



Grover Merklin Carmichael Janicke

Seniors receive university award

By Amanda Miller
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The University of Kansas will be honoring 51 seniors from nine counties in northwest Kansas on Wednesday, April 2. The students from 16 different Kansas high schools will be honored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

The University of Kansas Chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little, will speak to the students, their parents, and guests.

During the ceremony, each student will receive a Webster's New College Dictionary and a commemorative certificate.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and university's endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of \$15 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details, and serve as local contacts for the event. Mike and Brenda Day, of St. Francis, are the Cheyenne County coordinators. Charles and Connie Peckham, of Atwood, are the Rawlins County coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible by the university's endowment, and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

High school seniors in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 7 p.m. dinner and program at the Colby Community College Student Union, 1255 S Range Ave., Colby. Students from Cheylin High School include Ty Carmichael and Walker Janicke, of Bird City. St. Francis Community High School seniors recognized will be Rande Grover and Bailey Merklin, of St. Francis.



CITY EMPLOYEES prune trees back on Main street. The trees are being pruned back to facilitate their removal.
 Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

School board discusses personnel

By Amanda Miller
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The St. Francis Community School District met on Thursday, March 13. During the meeting, Superintendent Rob Schiltz discussed the recent judgement by the Kansas Supreme Court on the Gannon v. Kansas. Personnel for the next school year was also discussed.

All bills were reviewed and discussed by the board, and approved. The cash summary report and activity fund were also reviewed. There were no visitors. The scholarship committee will be meeting April 10 with high school principal Mr. Morrow to go over the scholarship packets and procedures to select scholarship recipients.

Superintendent Schiltz discussed the recent ruling on the Gannon lawsuit and its potential impact on the St. Francis Community School District. At this time, Mr. Schiltz said, we can only speculate how the legislature will choose to comply with the high court's decision. However, if the decision is upheld Mr. Schiltz said that the school district will receive an additional \$17,314.

The court ordered in Gannon v. Kansas 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.

School personnel
 The board went into executive session regarding non-elected personnel. The executive session lasted over an hour before regular session resumed.

The board was reminded that by law, a board must notify a teacher in writing on or before May 16 if the teacher's contract will not be renewed, and a teacher must do the same if resigning from their contract.

Superintendent Schiltz reported that first grade teacher Meghan Kinen will not be returning to her position until the 2015-2016 school year. Marian Ochsner has been substituting on a long-term basis for Mrs. Kinen. She has agreed to continue substituting until Mrs. Kinen returns. The board agreed that they will put Mrs. Ochsner on salary due to the long term arrangement.

The school has hired Mary Moore through the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center as a substitute speech paraprofessional to fill in for Charlene Fiedler until she is able to return to work from sick leave. Mrs. Moore currently works for Cheylin district but will now spend three days in St. Francis, and two days in Bird City each week.

The board and administration received a letter of resignation from Marsha Kechter, resigning her position as elementary school cook. Mrs. Kechter is resigning after 18 years in the district in various positions. Superintendent Schiltz said that they are going to miss her. "She is a hard worker," Mr. Schiltz said.

The board agreed to offer Terri Orth the position of assistant high school track coach. There are 54 kids in track.

Other business
 A compact utility tractor has been ordered through American Implement for the school. Bids were received from both American Implement and Yost Farm Supply.

Dr. Jeremy Busby, Ph.D., 1991 Saint Francis High School alumni, will be the keynote speaker at the graduation commencement this year. Dr. Busby has a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering. He agreed to come early and attend some science classes at the high school prior to the graduation ceremony as well.

For the last three years, the keynote speaker has been an alumni from the St. Francis Community School District. Mr. Schiltz said that the community response has been positive. He also mentioned that he would like to find a female alumni for a future speaker, and asked the board to think about potential future speakers.

Next meeting
 The next scheduled board meeting will be held on April 10 at 7 p.m.

Club Clip
Tuesday Club
 The Tuesday Club met March 11 at the Cheyenne Manor, with Valjean Schultz and Shirley Sherlock as hostesses. Eleven members and one guest, Pastor David Butler, enjoyed carrot cake that was served.

President Carol Rogers introduced the guest, Pastor Butler. He told about his recent trip to Israel, and how great it was to travel with old friends. Visiting the Biblical places was emotional, inspiring, and safe enough for travel.

After the program, the president called the meeting to order. It ended with the members repeating the collect.

Benefit Meal and Bake Sale for Lori Crable
 Sunday, March 23
 Noon - 2 p.m.
 United Methodist Church
 St. Francis

Sponsored by St. Francis Churches & Thrivent Financial

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