

Kansas winners of book festival grants announced

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.

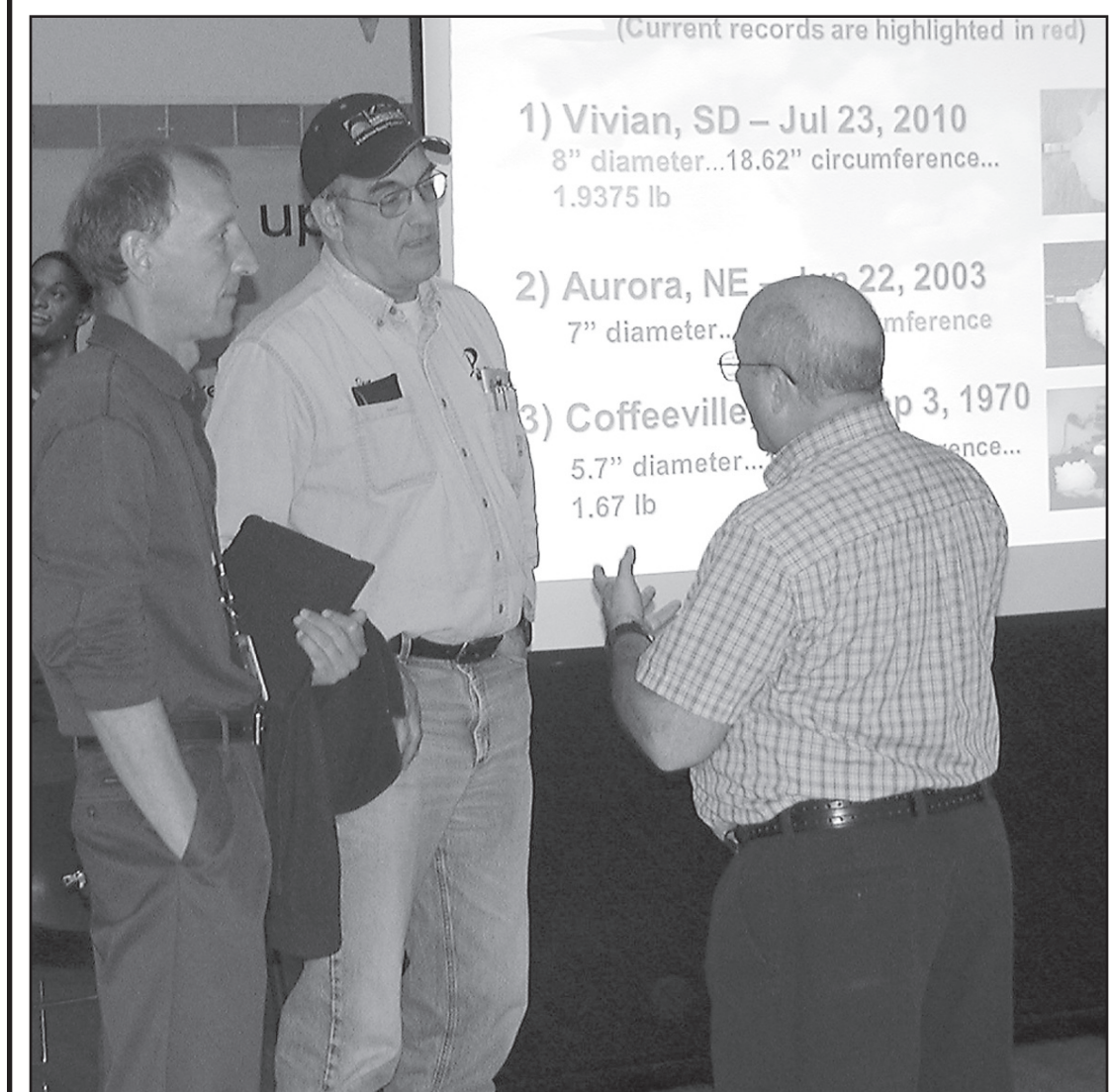
"We all know about the important role literacy plays in the success of Kansas children," Governor Brownback said. "When a child can read, it opens doors to his future; when a child can't read, the doors of opportunity close around him."

Mrs. Brownback said the grants will help fund a wide va-

riety 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 The Stafford School Library will use its technology grant to purchase digital scanners to help preserve local historical documents.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>.

Decorative flourish



SEVERE WEATHER training classes were held in St. Francis at the high school last week. Pictured are Albert Pietrycha, Dave Hickert and David Floyd.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Rec 4 U

St. Francis Recreation Commission continues to offer activities for young and not-so-young. Have you taken the time to check the opportunities that are posted on our event board located near the post office doors? We also have the website: sfksrec.org that lists all past events and on-going activities. Suggestions are welcome. Our goal is to enhance the lives of St. Francis residents.

