



KATHERINE JONES receives a bracelet from Horlacher Jeweler for winning the essay contest.

St. Francis resident wins 'Story of Your Life' contest

Katherine Jones, St. Francis, was the recent winner of the "Story of Your Life" essay sponsored by Horlacher Jewelers, Colby. She is the national winner for March.

Her winning essay is on display at the store. She received a \$350 bracelet.

Rebrandt Charms sponsors the "Story of Your Life," contest and each month, a winner along with several runners-up are selected. The winner receives a sterling silver bracelet and one charm selected from their story.

"We are well aware of the importance of symbolizing important moments in our lives with charms and other jewelry," said Jeff Horlacher, owner.

Katherine's essay follows:

My Life Story

By Katherine Jones

I'm not exactly Dorothy Gale. But I am from Kansas. And I

do often long for a whirlwind to whisk me away to the magical land of Oz.

My world is in sepia tone and is full of cattle and wheat and tractors and a never-ending expanse of flat brown land and cloudless sky. You have many beautiful mementos of my home state in your charm collection. But I do not wish to claim them as a part of my history. Instead, I wish to pay homage to that enchanted rainbow (rainbow charm) over which, "way up high" there rests a brilliant, technicolor land of mystery, wonder and song.

I am a curious student who reads constantly. I read fat books and skinny books and old books and new books and deep books and silly books (book charm). Between those "dog-eared" pages, I find the worlds outside the boundaries of my brown-hued reality.

When I was a bit younger, I all-too-briefly toured seven European countries as part of a student choir (treble clef). I loved Germany. We stayed in a medieval town with a great maze in the yard. I dream of that place, sometimes, with its great looming towers of well-aged stone and the tourist shops that sold swords and pewter dragons in their windows. I hold on to those memory/dreams longer than necessary, sometimes. I doubt I will ever see Germany again. Just sepia tone.

I am, you see, afraid to leave my world of wheat for a world of wonderment. The world is too big and too fierce. I wish I could be like a mighty lion, or a calm and confident tiger. But I am not prone to acts of bravery. I am a mouse. My friends and family do not like to see me so unassuming. They push me, with love. This charm is a reminder of their confidence in me (one day at a time charm). Perhaps I am capable of wearing the tiger's stripes (tiger charm)?

My friends say that I am lucky because I always do well whatever I put my mind to. While their logic is flawed, this is hard to argue, because I am, indeed, quite lucky (four leaf clover charm). I am lucky that I have lived to the ripe age of 20, despite being born three months too early on a freezing cold December day (December charm).

I am never late, even now (hour glass charm). I value my time too much; for fear that I might suddenly be yanked away from me. It is very possible I will never leave here for good. Perhaps I will forever be like Dorothy Gale, starting up at rainbows and wishing for "troubles melting like lemon drops." But I know that the world is out there (globe charm), waiting, calling, promising to push aside the sepia and reveal a universe of bright neon color and dreams that do not need to be held, because they simply last forever.

Council members study plans for digital equipment

By Karen Krien
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At the last meeting, Robert Grace, member of the Cheyenne Theater Committee, had talked to the council about digital equipment at the theater. At the Monday St. Francis City Council meeting, the matter of the equipment was once again on the agenda, along with the Scout Hut repairs.

The equipment is estimated to cost \$70,000 to \$100,000 which, the council considered to be a lot of money. Carla Lampe, council member, had looked at the Capital Improvement Fund. They decided that this fund is so earmarked to save money for the swimming pool. Oberlin, Goodland and Oakley has the equipment.

The council talked about putting aside \$25,000 a year but it would be three years and, still, a lot of money. Mrs. Lampe said she looked at the theater in much the same way as the swimming pool — while the city owns the pool, it will never pay for itself.

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, said that the theater serves a broader range of people. Paula Keller, council member, pointed out that older people have a place to see a movie without having to travel out of town. Yes, it is a good service to the community and county.

The council appeared to agree that they did not want to raise the price of tickets but felt that there needed to be some cost increase to help pay for improvements. Raising the price of concessions was suggested.

They noted that, when the theater needed other improvements, St. Francis high school alumni, headed by Penny Raile, former resident, had raised the needed money. Maybe there might be alumni who would be interested in donating.

Mrs. Keller suggested maybe there could be a fundraiser — that maybe there could be summer matinees? The idea of floating a revenue bond was quickly rejected.

