



TOP READERS were awarded medals and honored at a special luncheon. Pictured (l to r) Dawn Rice, Cutter Neitzel, Teresa Sowers, Colton Neitzel, Emma Johnsonm

St. Francis schools do well in accelerated reading test

By Karen Krien
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Knowing how important reading is in the learning process, the St. Francis elementary teachers, each year, encourage students to read through the Accelerated Reader Program.

The Accelerated Reader "grand finale" was held on Friday. The top readers were awarded medals and they were honored at special Accelerated Reader luncheon on Monday.

"The Accelerated Reader Program is a valuable tool that en-

courages kids to read," said Sandy Smull, reading chairman. "It targets reading comprehension. "This program is one of the big reasons that our school's Kansas Reading Assessment scores are so high."

The top reader was Sophie White with 171.7 points. To be a top reader for the entire grade school, She received \$5 in Theater Bucks to enjoy at the movies this summer.

We are very proud of our top readers, Mrs. Smull said. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication

to reading. Everyone was encouraged to read over the summer. Join the reading program at the public library, Mrs. Smull said. It will be a great adventure!

Top Accelerated Reader medal winners were: Dawn Rice, Cuter Neitzel, Garin Cooper, Emma Johnson, Colton Neitzel, Jesse Baxter, Adam Krien, Katie Wurm, Kobe Tice, Jasper Hunt, Devin Patton, Sophie White, Kenny Leibbrandt and Taylor Kinzer.

Commissioners told of e-waste recycling pick up

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Friday meeting, were told that there will be another e-waste recycling pick up.

Roger Jensen, chairman of the Northwest Regional Recycling Organization, said that on June 24, there will be a e-waste recycling day. In the morning, the recycling van will stop in Bird City and that afternoon, it will move to St. Francis.

At the e-waste collection, county residents can bring electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, microwaves, television, just to name some.

In the past, a grant had allowed e-waste collections to be free to residents bringing in items. Businesses paid a small fee. However, the grant had run out. The e-waste collection will cost 25-cents per pound.

Mr. Jensen said there were county residents who had been taking their e-waste items to Colby and paying 25 cents. He thought the e-waste in the county was important.

In order to help the residents, he asked that the commissioners consider paying the 25-cents per pound. He figured there would be around \$1,000.

Mr. Jensen said he was going to ask both the Bird City City Council and the St. Francis City Council to pay a share of the collection costs.

The commissioners made no decisions until they know what the other two entities were going to pay.

Mr. Jensen said the county's dues to the recycling organizations, which are based on the 2010 census, will be down.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said the landfill supervisor was concerned about the large plastic tarps that cover temporary grain bins. Mr. Jensen said there was a baler that would roll up these tarps. The commissioners agreed to contact the supervisor of the Gove County landfill for more information. He noted that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is aware of the problem these tarps cause landfills.

City council and commissioners

The commissioners and St. Francis City Council met prior to the regular commissioners' meeting. The city council members attending were Mr. Jensen, Bruce Swihart, Carla Lampe, Paula Keller and Dale Weeks. Also present was Scott Schultz, mayor.

Much of their meeting was spent discussing what was happening at the nursing home since the Oct. 19 fire. They noted that there were many people concerned and there were many unanswered questions. (See related article.)

The council said there was an effort to clean up properties in St. Francis but it is sometimes hard when there are different properties along U.S. 36 which are unsightly. Kari Gilliland, county attorney, pointed out that the service station east of Yost was being cleaned up and was looking much better. However, it was evident that there were others where nothing was being done.

If there is a hazard or health issue, then there is a better chance of getting these places cleaned up, she said.

The council asked about a tax sale on property where owners have not paid their taxes. Attorney Gilliland said that they are a great deal of work and most of the time, does not begin to pay for the expense incurred. There are some cases where the taxes are higher than the property's worth. However, she said there would be a delinquent tax sale during her term.

In other business
In other business:

• Clerk, Terry Miller, reported that seven keys to the courthouse doors were missing or no longer worked. The commissioners agreed to re-in the three entry doors and order new keys.

• Clerk Miller had the opportunity to order new scanners at a reduced price. The Help American Vote Act Endowment Program will pay for 90 percent of the cost of the scanners. The county will be able to buy two new scanners and 10 voting machine ink cartridges for \$417,

a savings of \$3,760.

• Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, gave his monthly budget and work schedule. He was given permission to attend a road supervisor meeting.

• Jen Padgett, communication director, was given permission to hire a full-time dispatcher.

Next meeting
The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Students Graduate

Kansas University
Shara Johnson, Sheryl Miller and Amanda Nipps, St. Francis Community High School graduates, will be received degrees during the Kansas University commencement exercises on Sunday, May 22.

They are among the 4,800 candidates for degrees this spring. The candidates represent 99 Kansas counties, 43 other states and 59 other countries.

The class of 2011 includes about 2,580 students who completed degree work in summer and fall 2010 as Kansas University has only one formal commencement.

Shara Johnson, Physical Therapy, a graduate student, received a doctor of physical therapy. She is the daughter of Kent and Marsha Kechter.

Sheryl Miller, Community Health, graduated with a bachelor of science in education. She is the daughter of Terry and Mary Beth Miller.

Amanda Nipps, Social Work, received a bachelor of social work. She is the daughter of Charlie Nipps and Susie Walz.

Kansas State University
Grant Keller, Alexandria Tygart and Alecia Zimelman, graduates of St. Francis Community High School, and Jacob Jensen and David Banister, graduates of Cheylin High School, were among the more than 2,800 students set to graduate from Kansas State University in ceremonies this spring. Ceremonies at the Manhattan campus were held on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14.

Grant Keller received a bachelor of science in agriculture.

Alexandria Tygart received a bachelor of science in dietetics.

Alecia Zimelman, received a bachelor of science.

Jacob Jensen received a bachelor of science in construction science and management.

David Banister received a bachelor of science in technology management

Northwest Kansas Technical College
Jay Keithline and Jacob White of Bird City and Logan Lampe of St. Francis are among the class of 2011 who received degrees or certificates at the commencement ceremony at Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

The college hosted the annual ceremony on Friday, May 20, at the Max Jones Field House in Goodland. The class of 2011 is the largest Northwest Tech graduating class in years with 158 graduating students from all over the nation.

The commencement speaker was Mark Smith from Wallace County. He served on the Northwest Tech Area Board of Control for 30 years and was chairman for 10 of those years. The Student of the Year will also be announced at the ceremony.

Keithline and White received associate of applied science degrees while Lampe received a technical certificate.

Bethany College
On May 22, Bethany College, Lindsborg, honored 95 students who earned Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and Bachelor of Social Work degrees from the college during the 2010-2011 academic year. Among those graduating was Craig A. Van Allen, contract major (physics).

The Reverend Dr. Floyd M. Schoenhals, retired bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and former Bethany College board member, addressed the graduating class. The Reverend P. Kempton Segerhammar, who attended Bethany from 1962 to 1965 and is now the pastor of First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, Calif., preached during baccalaureate worship.

St. Francis News

Weekend house guest at the Leon Merklin home were Kimberly Mitchell of Madison, Wis., and Mike and Cindy Mitchell, Andrew and Justin of Wilber, Neb.

On Sunday an enjoyable meal was attended by Eldon and Dorothy Palmer, Mike and Ginger Chadwick and Dusti, Rudy Zimelman; Alvin and Sylvia Zimelman, all of Goodland; Rhonda and Lance Coburn, Shelby and L.T. of Quinter; Tammy Taylor, Brian and Tenna of Colorado Springs; Jim and Debbie Sarran and Aaron of Ogallah; Relgene and Wilma Zimelman of Benkelman, Neb.; Wesley and Angie Englot and twins Alex and Andrew of Garden City; Kimberly Mitchell of Madison; Mike and Cindy Mitchell, Andrew and Justin of Wilber, Neb.; Dennis and Mary Merklin, David and Dana Rose, Dawson and Dailley, Leon and Darlene Merklin.

Bradley Merklin and Rat Rose were hosts. Some of the group went fishing at Keller Pond and some went to Parks, Neb., to fish and see

where lots of fishing and camping were enjoyed many years ago.

Betty Jean Winston returned on Monday from Valley City, N.D., where she had spent time with family and friends.

Prior to driving to Valley City she had been in Overland Park, where she attended the graduation of her grandson, Miles Legere from Blue Valley West High School. She also was able to attend the track and field awards program and the graduation open house at the home of his parents, Shawn and Leigh Legere. Also attending the graduation activities were Dan Winston and Jean Winston of Ellsworth.

