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Welcome Saintry high school alumni

By Karen Krien

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The 52nd St. Francis Community High School Alumni Reunion has arrived. This weekend, starting with Friday, many former students will be found checking out the town and remembering "how it was." Special alumna this year is Alice (Crab-

tree) Gregory who graduated with the class of 1934. At this writing, Mrs. Gregory is the only one of the 75-year class returning.

Honor class members have been busy finalizing plans for gatherings, picnics and other activities. See related article.

Shirley Zweygardt, Alumni coordinator,

reported that registration will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. and all alumni are to meet in the high school gym by 6 p.m. in their designated areas. *The Saint Francis Herald* staff member and another photographer will be on hand to take honor class pictures.

As class pictures are taken, members will be dismissed to go to the high school

cafeteria where the banquet will be served. Most of the honor classes have made plans for the evening after the meal.

Honor classes this year are: 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

"An e-mail address for the Alumni Association has been established for the con-

venience of alumni having any questions, comments, request or address changes. The address is sfchsalumni@hotmail.com," Ms. Zweygardt said, noting that any address changes would be greatly appreciated.

Elsewhere in this issue lists the gathering places of alumni.

Wheat test plot looking great

By Karen Krien

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About 45 farmers gathered at the K-State wheat plot tour on the Sunny Crest Farm south of Wheeler Wednesday afternoon. Off and on throughout the field day, light rain fell and it was chilly — most people had jackets on.

It appeared that the general consensus was the test plot looked good. Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist, had planted 21 varieties, then strips of wheat with seed treatments and treated other plots with foliar fungicide treatments.

Brian Olson, K-State northwest area agronomist, and Erick DeWolf, K-State wheat pathologist, talked about the varieties planted, giving a short history of each type of seed, along with its strengths and weaknesses to environmental conditions and diseases. Varieties planted included: Overley, Jagger, Fuller, Jagalene, PostRock, Keota, Santa Fe, Hatcher, Ripper, Bill Brown, Turkey Red, TAM 111, TAM 112, T-81, T-140, Hawken, Smoky Hill, Winterhawk, Armour, Aspen and Danby. An interesting addition to the plots this year was

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CHECKING OUT THE WHEAT test plots at the Sunny Crest Farm on Thursday was Cheyenne County farmer, Cliff Raile.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Recycling center needs more funds to keep doors open

By Karen Krien

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If the Northwest Regional Recycling Center in Colby does not raise some money, they will not have enough to operate during the month of July.

Roger Jensen, the Center's representative from Cheyenne County, asked the county commissioners at the Monday meeting, if they could give \$1.50 per capita. This could either be broken down, paying half now and the other half by the first of the year or paying it all now. After talking about it, the commissioners decided to give the full amount.

Mr. Jensen said recycled items are not selling.

The recent severe economic downturn, he said, has had a devastating impact on commodity markets resulting in a major impact on the organization's budget. Paper, plastic and metal material markets have declined. The sale of recycled items plays a significant portions in the operating budget.

The organization recently began the e-waste collection (old television, computers, monitors, microwaves, just to name a few). While this is a very good program, the operating expenses were higher than anticipated and the grant reimbursement for the e-waste program was less

than expected.

It costs about \$7,000 a month to run the Colby center. The board has cut as many expenses as possible without hurting the program. Some cuts included: no mileage reimbursements for the board and freezing salaries.

"If we can get \$1.50 per person (the county has 3,165 people), that will keep us running through the year," Mr. Jensen said. The organization will be asking for \$4 per person in 2010 and is hoping that will see the center through the year or until the price of items pick up.

The commissioners agreed that the center is helping keep our landfill from filling up so quickly. Both commissioners, Andy Beikman and Dale Patton, said they would rather pay more to keep the landfill open longer.

Cheyenne County, said Mr. Jensen, was one of the original eight members and has always supported the organization.

Mr. Beikman said he would like to see county pick up of recycling items. Even then, county residents recycle about 15 percent of those items that can be recycled which is above the state's average.

For more information, Mr. Jensen asks that people contact him at 785-332-5011.



STUDYING THE FIGURES — Tuesday, commissioners, (l to r) Andy Beikman, Dale Patton and Ernie Ketzner, were trying to figure out where the needed money is coming from.

Board faces hard decisions

By Karen Krien

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Most of the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Monday was spent listening to pleas for more money. There is money needed to help the Northwest Regional Recycling Center, the purchase of a new road grader, repairing the rain cap on the courthouse and increasing the hospital's appropriation. Where the additional money was going to come from when the budget is already tight was the dilemma the commissioners found themselves in.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, talked about raising the amount of tax dollars given to the board from \$575,000 to \$650,000 — an approximate 17-percent increase. Mr. Lacy pointed out that the hospital board has not asked or received a raise for several years.

"But, we have given a stabilized health system and more providers to the county," he said.

He said the cost-based reimbursement fund has to be paid up front but we don't know what our volume will look like. Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield, he said, tells what they will pay us.

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WORKMEN FINISH up the floor beneath the doors at the top of the new steps. The walk-through inspection is scheduled for Tuesday at 11 p.m.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Summer projects begin

By Karen Krien

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Building improvements are being made in both the high school and grade school buildings. Superintendent Rob Schiltz, at the Thursday St. Francis Board of Education meeting, said representatives from Norton Glass, Norton, would start on the new windows the following Monday.

The windows are energy efficient and set in a brown frame. Earlier, when the board was discussing ways of saving money, it was pointed out that windows, which are a building improvement and the money is taken from the capital outlay fund, could save up to 30 percent on heating and cooling.

The board agreed to replace the windows on the west side of the high school and the side panels on the gym. The cost of the windows including insulation is \$130,543.

Mr. Schiltz said the windows, while saving money on utilities, will also make the building look much better.

He also said he realized that the work will be happening during the alumni celebration but thought the construction would not interfere.

Mr. Schiltz said Brock McAtee had started work on remodeling the room for the grade school computer lab. The cost is to be \$18,955. When it is done, he said, it will be very impressive. Mr. McAtee will move on to remodeling the girls' rest room on the first floor. That is estimated to cost between \$12,000 and \$13,000.

At the high school, Steve Jenkins and his crew had finished painting the hallways. Energy efficient lights will now be installed and the ceiling will be lowered.



NEW WINDOWS are being installed on the west side of the high school. The new windows on the left have brown frames and are all glass, letting in more light.

Bill Keller with Stanton Electric offered to sell the light bulbs, which are expensive, for the project for half price. Mr. Keller is a former student and a graduate of St. Francis Community High School.

Summer weights/school The summer weight program has begun. Nathan Smith, new physical education teacher, as well as football and track coach, will be receiving \$3,132 for supervision. See PROJECTS on Page 6A