

HEAT

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The clerk was asked to send a letter to the St. Francis council to see if there were some heating issues. They also offered to up the monthly amount from \$375 to \$450 and the city would pay \$150. They thought that this would give the fund enough money to pay the utility bills.

The matter will be addressed at a future meeting when there is more information.

Insurance and the airport

A great deal of time was spent with the commissioners going over insurance costs with Kelly Frewen and Roxie Neitzel. Dave Yost, Airport Authority president, and Robert Grace, Grace Flying Service and airport manager, were concerned about the coverage of the Cheyenne County Airport — they wanted to know just what was covered and who was responsible. Everyone agreed that there were some gray areas but they also felt that the questions should be addressed now, before something should happen.

Clerk Terry Miller was asked to check with the Kansas Association of Counties' attorney for a definition of "airport authority" and see if the county's airport qualifies as one. The matter was tabled until there is more information.

Emergency medical service report

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, and Gary Winters, emergency medical technician trainer, Kanorado, talked about a training class for technicians which would start shortly. Mr. Winter's contract for \$7,700 was signed. Mrs. Bowers has applied for a grant which will pay \$915 for each of the five students taking the class.

The class will be held at the Emergency Building.

Insurance write-offs for \$2,354.63 were signed.

Mrs. Bowers talked about the funding cuts made on ambulance runs. A local ambulance run is \$411. Medicaid will pay only \$137 and Medicare will pay only \$254. Supplemental insurance, if there is any, will pay \$63. Medicaid cuts have been made and for each local ambulance run costing \$411.22, Medicaid will only pay \$137.25. Medicare will only pay \$254.27 and supplemental insurance, if any, will pay \$63.57.

Communication department report

Jennifer Padgett, communication director, talked about installing a new radio console for \$22,861. She has a grant for \$13,260, but \$9,601 is still needed. There is some money in the communication budget but \$7,000 is still needed. The E-911 funds raised by taxes collected on phones can be used but there isn't that much money in the fund — possibly later in the year, there will be enough. The grant, she said, is good until the end of the year.

She said Terry Rieger had been hired as a 911 dispatcher, starting at Level I.

Mower bids

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had three bids for a mower. Yost Farm Supply, St. Francis, had a bid of \$8,162; Goodland Greenline, Wheeler, \$10,000; and Ag Power Equipment Company, Goodland, \$9,600. The Yost bid was accepted.

Mr. Flemming was given approval to get bids for sealing the old Wheeler Road (Road O).

Danny Schlittenhardt, county noxious weed and prairie dog department, is retiring. Mr. Flemming and Robert Simminger, independent noxious weed and prairie dog contractor, talked about contracting the job of getting rid of noxious weeds and prairie dog instead of replacing Mr. Schlittenhardt. No decision was made.

In other business

In other business:
• The commissioners agreed to maintain the policy of not paying

an employee the cost of health insurance if the employee chooses not to participate in the county's health insurance plan.

• The commissioners decided to not pay the Kansas County Commissioner Association dues of \$165.

Next meeting

The next meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Friday in the commissioners' room in the courthouse, St. Francis.

Editor's note: Part of the above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the Feb. 16 commissioners' meeting.

BUILDERS

Continued from Page 1A

The consensus of the group was the legislators, Sen. Ralph Ostmeier and Rep. John Faber, had got the message that the people were concerned. It was pointed out that people there also realized the importance that an individual can make a difference and together (10 percent of Cheyenne County's population) makes quite an impression.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller said she didn't think the legislators had done their homework before coming. Mr. Lacy talked about having Dale Dennis with the Kansas Association of School Boards making up a spread sheet on school finance similar to the sheet that Mr. Ostmeier handed out only this one would be correct.

Mr. Ostmeier had also told Mr. Schiltz that he would get back to him with new school funding figures and, Mr. Schiltz said he had not heard from him.

Mr. Bolin said that, if school funding is cut, then staff and programs are cut, then test scores go down as do the students' performance.

The comment was made, "Do the legislators really believe the state hasn't made cuts or do they think we are not smart enough to see the figures don't match up?"

Mr. Lacy said we all have connections with other groups and suggested that the information be carried to those entities. Mr. Keller suggested contacting Farm Bureau. Several people volunteered to go to the next Cheyenne County Farm Bureau meeting on March 4.

