

City band shell topic at meeting

By Peggy Horinek
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The band shell was once again a topic of conversation at the Dec. 16 St. Francis City Council meeting. Dorothy Smestad, member of the committee, had attended a workshop in Hays and said if the city applied for a grant it had to be in by March.

To apply for a grant we would need to have at least three estimates on the repairs needed. The first thing needed is to have someone come in, look at the band shell, and then prioritize the things that need done first. Some of the issues that need to be addressed are repairing floors and ceiling, repairs to the basement due to water seepage, installation of two windows and remodeling of bathrooms. The outside, except for one crack on the south side is in very good shape. After getting the list of repairs needed to be done first, the city can then seek bids for the work.

Mrs. Smestad will get back to the council as soon as she has contacted someone to meet with the council and look at the band shell.

City employees

City employees will be given one half day off on Dec. 24, and all day on the 25th. The same schedule will be for Dec. 31, and Jan. 1. An executive session was called to discuss employee wages. City employee's health insurance was discussed at length.

Exciting ball game played Thursday

By Betty Jean Winston
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The seventh grade boys basketball team was involved in tournament action the final week before the holiday break.

The season ended with the most exciting game they have played all year. It was an overtime contest with Quinter who was the eventual winner, by the score of 39-35.

"We played our best game of the year," Coach Kent Kechter said. "It would have been nice to win, but the kids played their hearts out and nearly got the victory."

The opening portion of the final competition began on Monday, Dec. 15, when the first round games were played at the home of the four league teams with the best season records. St. Francis (seeded eighth) traveled to Colby (seeded first) for this game and was defeated by the score of 48-12.

"We played much better than the first time we played Colby," Coach Kechter said. "When you look at the score, that might seem like an unusual statement, but we are showing continual improvement. We did a much better job of looking up the floor and playing aggressively on defense."

Individual scoring for this game had not been received by the St. Francis coach as of *The Herald* deadline.

The loss to Colby put St. Francis in the consolation round of the tournament on Thursday in Quinter.

Quinter 39, St. Francis 35

"We did a lot of good things in this game," Coach Kechter said. "It was hard to see it slip away in

In other business:

The council is very concerned about J turns and how prevalent they have become in the last couple of years. They are not illegal as it stands now. To make it illegal, the city would have to put up signs or paint an orange stripe down the middle of the street. The council thought perhaps they needed to make an amendment to the city ordinance but would need to discuss it with City Attorney, Mike Day.

John Finley was presented a plaque and thanked for all he has done for the city over the years. He said, "I enjoy doing those kind of things and if you need anything done just let me know."

Two malt liquor licenses have been applied for: Pizza Hut and the K-Store. They were both approved.

The council approved a new bank account being opened at Bankwest for the St. Francis Fire House and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) building.

A hole has been cut in the roof for the new boiler at the emergency building and it will be set in place this week. Before it can be ready to go, it has to be inspected and tagged.

The trout are going to be put into Keller Pond by Hal Sager. The pond will then be closed down.

The next council meeting is set for Dec. 31, at 2 p.m. It will be to finalize bills for the end of the year.

overtime."

Mason Schiltz had a high scoring game against Quinter pushing through 20 of the 39 points Sainty scored.

SF	6	8	6	12	3	35
Q	7	9	7	9	7	39

Scoring: Schiltz 20, Wyatt Landenberger 9, Lane Hoffman 4, Lennin Olivares 2.

"The kids showed improvement throughout the season. We have learned some basketball and have developed some skills. There is a lot of work to be done yet. Hopefully, these young men will work to develop their skills during the off season so they can be more competitive next season."



THE HOME and yard of Tom and Kathy Roelfs looked very festive for the holidays.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Payment centralization has occurred at agency

Payment centralization has occurred which affects Farm Service Agency payments and loan disbursements and repayments, according to Bill R. Fuller, state executive director of the Kansas U.S. Department of Agriculture agency.

There will no longer be any paper checks issued at an agency's county office. All program payments, commodity loan disbursements and facility loan disbursements will be issued by the Federal Reserve Bank through direct deposit electronic funds transfer or through the U.S. Treasury when a paper check is issued. County Offices will process all payments through the web-based National Payment System (NPS) which will transmit the payment record to the Federal Reserve Bank or U.S. Treasury for processing.

This new payment centralization will provide automated accounting initiatives to strengthen internal controls within the agency to mitigate the risk for erroneous payments.

Producers shall be aware that there may be a delay in receiving payments or loan proceeds in certain situations.

If the producer has a direct deposit on file and the payment does not need to be issued jointly, then the payment should

be received in the producer's bank account within two days after the county office has electronically certified and signed the payment through National Payment System.

When the payment needs to be issued jointly or a producer does not have a direct deposit on file, then a paper check would be issued through U.S. Treasury after the county office has electronically certified and signed the payment through NPS. Processing time is at least 3 days for U.S. Treasury to issue the paper check and an additional 2-7 days for mailing, a total of 5-10 days for a paper check to be received. The county office can either request the paper check be sent directly to the producer or directly to the county office, depending on the situation.

For example, a lien holder on the commodity pledged for a marketing assistance commodity loan wants the loan proceeds made jointly to the producer and lien holder, the county office will electronically

certify and sign the payment through payment system and then the U.S. Treasury will issue a paper check made jointly to the producer and lien holder. This check will be received in 5-10 days either by the producer or the county office, depending on what the county office requested.

In addition, when a producer is making a loan repayment, or a warehouse is making a

loan repayment on commodity delivered under a CCC-681-1, Authorization for Delivery of Loan Collateral for Sale, the payment needs to be the exact amount needed to repay quantity involved in the repayment. It is important that producers and warehouses communicate with the applicable Farm Service Agency's county office before a loan is repaid to ensure the correct amount is submitted.

Club Clip Tuesday Club

November

Tuesday Club met at the home of Rachael Keller on Nov. 11. There were 16 members present. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess. Mary Lee Frewen had the lesson on "The White House." It was very interesting and several had been there. Pictures were passed around.

The collect was recited and the meeting adjourned.

December

Tuesday Club met at the Equity meeting room on Dec. 9. Hostesses were Virginia Cooper and Laura Pugh. A delicious roast beef dinner was catered.

Fifteen members and one guest, Margaret Poling, were present. Margaret gave a history of the hymn, "Oh Come All Ye Faithful." She also led the group in singing.

The collect was recited and the meeting adjourned.

Bride and Groom

Connie Miller & Patrick Rooney

Were married on Nov. 27, 2008. They invite you to help them celebrate their marriage at a come and go reception on Dec. 31 beginning at 4 p.m. at Heritage Corner Cafe, 104 Bressler, Bird City.

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Beecher

By Bessie Dent

There were 63 at Sunday school. Trevor Hurlburt and Rachel Thompson gave special numbers.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Simmons were Thursday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Simmons and Taya in honor of Quentin's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus attended a baby shower for Matt and Molly Osmus in Lafayette Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Simmons were in Denver for part of the weekend. Bob attended a hockey game. Mr. and Mrs. Randy Perila and family and Bob's attended the Disney on Ice program.

Doris Osmus and Judy Shively visited Rose Pickard in Burlington last Wednesday.

Donna and Ray Dodge and Violet Brown met Gary and Connie Miller and son Daniel of Enid, Okla., last Monday morning for a visit at Riveside Cafe.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Harms Thursday.

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