

Award given for 45 years of service

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The National Weather Service in Goodland presented a 45 year length of service award to Marvin Orth on Tuesday, June 24. The award was presented after a lunch with Marvin and his wife, Veda, at Park Hill Restaurant in St. Francis.

Mr. Orth is one of approximately 11,000 cooperative weather observers in the United States. Each year the National Weather Service presents awards to selected observers.

He has been observing precipitation at his farm northwest of St. Francis for the past 45 years. He recalled the years of drought, plentiful rains, hail storms and blizzards.

The most rain he ever reported at one time was 3.8 inches in 1968. The winter of 1982-83, there was 100 inches of snow. He said one snow storm had so much snow and wind that his brother and wife, Gordon and Betty, made it to the farm to feed the livestock and just

stayed there until the storm passed.

The worst time in reporting the moisture was the seven years of drought in the early 2000s. He remembered that the last good wheat crop was 1999 and then the drought set in.

He reads the moisture amount every morning at 7. With the metal equipment, the moisture evaporates quickly. At 7, he said, it is early enough to beat the heat of the sun.

Mr. Orth said he likes being a weather observer and knowing exactly what the moisture is 10 miles northwest of St. Francis.

"I plan to continue measuring the moisture as long as I'm living on the farm," he said.

The award was presented by Scott Mentzer, MIC, of the National Weather Service in Goodland. Also attending were David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and Joy Hayden.

The National Weather Service urges all citizens to tell Mr. Orth "thank you" for all his years of service.



CHECKING FOR RAINFALL totals is part of Marvin Orth's labor of love as a long-time weather observer for the National Weather Service.

Herald Staff photo by Karen Krien

New archery club holds fundraiser during celebration

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There is a new archery club in town, and they are raising money at the Fourth of July celebration in St. Francis this weekend. Hotdogs, hamburgers and more will be served by the Cheyenne County 4-H Deadeye Archery Club on Friday.

The club will be serving hotdogs and hamburgers along with macaroni salad, baked beans, and a cookie for dessert the morning of July 4. They will begin serving when the parade starts at 10:30 a.m. by the bandshell in the park. Lunch will be available until 1 p.m. for those wanting to get a bite to eat after the parade.

Josh Moberly, founder of the club, said they are raising money to purchase new archery targets. Club members practice

at his archery range, Mobe's Archery, just west of St. Francis.

The club wants to buy four of the competition targets for state qualifiers, and 10 of the 3D targets to help them prepare for the state competition. They hope the targets will entice other counties to come up to compete and practice with them.

The archery club meets twice a week for practice during the summer from May through September. They also hold one meeting a month to go over business. There are 20 children from Bird City and St. Francis participating.

At the end of summer, right before fair, the young archers who have made 75 percent of their practices get to compete to go on to state competition. Last year, archers travelled around northwest Kansas to compete for state qualifying. The two who do the best qualify to compete at state level.

Last year, Valerie Wurm went on to compete at the state level from Cheyenne County in the senior division. She placed sixth and was invited to the national competition as an alternate.

Two Cheyenne County club members, Cody Baxter and Brice Hays went to state in the junior division. The two performed very well and placed in the top 10.

In the team event, Cheyenne County placed seventh out of 25 teams competing at the state level.

The participants of the club all receive medals and are recognized for their achievements at the end of summer.

All the club members enjoy archery and are hoping to get others involved in the sport. They would like to hold more competitions and invite other 4-H archery clubs in the tristate area to compete with the new targets they purchase.

Please come out to support your local archers during the July 4 celebration!

City agrees to bandshell use

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The St. Francis City Council met last Monday with several visitors filling the audience chairs. During the meeting, it was decided that a band would play in the bandshell following the Demolition Derby.

Kip and De Wiese came before the council requesting to have use of the bandshell on the Saturday night of fair, after the demolition derby. They have hired a band named Vehicle to perform from 9 p.m. until midnight, and want to hold a dance. It is free to the public to attend.

City council members were happy to let them use the bandshell. It has recently undergone renovations, and is near completion. The council said this would be a great use of the bandshell after all the renovations.

Josh Moberly and several archery students came before the council to see if they could sell a lunch on July 4 weekend to raise money for their 4-H archery team. The city council agreed that would be fine, and told Josh to ask JR Landenberger, City Superintendent, if they needed dumpsters or electrical outlets.

The Cheyenne County Deadeye Archery club will be serving hotdog and hamburgers along with macaroni salad and baked beans, a cookie and drink for \$7 from 10:30 until 1 p.m. on July 4 at the bandshell. Look for more information on the club in an article in this week's issue of The Herald.

John Amack and Wade Krien came before the council to discuss the July 4 plans with the members. Mr. Krien asked if the information could be displayed on the digital sign, and the council said that would be fine. There will be a parade, lunch, games for children and a water slide, and a fireworks show at 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Amack asked if the council would get behind them and explained the group was still needing donations. Council members said that the council does not get involved in these events, however they would be more than willing to help out with traffic cones and whatever city materials that would be helpful.