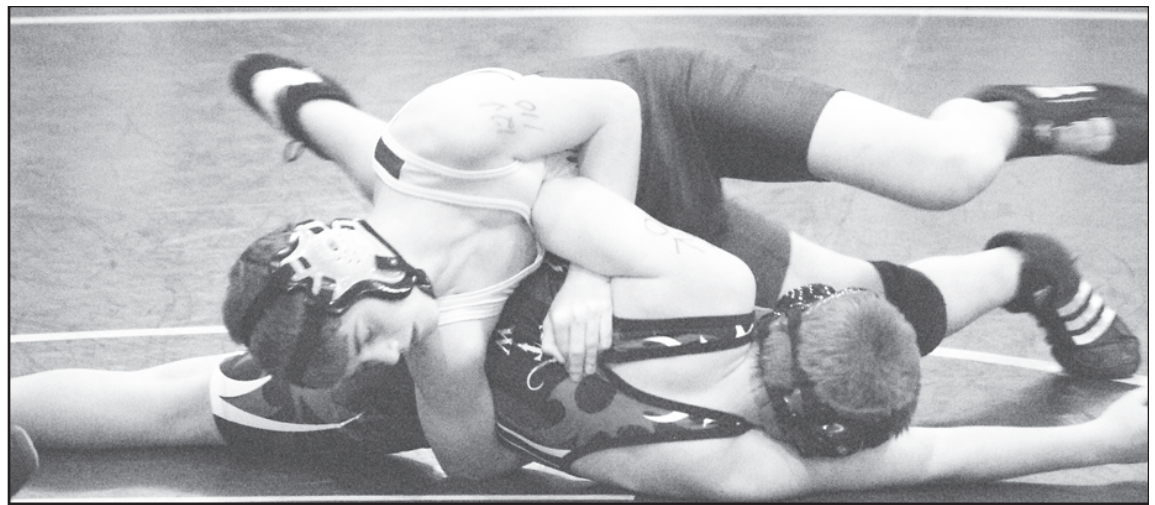
Others also had suggestions which will be followed up on.

Following up on legislators was also discussed. They all agreed that it was necessary to continue writing, calling and/or e-mailing Mr. Ostmeier, Mr. Faber and Speaker Mike O'Neal.

Politics are politics, said Dr. Miller, but it is the grassroots people who will make the difference. People from all over Northwest Kansas need to be active in contacting legislators and being informed.

Mr. Keller agreed and said we now need to spread out to all these areas. There is a public meeting set for Saturday in Goodland. It was suggested that everyone who can attend the meeting.

In finalizing the meeting, members agreed to have letters to the editor written, talk to people one on one and to groups, encourage everyone to contact their legislators between now and the end of April, and plan a meeting with the legislators before the end of April.



GARRETT BRUNK, top, was working on pinning his opponent. Photo courtesy of Shawna Blanka

Young wrestlers compete

The Oakley Kansas Kids wrestling tournament was on Saturday, Feb. 13, and there were six St. Francis wrestlers competing against 230 other wrestlers from Kansas and Colorado. There were several eight-man brackets at this

tournament.
St. Francis results include:
6 and under: Brody Kaup, 49 pounds, third place; Shadryon Blanka, 67 pounds, placed first.
8 and under: Garin Cooper, 61 pounds, participated; Cody Bax-

ter, 70 pounds, placed fifth.
10 and under: Luke Lampe, 85 pounds, placed third.
12 and under: Garrett Brunk, 110 pounds, placed second.

Student wins essay contest

Dylan Wolaver, a ninth grader at St. Francis Community High School was selected as the third place winner in the High School Exposition Division of the writing contests sponsored by The Writing Conference Inc.

The essay was to describe an example of courage with the obstacles encountered that would describe a person as a hero. There were 182 entries for the contest and Dylan was selected third out of 47 entries. There were 15 to 20 different states represented. The first place winner was from Denver; and the second place winner was from Columbia, Mo.

"I am very proud of Dylan," said Lisa Gibson, his English teacher.

This essay, she said, is definitely written from the heart which he shows a strong example of courage! Hopefully, his essay can be an example for other teenagers that, with courage and faith, there is hope for a better tomorrow.

Dylan will receive a plaque commemorating his essay and an invitation to attend The Cel-

ebration of Writing Reception on April 21 in Ottawa. He will also have his winning essay published in *The Writer's State*, an on-line journal of writing for students and teachers.

