

# Alumni continue planning of future gatherings

Eighteen people attended the St. Francis Community High School alumni meeting on Monday evening. After reviewing the survey which had been placed online by Carol Sloper, they turned to discussing food, entertainment, communications and restructuring. No decisions were made at this meeting but will need to be made at the April 1 meeting which will start at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

All classes are urged to turn in a list of classmates and their current mailing address and/or e-mail addresses before the end of the month. They may send to [sdinkel@usd297.org](mailto:sdinkel@usd297.org), or call her at 785-332-2570 for more information.

As of Monday, there had been 250 responses to the survey. 68 percent of the responses indicated they wanted the reunion on the third Saturday of June with the Cheyenne County Fair weekend following at 38 percent. The majority also wanted the reunion to be held each year.

In the events and activities questions, the responses are as follows:

- Pay a basic registration fee to attend - 71 percent.
- Pay additionally for a meal, dance, other - 68 percent.

- Sit down meal in cafeteria - 26 percent.
- Weather permitting informal meal in park - 72 percent.
- Professional honor class picture at school - 56 percent.
- Music and visiting in park - 79 percent.
- Beer Garden (court by courthouse) - 69 percent.
- Weather permitting, outdoor street dance - 63 percent.
- Saturday golf tourney - 29 percent.
- Friday evening art walk downtown - 42 percent.
- Saturday noon brat meal at museum - 35 percent.
- Saturday tours of Cheyenne County - 27 percent.
- Attend a short business meeting - 21 percent.

Answers to what events and activities alumni would attend on a non-honor year were:

- Sit down meal in cafeteria - 14 percent.
- Weather permitting, informal meal in park - 54 percent.
- Music and visiting in park - 73 percent.
- Beer garden (court by courthouse) - 64 percent.
- Weather permitting, outdoor street dance - 54 percent.
- Saturday golf tournament - 23 percent.

- Friday downtown art walk - 31 percent.
  - Saturday noon brat meal at museum - 23 percent.
  - Saturday tours of Cheyenne County - 18 percent.
- Those answering the question "Years since graduation" included:

- 1 to 10 years - 14 percent.
- 11 to 20 years - 17 percent.
- 21 to 30 years - 20 percent.
- 31 to 40 years - 16 percent.
- 41 to 50 years - 21 percent.
- 51 to 60 years - 10 percent.
- 61 or more years - 3 percent.

These surveys indicated there is interest in returning to an informal meal in the park, weather permitting from both honor classes and other alumni, said Tom Keller, chairman. There is good support for music and visiting in the park with a supervised beer garden. Extra-curricular activities such as a Saturday golf tournament, Friday downtown art walk and a Saturday noon brat meal at the museum would have moderate support. The third Saturday in June was the most popular date with annual reunions the preference.

Look for more information about the alumni meeting in next week's Herald.

## Ownership changes to be reported

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A farm, as defined by agency, is generally made up of tracts that have the same owner and the same operator. A sale of land in the farm or a tract of land within the farm would be an instance that requires notifying the local Farm Service Agency office so a farm reconstitution can be initiated using the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution. These requests must be made by Aug. 1.

A special provision exists that would allow contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method of division, known as the "Designation by Landowner" provision, must be requested and requires all sellers and buyers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes signatures of all sellers and buyers.

The designation by landowner method of division may be used more specifically when:

- Part of the farm is sold or ownership is transferred.
- An entire farm is sold to two or more people.
- Farm ownership is transferred to two or more people.
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred.
- A tract is sold to two or more people.
- Tract ownership is transferred to two or more people.

When notifying the county office of ownership changes, the designation by landowner method of division should be discussed to see if this method would result in a more satisfactory division of contract acres compared to the default method most commonly used for farm and tract divisions. The designation by landowner method can only be used when requested and if all buyers and sellers agree in writing.



LUKE KELLER and Karen Seirer plan to wed on May 31 in Russell.

## Wedding planned

Kent and Cheryl Seirer of Russell and Mark and Gwen Keller of St. Francis are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Karen Seirer to Luke Keller.

The bride graduated from Russell High School in 2005. She attended Fort Hays State University, graduating with an Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Medical Diagnostic Imaging. She is employed at Comcare in Salina.

The groom graduated from Saint Francis Community High School in 2004. He attended Fort Hays State University and is currently employed at the Home

Depot in Hays.

The couple plans to marry on May 31 in Russell at the St. Mary's Queen of Angels Catholic Church.



HOSPITAL STAFF NURSES Lori Raile and Tenille Lee move patients to the hospital basement as part of the statewide tornado drill for emergency preparedness on March 4. Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller

## School funding must increase

By Amanda Miller  
[amiller@nwkans.com](mailto:amiller@nwkans.com)

Kansas must spend more money on public schools, according to a much anticipated ruling by the Kansas Supreme Court. The court ruled on Friday, March 7, that the state's current public school funding levels are unconstitutional.

The ruling in the Gannon v. Kansas case over school finance has Republicans, including Governor Sam Brownback and legislative leaders, reeling. The state's high court ordered that an estimated \$130 million be restored to school districts statewide by July 1. This represents money that school districts would have received under the state's school funding law to help even out the wealth of school districts in Kansas.

Governor Sam Brownback and Republican lawmakers have argued that school funding levels should not be determined by courts, but by legislators. The Governor has slashed taxes in an attempt to spur job growth in Kansas, but critics say it comes at the expense of schools and

poor residents.

"This is a complex decision requiring thoughtful review," Brownback said in a statement. "I will work with leadership in the Kansas Senate and House to determine a path forward that honors our tradition of providing a quality education to every child and that keeps our schools open, our teachers teaching, and our students learning."

The court's judgement of the estimated \$130 million to be restored was not the only ruling. It sent potentially more expensive issues back to the lower court to resolve. The lower court was given the task to "promptly" review and determine what the "adequate" amount of funding should be. But the court did not set a deadline for hearing.

"The intent of the people of Kansas is unmistakable," the Kansas Supreme Court ruling states. "The Kansas constitutional command envisions something more than funding public schools by legislative fiat."

In the ruling issued Friday,

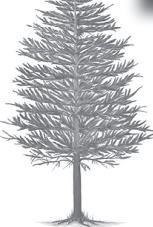
the Kansas high court pointed to Article Six of the state constitution, which says "the legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests" of the state.

The Kansas Association of School Boards said in a statement, "The people of Kansas have adopted constitutional principles and standards the legislature must meet, including both adequacy and equity; and the judiciary is the final authority to determine adherence to constitutional standards."

They went on to say that they urge the Governor and legislature to immediately provide full funding for local option budget state aid and capital outlay state aid to correct the unconstitutional wealth-based disparities.

St. Francis Community School District Superintendent Rob Schiltz said that if the court does what it says, and doesn't do anything else, approximately \$16,000 in state aid would be added to the local options budget.

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|   | 1 gal. Scotch Pine.....\$6.49             |
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