Whatever they did, Dale Weeks, councilman, said he thought the council should start putting money away to update the theater equipment.

The council agreed that maybe the Theater Committee could also plan money-making projects. Mrs. Keller, who is a member of the Theater Committee, said she would take the council's wishes back to the committee.

Scout Hut repairs

Spring is here and a bid for repairing the roof of the Scout Hut, located south the swimming pool, had been submitted. Travis Milne with TJ Improvements, St. Francis, had two bids: shingles, \$4,900, and metal, \$5,147. Both bids included removing the old shingles.

After considerable discussion, the council agreed that a metal roof would probably last longer and voted to replace the roof with hunter green metal, giving the bid to Mr. Milne.

The door has been purchased but three windows need to be replaced. The council agreed to seek bids for the windows. The Scouts and leaders had indicated they will help with costs and labor. The council asked the clerk to send a letter to Scout leaders telling them about the plans that have been made and see where and how they plan to help.

Insurance collected from a hail storm which happened last summer will pay for part of the improvements.

Swimming pool report

Bruce Swihart, Swimming Pool Committee member and council member, said he had visited with Meredith Knodel who will teach the lifeguard certification and re-certification class. The date of the class is June 11 through June 13 with times and details to be worked out closer to the date. The class will be limited to 16 students and will cost \$30 for re-certification and \$35 plus materials for certification.

Mr. Swihart said he had an announcement made at the school and had several people talk to him about the class.

The pool will be closed on the days that class is in session.

Building permit

A building permit was granted for Gary Ferguson to build a carport on his property.

Superintendent's report

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, reported the playground equipment in the city park behind the courthouse was almost complete.

Trees on Main Street were again discussed. There had been a number of trees recommended but nothing had been decided. He suggested that the city crew start with 10 trees being planted randomly. No decision was made.

He said that there are three blocks where the city street will be completely redone: one on First

Street, and two on Jackson Street.

The brick sidewalk in places on Main Street have caused a problem. Mr. Landenberger said these areas have a lot of water running over them and they sink, causing the sidewalk to be uneven.

The area at the senior center had been replaced with concrete. Mr. Landenberger thought this would also be the best solution for fixing the area in front of St. Francis Super's. If the bricks are replaced, they will eventually sink and the same situation will occur.

Attorney's report

Attorney Mike Day had the deed written up for the property that Rob and Carla Schiltz are buying in the city's industrial area. The commissioners voted to authorize the mayor to sign the deed.

Chief of police report

Shane Guggenmos, police chief, reported that the officer who has been hired had closed on his house and will be in St. Francis next week. He and the council talked briefly about how many officers were needed and the number of hours that was needed to cover the town. No decision was made.

Mrs. Lampe suggested that if help was needed, maybe the city could work with the sheriff's officers. He said he would talk to the sheriff.

Clerk's report

Clerk, Mary Lampe, reported two "Dress-Down Day" checks had been received, one for \$113 which will be used for the playground equipment in the park. The other amount for \$125 will be put in the swimming pool fund.

Mrs. Lampe also noted that water meter bills have a sticker reminding St. Francis residents that their dogs need to be registered and tagged.

Council reports

Mrs. Lampe thanked the Chief Guggenmos for the many extra hours he has put in over the last three months.

Mr. Swihart was concerned about a recent confrontation with a former police officer and hoped that in the future, that would not happen again.

Chief Guggenmos said he was working on a policy concerning officers. Attorney Day said there was already a policy in place and it had been followed in the incident.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the city council will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, at city hall on Main Street.

Fun night planned as fund-raising event

Bird City's 125-year celebration is just around the corner. The last fund-raising event before the celebration on June 11, 12, and 13 will take place on May 6.

The Cheylin elementary students, first through sixth grades, are going to kick off a night of fun and excitement with a fast-paced game of dodge ball in the Cheylin gymnasium beginning at 5 p.m. Following will be "Court Night" with the Cheylin Alumni basketball game.

The basketball game will be refereed by two of Bird City's distinguished citizens. In addition to the referees, a special guest announcer will be at both games. Students will be admitted to the games free.

For the guys who are interested in playing for the alumni

team, contact Wade Carmichael at 785-734-2494. And for the gals, contact Noel Ketzner at 785-694-1604.

Also at the event, a Mexican fajita dinner will be available with a choice of either chicken or beef. The meal will be served between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event will be sold at First National Bank, Century II Development Foundation, Peoples State Bank of McDonald, Bird City 125-Year Celebration Store in the Senior Center on Monday and at the door on the day of the games.

This will be the last time the community can show support for the upcoming celebration in June; everyone needs to be a part of the fun and food, and cheer on all the teams.

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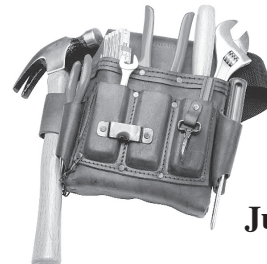
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Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

People of the Weeping Eye

By W. Michael Gear

Kathleen O'Neal Gear

People called Old White the "Seeker." A man never long with any people or place, he had wandered for years, leaving a trail of war, wonder and broken love in his wake. Now he is headed home called back by visions of chaos, blood, and fire. But there is more to the Seeker than most know. He

is a man driven by a secret so terrible it may topple the greatest city in North America.

When the far-off Katsinas told Old White it was time to go home, he had no idea that his journey would take him to the head of the Mississippi, where he would encounter the mystical Two Petals...a young woman obsessed with Spirit Power, who lives life backward. Two Petals will not be able to find her way out of the future, unless

Old White can heal the rift in her tortured soul. To do so, he will need the help of Trader, a loner consumed by his own dark past.

People of the Weeping Eye is an epic set against the might and majesty of the great Mississippian chiefdoms. The Gears have breathed new life into North America's forgotten heritage with a sweeping saga that will forever change your appreciation of our country.

MACHINERY AUCTION

Wednesday, May 12, 2010 @ 10 am CT

Auction Location: On the farm: 11.5 mi. South
St. Francis, Ks at the intersection of Road 14 & C
Greg & Julie Wolters & Etal, Sellers

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1990 John Deere 4455 Tractor w/ cab, air, 15 spd. Power shift trans., triple hyd., 18-4-38 axle mount duals w/ full set of front weights, 6,760 hrs., SN RW4455-PO11954; 1958 620 JD Gas Tractor, square wide front end, new rear tires, 3 pnt., power steering, nice condition, SN 6218794; 1992 9600 John Deere Combine, 30.5L-32 tires, 30.5L-32 tires, 3,191 sep. hrs., 4,889 eng. hrs., SN H09600X645833, w/ 930 JD Wheat head, 30"; 1982 Gleaner L2 Combine, Corn Soybean Special, hydro stat drive, big motor, 23-1-34 tires, no header, SN LK24513H; John Deere 7300 Max Emerge 2, 8 row, 30" Planter w/ Vacuum meter, insecticide Boxes w/ JD computer, trak, 250 Monitor, 3 pnt. w/ Markers SN H07300A107543; 1980 Chevy Cheyenne Truck Tandem Axle w/ 20, Knapheide Steel Box & Double Ram Hoist w/ Roll over tarp, 52" steel sides w/ 5 spd/2 spd trans., 366 gas motor, 900-20 tires, 51,642 mi.; 1994 Reinke All Aluminum Flat Bed Trailer, 48'x102" spread axle flat bed, air ride trailer; 2007 New Holland Baler, Model BR 780A, net or twine wrap, Xtrasweep; 2002 New Holland 1475 Hydro Swing Haybine Swather, 16', HS Series; 1999 Donahue 7'x24' Gooseneck Trailer, tandem axle; 7'x16' Hillsboro Gooseneck Double Axle Stock Trailer, rough; Pride of the Prairie 10 Bale Trailer, tandem axle, gooseneck; 30' Stock Trailer, gooseneck; John Deere 5820 Ensilage Cutter w/ 4 row head; Oliver 3 pnt. Roll over plow, 4 bottom; John Deere 3 pnt. Rotary Hoe, Model 400, 20'; Orthman Bean Rod, 4 row, Bean Knife; Speedy Bean Knife, 8 row; 20' Krause Offset Disc, Model 1499, SN 6178; 5'x5' Flex King Sweeps w/ new style pickers, like new blades; Orthman 8 Row Inner Row Ripper; Krause Model 1071 High Clearance Chisel, 15'; Many Vehicles & Trailers. Lots of Junk Iron!

Many More Items to Sell - Plan to Attend!

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