



## Package causes courthouse to close

At 1 p.m. on Friday, the Cheyenne County Courthouse was closed after a suspicious package was found among the mail from the St. Francis Post Office.

The Cheyenne County Sheriff officers and county emergency manager, along with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management were immediately contacted. Incident Command was set up involv-

ing those already inside the building.

Sheriff officers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation checked out the package which was addressed to the Cheyenne County Courthouse, and by 4 p.m., decided that it contained no hazardous materials.

The package was sent from a foreign country, said Ryan Murray, emergency

manager, and had suspicious wording written on the backside of the package which prompted the original concern.

Officials made the decision to close the courthouse and all precautionary measures taken.

"I am impressed with the quick thinking, response and action taken by the sheriff's office and all involved to protect the

health and safety of the public and county employees," Mr. Murray said. "It is better to proceed with caution in this type of incident rather than neglect - situations of this nature must be taken seriously."

The courthouse opened as usual on Monday. Mr. Murray said there was a meeting with courthouse workers to go over emergency plans in case there is a

similar happening in the future.

The incident, he said, remains under FBI investigation.

Agencies involved besides those mentioned above included the county clerk's office, county commissioners, county communications, county attorney, Kansas State Fire Marshal and the United States Postal Service.

## Former resident speaks Sunday in band shell

Ronda Miller, 1970 St. Francis Community High School graduate, will be among those reciting poetry at 5 p.m. on Saturday in the band shell, Sawhill Park, St. Francis. Kansas poet laureate, Caryn Mirriam-Gildberg will present Ms. Miller, along with Lee Mick, Nancy Hubble, Rick Nichols and Karen Ohnesorge.

Poets are reading from *Begin Again: 150 Kansas Poems* written by over 94 poets with Kansas ties. Ms. Goldberg is spreading an appreciation of arts throughout Kansas. If the weather is inclement, the event will be held in the high school cafeteria.

Ms. Miller will read poetry from her book *Going Home* at a high school assembly on Friday, as well as discuss how she became a Life Coach. She is the niece of Doris and Lee Amsberry of Bird City.

Honorary guests will be Carl Werner, Barbara Ewing and Tobe Zwegardt.

Ms. Miller's life has been a series of tragic events.

Her mother, Peggy Miller Wiggins died by suicide when Ronda was three, but, she said, we were never allowed to discuss her. When she was seven and her sister, Jena, was 10, they were adopt-

ed by their maternal grandparents, Leonard and Helen Miller. Their brother, Scott, was taken to live with Hank and Sybil Bunjes on a farm southwest of Bird City. Mrs. Bunjes was their father's older sister.

Immediately following high school, Ms. Miller said, I tried to die by suicide. Being hospitalized for seven weeks, she said, was the low point of my life, but a few years later I actually hired someone to kill me.

In the early 70s, she moved to Lawrence and attended Kansas University majoring in Creative Writing and Child Development.

Through the years, she had a variety of careers including a police officer, fashion modeling, teamster organizer, and childcare. In fact, for the last 25 years, she has owned and operated Apples and Oranges, a preschool.

In 2006, Ms. Miller was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She believes that the multiple sclerosis was brought about by brain lesions and the fact that she had lost another relative to suicide.

"What had been a forbidden topic of discussion was now one I couldn't stop talking about," she said. "Realization that our family

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THE GREEN MACHINE was one of the participants in the St. Patty's Day Bed Races on Saturday. Pictured (l to r) are Travis Milne, (Nancy Schultz flagging the end of

the race), Aaron Culwell, Stephanie Meyer (on the bed), Warren Cico and Marlo Jensen. See the results of the races on Page 9. Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

## Class presents comedy

The St. Francis Community High School Drama department will perform the hysterical western comedy "Best in the West" at 7 p.m. on Sunday and Monday in the high school auditorium.

The scene takes place in Lost Bluff, Calif., during the wild west era. The town is run by Mayor Hezekiah Jones and his troupe of men.

The men trick a young school teacher to move to their town in the desperate hopes of wooing her. Meanwhile, actor Teddy Best and his group of wild-eyed performers become stranded in the town of Lost Bluff. They decide to perform a piece of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, in order to leave the west and move east.

Trouble soon stirs up as Teddy tries a new acting routine where he impersonates three different people in the same day: a lover, a scoundrel and a U.S. Marshall. He soon finds himself in hot water with a vicious outlaw for wooing the love of his life. It is sure to be a rootin'-tootin' time for the whole family.

