

# Council talks about vacation hours

By Peggy Horinek  
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Vacation hours for the city employees was the main topic of discussion at the Jan. 25 St. Francis City Council meeting. Employees have received two weeks of paid vacation after one year of service and

it remained that yearly until they had been there 10 years. After lengthy discussion on various alternatives, it was approved for the following schedule: after one year of service an employee will receive two weeks of paid vacation, after reaching their fifth year, they will then receive 96

hours of paid vacation time and after their 10th year, 120 hours of paid vacation time. There would not be another increase until their 20th year when it would be 144 hours.

Also discussed was the employees other paid time off. They receive one-half day off the day before

Thanksgiving and one half day on Christmas Eve. All the holidays average out to about 72 hours of paid time off per year.

## Development Corporation

An e-mail had been received from the Cheyenne County Development Corporation with a general discussion of what Chuck Krebs, director, had been doing and it was nice to have some input. They also asked for the money that was budgeted for the corporation. It has, in the past, been paid in two installments of \$2,500 but the council decided to go ahead and pay the full \$5,000 now.

## Other business

Noble Energy and Prairie Rose applied for business incentives for their businesses. Noble Energy has asked for \$100 per month for 12 months and Prairie Rose has asked for \$100 a month for 6 months. When asked why the difference, it was stated that it was because of the number of employees they hired.

City Superintendent, J.R. Landenberger reported that there is a tandem truck in Topeka which has a blade on the front and a spreader in the back that they can buy for \$14,000. The truck they bought there previously has been a great truck. The council approved.

He also asked the council if he could purchase three 8-foot plastic picnic tables. The cost is \$579 each totalling \$1,737 and they will deliver. The purchase was approved.

Shane Guggenmos, chief of police, reported they had a busy month. He was happy to report that one crime had been solved the following day. He has located two vehicles with low mileage that he would like to purchase to replace the two Crown Victoria's. The money has already been budgeted.

The next city council meeting will be Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.



Gavin Rosales



Gabriel Rosales

## Twins celebrate first birthday

Gavin and Gabriel Rosales celebrated their first birthdays on Nov. 7.

They are the identical twin great grandsons of Harold and Pat Madson of St. Francis. Their grand-

parents are Bob and Rita Owens of Sterling, Colo. Parents of the lads are Joseph and Sarah Rosales of Sterling. Christian is their 9 year-old big brother.

## Introducing

### Mackinley Grace Rhoden

Mackinley Grace Rhoden, daughter of Jeff and Kristy Rhoden, was born at 8:03 a.m., Dec. 1, 2009, at Hays Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 18.5-inches long. Big brother, JT, welcomed her home.

Grandparents are Terry and Arlene Stecklein, Dodge City, Charlotte and Martin Hilt, St. Francis, and Brad and Marla Rhoden, Topeka. Fern Rhoden of WaKeeney is a great-grandmother.



Mackinley Grace Rhoden



MAKING VALENTINE POSTERS were (l to r) Christina Hilt, Jodi Hilt and Shayla Hilt. The music students will soon be delivering singing Valentines.

## Students earn coupons for being kind to others

For the last two months, there have been many students with exceptionally good manners and doing kind things for others. When recognized, they received a Kindness coupon to be hung on the bulletin board in the school.

At the end of January, 74 coupons were awarded to students. The January winner for the Kindness coupons was kindergarten student, Bailey Workman, who received her coupon for helping another student. She will choose a prize from the PTA Spirt Shop.

Receiving Kindness coupons makes everyone strive to be better citizens, said Shirley Swihart, Bailey's teacher. Children are looking for opportunities to help others.

The fourth graders did exceptionally well with 17 receiving coupons.

The fourth grade teacher, Becky McAtee, recognized her class for being a "deserving class!" The Kindness coupons, she said, make my students more aware of good behavior and using their manners.

Lynette Nolan, fifth grade teacher, said the coupons make the teachers more conscious of positive behavior and it draws our attention to it.

There were 11 students receiving more than one coupon. Those earning two coupons were Kylee Reiser, McKenna Poling, Seth Prentice, Kaitlin Patton, Brady Dinkel, Erika Ramos, Hanna Bracelin, Katie Schmid and Marlo Jensen. Kenny Adams and Connor McBride each received three.

Students receiving coupons were: Kindergarten-Bailey Workman, Mia Morrow, Kylee Reiser, McKenna Poling, Lyden Lampe and Taiya Hicks.

