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 wellives 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**

By

St. Francis Rec Director

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

Girls gymnastics continues each

Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The girls are working hard for their

Weight room

Francis high school continues to

allow school district members the

chance to use the weight room dur-

ing non-school time hours. We are

pleasantly surprised how many

people are eager to stay in shape

Sign up for summer programs

ing made for the summer ball pro-

grams. 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

Sand volleyball coming

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.

Last but not least - according to

With spring near, plans are be-

and keep toned!

dates in July.

The administration at the St.

upcoming competition in April.

and Noel Ketzner. Super job.

Penny

Gienger

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 come. Our goal is to enhance the 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-

> Coaches thanked Youth activities soon to be com-

pleted this month are wrestling

## **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 selfserving 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 history of mankind.

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

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

## **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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# Kansas winners of book festival grants announced

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 and school libraries across the close around him."

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 imporfurther the Kansas Book Festi- tant role literacy plays in the sucval's goals of promoting literacy cess of Kansas children," Govand encouraging a life-long love ernor Brownback said. "When of reading," First Lady Brown- a child can read, it opens doors back said. "The grants will to his future; when a child can't help preserve and improve local read, the doors of opportunity

Mrs. Brownback said the The 16 libraries will receive a grants will help fund a wide va-

Kansas First Lady Mary portion of the \$13,000 in grants. 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.



# Two students win essay contest

Sydney Sundstrom and Journey Lee, were notified last week that their essays which were submitted to the Goodland Elks Lodge Contest won not only at the local level, but were then submitted to the district and state level. Both girls are eighth grade students at St. Francis Community Junior High School.

Syd's essay won second at the local level with a \$20 money order and certificate and second at the district level with a \$25 money order and certificate.

Journey's essay received first place at the local level with a \$50 savings bond and certificate. Her essay continued to the district level and received first place and won \$50 money order and certificate. It then proceeded to the state level to place first place also. She won a \$100 money order and certificate. Now her essay will continue to the Grand Lodge Level.

"Wow, this is phenomenal for these girls!" said Lisa Gibson, their instructor. "I'm very proud of them! They have discovered that writing can be very beneficial and a valuable tool in their

Also, Journey's essay at the state was picked first in the fifth through eighth grade division with 184 students' essays par-

#### Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag

By Journey Lee

What does it mean to be an American? It means you can pledge your allegiance to the flag which stands for our great nation, the United States. This is without being judged because of your race or what color you are. It means you can wake up every morning knowing you are free. America stands for so much and I am proud I can pledge my allegiance and be apart of that awesome feeling.

For instance, I can wake up every morning and know I have the power to come to school and get a great education, or when I turn 18 I can go out and vote for the next president. I can even chose my own career when I grow up and make that dream happen.

In America, it does not matter what race you are or what lan-

guage you speak; you will still be treated equally. Just one person can make a difference in America. In America even if someone is not your favorite person, the American way is to still help he or she out in their time of need. I know not many other country's people have the freedom or the power to choose what they want like the American people do. These are the reasons I am

proud to pledge my allegiance to the greatest country in the world, the United States of America. Are you proud to pledge allegiance to the flag?

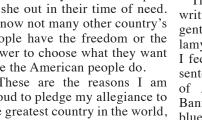
legiance to Our Flag By Sydney Sundstrom

The Pledge of Allegiance was a wonderful gift given to us. I am proud of The Pledge of Allegiance because without it, I'm not sure how I would say thanks to all our flag has done for us. Our pledge makes me proud of my town, state, and team colors. I am even proud of the beautiful colors of red, white, and blue which fly in our sky.

Our flag has flown in wars since 1776. Our American flag is a banner we use to represent the United States. In the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key was captured as a prisoner by the British. When he looked out the window and saw all the fire plus the burning down of the sorrowful place he wrote a poem called The Star Spangled Banner. Later on this poem was turned into today's national anthem.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August of 1892 by a gentleman named Francis Bellamy. The Pledge of Allegiance I feel should be said and represented a lot more. Our Pledge of Allegiance, Star Spangled Banner, and the red, white, and blue all are magnificent characteristics of our flag. This is what our nation "Under God" looks like. I think we should say the Pledge of Allegiance more often at school because we rarely ever

The Pledge of Allegiance tells me that God is watching over me and I have liberty and justice. The Pledge of Allegiance makes me know who I am. It makes me feel strong. Without The Pledge of Allegiance, how do you think you would represent the flag?



**Sundstrom** 

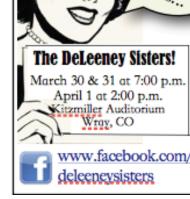
Why I am Proud to Pledge Al-

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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.



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