

Bird City and St. Francis libraries receive state grants

Kansas First Lady Mary Brownback announced the winners of the 2012 Kansas Book Festival Grants during a news conference today at the Statehouse in Topeka. Among the 16 libraries receiving grants are the Bird City and St. Francis public libraries.

"These grants are designed to further the Kansas Book Festival's goals of promoting literacy and encouraging a life-long love of reading," First Lady Brownback said. "The grants will help preserve and improve local and school libraries across the state."

The 16 libraries will receive a

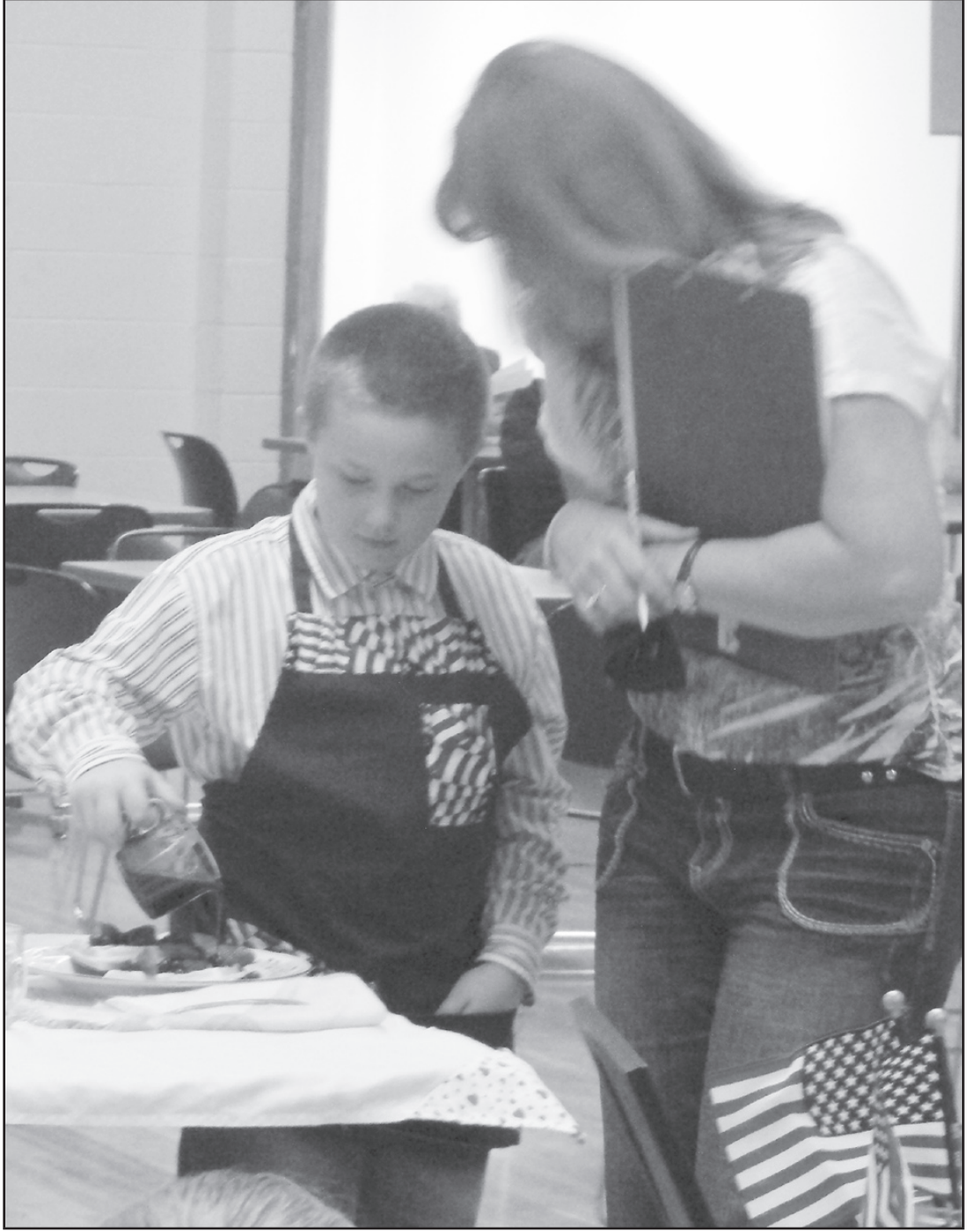
portion of the \$13,000 in grants. Governor Sam Brownback, Kansas Book Festival board members and representatives from the Gypsum Community Library, Lincoln Elementary Library and Walton 21st Century Rural Life Center joined the First Lady for the announcement.

"We all know about the important role literacy plays in the success of Kansas children," Governor Brownback said. "When a child can read, it opens doors to his future; when a child can't read, the doors of opportunity close around him."

