



CITY RESIDENTS WERE WITHOUT WATER Thursday evening when a water main broke at River and Fourth Street. The city crew rushed to patch the main so water could be restored. Above, J.R. Landenberger, city manager, and Chris McQuigg (front) were working on the equipment.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

City needs electrical upgrades

*By Amanda Miller
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Discussion was held at the last St. Francis City Council meeting about the electrical upgrade and how the city planned to fund the project. A spreadsheet was provided to council members that gave a detailed look into the city's budget, cash reserves, and employees.

The committee that reviewed the electrical upgrade funding consisted of council members Bruce Swihart and Carla Lampe, city superintendent JR Landenberger, city clerk Glori Milne and for an outsider's perspective, Carl Werner.

Paula Keller, council woman, said she reviewed the spreadsheets that Mr. Landenberger provided. She thought it would be helpful if there was a synopsis or overview the committee could provide that explained any conclusions. He replied that the committee basically looked at the cash reserve and the revenue, looked at each department, and broke everything up. Each council member and administrative person received a print out of the city's overview from 1997 to 2013.

Of interest to note is that since 1997, the number of employees on payroll has dropped from a high of 27 to 14. The average number of employees over the last 16 years for the city is 21. The street crew went from having an average of 13 employees before 2006, to having six employees in 2013. Payroll is at the lowest it has been in the last 10 years.

"We are working with a skeleton crew," Mr. Landenberger said. He went on to say that there is no room to cut the city crew, in fact they need to find someone to hire.

The cash reserve is at about the same amount as it was in 1997,

but over the years that number has risen and declined numerous times. Mr. Landenberger said that keeping the reserve at the current number would probably be necessary because there are other upgrades and maintenance issues that will be arising in the near future. The reserve is how the city pays for emergencies as well.

Mr. Jensen has asked about using the police force to pay for the upgrade in the past. According to the information provided, the city police force has gone from having six people on staff over the years to having three and one-half the past three years.

The consumer cost per kilowatt has gone from 9.5 cents in 1997 to 12.5 cents in 2013. The total electric revenue minus the costs associated has remained relatively constant over the past 14 years available on record. In fact, in 2013, the electric revenue was less than it was in 1999. With these numbers, it is evident that the city council has worked hard to keep the costs low for the citizens.

Finally, city taxes have also remained constant. The amount collected in 2013 was only \$3,000 different than that collected in 1997. Mr. Landenberger said that the city taxes are very, very low compared to other cities (please note this is not counting county taxes).

With all of the information provided to the council, members plan to review the information and see what plans they can come up with. Mr. Landenberger reiterated that some of the numbers that the city is operating on now are unsustainable.

The committee is not scheduled to meet again at this time.

Resident is oldest member of association

*By Amanda Miller
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Tobe Zweygardt is celebrating his 98th birthday this week! Born March 17, 1916, he has spent his entire life in Cheyenne County. In later years, he has been known as the county's historian, conducting tours of the county for numerous people, including both local residents and tourists. He is the oldest U.S. 36 Highway

Association member.

Tobe has seen a lot of changes through the years, and he has been instrumental in making some of those changes in the St. Francis area.

Through the years, Tobe has been called the "county historian" because he knew the history, the creeks, Indian encampments, and farmsteads.

One of the projects Tobe helped

the community and county with was by helping establish the fairgrounds where it is today. He served on the fair board from 1946 to 1956.

He was one

of 10 men who signed a note to



Zweygardt

purchase the fairgrounds in 1946. That year, there was a fair held there and, he said, Jake Zweygardt had hand-dug a well so there was drinking water. They rented bleachers and, he said, a rough bunch of traveling carnival people came to town.

In the late 40s, Tobe and Hap Shull took measurements of the grandstand in Oakley. By

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Health fair schedule set

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The Cheyenne County Spring Health Fair is scheduled for March 24 through 26 in St. Francis and March 27 and 28 at the Bird City Clinic.

Sponsored by the Cheyenne County Hospital, Clinic and Health Department, lab draws will be done March 24, 25 and 26 from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Cheyenne County Health Department. March 27 and 28 from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. lab draws will be done at the Bird City Clinic.

No appointment is needed for the lab draws, and you can take your prescription medication and drink water prior to when you go in. Do not eat any other foods or drink anything other than water after midnight the night before the lab draws.

The lab work available includes: a Chemistry

Panel (with TSH and Lipid panel) Hemoglobin A1C and PSA (for men). The fee is due at time of service and will not be billed to insurance.

The health fair services are being offered at a much reduced cost for the blood draws and exams, said Mila Bandel, county health nurse. They will offer a female exam that includes a breast and pelvic exam with pap smear. The male exam will include a prostate check.

The men's and women's exams will be done April 14 through 18 at both the St. Francis and Bird City Clinics. Those wanting to have an exam should call the clinic, 332-2682 (St. Francis) or 734-2306 (Bird City) to make an appointment. These health fair exams are only done by appointment.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Bandel at 785-332-2381.



'I MADE IT!' Said senior Bailey Merklin as she and senior Randee Grover checked out results for regional journalism contest posted in the high school hallway. This year, the Saint Francis journalists once again received the highest number of points in the 1A-2A competition.

Journalism students earn most points at regionals

Saint Francis high school journalism students competed in the regional journalism contest on Thursday, Feb. 27, in Hays. Results were released Friday, March 14, by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association.

Twenty-three members of the high school Wigwam staff placed and qualified for state journalism. The Saint Francis journalists also took home more points than any other 1A-2A team.

Student placers were: Jude Faulkender - third in Academic Photography; Makayla Rogers - first in Photo Illustration; McKenzie Taylor - Honorable Mention in Advertising; CarolEve Harris and Michaela Ford - honorable mention (each) in Editorial

Cartoon; Sydney Sundstrom and Jenna Confer - honorable mention in Newspaper Sports Writing; Rachel Lee-Hopper and Aly Schlepp - honorable mention in Sports Photography; Aly Schlepp - second in Feature Writing; Kayla Rogers and Emily Elfers honorable mention in News Writing; Bailey Merklin - first in Infographics; Erik Nelson - third in Copy Editing; Katie Schmid - honorable mention in Copy Editing; Erik Nelson and Journey Lee (team) - first in Theme and Graphic Development; Clay Cassaw and Mariah Beikman (team) - second in Theme and Graphic Development; Randee Grover - third in Yearbook Copy Writing; Mariah Beikman - honorable mention in Yearbook

Copy Writing; Hannah Stafford - first in Newspaper Design; Payton Beims - honorable mention in Newspaper Design; Bailey Merklin - second in Cutline (Caption) Writing; Jeremiah Neitzel - third in Student Life Photography; Ryan Grover - honorable mention in Student Life Photography; Kylie Sherlock - third in Headline Writing.

These young journalists, said Brenda Day, instructor, will compete at State Journalism Contest on Saturday, May 3, in Lawrence.

"I am very proud of my students," said Brenda Day. "They represent themselves, their school, and their community, extremely well."



GIRL SCOUT, KATTIE WURM took advantage of the nice weather Monday and was selling Girl Scout cookies. Lance Owens was checking to see if he had enough money to pay for a box. The scouts still have boxes of cookies to sell. Call any girl scout or Joyce Russ at 785-332-2118.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr