

Club Clip

American Legion Auxiliary

On March 4, the women of the American Legion Auxiliary met at 9:30 a.m. to work on neck coolers for the Support Our Soldiers (SOS) program. These are pieces of material that are serged on the outside, with four pockets sewn individually, in which they put some magic crystals and then sew the other seam of the pocket. When the soldiers receive them, they can soak these in water until the crystals expand and the pockets bulge.

The first soaking may take as much as 10 minutes. You can then tie the neck cooler around your neck. The crystal will slowly give up their absorbed water and the evaporation of the water should cool you for hours. The neck cooler can be re-soaked and used again and again. It should last about two months before the crystals lose their ability to absorb the water.

There were five ladies who worked on these until it was time for lunch. At that time they took a break and enjoyed a casserole, salad, garlic bread and cheesecake bites and cookies, which was prepared for by Hulda Dorsch. After lunch they got back to work and by that time had finished 35 of these neck coolers.

Mary Dorsch brought some articles to tell about the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary projects in a village that is south of Mexico City. When there was a large American Legion Post there, they had built a school and this school was named after the American Legion. At one time there had been 1500 children, who were orphans, abused, blind or with any other disabilities.

The American Legions had asked for help with this school, and money came in for their many needs. Another job that this American Legion had was to take care of the National Cemetery.

Another article that Mary Dorsch shared with the group was about the YouTube presentation by Kimberly Alyn of "Up Time America." This shows that it is hopeful that good, old-fashioned common sense may just make a comeback. Here's is a small part of what she had to say:

"Ladies and gentlemen, it's time for this country to experience a little "Up" time!" The article followed by a number of phrases such as wake up, speak up, show up, etc. and near the end of the list was: 'And Remember: DON'T GIVE UP!'"

Then Rose brought some information about Fort Dodge, which is the Soldiers' Home, which is where the American Legion sends Christmas gifts and other items.

Situated on a site once used as a camping ground by wagon trains, today the fort is utilized as a retirement community and nursing facility for retired Kansas veterans. A historic library and self-guided walking tour tell the fort's history to visitors. Many of the original buildings are still in use.

The fort was abandoned in 1882. Eight years later Fort Dodge was decided to the state for use as a soldiers home, and it still serves today as the Kansas Soldiers Home. Several buildings are open to visitors and tours.

Fort Dodge, one of the most important forts on the western

frontier, is located to the east of the Caches and present day Dodge City. The fort was established on April 10, 1865 by Captain Henry Pierce, by order of Major General Grenville M. Dodge. The fort's primary purpose was to protect the wagon trains on their way to New Mexico.

In 1867 Fort Dodge was relocated and rebuilt in stone buildings. In 1868 Comanches and Kiowas attacked Fort Dodge, killing four soldiers and wounding 17. As a result, General Philip H. Sheridan came to Fort Dodge and started outfitting his command against the Indians.

The abandonment of Fort Dodge in June, 1882, created surprise among the Dodge City people who were terrified of the Indian raids.

After its abandonment, part of the buildings were demolished, some removed. The military reservation was transferred to the Interior Department on January 12, 1885 and was converted to the Kansas Soldiers Home in 1889.

The Kansas Soldiers Home now includes a library/museum, a modern intensive nursing home, a recreation center, five residence halls, and 60 cottages. Veterans of the Mexican, Civil, Indian, Spanish-American, Philippines, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, and II, Korean and Vietnam Wars have all been occupants.

Rose also brought pictures to show us of the Home today. This was really interesting and gave us more information about Fort Dodge.

In closing, Hulda read another article by Trish Ward. It said "We need to be part of the solution. Remember how important one is - the power of one. We need to reach out to those, especially the veterans who are in need. Remember Abraham Lincoln said, "Never Say, I Can't."

At the close of the meeting, members enjoyed more cookies as they wrapped the neck coolers in baggies along with the instructions for the neck coolers. All had a feeling of accomplishment for making these today.

Our next meeting will be a luncheon meeting on April 8, with a guest, Karen, from the HUGS PROGRAM, or SOS, who will be here to show us how to make bracelets for the servicemen and women made with wire and yarn.



