

# Secrets of healthy septic tanks

There many things homeowners can do, or avoid doing, to keep their septic systems in good working order, said DeAnn Presley, K-State Research and Extension soil management specialist.

- Avoid using garbage disposals in homes that use onsite wastewater systems.
- Avoid flushing anything other than toilet paper. Items that are labeled as flushable, such as baby

wipes and cat litter, may cause solids to build up in the tank and thus require more frequent pumping of the tank.

- Do not flush medications into the system. Certain medications may hinder microbial decomposition, which would also lead to more frequent septic tank pumping.
- If it has been more than five years since your tank was last

pumped, consider calling a local onsite wastewater professional for maintenance and to have your septic tank pumped.

Nearly every county in Kansas requires inspection of onsite wastewater treatment systems when property is transferred, she added.

For more information, contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 785-332-3171.



**NEW BUSINESS PEOPLE** at the Bird City Diner are: (1 to r) Linda and Dennis Whitmore and family members/employees Joe and Brenda Weverka. *Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Diner brings Denver people to open up business

By Linda Schneider  
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It has been said that truth is stranger than fiction. The story behind the Bird City Diner's owners, Dennis and Linda Whitmore, is not as strange as it is how two people left behind the rat race to live more-simple lives.

Originally, they lived in Denver, Colo., and owned a home in Wheeler, just 9 miles west of Bird City on U.S. 36. They had made a few trips to the northwest corner of Kansas, liked what they saw and started looking on the internet for a place.

"Wheeler is where we got our first taste of Kansas," said Mr.

Whitmore. "It became our getaway place."

Then a few years ago, Mrs. Whitmore's mother, Sue Evans, moved to their Wheeler home to take care of the place. And the more the Whitmores returned to Wheeler to relax and getaway from the bustle of Denver, the more they enjoyed the slow and easy pace of the area. Soon they were looking to make Kansas their permanent home and started to look at the vacant little diner on the corner of Bird Ave., Bird City, and U.S. 36, and their dream began to take shape.

It was November 2007, when Dennis and Linda seriously looked into purchasing what would be-

come Bird City Diner. However, running a diner was new to both of them. Mr. Whitmore had been a dental manager/technician for 35 years and Mrs. Whitmore had worked for the Caterpillar Company in the oil lab department and in a dental office. In fact, before living in Denver, they met in a dental office in Lake Havasu, Ariz.

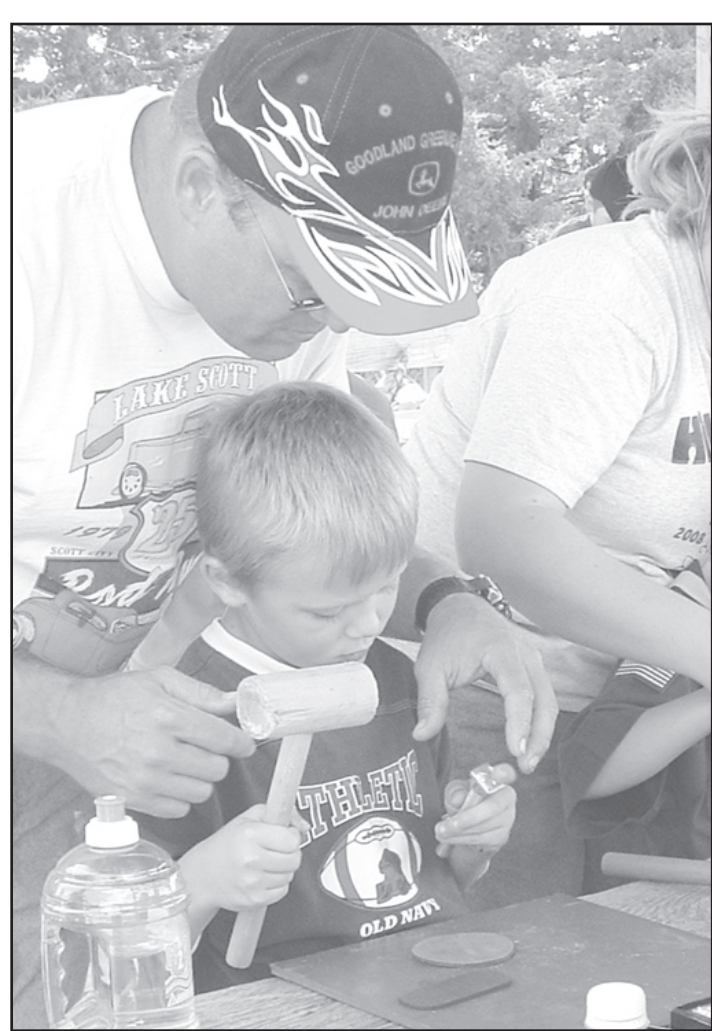
Since opening the diner in the spring of 2008, it has been a family affair. Not only does Mrs. Whitmore's mother, Ms. Evans, work waiting on customers; Linda's daughter, Tiffany, who helped with opening up the diner, and Linda's sister and husband, Brenda and Joe Weverka, also help with cooking and wherever needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Weverka, just like the Whitmores, moved to Kansas to take life at a slower pace. After moving from Lake Havasu just eight months ago to St. Francis, both are enjoying the peacefulness of the high plains of Kansas. Everyone smiled in agreement.

