

By Karen Krien
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Insurance, both health and the county's property insurance, were discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Monday. The property insurance was reviewed by agents Kelly Frewen and Roxie Neitzel, and no decisions were made. However, the health insurance brought on a great deal of discussion, with the commissioners deciding to give employees the choice of three deductibles, with an appropriate employee cost for each.

Karan Thadani, county attorney, had reported earlier that county employees were not hap-

py about the health insurance proposals. This year, said Dale Patton, chairman, we will start evaluating insurance options earlier. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, pointed out that their earlier proposal was based on the fact that they didn't think the employees would want a higher premium for a lower deductible. The commissioners agreed that, no matter what decision they made, it wouldn't please everyone.

Tim Carson, representing Corporate Plan, the county's health insurance provider, and Dave Flemming, public works supervisor, both had input. After comparing plans and con-

siderable discussion, the commissioners voted to go with Corporate's plan which offered three different options: the family plan - \$550 deductible with a \$170 a month premium out of the employee's check; \$1,100 deductible, \$125 a month premium; and \$1,600 deductible, \$85 premium. Employees taking the health insurance, for years, have not been charged a premium but, now, they will be required to pay a \$20 premium for the \$1,600 deductible; \$30 for the \$1,100 deductible and \$40 for the \$550 deductible.

Kathy Holste, dispatcher, asked the commissioners to consider paying part of the cost of

her insurance, since she already has insurance and was not interested in the county's insurance. The commissioners later agreed that employees either take the insurance or lose the benefit.

In other business

- The commissioners appointed Devin Conley to the Airport Commission. He replaces Rod Young.

- The commissioners noted that the landfill supervisor, Byron Moberly, was concerned about how fast the newly dug pit is filling up.

- A permit for Breckenridge Exploration to do seismographing northwest of St. Francis was signed.

- Cody Beeson, sheriff, reported that his budget will allow pay increases for officers. He said he is still looking for a new or different vehicle for the department, but isn't in any hurry until he finds what he is looking for.

- The commissioners approved 341 abatements concerning groundwater taxes which had not been included when the tax statements had been sent. They will bring in \$56,000.

Next meeting

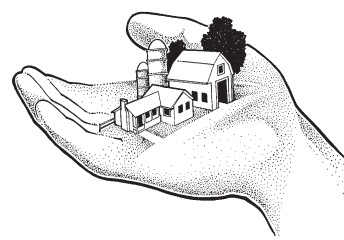
The next commissioners' meeting is set for 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, in the courthouse.

Readers encouraged to share experiences

By Amanda Miller
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The town of St. Francis has a rich history. As a part of the "Sod House and the Dirty Thirties" story, we asked readers to send in their own story about living in a sod house. Residents responded with their own or their relative's stories about living in a sod house and how life treated them during the Great Depression.

During the early twentieth century, life was very different. World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II dominated most American's and Kansan's minds. Life was hard. There was no television, although many homes had a ra-



dio they listened to in the evenings. Outhouses, party line phones, and countless other experiences unknown to many today defined life during that time.

We encourage anyone who remembers what life was like in the earlier years, especially any person who lived in a sod house, to contact The Herald so we can tell your story!

Wild game feed well attended

Saturday night, Jan. 11, a wild game feed was held at the Riverside Recreation clubhouse. This feed was sponsored by a group of guys who like to hunt, along with the participation of Riverside Recreation.

"We had a great time!" said Roger Faulkender, one of the organizers. "We had a large crowd, everyone had fun, and everybody got to eat some really good, and maybe a little unusual,

food."

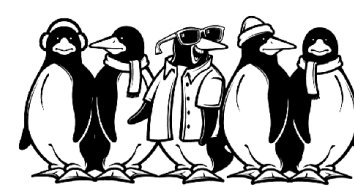
It was estimated that nearly 200 people attended, and had their choice of wild pig, chucker, antelope, elk, deer, turkey, raccoon, and other wild game meats, along with sides of beans, cheesy potatoes, and pasta salad.