Look for more information on activities happening St. Francis on the 4th of July in an article of

this week's issue of The Herald.

Theater rental request

Keary Joseph Carman was present to ask permission for the fee to be waived for a showing of some documentaries. He told the council that he had spoken with Robert Grace and the theater board said he had to talk to the council.

The documentaries he is interested in showing are about war and it's effect on the soldiers and veterans. There are three total he is interested in showing at the Cheyenne Theater free of charge for the public to view.

Council members asked if the documentaries had a rating. Mr. Carman said he did not think they were rated, but he said two would not be appropriate for under the age of 18, and one is simply about helicopters and okay for any age.

City attorney Mike Day told Mr. Carman he was not sure, without seeing the documentaries, if the theater was an appropriate venue due to the possible political nature of the films.

Councilman Bruce Swihart said that he would be hesitant to wave fees for one organization and not the other, such as the PTA rental at the end of the school year. The PTA does pay the \$250 fee to rent the theater.

Council members agreed that they would not wave the fee. Further, they stated they did not feel comfortable showing the films at the city-owned theater at this time. Mayor Scott Schultz said that he would prefer a rating system be in place before a decision was made about the showing in the future.

Police coverage update

The sheriff's department and Officer Shane Guggenmos have collaborated and made a schedule for times that the sheriff's department will provide contracted coverage for the city police. Officer Guggenmos presented the schedule and cost to the council and told them that Sheriff Beeson suggested that they meet with the Cheyenne County Commissioners.

The council members seemed surprised at the times and cost they received, and agreed they should meet with the commissioners to discuss what will work for both the city and county. Mr. Swihart and councilman Roger Jensen both stated that

they wanted to contract about 20 hours a week. Council members all agreed, and they will discuss it with the commissioners in the coming weeks.

Water meter charges

It has come to the city council's attention that some apartments are being charged a monthly sewer tap or water meter charge and others are not. The council all agreed that there must be consistency with all apartments in the city.

Mr. Day is working on a resolution so that it states that every apartment pays a separate meter charge monthly.

There was some discussion over the Cheyenne Manor, because each apartment there has not been charged this meter charge in the past and it could be a burden for some in the low-income housing. Mr. Swihart and other members said they would like to hear from the board if it is an issue.

The city is working to make sure that everyone is charged the same monthly fees.

Other business

Mr. Day asked the council if they were ok with him executing the deed of the property on Emerson to Brock McAtee. He has completed the demolition of the run down buildings on the corner. Mr. Jensen and others all complimented his work and for completing it in the time frame they requested. Mr. Day will execute the deed to Mr. McAtee.

Bankwest requested that when the trees are removed from in front of their building on Main, they not be replaced so that they can put up a new sign. The bank would like there to be a clear view of the sign from the street. They said they are willing to work with the city on other ideas besides trees that can go there. The bank is coming up with a proposal for the city.

Council members would like to express their thanks to Tom and Sandy Smull for their help in doing the Weinstein tribute. They were very pleased with the honor guard and other participants that all took time to help honor Mr. Weinstein.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14 at city hall. All meetings are open, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Book Review

The Beast

By Faye Kellerman

Throughout his years with the LAPD, Peter Decker has handled a number of tough cases and strange killers. But few of his previous assignments compare to his latest case - the most bizarre of his storied career.

When Hobart Penny is found dead in his apartment, the cops find that his pet cat - an adult female tiger - attacked the reclusive elderly billionaire. But it soon becomes clear that the beast that killed the eccentric inventor is all too human. Digging into the victim's life, Decker and his colleagues, Detectives Marge Dunn and Scott Oliver, discover that Penny was an exceptionally peculiar man with exotic tastes, including kinky sex with call girls.

Following a trail of clues that leads from a wildlife sanctuary in the San Bernardino Mountains to the wild nightlife

of Las Vegas, the LAPD detectives are left juggling too many suspects and too few answers. To break open a case involving the two most primal instincts - sex and murder - Decker wrestles with a difficult choice. Should he turn to a man with expert knowledge of both, Chris Donatti, the dangerous man who also happens to be the father of Decker's foster son, Gabriel Whitman, a boy without his own problems?

As their work and intimate worlds collide, Decker and his wife, Rina, find themselves facing tough questions. It just might be that family crisis and work-related responsibilities prove too much for Decker's career. A confluence of ordeals can stress even the most intact of families. And when all these shocking truths come out, exactly how well will Decker and Rina cope, and will they survive?

Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Tim Burr at:



The Saint Francis Herald

Bird City Times

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Show

July 31 - Aug. 2

Featuring stories about the demonstrations, buildings, history, shows and Queens.



Cheyenne County Fair

Aug. 4 - Aug. 9

Featuring 4-H'ers, fair and carnival activities, schedule of events and other interesting happenings at fair time.



The Saint Francis Herald & Bird City Times Office will be closed