After only one year, the Bird City Diner has its regulars, the coffee bunch, the breakfast bunch, the Sunday bunch, and the not-so-regular bunch that stop by on their way across U.S. 36. But, when they all walk in the diner's door, everyone is greeted with a smile, friendly service and good food.



**MATT STUCHLIK**, district executive for Wheatland/Buffalo Bill, center, helps two Boy Scouts start a fire at the Klondike Derby held in St. Francis over the weekend.



**AARON BLAIR**, with the help of Dad, works on a leather project at Camp Hanson. *Photo courtesy of Kris Blair*

### I Am A Country Newspaper ...

I am a country newspaper. I am the friend of the family, the bringer of tidings from other friends; I speak to the home in the evening of summer's vine-clad porch or the glow of the winter's lamp.

I help to make this evening hour; I record the great and the small, the varied acts of the days and weeks that go to make up life.

I am for and of the home; I follow those who leave humble beginnings; whether they go to greatness or to the gutter, I take to them the thrill of old days, with wholesome messages.

I speak the language of the common man; my words are fitted to his understanding. My congregation is larger than that of any church in my town; my readers are more than those in the school. Young and old alike find in me stimulation, solace, comfort. I am the chronicler of man's existence.

I am the word of the week, the history of the year, the record of my community in the archives of state and nation.

I am the lives of my readers. I am the country newspaper.

**The Saint Francis Herald**

## WATER

Continued from Page 1A

tric water heater for the basement would cost \$454. It was decided to go with the on-demand heaters due to concerns with the plumbing in the basement and the savings in energy.

### Police report

Chief of Police, Shane Guggenmos informed the council that the officers are now trained on tasers weapons.

Girl Scout leader Brandi Jones met with Mr. Guggenmos and they discussed a meth watch program. She also discussed some issues with the Scout Hut building. Mr. Landenberger will take a look at the building and report back to the council.

It was also requested that any

calls coming in regarding cat problems be referred to him to ensure that the city is consistent in its approach to the problem.

### Alley easement

There has been no response as of yet from the Schultz's or their attorney regarding the alley easement at the east end of Spencer (Lorraine Street). The alley is blocked at this time and residents will have to put their trash out at the street for now.

### Executive sessions

Three executive sessions were called. After coming out of two of them there were no decisions made. The third one was for personnel and a decision was made to appeal an unemployment claim.

## PUBLIC AUCTION

MARCH 7, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. CST

AUCTION LOCATION: 4-H BUILDING, N. HWY 36, ATWOOD, KS

REAL ESTATE WILL BE SOLD AT 1:00 P.M.

REAL ESTATE LOCATION: 101 GRANT, ATWOOD, KS 67730

SELLER: DOYLE'S FARM SUPPLY

### REAL ESTATE

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8), Nine (9) and Ten (10), in Block Three (3) of Hemming's Addition to the Original Town (now City) of Atwood, Rawlins County Kansas.

### FORKLIFT, VEHICLES, & EQUIPMENT

AC 612 Forklift, 2600hrs, 21' Lift Height, Side Shift  
2000 Ford F350XL, Auto Trans, 156,548mi.  
1992 Silverado 2500, Auto Trans., 5.7 Liter Engine  
JD 4020 w/Dual, 3100 Ldr, S#259803R, 3pt, 540 PTO, 6000hrs  
2000 Donahue 8'x30' Trailer, 10,000# Dual Tandem Axles  
Gold Star 7'x 16' Car Trailer, 7000# Axles  
1993 Ford Aerostar Van  
1996 Chevy 1-Ton Dually, 454 Vortec, Auto Trans, 4x4, (runs good)  
6'x 36" Gooseneck Trailer 3-Axles, New Tires  
Wegele Scooter Mower, Overhauled Engine, 38" Cut

**New Inventory, Hutchinson Magrath Auger Parts, Polaris Parts, Shop Equipment & Many More Items.**

TERMS: Cash day of sale. Not responsible for accidents. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed matter. Persons not personally known by the auction firm must have a letter of credit from their banking institution.

Visit our Website for pictures: [www.gladrealestate.com](http://www.gladrealestate.com)

## GLAD REAL ESTATE

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ROCKY HAYES - AUCTIONEER / BETTY L. PETERSEN - BROKER

OFFICE: 785-626-2039 HOME: 785-626-9600

CELL: 785-626-4022

## Goodluck at State Journalism in Lawrence on May 2nd!



Yearbook Staff: (front row) Elizabeth Gienger, Hayley Brown, Andrea Holzwarth, Taryn Richard, Courtney Douthit; (second row) Jami Pevler, Joni Pevler, Dale Northrup, Aubree Schlepp, Candice Wiese; (back row) Sarah Guthmiller, Matt Whitmore, Mikaela Grace, Sarah Tremby, Aly Marin.

- photo by Brenda Day

# The Saint Francis Herald

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