

# Post office to stop processing mail

By Sam Dieter  
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The Colby Post Office will stop processing mail for the northwest Kansas area in February as the U.S. Postal Service implements plans to consolidate operations, with the work – and most mail – moving out of state.

All mail from most of the nine-county area will be shipped overnight to North Platte, Neb., for sorting.

"The post office does not have the mail volumes to justify the size and capacity of our operation," said Brian Sperry, a regional spokesman for the service based in Denver. "We must match our network to the size of our workload."

The mail processing is scheduled to move on Feb. 26, Mr. Sperry said. North Platte is about 145 miles north of Colby on U.S. 83.

Customers shouldn't notice much difference in counter service or mail cutoff times, Mr. Sperry added.

Most letters will take the same

time to deliver, he said, because the post office maintains a standard of being able to deliver a letter anywhere in the country in one to three days.

There will, however, be two fewer employees working at the Colby office after the consolidation process, Mr. Sperry said. Other offices should be unaffected.

Mr. Sperry said his understanding is that first-class mail will continue to move overnight, at least if it makes the right truck out of town. Publications might take longer to deliver, he said, two to nine days instead of one to nine, but overnight first-class mail between area codes starting with 677 should be unaffected.

"First-class mail is our bread and butter, it's what pays the bills," Mr. Sperry said, adding that first-class volume declined by 5 percent last year and is projected to decline 47 percent by 2020.

To offset losses suffered from the rise of digital mail, the post office wants to consolidate 140

processing operations nationwide next year. The list was released quietly after 6 p.m. Friday, but the press has paid little attention.

Mr. Sperry said that last fiscal year, the service lost \$15.9 billion and it hopes to save \$1.2 billion through the consolidations.

In Colby, Postmaster Jean Johnson said the office might already be down to the number

of employees who should be working after the consolidations. The service tries to reduce the number of employees through attrition – retirements and resignations – and not layoffs, Ms. Johnson said.

A \$15,000 buyout deal is being offered to any employees in the post office unions, Mr. Sperry said.

# Highway department bids three projects

The Kansas Department of Transportation let bids for highway construction projects, mostly maintenance resurfacing work, last month, including three on K-27 in Cheyenne and Wallace counties.

Venture got a \$3,135,083 contract to mill and overlay 29.7 miles of U.S. 36 and K-27 in Cheyenne County. Work will run from the K-27 junction at Wheeler east to the Rawlins County line, and south on K-27 to Sherman County. Also included is all half a mile of K-217 north past the former Wheeler post office.

In Wallace County, Venture will mill off the old surface and overlay K-27 from the Greeley county line to Sharon Springs, and from U.S. 40 north to Sherman County. For 29.8 miles through the county, excluding city streets, the contract is for \$2,258,008.

Four contracts cover resurfacing the bulk of K-25 from Monument north to the Nebraska line through Colby and Atwood. Work will start at the junction with U.S. 40 and come north to the Colby city limits

under two contracts, both of which went to the Venture Corp. out of Great Bend. The works will include 17.8 miles of asphalt overlay under the contracts, one for \$398,205 for 2.3 miles in Logan County, the other for \$2,680,911 for 15.5 miles in Thomas County.

North of Colby, to the Rawlins County line, Dustrol Inc. of Towanda got a \$1,018,134 contract to overlay 11.5 miles. In Rawlins County, Venture will do 13.2 miles from Atwood to the Nebraska line, all of which should leave K-25 in smooth shape.

Under four small contracts, Venture and APAC Kansas/Shears Division, of Hutchinson, will mix and stockpile patching material for the department in all four counties. Shears will get \$11,774 and Venture, for three sites, \$275,560.

Kristen Brands, district public affairs manager in Norton for the departments, said work could start any time between April and October, depending on the contractors' schedules. For questions, call her at (785) 877-3315.



## Public Notices

# Notice published for airport hearing

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursdays, November 15 and November 22, 2012. (46, 47)

### Notice of Public Hearing Cheyenne County Commissioners

Notice is hereby given that the Cheyenne County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on November 30, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Room, County Courthouse, 212 E. Washington Street, St. Francis, Kansas.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the issue of the adoption of an airport zoning ordinance affecting the real estate and airspace surrounding the Cheyenne County Municipal Airport.

The draft zoning regulations are available for public review at the County Clerk's office, 212 E. Washington Street, St. Francis, Kansas, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all days except Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays.

