

# Local prepares for treasure hunt

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

Donna Northrup has been collecting and selling antiques, furniture and other items for 34 years. For many years, she had a shop near K-27 north of St. Francis. Then, in 1992., she and her husband, Norvin, moved to town and she had Country Collage, an antique shop, built.

The shop is full but tastefully arranged so people can browse for hours, looking in cupboards and china hutches as well as searching the shelves and corners.

She loves the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt. There are regular shoppers who start in St. Francis, then move east.

The event, she said, helps the town as well as the businesses and individuals wanting to sell items, whether it be antiques, collectibles or just stuff.

Mrs. Northrup has a shopper who comes from Oregon to visit a brother on east of St. Francis. He always buys and has become a friend through the years, she said.

Two years ago at the Treasure Hunt, two couples from Tennessee stopped in and they were

back last year and plan to be in St. Francis this year. They plan their vacation around the Treasure Hunt and they all enjoy looking for different items.

Mrs. Northrup has her shop ready for the start of the Treasure Hunt. She said many of her customers will stop by as early as Thursday. She is open through Saturday and closed Sunday.

What makes her stop the real treasure hunt is she is offering 20- to 50-percent off storewide. There is a variety of items ranging from antiques, to the 50s and 60s and a few unique newer items.

There are many salt and pepper shakers, decorator plates, blue and gray pottery, a huge case of glassware, Fenton glass items, quilts, linens ranging from the 1940s to the 1950s.

She has a number of Depression glass items however, she said, that glassware is becoming more difficult to find.

There is Fiesta ware, vintage lamps ranging from table to floor lamps; there are many different kinds of cookie jars and a collection of cups and saucers – the list goes on.

She finds a number of people



**DONNA NORTHRUP puts the finishing touches on items for sale during the US 36 Treasure Hunt.**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

interested in collecting table clothes from the 40s and 50s. Many of the table cloths are like new with bright colors. She said she had recently sold three and the woman hadn't decided what she was planning to do with them but one would most likely be a curtain.

Another man buys things used

in the 50s and has his home furnished with this era of décor.

Being in the antique business, Mrs. Northrup says she become acquainted with many people with many interests and many preferences and Country Collage has something for most of them. The shop is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

# Former student donates to school

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

Former St. Francis high school graduate and his wife had mailed another \$100 gift for the school.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz reported at the Thursday evening St. Francis Board of Education meeting that Michal and Renee Walker had given another \$100. Mr. Walker, a firm supporter of the St. Francis Schools, is a 2001 graduate. In the last three years, the Walkers have given \$1,700 to be used where the board and administration sees a need.

The board and administration talked about enrollment, bonuses for teachers as well as continuing the school year without raising additional tax dollars.

Mr. Schiltz reported that the enrollment was up. As of Sept. 9, there was one more student enrolled than last year. Even if it was only one student, the board indicated they were glad to see a positive figure instead of the drop in students as it has been the last several years.

Budget wise, Mr. Schiltz said, it doesn't mean much this year but

next year, the school will be able to use a three-year average which will help the budget. Mr. Schiltz also warned that, until the official enrollment date on Sept. 20, there could be some students leaving.

The board approved five out-of-district students to attend the St. Francis Schools. Tayton, Taighe and Talexa, children of Tracy and Pamela Weeter; and Jesse and Laramie, children of Jim and Missy Jenkins have already started school. Board policy requires that the board approve requests; the board also waived the tuition charges.

**Teacher bonuses/ Health insurance increases**

At the end of the last school year, there was uncertainty with the budget. Superintendent Schiltz suggested that, if there was enough money, teachers would be given a bonus.

Even with enrollment better than expected, Mr. Schiltz said, he could not recommend giving a bonus, especially when he looked at the new Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance increases.

The salary adjustment is some-

thing the board has done in the past when it was feasible. The matter was tabled until the next meeting and the board turned to dealing with the insurance hike.

