



HONORING JACK WEINSTEIN on Friday were members of the Colby American Legion Honor Guard, left to right: Tom Wallsmith, Tracey Galli, Ron Donley, Travis Goodheart, Doug Ketchum, Justin Umberger and Stan Schmidt. Not pictured is L.J. O'Neal who is calling commands. Herald staff photos by Amanda Miller



KATTIE JENIK arranges her art work which was on display at Fresh 7 Coffee on Main Street.

Many activities held in St. Francis

By Karen Krien
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The activities held Friday and Saturday in St. Francis could well be deemed as successful!

This year's St. Francis Community High School alumni reunion was coordinated with Celebrate St. Francis activities, and it all worked well together.

Friday found many people enjoying the Art Walk. There was music and art at the banks, Fresh 7 Coffee, the library, The Art Hub, Quincy Gallery, Cheyenne County Development and Cowgirl Creations and Designs. Maps and information were provided so people could hear or see whatever they were interested in, and there was a wide variety of music and art to choose from. The temperatures had warmed up by the time the Art Walk started, and refreshments were provided.

Later that afternoon, the Citizens for a New Swimming Pool hosted a barbecue to raise money for the new pool. Barbecued meat on buns, chips and drink made a for a great "picnic in the park."

Ione Slattery had composed a song as a tribute to St. Francis, which she sang. A recording of the song was also played during the alumni steak dinner the following evening.

The Friday events concluded

with "Honoring a Hero," a special tribute to Jack Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, was honored with a gun salute by the Fort Riley Honor Guard. (COLBY ??) and a folded U.S. Flag was presented to his wife, Nancy. Scott Schultz, mayor, made a presentation, and Bruce Swihart, councilman, spoke. The national anthem was sung by Chad Miller.

Saturday

On Saturday, the day started with a 5K race and 2-mile walk, with Pastor Warren Cico heading this activity. It was a cool, damp morning for the race.

There was also light rain for the golf tournament, which just added to the enjoyment of those swinging their clubs.

Brats and all the trimmings were served at the Cheyenne County Museum at noon. It was well attended, as many were wanting a place to sit down, enjoy their meal and then wander through the museum. Many were alumni who were old enough to remember what some of the items in the museum were used for, or may even have used them.

Alumni on Saturday

Later in the afternoon, the dark clouds began to appear on the western horizon, but that didn't slow people down. The alumni,



NANCY WEINSTEIN greeted people who came to the ceremony for her husband, Jack.

many who had returned for their special year celebration, started meeting at the high school about 6 p.m. for their class photos. This year, Teresa Porter was in charge of taking the pictures.

As each class' picture was taken, See ACTIVITIES on Page 12

New shop opens near grade school

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A young St. Francis graduate has come back home to start her own business! Allison Grice has opened up a graphic design and photography shop named Cowgirl Creations and Design.

Allison, a 2012 St. Francis Community High School graduate, received her degree in Computer Graphic Technology from Northwest Kansas Technical College. She excelled in college, becoming a lifetime member of the National Technical Honor Society and being nominated for Student of the Year in her department.

During high school, Allison was involved with the yearbook. Through 4-H, she was able to perfect her skills as a photographer. She was Senior Champion in photography at fair her senior year, and also won overall senior exhibit in visual arts.

After college, Allison was a summer graphic designer for Northwest Kansas Technical College. Here she helped create the books that the scouts take out to recruit future students.

With many years of experience under her belt at such a young age, it is no wonder she was ready to open up her own store!

The old grade school art building seemed like the right place for her to open. Located at 220 E Webster, to the west of the grade school, Allison has her office and a gift shop that customers can visit during the week.

Allison can create just about

anything that a customer might need. She can make business cards, create letterheads, stationary, and make brochures for your business or attraction. She said she can also do vinyl work, which can be used for home décor or she can even make magnets and license plate covers. She can make the popular vinyl decorations that can be applied to the wall that say a quote or are outlines of butterflies or baseballs for children's rooms. It is also useful for branding your business.

Allison still loves doing photography, and has that incorporated into her business. She takes pictures for any and all occasions.

In addition to all those services, Cowgirl Creations and Design has a gift shop full of items that independent sellers have displayed for sale. There is jewelry, scarfs, lotions and soaps, candles, cards, and anything a person might need to pick up for a gift.

Allison's mom, Tammy, and her grandmother Mary Lou are both helping her at the shop. During the school year Allison said it would just be her and Mary Lou.

"We have been pretty busy already," Allison said. Cowgirl Creations and Design had their grand opening last Monday, July 16.

To visit Allison, go by Cowgirl Creations and Design Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can also reach her at 785-332-2220.



ALLISON GRICE, owner of Cowgirl Creations and Designs,

Sheriff gives options on coverage of city

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Cheyenne County Sheriff Cody Beeson met with the St. Francis City Council at their last meeting to go over the different options of police coverage that the council has. Members of the city council and the city's chief of police, Shane Guggenmos, have recently approached the sheriff's office for ideas.

With the loss of an officer from the city's police force, and the decision not to hire another officer to fill that position, the city is left with two officers. According to research that Sheriff Beeson presented, a city with the population of St. Francis should have two and a half officers employed.

Sheriff Beeson said the half man is difficult to hire, and although a lot of discussion has focused on this number, it does not represent a true coverage of time. Law enforcement is expected to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Even with two and a half officers, that would not be possible. That number of officers would simply be able to handle the work load with a population of St. Francis' size.

After the loss of the officer from the city's police force, several ideas have been discussed, such as contractual law enforcement, shift coverage, and even unified law enforcement.

Sheriff Beeson made clear that he did not think that unified law enforcement worked well or was a good idea. He said it does not work for several reasons. First, who gets what percentage of savings, would it be Bird City, St. Francis or the county. There would be some that argue that one town requires more law enforcement and resources than the other. He also said that the leadership of the unified law enforcement becomes an issue. In most cases it is by an elected board such as city council who picks the person,

and it is disconnected from the citizens. He also argued that in almost all the cases, the cost goes back to the original costs, and no one saves money, which is the original intention just like the city council's now.

Shift coverage could be an extremely expensive option. The city is left with a lot of uncovered hours because they have a two man department. It would cost approximately \$40 an hour to hire a sheriff's office deputy to cover those times, which, when added up, could be well over \$100,000 a year.

Sheriff Beeson said that he thought contractual law enforcement was probably the best option for the city council right now. Contractual can go from the extreme of dismantling the police department and not having city police to the other extreme of just cover a few hours for the city police.

To quote the National Sheriff's Association, "Contract law enforcement offers small municipalities a wide range of services at a reduced cost; and it allows contractor towns to choose the specific levels and types of services that best meet the needs of their citizenry. Small towns that contract with a county sheriff's office, for example, can draw upon the full resources of the larger sheriff's office while paying only their proportionate user costs."

Bird City currently contracts the sheriff's department for the cost of \$35,000 a year. That is how much Bird City spends on law enforcement per year. The Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department spends \$228,000 per year. The city of St. Francis spends about \$200,000, according to the research Sheriff Beeson did.

The sheriff's department employs four full-time employees, as well as part-time deputies. They are running near the maximum number of hours per deputy now. According to Sheriff Beeson,

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