



REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE visits St. Francis. Pictured are Bonnie Cram, Jeff Colyer, candidate for Lt. Governor of Kansas, Kip Wiese, Deonn Wiese and Diane Shay.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Governor candidate meets and greets local residents

Jeff Colyer, candidate for Lt. Governor of Kansas on the Republican ticket with Sam Brownback, met with local residents on Saturday at Main Street Java, St. Francis. It was obvious to those present that the pair will be following Brownback's "Road Map for Kansas."

It was also obvious that it would not be a "quick or overnight fix" as the team prepares to improve situations by studying "core responsibilities, taking time to seek improvements and establish the needed programs and perhaps even totally eliminating some unnecessary programs.

The top priority, Mr. Colyer said, was economic growth for the state. He asked what those present had been hearing and what their concerns were? He was told that school finances were always a concern in the western part of the state.

Colyer told them there would be a serious study on formulas

so schools would be adequately financed and there would be no mandatory consolidations.

What we have now, he said, is absolute craziness. There are powerful groups to deal with and they would strive for more cooperation including a look at the tenure problems. We have measurable targets and goals to remove barriers.

The governor-elect, he said, had moved from his former position in regard to amnesty for illegal immigrants and was in favor of border fencing. Included in this would be support for voter identification.

Health care, termed "Obama care" in the meeting, was discussed at length. He said the governor and attorney general would lead any agreement to join with current states suing to repeal the present health-care enactments. He said the present governor and attorney general were not in favor of this move. The present Republican candidates, he said, were in agreement with the plan to join

this suit.

The current method of taxation, including state taxes, would be seriously studied, he said, with the objective to clear up confusing tax issues. Again, he stressed measurable objectives. Brownback has signed the Americans for Prosperity "The No Climate Tax."

Income via the multi-million investment in the new power generating capacities proposed in Southwest Kansas was supported by those present in which the candidate was in agreement. Of concern would be that the amount of power the lines would carry would be adequate or more than adequate. Being in compliance with a strong federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations was also discussed.

The stability of the present Kansas retirement system and state health plans were mentioned with Mr. Colyer indicating there would be steps taken to stabilize these agencies.

Club Clips

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary met on Friday, Sept. 10, with seven members present.

Members discussed the American Legion Auxiliary's 90th Birthday and plans to have a dinner and entertainment for Bird City. Watch for advertisement for this in future *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald*. Also check the newspapers for when tickets will go on sale and how to purchase them.

For the program today, Hulda Dorsch brought attention to the article that was in the *American Profile* issue, about the Homes for Troops, a national nonprofit organization that builds specially adapted homes for seriously wounded servicemen and women and military veterans at no cost to the soldier. This organization began in 2004, and have built homes for 58 disabled veterans in 23 states. Another 30 homes are under construction. This is really neat that John Gonsalves started this project and that these people are doing this for our military.

Rose Gordon talked Audie Murphy's wife and what she has done.

Pamela Murphy, widow of World War II hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8. She was the widow of the most decorated World War II hero and actor, Audie Murphy, and established her own distinctive 35-year career working as a patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a very important person.

Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed.

If they didn't, watch out. Her boys weren't Medal of Honor recipients or movie stars like Audie, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their country. That was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name.

It was always "Mister." Respect came with the job.

"Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy," said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousands of veterans she befriended over the years. "Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. "Only her boys mattered. She was our angel."

Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, squandering millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and yes, other women. "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero," Pam told me.

She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys where she raised two sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby VA to support herself and start paying off her faded movie star husband's debts. At first, no one knew who she was. Soon, though, word spread through the VA that the nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a hug.

"Thank you," they said, over and over.

The first couple of years, I think the hugs were more for Audie's memory as a war hero. The last 30 years, they were for Pam.

One year I asked her to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no.

"Honor them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hallway. "They're the ones who deserve it."

The vets disagreed. Mrs. Murphy deserved the accolades, they said. Incredibly, in 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated in budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff."

"I don't think helping cut down on veterans' complaints and showing them the respect they deserve,

should be considered excess staff," she told me.