Mrs. Brownback said the grants will help fund a wide

variety of local projects. Walton 21st Century Rural Life Center received a book grant to update an aging biographical and fiction section of the library. The Stafford School Library will use its technology grant to purchase digital scanners to help preserve local historical documents.

The 2012 Kansas Book Festival will be held Sept. 15 at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. All age groups are invited to attend the free, day-long event. To learn more, visit <http://kansasbookfestival.com>.



DURING THE CHEYENNE COUNTY DAYS on March 22, 4-H Club members participated in a variety of events. Joseph Augusta had an entry in the Favorite Foods and won a blue ribbon for his Fresh Fruit Waffles. Judging was Sherry Jacobs of Oberlin.

Legislative News *Ward Cassidy* 120th State Representative

Wednesday, March 21, was Drop Dead Week. Drop Dead Wednesday is when most bills have to be acted upon by the opposite of their house of origin.

The House Tax Plan was passed last week. I voted for it, but I have many issues with the plan. I like the reduction of state sales tax and keeping several key exemptions. I received many emails supporting the Earned Income Tax Credit that was proposed for elimination in the Governor's Plan and that is in the House Plan.

The gradual reduction of the State Income Tax rate is a big part of many tax plans. I would rather lower property tax than take income tax to zero. A constituent sent me the following comment, "When I am making money, I can pay my income tax; when I am not making money, I have trouble paying my property tax."

Last year, the Legislature passed a budget that, for the first time since 1972, decreased all-funds state spending by nearly a billion dollars and turned a \$500 million deficit into a \$100 million surplus without raising taxes. Since then, we've been fortunate enough to have a number of good months, and revenues are finally headed in the right direction. However, we still have very serious obligations facing the state, which makes it important for us to remain committed to keeping our spending in check. For too long, government has lived beyond its means.

That being said, I do support the increase of benefits to our state workers. We almost passed an amendment to restore the market-pay adjustment, and I will work to see if it can be done during Omnibus. Even with the \$8.5 million cost, we would still be in line to have the 7.5 percent required ending balance.

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) was debated for several hours. I will post an update on my website www.wardcassidy.com as soon as the final House brief is completed. Remember, it still has to be in

conference with the Senate version and then signed by the Governor. I did have some input to include that 80 percent of the sales of state lands will go directly to the retirement system.

The redistricting committee held hearings of 17 congressional maps submitted for consideration and voted on over a half-dozen maps, with only the Eisenhower B gaining enough votes to pass. Because the First Congressional District had the most significant population loss and the Third Congressional District experienced the most population gain, it was difficult to draw a map with clean

district boundaries. The Eisenhower B plan includes the northern part of Wyandotte County in the First District. That is a bad fit for the First District, but it might be the only way the redistricting can be resolved.

Testified before the Senate State and Federal Committee about our home-owned carnivals this past week. We dismissed all of the issues that would be a problem for the carnivals. It passed out of the Senate Committee with the provision that all home-owned carnivals would be required to send proof of insurance to the Department of Labor.

Club Clip

PEO

Chapter U, PEO members met on March 20 at the home of Robyn Raile. Billie Hilt presented information on Cottey College.

Cottey College is a two-year, independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women, by women, and about women. Cottey is located in Nevada, Mo., and the campus occupies 14 buildings on 11 city blocks. Cottey consists of 350 students from about 40 states and 15 foreign countries.

Cottey College is designed as a transfer institution with 95 percent of graduates transferring to four-year colleges and universities throughout the United States and abroad, including Smith College, University of Missouri, University of Washington, Pepperdine University, Mount Holyoke College and others.

Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard founded Cottey College in 1884

with the firm belief that women deserved the same quality education as men. When she became a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, she realized that PEO paralleled her own goals and ideas about higher education for women.

In 1927, the PEO Sisterhood accepted Cottey College as a gift from Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard. This made Cottey College the only nonsectarian college owned and supported by women. Ever since, the PEO Sisterhood has continued to support and help provide excellent educational opportunities for women.

Please contact Billie or the school if anyone is interested in receiving information on the school, contact Mrs. Hilt at 785-332-2525.

Mobile screening unit to be in St. Francis thanks to Lions

The St. Francis Lions Club is hosting the Kansas Lions Mobile Screening Unit on Tuesday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Clinic. There will be free screenings in conjunction with the health fair that is going on at the same time. The unit offers free sight, hearing, blood pressure and diabetes testing. All you have to do is show up, register and come inside for the different screenings. The results of the testing will be given to each person who is

tested, and those results can be taken to the appropriate medical professional. Adults and children are welcome.

The unit features a new piece of equipment which was recently purchased to provide visual screening for children from six months through pre-school age and older. This vision screener looks into the eyes through the pupils and sees problems before they become apparent to the parents or doctor.