Blue Cross Blue Shields indicated that the average increase for the school's insurance would be around 11.5 percent. This rate would not take place until November.

Currently, the school pays \$275 a month toward a single plan and \$550 a month toward any other type of plan for a total of \$125,400. The board is considering raising the amount of money given to those with insurance to \$40 per single plan and \$80 toward other plans for a total of \$18,240. The money would be taken out of the contingency reserve fund.

This matter was also tabled until the next meeting.

**Capital outlay resolution**

Every five years, the board publishes a resolution for the capital outlay mill levy. The current capital outlay resolution expires at the end of June.

For years, the St. Francis board has asked for 4 mills but they can levy up to 8 mills. Mr. Schiltz said that the taxpayers are already getting bombarded with more taxes from the county and city, and he felt that the school could be kept in good shape with the same 4 mills.

The school had already increased the local option budget by 4.3 mills for the current year.

The board approved that the resolution be published in The Saint Francis Herald for two weeks.

**League**

Scott Carmichael, principal, reported that Dighton (11-man football team) had asked to join the Northwest Kansas League. Besides St. Francis, other schools in the league include Atwood/Rawlins County, Oberlin/Decatur County, Oakley, Hoxie and Quinter.

Mr. Carmichael said the league could use another 2A high school. Hoxie and Quinter both play eight-man football.

The board and administration talked about possibly meeting Dighton halfway to play football. They also talked about the possibility of having trouble finding 11-man football teams to play in the future.

Since this was just information for the board, no action was taken.

**Job replacement**

Mr. Schiltz talked about the replacement of Sharon Olofson, secretary, bookkeeper and board clerk. Mr. Schiltz said he and Mrs. Olofson will have a job description by the October meeting and will plan to interview in November. By December, Mr. Schiltz said he will plan to offer a contract.

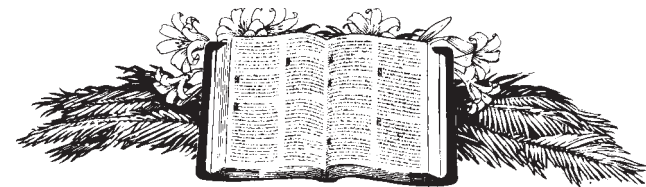
**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the board has been set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, in the board room at the high school.

# Friday program set for Beecher

Friday evening at Beecher Island the Carpenters (Bill, Hannah and Faith), Tumbleweed and others will be singing outside the cook's shack by the old Sunday School, starting at

6:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend and enjoy the music. This group has been entertaining on Friday evening of Beecher Reunion for several years.



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**BEECHER ISLAND REUNION**  
Saturday, Sept. 18th  
6:30 a.m. ♦ Breakfast available from the Idalia FCE Bicentennial Club  
9 a.m. ♦ Black Powder Shoot  
♦ Quilt show presented by Beecher Island Helping Hand Club  
10 a.m. ♦ Pedal Tractor Pull  
♦ Lunch with the Wray Lions Club.  
Musical entertainment provided by the Singing Seniors.  
1 p.m. ♦ Games & races for all ages  
Horse Shoe Pitching, prizes awarded in all categories; World Famous Dry Land Turtle Race.  
7 p.m. ♦ In the Beecher Island Auditorium: Award Winning Performers, Jeanne & Jerome — Call of the West with special guest Jon Messenger, WMA Award Nominated Songwriter.

Sunday, Sept. 19th  
6:30 a.m. ♦ Pancake Breakfast with the Idalia Lions Club  
9:45 a.m. ♦ Flag raising ceremony by area Boy Scouts.  
10 a.m. ♦ Sunday Service with Mel Berg.  
Lunch with the Wray Lions Club.  
1 p.m. ♦ Loretta Thompson's Western Trio  
"Arikaree" sung by Sara Drohan  
History Presentation: Joy Hayden  
Drawing for Baskets and Quilt

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