Neither did the veterans. They went ballistic, holding a rally for her outside the VA gates. Pretty soon, word came down from the top of the VA. Pam Murphy was no longer considered "excess staff."

She remained working full time at the VA until 2007 when she was 87.

"The last time she was here was a couple of years ago for the conference we had for homeless veterans," said Becky James, coordinator of the VA's Veterans History Project. Pam wanted to see if there was anything she could do to help some more of her boys. Pam Murphy was 90 when she died last week. What a lady.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the American Legion hall. Anyone is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary, and invited to come and join the members as they plan the activities for the next few months.

Tips

Expanding Frosting

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar/calories per serving.

Reheating refrigerated bread
To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Newspaper Weeds-Away
Start putting in your plants, work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go, cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic, they will not get through wet newspapers.

Broken Glass
Use a dry cotton ball to pick up little broken pieces of glass - the fibers catch ones you can't see!

Trail ride scheduled northeast of Wheeler

By Karen Krien
karenk@nwkansasc.com

The 20th Cheyenne County Trail Ride has been set for 2 p.m. sharp on Sunday, Oct. 10. The ride, which will last about 2.5 hours, will start at the Jeter Isely's farm, northeast of Wheeler. To get to the Isely's, go 4 miles east on U.S. 36, 6 miles north on Rd. 23, then 1/2-mile west on Rd. T.

The ride is always planned for the second weekend in October. It is generally a little cooler and the trees are turning colors.

Last year, the ride was postponed to the following Sunday because of the weather. If there is inclement weather this year on Oct. 10, the ride will move to Sunday, Oct. 17.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said this ride will be a little easier terrain and ideal for kids. The highlight will be the top of "Morris hill" where the riders will be able to see for miles in all directions. Mr. Cooper said there will also be a water break on top of the hill.

20 years ago

Mr. Cooper coordinated the first Cheyenne County Trail Ride 20 years ago. The goal of the rides were to explore Cheyenne County on horseback. Some of the rides have overlapped areas on past rides but no one seems to care.

"We are starting to run out of places to ride," he said. However, he has the site for the 21st ride spotted for next year.

Looking back, he said he has seen a number of parents and children who started riding and now, those children are riding with children of their own. An example is Pat Carmen riding with her daughter, Cheryl. Cheryl is now riding with her daughter, Kaycee.

Ten years ago, a special two-day ride was held. The group

started at the South Fork Schoolhouse north of St. Francis and rode to the Colorado line.

"We called it the 'Colorado or bust' ride," Mr. Cooper said.

They camped overnight at the fairgrounds in St. Francis, then rode on to the Colorado line the next morning.

There have been some scary event but they have all ended with no serious results. Several years ago, they were riding southwest of St. Francis and those unable to be on a horse, were enjoying the day on a hayrack pulled by a team of horses. As they went down a hill, the wagon brake failed and began to crowd the team, causing them to run down the hill. It could have been tragic but the driver was able to get the team under control. At the bottom of the hill, one of the kids said, "That was fun! Can we do it again?"

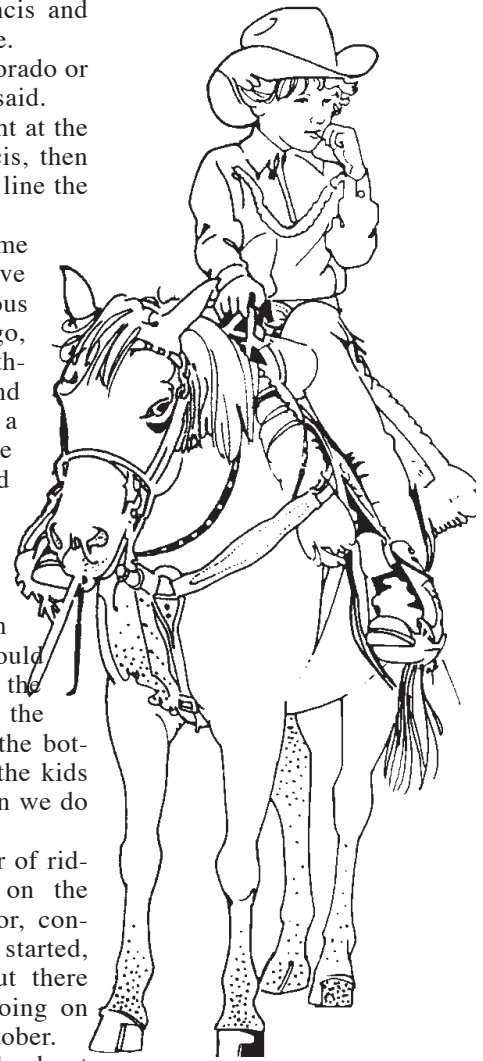
Each year, the number of riders varies, depending on the weather, the economy or, conflicting events. When it started, it was held in June but there were so many things going on that it was moved to October.