Sherlock Figgins Busse Walden Keltz Churchwell

College scholarships earned by county seniors

Seniors Craig Busse, Chris Walden, Caleb Keltz and Whitney Churchwell of Cheylin High School, and Cody Sherlock and Garrett Figgins of St. Francis Community High School, have received Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarships as they prepare to further their education next fall.

Busse, Walden and Sherlock each received one of the 100 Hansen Student awards. These awards are for \$2,000. and may be renewed for one additional year provided the student has maintained a satisfactory academic record.

Figgins, Keltz and Churchwell are three of 91 students interested in vocational training who have received a one-year award of \$2,000 each.

These St. Francis and Cheylin

high school students are among 250 high school seniors and 11 community college students from 59 northwest Kansas high schools who have received scholarships from the foundation.

The Hansen Foundation also awarded 10 Hansen Leader of Tomorrow scholarships, for \$5,000 renewable for three additional years, provided the student has continued regard for the principles which guided the success of the late Dane G. Hansen. They also need to maintain a 3.00 or better grade-point average at the college level and furnish a letter describing progress toward educational goals.

Fifty students were named Hansen Scholars who were awarded \$3,000 for one year. The scholarship may be renewed for one additional year under the

same general conditions as set forth in the Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship.

Fifteen Community College scholarships were made available to Kansas Community College students of the current school year who plan to continue their education at a four-year Kansas college or university. These awards are for \$2,000 and may be renewed for one year upon completion of satisfactory work as evaluated by the Scholarship Committee. This year there were 11 qualified applicants.

In selecting award winners, the Scholarship Committee considered proficiency in verbal and writing skills. Other important factors are academic records, test scores, and community service in which the student may have participated.

String band plays in Hoxie

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band will be in Hoxie at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Hoxie High School auditorium. Western Plains Arts Association is presenting the performance.

The band performs a lively, engaging stage show that involves the audience and includes their own musical traditions. The 1870s costuming and raucous humor compliment these accomplished musicians' performances of old-time string band, bluegrass and American folk music.

The band consists of five multi-

instrumentalists singing and playing fiddles, banjo, guitars, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, accordion, bass, shotgun and washboard. Their infectious good humor and high energy leave no toe untapped.

The band takes its name from the gold prospector/guide turned cannibal Alferd Packer. Packer was the only American ever convicted of cannibalism. In the fall of 1870, five miners in Alferd's charge headed for the Colorado gold fields. They ended up in Alferd's stomach! At the

conclusion of the trial, the judge's exact words were, "Alferd Packer, you voracious man-eater, there were only seven Democrats in Hinsdale County, and you done it five of 'em."

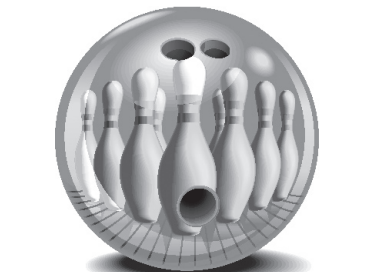
Admission to this performance is with Western Plains Arts Association season ticket or at the door. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Bowling News

Wednesday Night Men 3/23
Team standing: Haigler 1, Wright and Wrong, Idalia JV, 2001 Electronics, Krien Steel, Haigler 2, Cheyenne Bowl, Bonanza Ford.

High game (scratch): Haigler 1 714, Wright and Wrong 654, Wright and Wrong 639. (handicap): Haigler 1 910, Cheyenne bowl 862, Krien Steel 838.

High game men (scratch): Wayne Mahon 223, Jim Wheaton 199, Bill Ehrman 193; (handicap): Mahon 259,



Wheaton 245, Ehrman 242.

High series men (scratch): Ehrman 538, Wheaton 520, Mahon 517; (handicap): Ehrman 685, Wheaton 658, Kyle Richards 638.

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Don't Miss This Upcoming Special Section Promoting U.S. 36!

Covering Northwest Kansas from Cheyenne to Smith County. Allen Edgington, ad manager, will be contacting area businesses in this grand opportunity to promote St. Francis, Bird City & U.S. 36.

If interested in purchasing advertising space in this section, give us a call at The Saint Francis Herald!

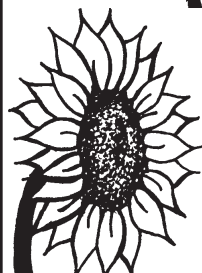
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— and —

Bird City Times



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