My childhood

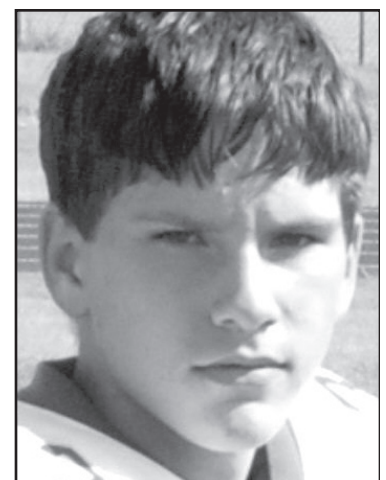
By Dylan Wolaver

In your childhood have you ever had to live in a household surrounded by smokers and drug users? Have you ever had to move from place to place every year so your parents wouldn't get caught by the police using drugs? Have you ever seen your mother go into shock because she has epilepsy? I have lived through all these situations. I even got abandoned by my mother at age seven and spent two years in a foster home. It took a lot of courage to live through these situations. In this essay, I will let you look into my life and see the kind of courage I have used to get through my dreadful childhood.

Everyday after elementary school I would walk into the place I was living in and wonder if I was going to eat that day. Sometimes I didn't have anything to eat at home that night or the next day. Yet, I still found a place to eat whether it was at my friend's house or at a neighbor's house.

There is one thing that still bothers me as a teenager is when my mother would go into shock because of her epilepsy. If you have ever seen someone go into shock because of epilepsy, you would know how bad it is. I would not even wish that on my worst enemy to have to see that.

When I was five, my father was arrested and put into prison for the third time in his life. This was not



Wolaver

good for him because he had to serve a longer prison sentence. He was arrested for the possession of drugs and theft. This just left me living with my mother. Today, my dad and I keep contact with each other through letters and phone conversations.

When I was about seven or eight, I was abandoned by my mother and put into a foster home. This is what I would consider the turning point in my life. I no longer had to walk into the house wondering if I was going to eat or be around the drugs. There was one drawback though. When I was abandoned, I had a severe case of depression and had to go to counseling for several years.

Since I was adopted by my grandparents in 2004, I have been a very happy person and leading a pretty successful life. It took a lot of courage to live through what I have lived through. With courage and determination you can live through just about anything. Do you have a story of courage and determination?

Junior varsity season ends

By Betty Jean Winston
betty.w@nwkansas.com

The season is over for the junior varsity boys basketball team and the boys C-team. They finished off the schedule on the home court by playing Cheylin and Quinter.

The junior varsity team defeated Cheylin 65-49 and fell to Quinter 79-36. The C-team played an exciting game with the Quinter Bulldog C-team but lost 43-40.

St. Francis vs Cheylin

Tyler Lauer scored 15 points in the junior varsity game with Cheylin. Nine other players contributed to the remaining 50 points.

St. Francis led the scoring at the end of each quarter with Lauer having six field goals and three free throws for the night.

Isaac Schiltz had two three-pointers in the second quarter

while Keegan Sherlock had one in the same period and Dylan Peter, one in the first quarter.
S 17 18 14 16 65
C 18 6 14 11 49

Scoring: Lauer 15, Peter 9, Matt Tygart 8, Cody Killingsworth 8, Jon Butler 7, Schiltz 6, Zach Zweggardt 4, Brooks Hobrock 4, Sherlock 3, Estrada 1.

St. Francis vs Quinter

Quinter took a 79-26 victory over St. Francis on Friday night.

Leading the scoring for the Indians were Z. Zweggardt and Schiltz with seven points each. Eight other players contributed to the scoring.

Sainty made 8-of-the-14 free throws attempted, along with hitting on 11 two-point shots and two three's.

S 6 14 7 9 36
Q 23 21 27 9 79

Scoring: Zweggardt 7, Schiltz 7, Butler 5, Lauer 4, Tygart 4,

Dillion Straub 2, Gavin Cooper 2, Hobrock 2, Peter 2, Killingsworth 1.

St. Francis C-team vs Quinter

Butler scored 10 points in this contest with six of them from the field and the other four at the line. All of his points came in the third period. There was only one successful three pointer in the game and it was from a shot by Joey McCormick in the first period.

Only three quarters were played in this contest.

Sainty had scoring problems in the second quarter, allowing Quinter to push ahead. Sainty never could catch up, even with a 19-point third quarter.

S 15 6 19 40
Q 13 16 14 43

Scoring: Butler 10, Sherlock 7, Straub 6, Tygart 6, McCormick 5, Cooper 4, Zweggardt 2.

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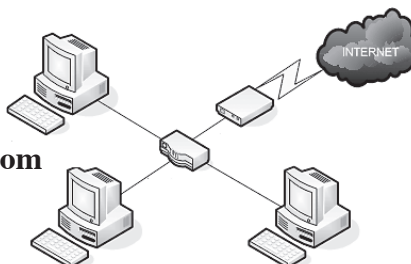
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