

Workshops set for prescribed burning safety

Fire safety will be the topic of the Prescribed Burning Workshops scheduled in western Kansas this fall. The closest workshop for those in Cheyenne County will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at the American Legion, Bird City.

Carol Blocksme, a member of the grassland water quality extension staff at Kansas State University, said that the idea for the workshops came after she attended a meeting where conservation reserve program grass burning in western Kansas was discussed. Producers needed and wanted more information and education on the subject, she said.

Producers may want to burn both native and conservation grassland to improve vegetative quality, control weeds, or fulfill contracts.

"I would encourage any producer who is thinking of burning grassland in western Kansas to attend one of these workshops," she said.

Similar prescribed burning workshops are being held at several locations, so producers can attend the most convenient.

There is a \$10 registration fee. Lunch will be served. Reservations must be made one week before each workshop. Agenda topics include conservation reserve program maintenance and management; why and when to burn; burn notification and local regulations; a producer panel;

using a contractor; terminology and fire behavior including smoke management, eddy currents, fire guards and burning techniques; planning and conducting a burn; and burn equipment.

Presenters will include representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas State University, as well as local fire and emergency management staff and local people with burn experience.

The workshops are sponsored by local conservation districts, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas Water Plan funds and local businesses.

Workshops in northwest Kansas will be held on:

- Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Colby.
 - Friday, Oct. 31 in Russell.
 - Monday, Nov. 3 in Hill City.
 - Wednesday, Nov. 5 in Sharon Springs.
 - Thursday, Nov. 6 in Bird City.
 - Monday, Nov. 17 in Norton.
 - Thursday, Nov. 20 in Oakley.
- This information is also available on the web at: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.



FOOTBALL GAME ACTIVITIES— Kelly and Jo Frewen, Glenn and LouAnne Isernhagen go through the line, Cindy Sherlock and Brenda Warren help with drinks. Bottom: Aubrey Mills, Jandy Dunn and Alyssa Schlepp check out the blankets that are displayed by Hilltop General Store.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick



Band shell renovation is discussed

By Peggy Horinek

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It was a cold, windy evening with the thunder booming but the council members were present for the St. Francis City Council meeting. Also attending were six visitors: George Harper and Sam Miller, representing the fire department; Randy and Dorothy Smestad to discuss the band shell renovation; Robert Harper, independent insurance agent; and Jennifer Hoffman, city treasurer.

The band shell has water problems and needs some restoration. Mr. Smestad explained that water has leaked and gone straight into the basement. It badly needs the gutters cleaned out, he said. Then an elbow is needed to run the water

out to the street.

There is a crack in the wall which needs to be caulked. A specialized pipe needs to be put in that would at least alleviate the water problem. The roof needs to be checked and it should still have some warranty.

Eric Johnson, an architect with Campbell and Johnson, the company which is also working on the courthouse steps, has looked at the band shell and said that the benches, which are broken, were originally concrete, not wood and need to be repaired. The cement inside the band shell should be removed and replaced.

Volunteers and donations are needed to bring the band shell back into shape as this is the 75th anniversary of the park. A "Summer

in the Park" is planned. There will be activities, performers and food to help raise funds to be used for the band shell. There is a grant that will cover 80 percent of the cost with the city paying the other 20 percent.

The council voted to proceed with the drain spouts and to meet with J. R. Landenberger, superintendent, to see what it will take for the rest of the repairs so they can continue to keep moving forward.

St. Francis Emergency Building
George Harper reporting on the St. Francis Emergency Building. He said that they were waiting for the elbows to come in so the gutters could be finished. The building is going to be used this week but they need heat. There are four furnaces and two are not hooked up and two are working somewhat. Saturday, the boiler and furnaces were going to be worked on.

Dale Weeks, councilman, said workers had used 13 gallons of water seal at a cost of \$150 to cover the floor. They still need to put a polyurethane coating on the entrance ramp.

The firemen are working at putting on-board charging systems in each of the trucks.

They are looking at metal lockers on casters at a cost of \$3,500. The county will pay half with the men doing the labor.

No parking signs need to be put up in three locations at the building to keep vehicles from blocking in

the emergency vehicles.

In other business

In other business:

- Robert Harper of Colby, an independent insurance agent, explained the Aflac insurance plan and answered questions.

- Mrs. Hoffman, went over three different insurance plans to the council and handed out information for them to take home and study so they could have their questions ready at the next meeting.

- Superintendent Landenberger, went over an oil and gas lease on 5 acres north of town. It is a standard lease at \$35 an acre. The lease was approved.

- Personnel policies were discussed. Changes will be made at the next meeting.

- A computer crashed in the city clerk's office and the council approved the purchase of two new computers.

- The controlled burn of the Zuege property on Francis Street was completed on Saturday, Oct. 18. The council thanked the firemen for a job well done.

- Three building permits were approved for Jill Bracelin, Roger Lauer and Don Gamblin.

- A city utility incentive was approved for Glenn and Amanda Mahon.

Executive session

An executive session was called by Superintendent Landenberger and chief of police, Shane Guggenmos. No decisions were made.

Meeting scheduled for livestock owners

Livestock owners are urged to attend a meeting on production and utilization of cool season forages including wheat, triticale, oats and barley.

The meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the St. Francis Equity meeting room. Because lunch will be served, people are asked to call the Extension office, 785-332-3171, with their reservations by Friday.

Speakers will be from Kansas

State University and include Jim Shroyer, wheat specialist; and Brian Olson, area agronomist, who will be talking about forage selection and production. Jandy Johnson, livestock specialist, will talk about livestock utilization.

Co-sponsors of the informational meeting are the St. Francis Equity and Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Parent/teachers meet

There may not be school for students on Friday but parents and teachers will be meeting. Schedules have already been made at the elementary school and parents have been called by phone.

"If you have not talked to either the teacher or office, please call and we will get you a time to meet with the teacher," said Scott Carmichael, principal.

At the junior-senior high school, meetings will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and on Monday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Also on Monday, Ward Cassidy, counselor, will present a financial aide meeting for post high

school placement to junior and senior parents. The meeting, which should last about 30 minutes, will start at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

"The meetings give teachers an opportunity to talk and work with the parents of our students," said Mr. Carmichael.

In the past, the parent-teacher meetings have been held on Monday nights.

"We are hoping that parents will try to come on Friday as well as Monday night," he said.

There will be sign-in sheets for parents to sign.

"We look forward to seeing you!" Mr. Carmichael concluded.

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Saturday the 8th-Two demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- Gift Giving Guide and Unforgettable Gift Wrapping- We have come up with some delightful ideas to help make the holidays more merry and bright! We will also show you unforgettable ways to wrap it all up in fabulous festive styles.



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