Earlier in May, Betty Jean had traveled to Salina to attend a musical program of the Kansas Wesleyan University's Chamber Orchestra and Concert Choir. Grandson James Winston participates in both musical groups. She attended the concert with his parents, Dan Winston and Cindy Winston.

Obituaries

Florence Lillian Johnston-Smith
April 22, 1919 - May 4, 2011

Florence Lillian Johnston-Smith died Wednesday, May 4, 2011, in Rancho Cordova, Calif., where she had lived since 1987. Florence was the first daughter of Eugene and Ethel Anderson, born on April 22, 1919, in St. Francis, Kan., where she lived throughout her childhood.

Florence was married to Carol Douglas Johnston in 1937 and moved to Prineville, Ore. Florence and Carol had two children during their time in Oregon, before moving to California in the early 1960s, where they adopted two additional children. In the 1990s Florence and Carol continued to

share their love by raising grandchildren: Amanda Alliston, Kirin Bost, and Adam and Ariel Wood. After Carol's death in November of 1998, Florence married E.H. Smith in May of 2001.

Florence worked for the U.S. Forest Service while living in Oregon and became a full-time mother after moving to California. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother of four children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She happily devoted many hours working for her church during her years in Oregon and California. She was secretary for the Yosemite

Family Encampment, held every summer at Yosemite National Park, for over 25 years. She also taught World Bible school classes to students in other countries through the mail. She was president of Women for Columbia, a Christian college in Portland, Ore., for many years while in Oregon and was honored numerous times for her dedication to Christian education.

Florence was preceded in death by her first husband, Carol Johnston, her second husband E.H. Smith, and by a grandson, Adam Johnston Wood.

She is survived by three sisters; Manette Henderson and Inez Bargo, both of St. Francis; and Nadine Bryan of Lincoln, Neb., one son, Don Johnston and wife, Anna of Marion, Va., and three daughters, Jan Melcher of Eagle Creek, Ore., and JaDon Marshall and Jonda Chase, both of California.

Seven grandchildren survive: Amanda Alliston (and husband James) of Sacramento; Kirin Bost (and husband Danny) of Utah; Christina Radford and Ariel Wood, both of California. Also Melanie Pollard (and husband Bryan) of Massachusetts, Daniel Johnston (and wife Kirsten) of Wisconsin and Rebecca Horvath (and husband Eric) of Tennessee Eight great-grandchildren also survive.

Tammy Stamatakis
Nov. 16, 1966 - May 11, 2011

Tammy Stevens Stamatakis, 44, Leavenworth, died Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at her home in Leavenworth, Kan., after a long battle with Neurofibro-Sarco M R Cancer which is a result of neurofibromatosis disease (blood vessel tumors).

She was born Nov. 16, 1966, at Winchester, the daughter of Larry and Sharon (McAfee) Stevens and was a lifelong resident of the Winchester/Leavenworth area. She was a 1985 graduate of Highland Community College.

She worked as a management analyst for the Department of the Army at Ft. Leavenworth for 24 years and was still actively working from her home.

As an Army wife, she was a past president of the family readiness group of the 705th MP battalion. She married Thomas "Tom" S. Stamatakis on May 20, 1989 at Ft. Leavenworth, he survives at the home. She is also survived by a daughter, Jennifer (Stamatakis) Richardson and son-in-law, Doug-

las Richardson and a grandson, Alexander, all of Leavenworth, her parents, Larry and Sharon Stevens, Winchester, one brother, Jeff Stevens, and a "special niece", McKenzie Stevens, Tonganoxie, other survivors are her mother-in-law, Alma Stamatakis, Harper Woods, Mich., brothers-in-law, Barry and Butch Stamatakis, sister-in-law, Kathy Allard, all of Michigan, a sister-in-law, Marina Makris, Las Vegas, Nev., and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Tammy was the only niece of Tom and Donna Stevens of St. Francis.

Tammy was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Lacey and Marie McAfee and paternal grandparents, Oscar "Tic" and Irene Stevens all of Winchester.

Funeral service was Monday, May 16, at Leavenworth. Burial was in the Winchester-Wise Cemetery, Winchester.

Memorials may be made to Kansas City Hospital and Palliative Care.

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