

By Karen Krien
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The audit report was reviewed when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Monday evening. The 2009 Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball audit report had come back with a few recommendations which the superintendent went over with the board. The main complaint was not having dual internal control in several areas. It would require hiring another person and, at this time, most of the

recommendations were already being met or would be shortly. The audit letter ended with the school has done an "outstanding job of maintaining the district, books and records." Mr. Schiltz commended bookkeeper, Sharon Olofson, for the job she is doing. The board was asked to go over the audit, if there are questions, they will be answered at the next meeting before the audit report is approved.

Resident brings idea
Bob Bixler, St. Francis resident, had brought a CD concerning the renovation of the Oakley movie theater. Mr. Schiltz said several businessmen had purchased the theater, and renovations were made. The operation of the theater was turned over to the school's entrepreneur class and they take care of everything from ordering the movies to selling tickets and concessions. Mr. Schiltz thought it was a good idea but, at this time, the school did not have such a class or an instructor for it. Mary Beth Miller, president, asked if there is a class where students learned business practices such as balancing a checkbook. Hoag Carmichael, principal, said Lyn Wiley's career class was very good at teaching students business strategies.

Monetary gifts accepted
The board accepted an additional \$400 from the Gordon and Betty Orth Memorial to be used for a music scholarship. They also accepted \$582 from the Nex-Tech Wireless rebate program.

Board policies reviewed
The board and administration reviewed four board policies. Mr. Schiltz said he plans to present policies each month unless there is a big agenda. The policies reviewed concerned school directories, the publication of board meetings, Citizen Advisory Committees and volunteer aids. While the school directories were not in "bound volumes," they are easily accessible. Bonnie Zwegardt, board member, asked if, in today's world, releasing a lot of the information was legal? Mr. Schiltz said he would look into it and report back at the next meeting. Information and agendas are presented to the newspaper each month so this policy was being met. As far as Citizen Advisory Committees, Mr. Schiltz and Mr. Carmichael will check into the committees and places where committees might be needed and report back at the February meeting. Mr. Schiltz said it is a violation of the Kansas State High School Activities Association rules to have volunteer coaches.

In other business:
• Mr. Schiltz said the new stage curtains at the grade school have been installed at a cost of \$5,364.
• The board approved accepting the new Internal Revenue Service's privately-owned automobile rate. The rate went from \$.585 per mile and will now be \$.50 per mile.
• The Meet-and-Confer Committee with both board members and teachers will meet at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Board members serving on the committee are John Knodel and Derrick Tice.

Next meeting
The next board meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan 11, in the board room at the high school.

Emergency medical technician class
Mrs. Bowers said there is only one first responder interested in taking an emergency medical technician bridge class in Colby. While there is no cost for the class, it will last 3.5 months and will involve several evenings a week and many weekends. She had contacted Rawlins County to see if there was anyone interested in the class so a car pool could be established, however, there was no one.

The commissioners asked Mrs. Bowers to contact Sherman County officials and see if there might be someone there interested in the class and carpooling. Andy Beikman, commissioner, suggested that Mrs. Bowers talk to Les Lacy, hospital administrator, to see if one of the first responders working at the hospital might be interested and maybe something could be arranged with their work schedule and hourly pay. If no one can be found, then the commissioners agreed that they would work out something to make sure the person taking the class would be reimbursed for mileage. She said anyone interested in taking an emergency medical technician class or bridge class in Colby should contact her at 785-332-8888. The class starts Feb. 1.

State ambulance inspection
Mrs. Bowers said there would be a state ambulance inspection on Tuesday. Everything, she said,



ABC PRESCHOOL children took a trip to the fire house. Talking to them is fireman, Matt Smull. Pictured (l to r) are Jordan Smull, Jayce Landers, Preston Witzel, Ben Busse, Matthew Berens, Ellee Krien and Molly Gilliland (behind) Bree Nichol.

Ambulance runs reported

By Karen Krien
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At the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, the county ambulance department director reported on the number of ambulance runs which had been made last year as well as those made in December.

Janelle Bowers, ambulance department director, said a total of 268 transports had been made last year. Of that number, 211 were made by the St. Francis ambulance and 57 were made by the Bird City ambulance. There were 318 runs made in 2008; 272 runs in 2007; and 302 runs in 2006. There were \$28,994 write off or insurance adjustments made last year. In 2008, there were \$37,604 in adjustments. Mrs. Bowers said as long as there is Medicare or Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance, there is going to be adjustments in the money collected — they will not pay the full amount. In December, there were just 15 runs with St. Francis making 13 and Bird City making the other two. There was a total of \$967 made in write offs.

