the lap of the voters.

The budget will be tight, said Rob Schiltz, superintendent. But, since we are this close, I think we should go on with the plans.

The board has studied and discussed the new gym for years — "now let the letters roll."

Mr. Gienger made the motion to proceed and Mr. Knodel seconded. The board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing and calling for a bond election.

Mr. Schiltz said the bond company of PiperJaffray, Leawood, will take care of matters now, working with the county clerk/election officer.

The new gym is estimated to cost \$2,500,000. It will provide a place not only to hold sport-
See BOND on Page 7

Hospital golf tourney set



The Cheyenne County Hospital will be sponsoring the sixth annual "Swing Fore Your Health" benefit golf tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7, at Riverside Recreation Golf Course in St. Francis.

The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the hospital's major appliances needed for the future kitchen remodeling. The kitchen area has not been remodeled since the construction of the hospital 56 years ago. The kitchen and its appliances must stay in compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's state regulations to serve patients and their family members while staying in the hospital.

The public is welcome to attend

the "free will" luncheon prior to the start of the tournament at Riverside dining room. The luncheon will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. roast beef, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert will be served.

People do not have to be a member of the golf course or have to be on a golf team to attend the luncheon.

"Your support of dining out and supporting the Cheyenne County Hospital's Major Appliances will be greatly appreciated," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator.

For more information regarding the luncheon, contact Mila Bandel, 332-2149, or the actual golf tournament, Heidi Tice or Shawna Blanka, 332-2104.

Audience concerned about washout

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Areas of the county have received large amounts of rain in the last few weeks, enough to cause flooding, washing of country roads, taking out culverts and damaging bridges. At the Monday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, two county residents were present to see what the

county planned to do and complain about what they had done.

Marie Holzwarth, landowner, and Dennis Weeden, who farms Mrs. Holzwarth's land west of St. Francis, were unhappy that a bridge on Road 6 had been removed and a culvert, which they thought was too small was put in its place. When the rain came, it had washed down a canyon and

took out part of the road. When the bridge had been taken out, it had been replaced with a culvert. The rushing water with debris had clogged up the culvert and the water had washed around the culvert, taking out the road, making it impassible.

Mr. Weeden said it is going to cost the county a lot of money to fix this road every time there

is a big rain.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he and the road supervisor, Dave Flemming, had wanted to put in a low-water crossing with no culvert. He said that when the water had gone down, the road would soon be passable. But, Mrs. Holzwarth and Mr. Weeden had wanted a culvert so it had been

See BRIDGE on Page 7

Use of cell phones concerns board

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

School was less than a week away when the St. Francis Board of Education met Thursday. Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said in-service with the teachers and staff had gotten off to a good start, noting that the speaker on bullying in the schools, along with the visit from the law officers had been eye opening.

Bullying in the schools has become a problem nationwide. Maybe not so much in St. Francis but, the administration said there was some, especially through cell phones and texting.

The administration asked the board how they felt about limiting cell phones in the schools? The board agreed that restriction were needed. Last year, students were not allowed to use cell phones in the classrooms and the board agreed to this limitation. There were no cell phones allowed in the grade school.

As the board talked, they appeared to lean toward not allowing cell phones in any of the school buildings. They agreed that cell phones were important if parents needed to leave messages but messages could be taken after school. They also thought that it was important for students to have cell phones while traveling, in case they had problems.

Before any more rules were made, Mr. Schiltz said he would talk to other schools in the area to find out what they are doing. The matter will be brought up again at the September board meeting.

The board agreed to having a 1,116 school year opposed to a 186-day school year. This is what the school has been having for a number of years and Mr. Schiltz said the administration plans to

make every reasonable effort to attend the total number of days that are scheduled.

The board signed several contracts. Jennifer Krien's contract was amended, adding 1.65 hours to her part-time schedule. Mrs. Krien's extra time will be spent helping in reading and math, mostly in the first, second and third grades.

Carl Jenkins' contract was for the elementary school custodian. Marsha Kechter, who has worked in the school system as a paraprofessional, was approved as a school cook in the grade school. Leigh Ann Faulkender was approved as the junior high volleyball coaching aide.

Bus routes

The school bus routes were reviewed. Mr. Schiltz said Sean Straub, bus manager, had worked out the routes this year. There will be five regular routes, the same as last year. The change will be in kindergarten routes where a second part-time route will be added.

One of the board members pointed out a change that would need to be made. Mr. Schiltz noted that there may be more changes after the final enrollments are made. He said there are still more students who haven't enrolled yet.

Bus drivers include: Melvin Confer, Edie Walters, Ralph Lebow, Ben Leibbrandt and Connie Williams. Mr. Straub drives one of the kindergarten busses. Mr. Schiltz didn't know who the part-time kindergarten bus driver would be.

Budget hearing

The 2009 budget hearing was held with no one present to oppose the recommended budget which was printed in the July 24 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

See PHONES on Page 7



CORN BY THE SACK—Ryan and Randee Grover were selling sweet corn on Friday. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Airport runway still on the agenda

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Several years ago, the county was given a 95/5 matching grant to improve the Cheyenne County Airport. The grant will require the county to only pay 5 percent of the costs.

At the Monday morning commissioners' meeting, Dave Yost, Rick Rogers and Ron Loudon, all representing the Airport Authority, updated them on what the Federal Aviation Authority is telling them.

Future plans are to have the runway extended 25 feet, expanding it to 75-feet long. The airport runway is made of asphalt and, when the original plans were laid, the entire runway would be of asphalt.

However, last week, Mr. Yost received a call from Diane Hofer, with Olsson Associates engineering group, telling that there was a change. Instead of asphalt, the

runway would be run out of concrete. The difference was in the price of asphalt as oil has tripled in price. Now, concrete was less expensive. There was also the fact that it is hard to get quality asphalt in this area.

The authority could see that concrete was a much better substitute as, with asphalt, they were having to seal, apply additional coats and, when there was cracking, the cracks had to be filled. Concrete would have less maintenance and would last much longer.

As plans stand now, the present asphalt will be milled. The runway will be made wider and the asphalt will be used as a base for the concrete.

The Authority was also told that the displaced threshold at the south end of the runway, which was originally not be used, will

now be used which will help in plane takeoffs.

The new cost will be \$1.9 million (it was almost the same cost with 4-inches of asphalt). The county's share will be \$95,000. Mr. Yost said he had looked back, and in 2006, the local share for the entire project had been \$111,000.

The price will also include new lights and having them installed. The Authority members compared the present lights to "candles," noting that they were not good lights and some of them didn't work.

The Federal Aviation Authority is wanting to start the runway project in August 2009 and there will be four to six months that the airport runway will be closed.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said that will mean going into the winter months and it may be too cold to pour cement. Mr. Yost

thought that the company, which would come in to do the work, would have the equipment to pour the runway quickly.

The extension of the runway would not be done at the same time. Mr. Yost said he had been told that the projects are done in extensions, with only so much being done at a time. The commissioners were concerned that the government money may be stopped but Mr. Yost said that, once a project has started, they do not leave it unfinished.

The Authority was concerned that there would be the \$95,000 when it was needed. After checking the funds available and those budgeted, everyone agreed that there would be enough money.

"It would be crazy to quit the project now," Mr. Beikman said.