

The Saint Francis Herald

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HOMECOMING WEEK in St. Francis schools is over. The Homecoming King and Queen were Trent Raile and Jami Pevler. Center, crown bearers were Jasper Hunt and Gracie Lambert. They were accompanied by Brooklyn Hnizdil.



Right, high school football players went to the grade school for lunch and let some of the kids try on their pads and helmet. Scott Ford let a third grader see what it was like to be a football player. Herald staff photos by Lezie and Casey McCormick



Streets, city cleanup on council's agenda

By Margaret Bucholtz
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Several items including streets and city cleanup were on the agenda for the St. Francis City Council members at their Sept. 16 meeting.

The council noted that property clean up is making process. However, there are still some areas that have not made much effort, and the city superintendent will address these people.

The Zuege family has sent back the needed consent forms for the fire department to do a practice burn on Francis Street. The Zueges will be responsible for cleaning the lot after the fire.

Superintendent J. R. Landenberger discussed the deterioration of the curb and gutter on the north side of Main Street. He said he is still waiting on Miller and Associates engineers to suggest the best way to fix the problem.

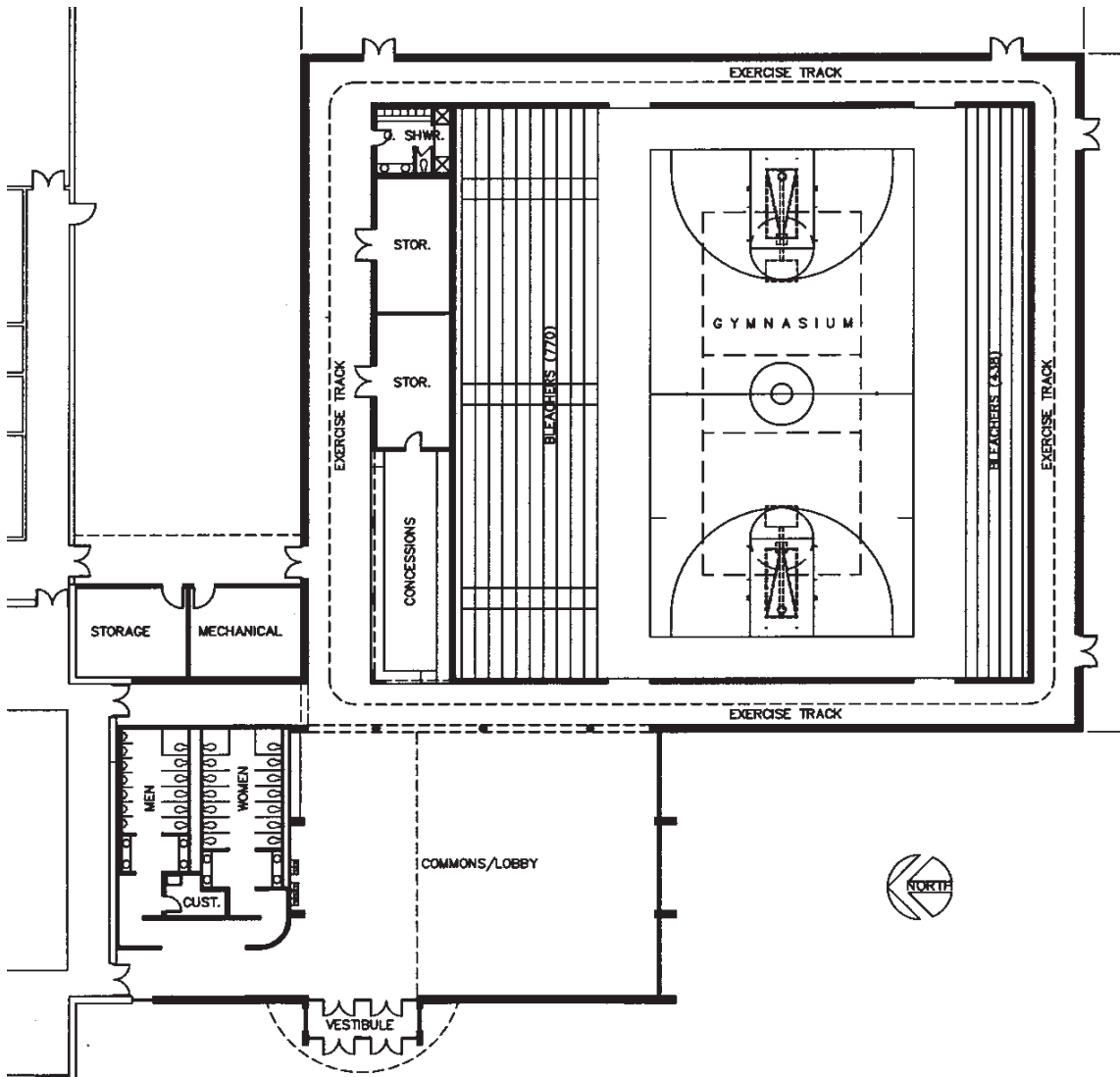
The cracks on Washington Street will have to be filled, he said. The council talked about whether to use concrete or the Mega Seal. The cost of the Mega Seal is at 65 cents a pound. Spencer Street had this put on and it had taken over 2,200 pounds to complete the project. The council felt that concrete might be a more reasonable cost. The superintendent will look into the costs.