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needs to be very clean inside and outside. Inspectors will also go over the ambulance department's books. Mrs. Bowers said she was applying for a grant to purchase two defibrillators for the larger ambulances in Bird City and St. Francis. If the grant is received, the two older defibrillators will be moved to the smaller ambulances. That way, Mrs. Bowers said, it will give all the ambulances the same equipment. On Jan. 14, Mrs. Bowers said she will be gone but Reid Raile will be covering for her.

Executive session
Mrs. Bowers asked for 10 minutes executive session to discuss financial matters of the third person. Commissioner Beikman also wanted 5 minutes to discuss personnel.

911 communication report
Jen Padgett, communication director, reported there had been a total of 662 911 calls made to the dispatch office in 2009 — about two a day. The total of administrative calls was 14,916. She said she would like to order one wireless head set which costs \$349. She would like to have another for the other work station but will see how this works out. She said they have a 10-hour talk line and the user can talk up to 300-feet away. An alternative would be to buy a high-end cordless phone which would cost about the same. The commissioners approved the purchase of the wireless headset. Mrs. Padgett said she had put an ad in the newspapers advertising for a full-time person in the office. She will be interviewing around Jan. 22 and asked that a commissioner sit

in on the interview. Commissioner Dale Patten said he would be there. Mrs. Padgett also asked for executive session to discuss personnel. No decisions were made when coming out of session.

Vouchers questioned
The commissioners, as they reviewed the vouchers beginning the first of the year to the meeting date, asked to see several. Vouchers questioned included one to River Valley Ranch for \$312 for water. The other was Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation for \$490 for maintaining the elevator. Clerk Terry Miller said the person who comes to the courthouse does work on the elevator and it is a required service.

In other business:
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• The commissioners agreed to have Drew Flemming serve on the county fair board.
• Dolores Jenik, county treasurer, was approved to attend a Kansas Counties Treasurer's Association meeting Feb. 10-12 in Topeka.
• The commissioners agreed to sell the old ambulance being stored at the Bird City firehouse at sealed bids to be submitted to the county clerk by Jan 28. See ad on classified page.
• Shelley Christensen, maintenance, was moved from level two to level three on the pay scale.
• The reorganization was held throughout the meeting and completed following the regular meeting.

Next meeting
The next meeting of the commissioners will be Friday, Jan. 29, starting at 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Obituaries

Edna B. Byerly
Nov. 13, 1917 - Dec. 30, 2009

Edna B. Byerly, 92, of Loveland, Colo., died on Dec. 30, 2009. She was born Nov. 13, 1917, in St. Francis, Kan.

For 30 years, Edna worked as a nurses' aide at a local nursing home. She enjoyed her work and was a loving caretaker to the patients. After she retired, she enjoyed many interests. She loved to babysit for many of her friends and family members. She was always willing to lend a helping hand. She enjoyed volunteering at the Berthoud Senior Center for several years. She also participated in many activities at the Loveland Senior Center. She loved spending time with her daughter. They were always on the go. Edna liked going shopping for all the holidays, especially Easter. She was a collector, but mainly of Teddy bears and angels. Friends and family will miss her laughter. She was loved by many and will be sadly missed. Edna is survived by her children, Bob Byerly and wife, Judy, Dottie

Curtis and husband, Jim, Dan Byerly and friend, Colleen Brown, all of Loveland and Gary Byerly of Johnstown, Colo. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Steve Byerly and wife, Kari of Kansas, Lori Girard and husband, Paul and their children, Gehrig, Madison and Cameron, of Virginia, Shelley Byerly of Arizona, Luke McDonald and daughter, Hailey of Colorado; Debbie Anderson and her children, Jason Byerly, Darryl Anderson and Caitlin Anderson of Colorado; brothers, Bill Krien and wife, Leone of St. Francis, Oscar Krien of Loveland and Paul Krien of St. Francis; and many nieces and nephews throughout the country. She is also survived by loving friends, Nancy Johnson of Ohio and Art and Sarah Cushing of Loveland. She was preceded in death by her husband, George R. Byerly, and several brothers and one sister. Cremation has taken place. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Other survivors include his children, Janet Johnson (Kris), Meridee Westjord (Eirik), Jon Hass (Darla); eight grandchildren, Ryan and Wesley Johnson, Nora and Aleksander Westjord, Nicole, Kara, Jacob and Michael Hass; his siblings, Howard Hass and Patti Hallstrom of Minnesota.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 11 at the Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka. Private interment was at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery, Topeka. Memorial contributions may be made to Topeka Lutheran School, 701 Roosevelt, Topeka, KS 66606.

