

Board discusses top building repairs

By Karen Krien
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Much of the St. Francis Board of Education meeting on Thursday was spent going over areas in the schools that need repaired or replaced.

"We have old buildings and there will be constant improvements," said Rob Schiltz, superintendent.

He had nine projects which he considered at the top of the list. They included: 1) the elementary school boiler, which has already been installed and paid for; 2) windows at the high school; 3) high school intercom system; 4) elementary school bathroom remodel; 5) elementary school computer lab remodel; 6) high school auditorium sound system; 7) high school gym floor refinishing; 8) suspended ceilings and lights in the elementary and high school hallways; and 9) refinishing/replacing junior high lockers.

The windows in the high school will be the biggest expense, costing between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The board agreed that it would be best if they could do the west side first and the east side, the next year. Mr. Schiltz had talked to a representative from Norton Glass about the project.

The high school intercom system will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Mr. Schiltz had talked to a builder about the elementary school bathroom and computer room remodel. While the girls' bathroom on the first floor near the cafeteria is small, it will still cost about \$10,000 to \$15,000. The computer lab will be remodeled much like the lab at the high school with a raised floor for running wiring and a lowered ceiling. That project will cost around \$20,000.

The new sound system in the auditorium will cost around \$10,000. There was considerable discussion about the system as so many times, people are messing with the different settings. When the system is installed, there will probably be some stipulations.

The suspended ceiling and lights in the hallways is one of the projects that the board thought needed to be done as the lights installed would cost less to operate.

The superintendent said it has been 12 years since the gym floor had been refinished so it was due for some work. The cost would be around \$15,000.

Mr. Schiltz said he had talked to a representative about refinishing the lockers. There were several reasons why he thought refinishing them was better than replacing: 1) The old lockers are much heavier metal; 2) new lockers would not fit in the space. The cost for refinishing the lockers would be around \$6,500 and that would include straightening any bent areas, new handles and numbers. To replace them would be about \$2,000 more, and that would not include taking out and getting rid of the old lockers.

As they talked about the improvements, the administration

and board talked about repairs that are energy-saving. Some of the improvements, while they might cost a lot of money up front, will pay for themselves in the utilities.

Bruce Feikert, board member, mentioned that he had noticed that there were dripping faucets in some of the bathrooms and recommended that those be fixed as quickly as possible. They also talked about the boys' bathroom at the high school which was in the middle of being repaired.

The discussion then turned to the building of a new gym. The superintendent and some of the board members noted they had received a phone call from a woman who said she preferred that the board not bring the bond back to a vote. No decisions were made

as to when they would bring the bond issue back for a vote.

Later in the meeting, the board accepted a gift for \$330 from Michal and Renee Walker to be used toward the new gym project. A fund will be established for other donations for the project.

School calendar

The board reviewed the proposed school calendar for next year. Mr. Schiltz said the calendar calls for students to attend 173 days of school. School will begin on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and end on Thursday, May 27. Christmas vacation will start on Monday, Dec. 21 and end on Friday, Jan. 1. There will be a weekend before the start and at the end of the vacation. The calendar will now go to the teachers

to review and make comments.

In other business

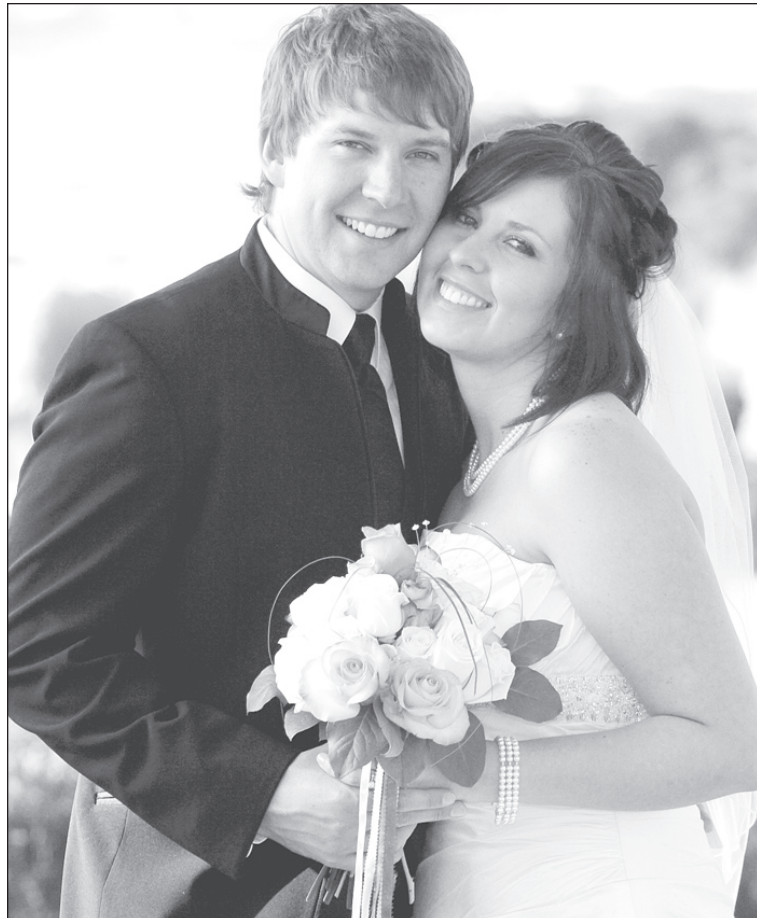
In other business:

• Mr. Schiltz reviewed the fiscal year 2008 audit which was done by Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, Colby. Mr. Schiltz said it was a good audit and recognized Sharon Olofson for her work.

