

# No one objects to city budget at meeting

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis city budget meeting was called to order on Monday, Aug. 8. There was no one present to object so the budget which was printed in the July 28 issue of The Saint Francis Herald was accepted.

The budget called for \$3,409,692. Before the council accepted the budget, there was considerable discussion as to spending next year.

We are accountable for spending the taxpayer's money, Mrs. Lampe said.

Mr. Jensen, while he agreed that the council is accountable for the money spent, thought it was important that the city's

infrastructure did not suffer.

Paula Keller, councilwoman, thought that the council should not spend any more than they spent last year. She quickly pointed out that she had no complaints on how the city employees handled things.

"I am concerned from the taxpayers point of view - inflationary taxes and people on fixed income - I am concerned about what is coming down the pike," Mrs. Keller said.

Bruce Swihart, councilman, said he had talked to a guy at the fair who was debating whether or not to move to St. Francis or Hays. Hays, he said, is a bigger town with more of a tax base. There are others like him, he

said. I have a hard time raising taxes.

Mr. Jensen argued that the council is responsible for maintaining the city. If we get behind in infrastructure, he said, we are not being good stewards. We need to be prepared and we need to keep up with repairs and replacements.

Mrs. Keller agreed but, we cut expenses she said, and we have made it more attractive for people to come. We want a lower tax base so we can attract people to come to St. Francis.

Mr. Day pointed out that it is a fact that St. Francis has been in the very bottom of mill levies. People see the bottom line, he said.

Mary Lampe, clerk, said, in her opinion, the taxes needed to be raised - not because the council wants to but the council needs to be prepared. The federal government makes mandates - we just need to be prepared.

Mr. Jensen pointed out that some of the curbs and gutters are shot and there is not enough transmission in the Main Street alleys to carry much more electricity. Those lines, he said, were put in the 1920s when there was no air conditioning or computers.

The only other way we can raise money besides taxes is to raise the utilities, Mr. Jensen said.

Dale Weeks, councilman, added that the rates need to be in line with others in the state or the city will not qualify for different fundings.

When the vote for approving the budget came, Mrs. Keller and Mr. Swihart voted no and Mrs. Lampe and Mr. Weeks voted yes. Mr. Jensen broke the tie by voting yes.

Every meeting, Mrs. Lampe said, we will need to look at expenses. We will have to make some difficult decisions.

We all have different council issues which we think are important, she said. That is what makes us a strong board.

They also accepted the amended budget for 2011. The auditors had put the money aside for the theater improvement and it should have been put in the capital equipment fund. We didn't spend any additional money, Carla Lampe, councilwoman, said. It was moved from one line to another.



SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED - John Finley, middle, goes over the details of the scholarships from the Lions Club with Sarah Trembly, left, and Shayla Hilt, right.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Two high school seniors receive \$500 scholarships from club

John Finley, Lions Club member, presented two St. Francis high school seniors with \$250 each with the other \$250 to be presented at the second semester.

Receiving the scholarship money were Sarah Trembly, who is planning on attending York College, and Shayla Hilt, who is attending Sterling College.

Marvin Zimbelman, who is on the Lions Scholarship Committee with Rueben Schultz, Francis O'Leary and Norman Morrow, said the committee looked at all seniors but especially those who are going into the service field.

The Lions have two money-making projects: the birthday/anniversary calendar as well as the pancake feed which is held on the Saturday of the Gabel-Jenkins Wrestling Tournament. Besides giving the scholarships this year, they also donate money to special community projects.

The list of community service acts which the Lions members have done through the years is long and includes things like blood typing over 700 people for the walking blood bank; compiling a zip code booklet; helping with the sprinkling system at the hospital; helping restore the city park and

put a shelter at the park. Each

year, they staff two fair rides at the home-owned carnival, assist the bloodmobile, sponsor local band students to State Lions Band Camp; send birthday balloons to the residents in the Good Samaritan Village; donate to the local food pantry; donate funds for new wheelchairs to the county hospital, who, in turn, donate their used wheelchairs back to the Lions, which are maintained at the county courthouse with other handicapped equipment and donate used bicycles to the Norton Correction Facility's repair

program.

Through a partnership with the local Salvation Army's Vision USA program, the Lions help provide eyeglasses for individuals in the Community with special needs. They also collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids to assist people worldwide.

The Lions meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday at the Church of Christ. Dues are \$16 per quarter. They are always needing new members. Those interested are welcome to come and visit a meeting or talk to a Lions member.



COWBOY POET, Philip "Tumbleweed" Crawford entertained at the Twig and Berry celebration and the grand opening of the Split Rock Bar and Cafe in Jeffrey City, Wyo.

## Entertainer spends week in Wyoming

Local singer, song writer and poet, Phil Crawford, spent a week in Wyoming performing and entertaining. First at a workshop and demonstration at the famous Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow for two nights and then on to Jeffrey City for a local celebration and the grand opening of the Split Rock Bar and Cafe. He was at the

cafe for three nights and two days. Jeffrey City is an old cow town turned mining boom town when uranium was discovered and then back to a little cow town again after the mine played out.

I never had a week of this magnitude before, Mr. Crawford said. It was a little tough but one of the greatest times of my life.





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## Household Hazardous Waste Roundup!

**Do You Have Any Unwanted Products Stored at Home!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Cheyenne County will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on **Saturday, Aug. 27 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Cheyenne County Landfill.

Materials accepted include paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries and used oil. Automobile lead acid batteries will be accepted. Please have the materials in sturdy boxes for easy and quick unloading. Have your used oil in disposable containers. Farm chemicals, appliances, tires, yard waste, explosives, school lab chemicals, medical waste, radioactive waste, ammo, compressed gas cylinders (propane), asbestos, dioxins or silvex will not be accepted. Program organizers reserve the right to reject delivery of materials.

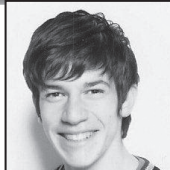
Participants are asked to leave all materials in their original containers. If the container is leaking, pack the container "as is" in another larger container and label it clearly. If another container is used, be sure it is clearly labeled. Do not mix contents of different containers. Securely package materials before transporting. Do not carry open containers of liquids with strong odors or spill potential in a closed automobile. Pack the containers so they won't tip, break or spill during travel. Waste oil should not contain gasoline, solvents, decreases, paint or antifreeze. Keep all household hazardous waste away from children and animals.

Due to KDHE regulations these are items that can't be picked up during the City-Wide Cleanup later in the month. You do not need to call prior to bringing items to the Landfill. If you have questions, please call the Landfill at 785-332-8842, Tuesday through Saturday.


**No Household Hazardous Waste items accepted early or after the clean up date.**

## HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!

(for 3, 5 or 10 months)



Patrick from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.



Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

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