Vernon Frederick William Hass
Jan. 16, 1929 - Jan. 5, 2010

Vernon Frederick William Hass, 80, of Topeka, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010. He was born Jan. 16, 1929, in Little Falls, Minn., the son of Walter L. and Johanna Hass. He was a graduate of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb. He taught for 43 years in Lutheran schools in Nebraska, Michigan, Arkansas and Kansas, retiring in 1994 at Topeka Lutheran School. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. Vernon married Donna Kellner on June 13, 1964, in St. Francis. She survives.

Other survivors include his children, Janet Johnson (Kris), Meridee Westjord (Eirik), Jon Hass (Darla); eight grandchildren, Ryan and Wesley Johnson, Nora and Aleksander Westjord, Nicole, Kara, Jacob and Michael Hass; his siblings, Howard Hass and Patti Hallstrom of Minnesota. Memorial services were held on Jan. 11 at the Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka. Private interment was at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery, Topeka. Memorial contributions may be made to Topeka Lutheran School, 701 Roosevelt, Topeka, KS 66606.

HEAT

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exploration projects in Wyoming and Colorado. Ms. Gries started the company in 1992 and reformed the business in 1995. She started with 12 wells and is now up to 124 wells in the county. Ms. Gries has a bachelor's degree in geology from Colorado State University and a master's degree from University of Texas, Austin. She has been a geologist for over 35 years and prior to that, for 2.5 years, taught beginning geology at Wichita State University. Others working with Ms. Gries are Melissa Gray, business direc-

tor; Jessica Andrews of LaRana Resources LLC, contract administrator; and Kevin Andrews of LaRana Resources LLC, contract field operations manager. Ms. Gries said the Energy Assistance Program will continue as long as the company can afford to do so and expects the program to be a long-term project. Anyone needing assistance may call (303) 296-3435 or (970) 354-7495. People may also stop by the various locations listed in the advertisement in this issue of the paper. Remember, applications are due in Priority's office no later than Feb. 14.

TAX

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county clerk. Those needing a blank Intangibles Tax Form 200, may obtain one online at <http://ksrevenue.org/formsint.htm> or from the County Clerk's office at the courthouse in St. Francis. Your income tax preparer is aware of the changes, Mr. Miller said, and should handle them for you.

Those preparing their own taxes and are required to file the Intangibles Form 200, and mail it to Cheyenne County Clerk, PO Box 985, Saint Francis, KS 67756. "We're sorry for all the confusion," Mr. Miller said. "The state did little to prepare us for this change. In fact, it caught our office by surprise. Feel free to call and we'll try to resolve any confusion."

Student News

Sterling College
Addie Swihart and Lauren Zwegardt of St. Francis, were recently named to the Sterling College Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester. Swihart is a junior and is the daughter of Bruce and Shirley Swihart. Zwegardt is a sophomore and is the daughter of Kary and Kim Zwegardt. They were two of 186 students named to the college's dean's list for the fall semester. Criteria for making the dean's list includes the completion of at least 12-graded credit hours and a cumulative and semester grade point average of 3.5 or better.

Published in the Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, January 14, 2010. (2)

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

	09/30/2009		12/31/2009
	BALANCE	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
General	\$252,907.29	\$989,979.45	\$768,856.11
Road & Bridge	\$345,974.82	\$194,175.43	\$77,303.01
Bridge Building	\$10,464.48	\$31,510.51	\$46,609.01
Noxious Weed	\$24,639.22	\$6,772.15	\$517.83
Noxious Weed Special	\$8,731.70	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rural Fire	\$19,670.02	\$8,061.59	-\$495.41
Hospital	\$27,432.65	\$57,755.29	\$100,145.64
Motor Vehicle Fund	\$11,766.85	\$18,399.60	\$6,632.75
Attorney Fund	\$555.00	\$20.50	\$18.00
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$702,142.03	\$1,306,674.52	\$999,586.94
			\$395,054.45

A detailed statement of expenditures is available for public inspection at the county clerk's office. Copies of such statement shall be available upon request. K.S.A. 19-228

Terry Miller
Cheyenne County Clerk

Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

This year may be especially difficult for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with **part** of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants. CCEAP Applications will be available starting Monday, January 11, 2010 at the following locations:

St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
City Office
St. Francis Equity Co-Op
BANKWEST, First National Bank and Western State Bank

Bird City - City Office
Frontier Ag
First National Bank

SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
Priority Oil & Gas LLC
&
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