• Board members, Pete Raile and John Knodel will serve on the Meet and Confer Committee, meeting with teachers later. Mary Beth Miller and Sherry Weeks will serve on the Scholarship Committee.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, in the high school library.



Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Mallory

Vows exchanged on private estate

Lacey Rae Bowers, daughter of Danny and Janelle Bowers of Bird City, and Kyle Russell Mallory, son of Larry and Mary Kay Mallory of Hutchinson, were married in Los Osos, Calif., on Oct. 9, 2008.

The couple was married on a private estate overlooking the ocean surrounded by friends and family. Close friend, Paul Buschur, performed the ceremony.

The maid of honor was Kelsi Bowers of Hoxie, sister of the bride. The best man was Michael Smith of Yuma, Ariz, brother-in-law. Rita, Ava and Oliva Buschur of San Luis Obispo, Calif., were flower girls. Jack Buschur of San Luis Obispo was the ring bearer.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father, Danny Bowers, and given away by her mother and father. The parents of the bride and groom stood and

supported the couple in their marriage. The bride wore an Alfred de Angelo dress made of silk with a beaded bodice.

A reception immediately followed at the estate on a cliff overlooking the ocean. Dinner and dancing were enjoyed into the late hours of the night.

The bride is a 2008 graduate of Kansas City Kansas Community College and is employed as a registered nurse at Twin Cities Community Hospital in Templeton, Calif. She is currently attending the University of Missouri Kansas City working on her master's degree.

The groom is a graduate of Kansas State University-Salina, and is employed as a first officer for Sky-West Airlines.

The couple honeymooned in Carmel, Calif., before returning to their home in Cayucos, Calif.

Club Clip

Pleasant Hill 4-H Club

After decorating the Village, the meeting of the Pleasant Hill 4-H was called to order by Allison Grice on Dec. 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Travis Rogers. The 4-H Pledge was led by Audrey Meyer, Reagan Beims and Emleigh Dinkel. Roll call was answered by bringing an item for the food pantry.

The secretary had no minutes from the past meeting in October. For correspondence, the club received a thank you note from Rachel Keltz for the woodworking trophy. Jandy Dunn gave the treasurer's report and presented bills to be paid.

Club leader Leslie Beims reported that she was proud of the club for winning the Light Parade. She also congratulated the club on the success of the bierock sales.

For the council meeting report, Tye Faulkender announced the council elected officers. Further, he announced enrollment cards are due. Tye also announced to pick up record books.

The club then chose themes for

the fair to present to the fair board for consideration in the theme contest.

There was no program for this month. Jake Faulkender and Brady Dinkel picked the game snake tag for the recreation game. Jandy Dunn moved and Laura Brunk seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Refreshments were served by the Beims and Dinkel families.

Payton Beims, reporter

-St. Francis News-

Dan and Cindy Winston of Ellsworth and Betty Jean Winston spent Saturday together in Hays. In late afternoon they attended the Northwest Kansas Music Educators Association Mini-Convention II Band and Vocal Concert at Fort Hays State University. James Winston of Ellsworth was a member of the high school honor choir. He was one of the musicians recognized for being a member of the honor choir all four years of high school.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING — The girl scouts sang at the Good Samaritan Village residents. Those pictured are Joslyn Ketzner, Zoe Sundstrom, Jessica Pacheco and Ericka Ramos.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Moments With Mila

By Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

Helping the elderly beat the holiday blues

While the holiday season is a festive time for many, it can cause depression for the more elderly population who've lost loved ones or are having health or financial problems.

The American Geriatrics Society offers seniors some tips on how to avoid feeling blue during the holidays.

• Get out and about. Ask family and friends for help traveling to parties and events or invite family and friends to your home.

• Volunteer. Helping others can be a great mood lifter. Contact local schools, churches, chamber of commerce, and other organizations to find out about volunteer

opportunities.

• Don't drink too much alcohol, which can lower your spirits.

• Accept and express your feelings. There's nothing wrong with not feeling happy during the holidays - many people feel the same way. Talking about your feelings can help you understand why you feel the way you do.

• Recognize the signs of depression, which include; sadness that won't lift; loss of interest or pleasure; changes in appetite and weight; sleeping much more than normal; crying often; feeling restless or tired all the time; feeling worthless, helpless or guilty, slowed thinking; thought of death or suicide.

If you notice that an older loved

one seems depressed, lend a hand by offering to help them with shopping, transportation and preparations for get-togethers in their homes. Encourage your loved one to talk about how he or she is feeling and acknowledge their difficulty feelings.

You should also encourage your loved one to talk to a health care provider. Many older people don't realize when they're depressed. If you believe an older loved one is depressed, tell them depression is a medical illness that can be treated and managed.

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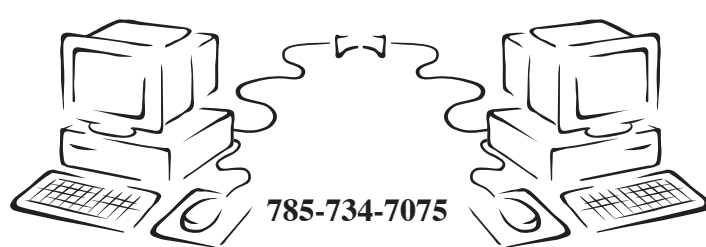
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