Through the years, the least number of riders was 18 or 19 but generally, there are more. Mr. Cooper said there are anywhere from 65 to 127 riders.

While the majority of the riders are local, there is almost always Marshal and Julie Roy from Oakley and Patrick Tinkham from Colby. However, there are five riders who attended for years but died and will be missed. They included Don Ziegelmeier, Wilber Henry, Denny Cox, George Phillips and Glenn Phillips.

St. Jude

Those on the ride will



be able to donate to St. JudeChildren'sResearch Hospital.

"Donations will be accepted for the kids who would like to saddle up but can't," said Sharon Olofson, coordinator.

Barbecue following

After the ride, there will be a barbecue with the meat being prepared by Doug Ross.

For more information, contact Mr. Cooper, 785-332-2904; Mrs. Olofson, 785-332-2248, Joe Hoffman, 785-332-2154, Todd Krien, 785-332-3246 or Frank Tracy, 308-423-2646.

Donations accepted by Knights

During the month of October the Knights of Columbus will be accepting donations for two projects that are very important to them.

The first one is for Respect Life Month. October is Respect Life Month and so during the entire month of October the Knights will be accepting monetary donations that will be given to the Mary Elizabeth Home for Unwed Mothers in Hays to continue the great work that they do with young unwed mothers in

Northwest Kansas.

They not only provide a place for these young mothers to stay but also teach them everything they need to know to raise a newborn baby.

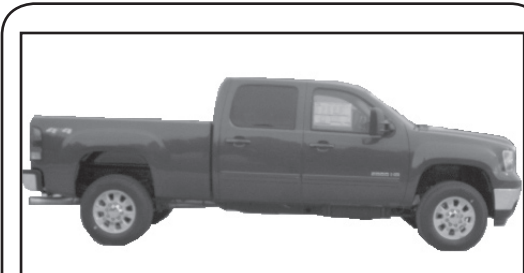
The second project is their annual tootsie roll drive. They will be going around during the week of Oct. 11-17 with tootsie rolls to raise money to help the intellectually handicapped.

After the money is collected it will be split with 20 percent of it going to help put on the "Spe-

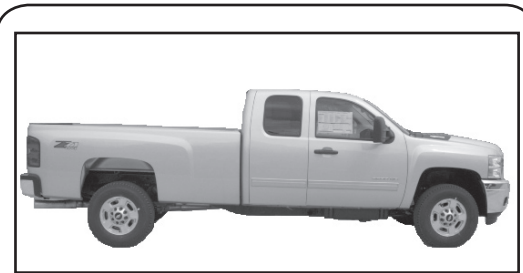
cial Olympics basketball game in March in Hays. The other 80 percent will be split evenly between the St. Francis and Cheylin School districts to be used in their special education programs.

The Knights ask that if you want to donate to either of these programs, you can give your donations to any member of the Knights of Columbus or you can send them to Mike Antholz at P.O. Box 851, St. Francis, KS 67756.

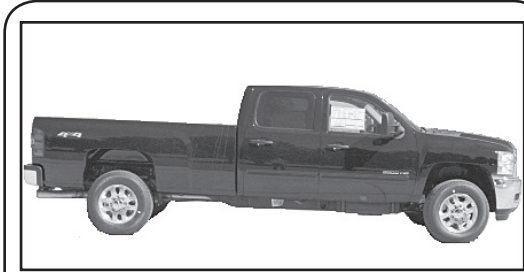
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thought to ponder.....why is it that only movie stars are the most sexiest people in the world and not anyone you know?

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