Zumba exercise
Zumba exercise class offered by Connie Jenkins is very popular. Join the fun on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 6-6:50. Connie is making summer plans to offer Zumba Water exercise classes when it is too hot to be indoors. Watch for details soon.

Coed volleyball
Try out coed adult volleyball on Sunday evenings at 5 at the high school gym. Drew and Dennon Flemming volunteer their time to keep this going. They will have the nets set up and help split the teams according to those present.

Classes ending
Two classes drawing to an end are Western Dance and Woodworking. Matt and Mila Bandel do a wonderful job teaching the country swing dance to anyone interested. Several couples attended for the five week sessions. Dennis Friedrichs will soon wrap up his third time in offering adult wood-working.

Coaches thanked
Youth activities soon to be completed this month are wrestling

and basketball. Thank you to all the coaches needed to make these times successful. Wrestling coaches were Dylan Loyd, Chris LaBarge, Shawn Blanka, Nate Smith and Drew Kaup. Basketball coaches were Chris Bracelin, Matt Bandel and Noel Ketzner. Super job.

Girls gymnastics continues each Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The girls are working hard for their upcoming competition in April.

Weight room
The administration at the St. Francis high school continues to allow school district members the chance to use the weight room during non-school time hours. We are pleasantly surprised how many people are eager to stay in shape and keep toned!

Sign up for summer programs
With spring near, plans are being made for the summer ball programs. Watch next month for ball season sign-ups.... We will need you for T-ball, machine pitch, C-team boys and adult coed softball.

Also, coming again this summer is Science camp taught by Kim Queen. This year the week long camp is entitled, Castles, Catapults and Coats of Arms. Watch for the dates in July.

Sand volleyball coming
Last but not least - according to board members and past directors, there has always been interest in constructing a local sand volleyball court. Yea, it is going to happen soon! Watch the open area south of the swimming pool and you will see it start to take shape.



By Penny Gienger
St. Francis Rec Director

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Foreign Influence
By Brad Thor

Navy SEAL turned covert operative Scot Harvath is called to action once again in Brad Thor's hottest political thriller yet. Buried within the black ops budget of the Department of Defense, a new spy agency has been created. Unfettered by the oversight of self-serving politicians, it reports only to a secret panel of insiders. Its job is to target America's enemies, both foreign and domestic, under a charter of three simple words: Find, Fix, and Finish.

Recruited as a field operative, Scott Harvath has just returned from his first assignment abroad when a bombing in Rome kills a group of American college students. The evidence points to a

dangerous colleague from Harvath's past and a plan for further attacks on an unimaginable scale.

Harvath is tasked with leveraging his relationship to lure the man out of hiding and kill him on the spot. But what if he has the wrong man? Simultaneously, a young woman is struck by a taxi in a hit-and-run in Chicago. With only two intoxicated witnesses and more than five thousand cabs in the city, the Chicago Police have given up on their investigation. But when the family's attorney digs deeper, he will uncover a shocking connection to the bombing in Rome and the perpetrators' plans for America.

As the story rockets to its conclusion, the plots intersect in a race to prevent one of the most audacious and unthinkable acts of terror in the history of mankind.

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.

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Kids: K-4th - \$5.00
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The DeLeeney Sisters!
March 30 & 31 at 7:00 p.m.
April 1 at 2:00 p.m.
Kittling Auditorium
Wray, CO

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SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN OR ADULTS WHO ARE TOO MATURE AND LACKING A SENSE OF HUMOR.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Bird City, Kansas in the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 111 E. 4th, P.O. Box 219, Bird City, Kansas 67731 until 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2012 for a project to evaluate, demolish, remove, and clean-up a two-story masonry and wood framed structure in downtown Bird City, Kansas. The proposals will be opened and read in public at 7:15 p.m., May 7, 2012 at City Hall, 111 E. 4th Bird City, Kansas 67731. A pre-bid conference (not mandatory) will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 3, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

PROJECT: Evaluation, demolition, removal, clean up, and lot restoration of a two-story masonry and wood framed structure and additional foundation located at/near 118 W. 4th St., in downtown Bird City, Kansas, while preserving a party wall, as per project specifications available with the City of Bird City. This project is a public condemnation of a privately-owned structure.

Requests for Bid Documents (including the project specifications) and any questions regarding the project should be directed to Mayor Troy Burr, City of Bird City, at 785-332-0364. The City of Bird City may accept the lowest and best responsive bid, and reserves the right to reject part or all of any or all bids, to waive irregularities or informalities in any bid, to divide purchases among bidders to accomplish the best gross price, and to make the final decision as to acceptability of quality and price. Bids received after the specified time of closing will be unopened. Time is of the essence.