The water main was leaking. The city employees shut off the city water after 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, so it could be repaired. The council passed a resolution which will allow the city clerk to pay the bills that will either give the city a discount for paying early or eliminate any interest

if that pay date is before the regular city council meeting. The clerk will then present the paid bills at the next meeting.

Emergency building
Council members Dale Weeks and Roger Jensen discussed the issue about the cement in the building. The ambulance director had reported the floor was cracking. Mr. Weeks and Mr. Jensen said the

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Plans for proposed gym at high school

Plans for new gym proceed

By Karen Krien
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On Nov. 4 in the general election, people will have a question on the ballot asking them to vote for a bond to build a new gymnasium. The gym will be located on the south side of the present high school gym.

Already, there are questions — questions about how the gym will be funded (basically, what it is going to cost each person), do we need it, what's wrong with what we have, and what will a new gym include?

Throughout the next few weeks, *The Herald* will try to answer some of the questions.

This week, the cost of the gym and the cost to the taxpayer will be addressed.

The general obligation bonds to be voted on will amount to \$2,500,000 and will be paid off in 15 years. This will pay for

the construction, furnishing and equipping the new gym.

Besides the gym court and seating, it will include a walking track for the community; a commons/lobby room where public meetings can be held and a place to eat during games; a concession stand, and a place for the referees to change. Lastly, there are rest rooms... enough rest rooms that there won't be a long waiting line at games.

To raise the needed money, the mill levy will be raised approximately 6.25 mills. One mill generates approximately \$31,000 for the school district.

In 2007, the bond and interest fund mill levy of the school district was zero. The total levy is 34.36 mills and when the 6.25 mills are added, the total levy for the St. Francis school will be 40.61 mills.

Even with the estimated 6.25

mill increase, 19 of the 26 north-west Kansas schools would still have a higher total mill levy than St. Francis.

But most people are more interested in how that money is going to come out of their pockets.

Property owners will find their taxes going up some. The following table tells about how much. The first part of division of property tells how much the taxes on a certain priced home or commercial property will go up in a year, the second part is broken down into how much taxes will be monthly, and the third is the daily tax. Note, most taxpayers spend more a day on coffee, candy or soda pop.

Residential property	
Annual property tax	
\$50,000 home	\$35.94
\$75,000	\$53.91
\$100,000	\$71.88
\$150,000	\$107.81

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Call early for trash pick up; cleanup date set for Oct. 16

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis City Cleanup is set for Thursday, Oct. 16, but there is a deadline of Oct. 10 for residents to call in to have their items picked up.

Those residents having items to be picked up need to call the power plant at 785-332-3031 between 7:30 a.m. and noon, and 1 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Do not leave cleanup requests on the answering machine as they will not be picked up. Talk directly to the dispatcher.

"The service is free," said J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent.

But, anyone calling after the Oct.

10 deadline will need to wait until next fall's cleanup. And, they will need to call again at that time.

Without a call, the city crew is not authorized to pick up items, even if they are beside the trash container.

Items to be hauled away must be accessible. That is next to the alley or street; not behind fences, bushes, utility meters or poles.

Mixed piles cannot be picked up. People must sort items into separate piles of metal, tires, concrete, furniture and lumber too large to go into trash containers, and tree branches.

The sorting of the materials is necessary because one of the goals of the cleanup is to decrease the rate the solid waste pit fills up and

to recycle as much as possible. The city no longer is able to pick up chemicals, paint, batteries, yard waste or any petroleum products.

The city cleanup is for household cleanup for residents only. Contractors or citizens who have done construction, demolition, remodeling or renovation are expected to haul materials to the landfill. The city crew reserves the right to refuse to pick up on site.

The cleanup will require several days to complete so those who are expecting their items to be hauled away need to be patient.

The city council is encouraging citizens to take this opportunity to make the city an even more beautiful place to live.

Woman beats recovery odds

By Karen Krien
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She beat the odds and is alive today.

On June 27, 2007, Krista Pummer, daughter of Don and Carol Gamblin, St. Francis, was diagnosed with acute lymphoma leukemia. The odds of recovery were not good.

"I was told that there was a slim recovery rate," Ms. Pummer said.

There is a much better rate of recovery in children under the age of 5 and adults over the age of 50, she said. While in the hospital, there were other leukemia patients and four of them had died.

The only cure is a stem cell transplant and at the time of her arrival in Denver, she was so ill, the doctors were not sure she could ever be well enough to have the transplant.

Ms. Pummer became ill on April



KRISTA PUMMER stands beside the bird bath she made out of car parts and then painted it orange.

18. However, cancer was not diagnosed.

"I was so sick," she said.

The doctors said she had septemic arthritis elbow and recommended surgery. She went home and a day later, she was back — sicker than before. This time, they found a hole

and aneurysm in her heart and scheduled surgery for May.

However, she continued to become weaker and was going down hill. She was taken to Presbyterian/St. Luke Hospital in Denver. There she was told she had acute lymphoma leukemia.

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