Students in the play are Tyler Raby, Isaac Schiltz, Casey Keller, Dylan Peter, Jonathan Butler, Logan Whitmore, Ty Zwegardt, Gavin Cooper, Sam Reed, Dillon Straub, Gus Jardine, Ross Nicklos, Martin Hnizdil, Luke Guggenmos, David Leibbrandt, Thomas Douthit, Laura Brunk, Jacquelyn Ketzer, Trista Orth, Hayley Brown, Caitlin Northrup, Ally Northrup, Sarah Whitmore, Clarice Neitzel, Taylor Archibald, Lexi Hilt, Laila Radwan, Krissy Harris. Directors assistants are Allison Grice and Stephanie Perry and Directors are Dave and Talley Morrow.



RELEASING TROUT into Keller Pond several weeks ago were Tim Stimbart, right, Cheyenne County Wildlife president, and one of the fish suppliers.

Herald photo by Francis O'Leary

## Two fishing contests set in April at Keller Pond

By Karen Krien  
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Several weeks ago, Keller Pond was stocked with trout, just in time for two fishing contests.

Francis O'Leary reported that the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization had the pond stocked with trout averaging about 16-inches long. Some, he said, are a little smaller but there are some that are much larger.

Each year, the members have the pond stocked, generally in hopes for an ice fishing contest. However, the last couple of years have found mild winters and certainly not cold enough to form a safe ice cover for fishing.

This year, they decided they would forget the ice fishing and,

instead, have a fishing contest for kids and then a second contest open to all ages.

The kids fishing contest will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on April 14. It will be for kids, 15 years old and under. At noon, a hotdog and hamburger fry will be held.

Adults helping the kids, even if it is just to throw out a line, Mr. O'Leary said, should have a fishing license.

The following day, on April 15, is the open fishing tournament. Those planning to enter should be at the Wildlife clubhouse, south of St. Francis on River Street, at 6 a.m. The tournament will begin at 7 a.m and last until 1 p.m.

At both contests, prizes will be awarded for the largest fish

caught and for the most pounds caught.

The Cheyenne County Wildlife members are responsible for a number of events in the county. Besides the stocking the pond with trout, they also give scholarships to graduating seniors. On Friday, March 30, the annual banquet will be held in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. People paying for the banquet are also paying for the membership in the organization. Many valuable door prizes are given away and it is a fun evening.

Note, the pond is closed until the contests take place.

Contact Mr. O'Leary. 332-3089, for more information..

## Warm weather causing wheat to greenup early

By Jeanne Falk

K-State Multi-County Agronomist

The fairly good topsoil moisture levels and unusually warm temperatures so far this spring have caused wheat to break early dormancy and green up. In fact, it seems like this last week the wheat grew an inch!

This is a scenario reminiscent of other early spring years, in which freeze injury was a problem. Hopefully we will avoid that this year!

The wheat actually began to grow when we were seeing daytime temperatures for several days above 60 and the nighttime temperatures above freezing. The last week with temperatures in the 80s only further pushed the wheat. It would be much better if temperatures were cooler, especially the nighttime temperatures.

Plants growing at this time of year use valuable soil moisture. Even though topsoil moisture is fairly adequate, we would like to see the moisture used later in the growing season.

In addition, plants will have lost some of their winterhardiness. This won't be a problem if the weather doesn't have an extremely cold snap or if temperatures cool down gradually, so the plants can regain some of their winterhardiness.

If the wheat is green and growing, however, and temperatures suddenly go from unusually warm to extremely cold, freeze injury could occur. That being said, if the temperature dips to 24 degrees for 2 hours, wheat can be injured at the jointing stage.

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## Laws reviewed Tuesday in Sainty

With recent changes in the regulations of farm truck and trailer hauling laws, many producers may have or do have questions regarding the regulation changes. To make sure area farmers and producers understand the new regulations and are in compliance, a meeting has been set for 10 a.m. on Tuesday at the Cheyenne County Fair building. K-State Research and Extension, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department, Cheyenne County Farm Bureau, Frontier Ag and St. Francis Equity have teamed up to sponsor a meeting to address the changes.

way Patrol Inspector has agreed to come to Cheyenne County and discuss the new regulations. Some of the topics to be discussed include: anhydrous transportation, hauling hay, weight laws, hauling to and into other states and licensing and registration. In addition, Bryan will be able to discuss any other topics and answer questions that may arise.

Coffee and rolls will be available. Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension office, 785-332-3171, by Monday, said Marty Fear, Extension agent, so we can plan for the meeting.

Bryan Werth, Kansas High-