Several of the group of guys began seasoning the meats on Friday evening. Bright and early Saturday morning, they fired

off the cookers, and began the job of roasting the meats. The group estimated they had 350 pounds of various meats, "It took 8 cookers to fit it all in, and I'm not sure how we got it to fit, even then. We had guys cooking, guys going after fire wood, guys setting up, guys everywhere helping out. There was a lot of work, but there was also a lot of hands to help, so it went very smoothly, and was really a lot of fun" said Faulkender.

A lot of young hunters attended, along with their parents, to sample some of the different meats. Roger said that two young girls, probably about 10 years old, came up to thank him, and tell him that they "really liked the raccoon" that they had eaten.

"A lot of folks were involved, and really pulled together to make this a success. Maybe, we'll have to try it again" said Faulkender.



Club Clip

Plum Creek 4-H

The Plum Creek 4-H Club met Jan. 8, at the Methodist Church in St. Francis. There were 13 members present.

Roll call was answered by your favorite Christmas present. A fair theme suggestion was discussed.

Matthisen Witzel gave a talk on her buymanship project, and Joel Hill gave a talk on his market steer project. Brice Hays led the club in a song, Jesse Baxter led recreation and the Elfers' were hosts.

The next meeting will be Feb. 5.

Hometown Hero — Director, performer makes music

Neala Carmichael has been selected as the Hometown Hero.

Mrs. Carmichael has been instrumental in bringing out the music of many Cheyenne County residents since she and her husband, Bill, came to live in St. Francis in June of 2007. It didn't make any difference if the person sang in the church choir or in the shower — if she found out, she was making arrangements for them to sing in the next production. And, once they sang under her direction, they were hooked. The sounds she was able to produce with her choirs were magnificent.

Recently, she directed the Community Chorus of Cheyenne County which performed at the Peace Lutheran's "Christmas Memories", as well as Salem's Christmas In The Country. Not only does she direct, she also sings with different groups.

Serving on the "On Stage" board, she has helped with two productions — an adult and a childrens, and she will be the first to say that she loves doing it.

For years, she has played with the Once Again Sound Band on her portable keyboard. During the St. Francis high school alumni gatherings, she plays while the groups are waiting for their class pictures, long after the band has left.

Neala says she came from a musical family, with her mother singing in the church choir and her dad having his own band. Her first singing debut came when she was 3-years-old. She sang "You Are My Sunshine" for the Odd Fellows Lodge in Benkelman.

All of her family, including her five siblings, she said, were musical.

Mrs. Carmichael learned to play the piano by ear, but later learned to read music and play. She played the piano and organ for church, and by the time she was in her teens, she was directing the church choir. In over 40 years, she has directed choirs in Benkelman,



Neala Carmichael performs in a recent production.

Bird City, St. Francis, and Sterling, Colo.

For 30 years, she directed the Sweet Adelines in Sterling, an international music organization. After moving to St. Francis, she, Carol Ross and Colleen Gardner traveled to Sterling twice a week to attend practices and participate in the performances. She was also a part of the Sterling Silver Quartet.

Performances for Neala weren't just singing. Her sense of humor bubbled during the shows. Today, she no longer travels to Sterling, and has retired from the Sweet Adelines, but her sense of humor is still there and is evident in the productions she directs, as well as when people meet her on the street.

**Annual Knights of Columbus
Free Throw Contest
Sunday, Jan. 19
St. Francis High School
Doors open at 1 p.m.
Contest starts at 2 p.m.
Boys and Girls Divisions • Ages 9-14**



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Winter Sports Special Section

This supplement will feature

St. Francis and Cheylin

Jr. High

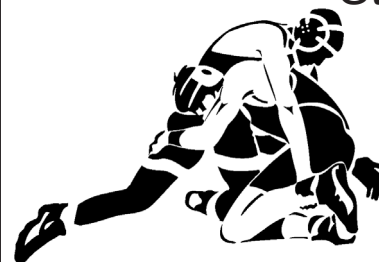
and High School

Basketball

players,

Wrestlers

and Cheerleaders!



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