

The Saint Francis Herald

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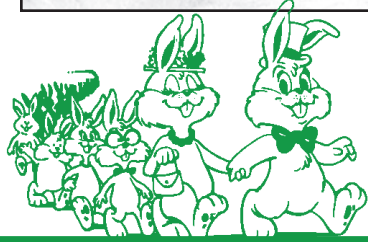
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I LOVE YOU EASTER BUNNY — Mika Killingsworth, above, gave Easter Bunny (Andrea Holzwarth) a big hug at the Chamber's Easter Egg Hunt held in the grade school Saturday morning. However, Janea Moberly, above right, was checking out those big ears. JG Rhoden was having fun picking up his share of candy. Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



Airport runway bids come in low

By Karen Krien

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The bid opening for the runway reconstruction was held Wednesday, April 8. The Cheyenne County Airport Authority met with Diane Hofer with Olsson Associates, Lincoln, Neb., to open the three bids.

The bids ranged from a high of \$1,774,693 million from Dobson, Lincoln, Neb., to a low of \$1,276,584 from Paulsen Construction, Cozad, Neb. — nearly a half million dollars less than the original estimates.

Submitting the other bid was Castle Rock Construction, Castle Rock, Colo., for \$1,396,275.

"It's great to be under the amount expected," said Dave Yost, Airport Authority chairman. "We now have a head start on extending the runway length."

The Federal Aviation Administration is expected to approve the

low bid and the Authority will accept it.

On top of the construction costs are engineering fees of \$89,952. This includes administration, redesign, bidding, construction observation and testing as well as the close-out services.

Cheyenne County has a 95-5 matching grant with the Aviation Administration. In the end, the Federal Aviation Authority's share for the runway will be \$1,388,140

and the county's share, \$73,060. The county has \$89,952 available to cover its share of the project.

All of the money used by the Aviation Administration for these projects is generated from aviation fuel taxes and airline seat taxes.

The reconstruction will include widening the runway and installing runway lights. The runway will also be concrete which, the Authority agrees, will last much longer and require less upkeep

than the present asphalt runway.

The tentative construction start date is Aug. 15 and will last approximately three months. During the construction, the airport's only hard surface runway will be closed, but the grass runways will remain open.

Once this project is completed, the final step will be to lengthen the runway to 5,200 feet from the present 3,150 feet. This will make it more usable to larger aircraft such

as the Flight-For-Life King Airls.

The runway extension project, Mr. Yost said, is not expected to begin before 2011. However, the land-purchase contract has been signed and the government funds to finish that should be available soon.

Mr. Yost said the Airport Authority has worked hard to make the best economical decisions on this project and has the best interest of the county airport at heart.

Congressman visits St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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Congressman Jerry Moran held a town hall meeting following the St. Francis Lions Club meeting on Monday evening at the Church of Christ fellowship hall.

Mr. Moran said he had been a Lion a lot longer than he had been a politician.

His meeting in St. Francis was his 37th stop as he told what was going on in Washington, D.C., and fielded questions from those present.

He said rural Kansas has a high quality of life and his goal was to make it possible for these places called "home" to be around for a long while — that people will continue to be able to live in St. Francis.

He listed several things that are important to small communities which included agriculture, small businesses, technology and education as well as health care. He said without good health care, the community loses. He said he was happy when he learned that the county had gained a second doctor.

As far as education, he said he doesn't want the federal gov-

ernment involved.

You don't want them (federal government) making decisions, he said, like when they mandated the "No Child Left Behind" program. It doesn't work to take the kids out of the classroom for another test. He compared this to the farmer who made the remark that if he wants fat cattle, he feeds them, not weighs them.

Congressman Moran said that the economy today is a "challenge." He said the government is living beyond its means, spending dollars it doesn't have. We can't, he said, borrow ourselves into prosperity. There are moral consequences and problems we are creating for our children and grandchildren, he said.

There is enough money, he said, to spend until May and then, the rest of the year, the country will operate on borrowed money.

The question was asked, what will we do when the government runs out of money? The congressman said the only things they can do is issue debts and securities (China is one of the countries buying these) or print more money and that causes inflation to go up.

He noted that he was one of 17



TALKING ABOUT POLLUTION to Congressman Jerry Moran, right, were Eddy and Sherry Schultz, St. Francis. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

congressmen who have constantly voted "no" to the spending. Many of the problems such as borrowing and loaning has not been caused by Kansas citizens and businesses. The congressman said that he is for the free market system and wants to see that businesses succeed and more jobs are produced.

Washington, D.C., he said, needs to learn from the farmers

who know the history of their farm, have responsibility to allow families and farms be here for years to come. They know that their decisions are going to affect their children and grandchildren. The government, he said, only thinks about the moment, about bailouts, and what's in it for them — not what's in it for others.

President Obama, Congressman Moran said, has a list of projects

on his agenda but he thinks that the president needs to get the economy settled, then go onto the other projects.

Eddy Schultz, St. Francis, asked what the congressman thought should be done instead of the Child Left Behind program? Congressman Moran said that everyone is different but the program wants 99 percent of the kids to be

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Costs of papers increase

With the rising costs of everything, *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will also be costing a little more.

As of May 1, the subscription price for *The Herald* will be \$38 a year within a 50-mile radius of St. Francis; \$42 in Kansas; and \$48 out of state. The *Times* will go from \$30 to \$33 a year within a 50-mile radius; \$36 in Kansas; and \$40 out of state.

The price of single papers will also increase. *The Herald* will go from \$.75 to \$1; the *Times* will go from \$.65 to \$.75.

"The price of paper has continued to increase as has the postage to mail the papers," said Karen Krien, publisher.

The last time there was an increase for a single *Herald* and *Times*, she said, was in 1995 when the price went from \$.50 to \$.75; and \$.40 to \$.65, respectively.

The last time subscription rates increased was in August 2006.