Since young children do not

know how they should be seeing, their sight can be quite blurry or irregular, forcing them to cope in other ways and fooling parents into thinking their children see normally. The vision screener detects serious eye diseases and problems that then can be treated by ophthalmologists who specialize in such eye diseases and problems. It does not require much in the way of the infant's or child's cooperation- all he or she needs to do is look at the vision screener.

Many eye problems and serious, sight-robbing diseases begin in infancy or early childhood. While it is estimated that approximately 5-10 percent of all children experience sight-robbing vision problems, just 14 percent of U.S. Children six and younger see an eye doctor for testing. By the time they are four years of age, it can already be too late to stop or reverse the damage eye diseases are doing.

Take advantage of these free screenings. Many health problems can be minimized if we catch them in time. Take time to be tested. You are worth it!

Club Clip

Red Hat Mamas

McDonald, Bird City Red Hat Mamas celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Bonnie Burr and Vernetta Haack's green of the Irish décor created a festive spirit for the St. Patrick's "Pot O' Luck" lunch held at the Bird City Senior Center March 20.

By show of enthusiastic applause the installations of Margaret Voorhies-Queen Mother; Iris McIntosh-Reporter; Beverly Higgins-Coordinator; Edna Roesener-photography ended the short meeting. Bonnie Burr spun "stories O'wit".

Dubs Bridge was enjoyed using Vernetta Haack's Red Hat Society playing cards. Exquisite lawn ornaments were presented to high score and low score winners. A packet of flower seeds was a favor for each Red Hat Mama.

In attendance: Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Bethel Goltl, Vernetta Haack, Beverly Higgins, Betty Lewis, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, LaVina Waters, and Marlene Young.

Help Wanted

Cheylin Recreation Commission needs a Swim Team Coach, Coach-Pitch Coach and Baseball Commissioner for the 2012 season. Call Tina Sager 785-734-2478 for applications. Return applications to Tina by April 10, 2012. Send message to tmsager1@hotmail.com or sagert@cheylin.com or call cell 785-734-7141 may have to leave message.

Upcoming Auction

Saturday, March 31st, 2012 10:00 a.m. CST

Auction Location: 4-H Building N. Hwy. 25, Atwood, KS. **Place Your Bid!**
Seller: Bessie B. Peterson Estate Tamzen Rooney Irrevocable Trust & Et al
Selling: Equipment, Furniture, Appliances, Antiques, Collectables, Misc.

Glad Real Estate
Rocky Hayes-Auctioneer
415 State, P.O. Box 173, Atwood, KS 67730
Office:(785) 626-2039/ Cell (785) 626-4022
visit our website for photos @ www.gladrealestate.com

Would you like the opportunity to earn \$30,000 working on your schedule? Do you want to be on the cutting edge of the agricultural industry? If so, this is the opportunity for you. MachineryLink is looking for motivated people to work closely with our exceptional team of Regional Sales Managers to generate interest in MachineryLink and our innovative new product Spectrayield. You create the interest and we help you close the deal! We are filling positions now. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity! Visit www.machinerylink.com and click on Independent Product Representative to learn more.

machinerylink
THE SMARTER HARVEST™

Spring has Sprung
Easter is just 10 days away!

Order your Easter Lily
Special Prices for your church
Wrapped and Bowed.
We also will be doing centerpieces, fresh arrangements and corsages

The Classic Rose
785-332-2200 ~ RoseMary

Specials

Sunday Ham Steak
Friday Chicken Fried Steak

Don't forget we also offer
Discount for cash fuel
Meeting room
ATM
Car tires

Majestic Service & Truck Stop
510 West Highway 36
St. Francis, Ks.
785.332.2905

Business Directory To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

<p>The Saint Francis Herald <i>Bird City Times</i> Advertising Manager Tim Burr tburr@nwkans.com</p> <p>Phone 719-761-6238 785-332-3162 PO Box 1050 785-332-3001 (fax) St. Francis, KS 67756 sf.herald@nwkans.com</p>	<p>Howards Tri State Construction >Drywall >Painting >Carpentry >Roofing >Tile Work >Insulation >Garages >Additions >Basements New or remodel- We do it all! Free estimates! Jason 1-970-630-9051 Travis 1-970-630-5122</p>
<p>St. Francis Redi-Mix Sand • Gravel • Rock All Your Concrete Needs New Phone Number 785-332-2014 Angle Road PO Box 768 • St. Francis</p>	<p>THE CLASSIC ROSE FLORIST 116 W. Washington Street Saint Francis, Kansas 67756 Phone: 785-332-2200 Toll Free: 855-700-ROSE (7673) <i>We are here to help with all your floral needs!</i> www.TheClassicRose.com RoseMary@TheClassicRose.com</p>