



# The Saint Francis Herald

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**FUTURE POM PON TEAM** — Fourth and fifth graders performed during the basketball halftime on Friday. Pictured, left to right, are: Mallery Mills, Madison Tice, Reagan Beims, Dominique Johnston, Adalene Krutsinger, Hanna Bracelin, Makayla Rogers, Jenna Confer, Jylian Laten, McKinnley Bartels and Matthisen Witzel. *Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston*

## Crumbling foundation causes concern

By Karen Krien

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There could be foundation trouble on the east side of the courthouse.

The commissioners, at the Friday meeting, listened as Shelley Christensen, maintenance, told them about pulling out the bookcases in the extension office and find-

ing deteriorating plaster and mold. The commissioners asked clerk, Terry Miller, to contact Eric Johnson, the architect who worked on the courthouse front steps or Don McMican, the engineer currently working with Anderson County. Anderson County has the same problem and is currently under construction.

The courthouse is considered a historical site and anything that needs changing in anyway needs to be approved by the Kansas State Historical Society.

Ms. Christensen said she had cleaned the mold but it had come back. She had talked to Dana Belshe, agricultural agent with the Sunflower District Extension District, who

had told her that the ground is sloping back to the building instead of away. There are also bushes planted near the building and they need to be planted at least two feet from the wall.

When a building has a portion that is underground, that portion needs to have a water-proofing sealer. It is possible that, when

the courthouse was built, no sealer was applied.

There is also one other area that could be causing problems. It was suggested that the drain on the top of the roof could be blocking the flow of water.

See **CRUMBLING** on Page 5

## Public forum set for Monday

By Casey McCormick

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An informational forum will be held on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., in the Saint Francis high school auditorium. The topic of the evening will be "State Funding Cuts - How will they affect Cheyenne County?"

With the state caught in a financial crunch and population levels on the decline, many are seeking answers to where the county is going. The forum should help individuals better understand the relationship between our government and several area operations. These are the entities that rely on

state taxes to operate.

Representatives planning to attend are Rob Schiltz, superintendent of the St. Francis schools, Les Lacy, administrator of the Cheyenne County Hospital, and Dr. Mary Beth Miller, medical director of the Good Samaritan Village. In addition, Dale Patton will be representing the Cheyenne County Commissioners.

A local organization, Community Builders, is sponsoring the forum.

The Builders hope the forum draws families with children, older citizens and others concerned about the future of this county.

## Legislators visit county on Feb. 13

Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, and John Faber, Kansas Representative, will be visiting local communities including Bird City on Feb. 13 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the American Legion hall.

They will be seeking ideas on issues being addressed in the 2010 Kansas Legislature. Information will be presented from many of the issues being considered and

discussion will be held on anticipated issues and their impact.

Everyone is invited to attend. Cheyenne County Farm Bureau will provide donuts and coffee.

Later that day, they will be in Atwood from 9:45 to 10:45 at Williams Brothers Grocery Store. From 11:30 to 1 p.m., they will be at the Decatur County Courthouse in Oberlin, then on to Norton.



**LOUANNE ISERNHAGEN** entertained the audience on her violin during the annual Kansas Day activities held in Bird City on Friday. In the background, the St. Francis Singers are also pictured. *Herald staff photo by Linda Ketzner*

## Board proceeds with plans

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Airport is in good working order after the renovation which was completed at the end of November. The cement gives the runway a good surface. It was also widened to 75 feet and the runway lights were installed.

Dave Yost, president of the Airport Authority, and Richard Grace, co-manager of the airport, met with the commissioners on Friday to update them on the timeline of the next steps in lengthening the runway to 5,200 feet. The cost for this project is estimated at \$1.7 million with the local 5-percent matching funds being \$85,000.

Mr. Yost said the design and aeronautical survey needs to be done by December. The completion of the project is planned for 2011.

Mr. Yost went over what the project will cost and how much money will be accumulated in the fund for the runway by the completion date. He said the engineer had figured the extension runway costs about 25 percent higher so there is a cushion. He is sure there will be enough money available but will be constantly monitoring the money making sure there is enough and will keep the commissioners informed.

They discussed delaying the project if necessary but Commissioner Dale Patton said once a project is delayed, the costs go up. Commissioner Andy Beikman noted that the project has progressed this far and he would like to see it stay on track.

Mr. Yost said there is a grant available for buying equipment for snow removal for the airport runway. The grant, he said, will pay for 95 percent of the equipment with the county paying for only 5 percent.

The commissioners agreed that it would be nice to take advantage of the grant. Mr. Grace said there was room at the airport to house the equipment. Mr. Yost will write up the bid specs and get them back to the commissioners so they can get several bids. They will discuss the purchase at a later meeting.

## Students deliver singing Valentines

Music students at St. Francis Community High School are once again preparing to deliver "Singing Valentine Telegrams." This year most deliveries will be made on Friday, Feb. 12, as Valentine's Day falls in the middle of the President's Day three-day weekend.

A singing Valentine consists of a helium-filled balloon with a small bag of candy and a love song. An additional gift (small plush Valentine animal, larger bag of candy, etc.) can be included for a few extra dollars.

The students who are participating in the singing Valentine proj-



ect will be using the proceeds to attend a dinner theatre production in Boulder on April 1.

Order forms for singing Valentines are available in posters at the high school office, the post office bulletin board, and St. Francis Supers. High school vocal, band and advanced music students can also take orders and answer questions about the project.

Check the advertisement in this issue for more information.



**TREVOR REED** presents a rose to Jacquelyn Ketzner. *Photo courtesy of Debbie Fiala*