Cheyenne County Commissioners  
St. Francis, KS

# Petition filed in court in the Raile estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, November 22, November 29, December 6, 2012. (47, 48, 49)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estates of

ELLEN D. RAILE, Deceased  
DOD: December 21, 2010

and

Case No. 2012-PR-24

WILLIAM L. RAILE, Deceased  
DOD: April 27, 2012

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in the Court by Clifford D. Raile, one of the heirs of the above decedents, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Cheyenne County, Kansas:

The East Thirty Feet (E30') of Lot Thirteen (13) and all of Lot Fourteen (14) in Block Fifty Eight (58) of Dayton's Addition to the City of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof,

And that such property owned by the decedents at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the City of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Clifford D. Raile, Petitioner

MICHAEL J. DAY #8523  
KITE & DAY  
112 W. Washington, PO Box 575  
St. Francis, KS 67756  
(785) 332-3323  
kiteandday@cityofstfrancis.net

## Book Review

*Touching The Sky*  
Tracie Peterson

As the war between the states comes to a close, Laura Marquardt is grateful to put the years of pain and loss behind her. But emotions remain high between the residents of Corpus Christi, Texas where loyalties are still split between the North and the South.

Though Laura dreams of finding love, it is her younger sister, Carissa, who quickly marries. De-

spite her sister's job, Laura simply can't shake the growing unease she has for the man. When hints of his true nature are revealed and Carissa is caught in the crosshairs, Laura must decide what steps she is willing to take to protect her sister. With the promise of love finally within her own grasp, will Laura be forced to surrender all she's longed for.



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# Annual kettle campaign starts

The holiday season has arrived and the Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle campaign kicked off on Monday. It will continue through Dec. 24.

Last year, Cheyenne County raised \$5,000. Of the money collected in Cheyenne County, \$4,400 supported the local Salvation Army programs throughout the year. Programs, said Dolores Jenik, coordinator, included rent, utilities, motel rooms, auto insurance, gas for transportation to doctor appointments, medications, groceries and eye exams and glasses.

Anyone wishing to donate by credit card may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Checks can be mailed to The Salvation Army, PO Box 462, St Francis, 67756.

Envelopes for donations will be inserted in The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times issues on Dec. 6.

Cheyenne County continues to see higher numbers of people turning to the organization for help than ever before, said Mrs.

Jenik. They need basic needs like food and shelter.

This year, there has been an increased number of people needing help with eye glasses and the Salvation Army works with the Lions Club's program.

Winter is here and Salvation Army helps residents with their winter fuel expenses. There are two programs available: Midwest Customers Care program and EagleCares. Hotline number to call is: 1-877-566-2769 - (for Midwest ext 401) - (for EagleCares ext 417)

Any amount people can give to the Salvation Army this holiday season will help provide assistance to those in the community who are struggling, day in and day out, to make ends meet.

### Coordinator needed

Mrs. Jenik said this is her last year as the local coordinator for Salvation Army. Anyone, she said, who is interested in assuming the job can contact her at 785-332-8810.

# Music club sponsors festival on Dec. 2

The St. Francis Federated Music Club is sponsoring the Yuletide Festival at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2, at the St. Francis Community High School auditorium. Many community talents will be presented. Students from The Dance Ranch will be performing as well as numerous other artists, young and old.

Traditionally, this event helps to ring in the Christmas season in

St. Francis. A freewill offering is taken and is used for the benefit of scholarships and other youth activities in the community.

### Candy Store

Once again, the Candy Store will be in the lobby to help with holiday baking and candy making. Items are provided by Music Club members and may be purchased at the festival.

Everyone is welcome.

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American Profile Hometown Content 11/18/2012

66. Fiddler's tune

**DOWN**

1. What elms provide

2. Flower part

3. Chip away at

4. FDR, but not TR

5. Pitched a tent

6. Immature seed

7. Italian island resort

8. Braying beast

9. Gambler's loss, figuratively

10. Airline to down under

11. Hankering

12. Takeoff artist

13. British sympathizer of 1776

19. Most recent

24. New Ager John

25. Turn aside

27. "Waste not, want not," e.g.

29. Prospector's find

30. "The Virginian" author Wister

31. \_\_\_ capita income

32. String tie

33. Cask dregs

34. "Peer Gynt" playwright

36. Sharp left from Ali

37. Steep slope

38. Blunted blade

39. Weak brew

44. Arrow poison

46. Declared as fact

48. Car shopper's option

49. Biblical queendom

50. Duke or earl

51. Rub out

52. Kidney-related

53. Not quite shut


54. Chip's chipmunk chum

55. Bakery fixture

56. Plod along

59. Post-opposite

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