First grade-Colton Neitzel, Stephanie Meyer, Seth Prentice, Doyle Easter, Chris Leibbrandt and Josh Van Allen.

Second grade-Cassie Cooks, Marlo Jensen, Rylan Doyle, Dakota Morris, Kaitlin Patton, Shelby Bean, Brady Dinkel, Seth Hilt, Trenton Bartels, Alondra Gomez



Bailey Workman

and Perla Yanez.

Third grade-Jorge Olivares, Bob Havel, Joslyn Ketzner, Lauren Johnson, Wyatt Hilt and Connor Keller.

Fourth grade-McKenna Bartels, Jylian Laten, Erika Ramos, Emiliegh Dinkel, Zoe Sundstrom, Jessica Pacheco, Kenny Adams, Sayed Fierro, Madison Tice, Hanna Bracelin, Matthisen Witzel, Devin Patton and Reagan Beims.

Fifth grade-Connor McBride, Joel Hill, Trey Van Allen, Makayla Rogers, Sophie White, Jenna Confer, Taylor Rogers, Katie Schmid, JR Landenberger, Kenny Leibbrandt and Ryan Grover.

Sixth grade-Austin Patton, Travis Rogers, Hannah Wolff and Blake Meyer.

"It's fun to see kids getting positive feedback and responding to it," said Robin Burr, resource room teacher.

## Student plays in honor band

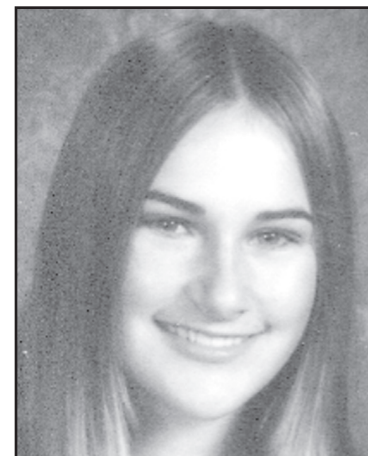
Sarah Whitmore has been selected to play flute in the Red Band in the Kansas John Philip Sousa Honor Band, a statewide honor band open to students in grades six through nine.

Participants in the band are selected by audition and are among the most-talented middle level musicians in the state of Kansas. Over 350 students auditioned this year.

This was Sarah's second year to be chosen for the honor band. Competition was stiff, with musicians from large as well as small school districts across the state auditioning for a coveted chair in the band.

Sarah spent several weeks practicing and perfecting the music for the honor band. She then traveled to the University of Kansas on Jan. 22 and 23 where she rehearsed with fellow honor band members Friday evening and Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, she performed in a public concert at the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus. The band was under the direction of Dr. Craig Fuchs, director of bands at Pittsburg State University.

Sarah is a music student of



Whitmore

Debbie Fiala, music director at St. Francis Community High School. She also receives private instruction from Neal Russell, retired band director in Oberlin.

## CRUMBLING

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Miller suggested that the original courthouse plans be looked at.

The commissioners agreed that the water problem needed to be corrected as soon as possible. Because the courthouse is designated as a historical site, it is possible to get a grant to help with the expenses.

### Courthouse doors

Ms. Christensen and Mr. Miller talked about the locks on the top side doors and the west doors of the courthouse.

Before the steps were replaced, the top side doors were rarely used, so they were left locked. Currently, the doors have to be unlocked with a screw driver.

Now that the steps are replaced,

many people use the side doors so they are unlocked each day. Mr. Miller thought that installing locks that were opened with keys would be easier to open and safer.

The pivot hinges on the west doors are old and weak. When the wind blows, it catches the doors, making them almost impossible to lock.

The cost runs between \$220 and \$240 for all four hinges. To get locks and keys for the front doors will cost \$286. The commissioners said to go ahead with the repairs.

The commissioners also approved for Ms. Christensen to purchase the needed equipment for stripping the wax off the floors. She will get two bids and bring them back at the next meeting.

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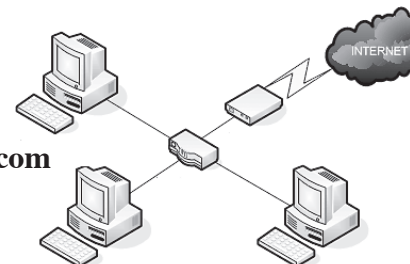
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