

City's health insurance premium jumps

By Sandy Barnhart

The health insurance premiums for the city employees are going up again.

City clerk Mary Lampe informed the St. Francis City Council of the new Blue Cross and Blue Shield premium increases when they met Feb. 5. The city pays the entire premium for their

employees and, in the last two years, the premiums have doubled. A representative from the company will be at the next meeting to discuss the increases and possibly different options available to the city. The renewal date for the insurance is April 1.

For the months of January through March, the

premium cost \$40,125, from April to December the premiums will cost \$165,988 for a total of \$206,144 for the 2002 year. In the year 2001, the city paid \$125,211 and the year 2000 the amount was \$107,428.

The old premium rate for a single employee is \$219 with the new rate at \$307; for an em-

ployee with children the old rate is \$422, new - \$591; employee with spouse, old - \$470, new - \$660; employee with dependents, old - \$674, new - \$944.

Superintendent report

• Don Voeller and Dan Blair will be attending a training for software for the new water

system.

• Superintendent J.R. Landenberger informed the council that a new transformer for Peace Lutheran Church would be needed. He noted that for the same size of transformer the church has now, it would cost \$2,795 and that

See INSURANCE on Page 11

Banker awards given Monday

There will be two awards given at the annual Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting which will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening in the St. Francis high school cafeteria. Also awarded will be the winners of the coloring contest.

Earning the Kansas Banker award this year are the families of Royce, Tim and Troy Stimbert. The Gale Walz family will receive the Kansas Wildlife Habitat award.

The students in kindergarten, first and second grades in both the St. Francis and Cheylin schools also participated in a coloring contest and the winners will be announced.

The evening will begin with a meal

sponsored by First National Bank, Bankwest and the Conservation District. Those planning to attend need to either return a reservation form or call the office at 783-332-2341. The deadline was Feb. 13 but Jeanne Dunn reported that they will still be taking reservations up to the end of the week.

A short business session will precede the presentation of the awards. There will be an election of board members to fill the expiring term of Spencer Schlepp and Alan Archer. Elected supervisors will serve for a three-year term.

The Conservation 2002 issue will be inserted in The St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times the week of the meeting. Be sure to watch for it on Feb. 21.

Congressman talks in Wheeler Feb. 20

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in Wheeler from 9 to 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Van Allen Implement. The tour gives people the opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions and give their input about the federal government.

The stop in Wheeler is one of the stops during the sixth annual "Big First Listening Tour." He reported that the 66-county tour is one of his favorite parts of representing the First District.

"Whether it be in the local cafe, the county courthouse or at the community center, there is no better way to find out how I can be of service to Kansans than meeting with them face to face," he said.

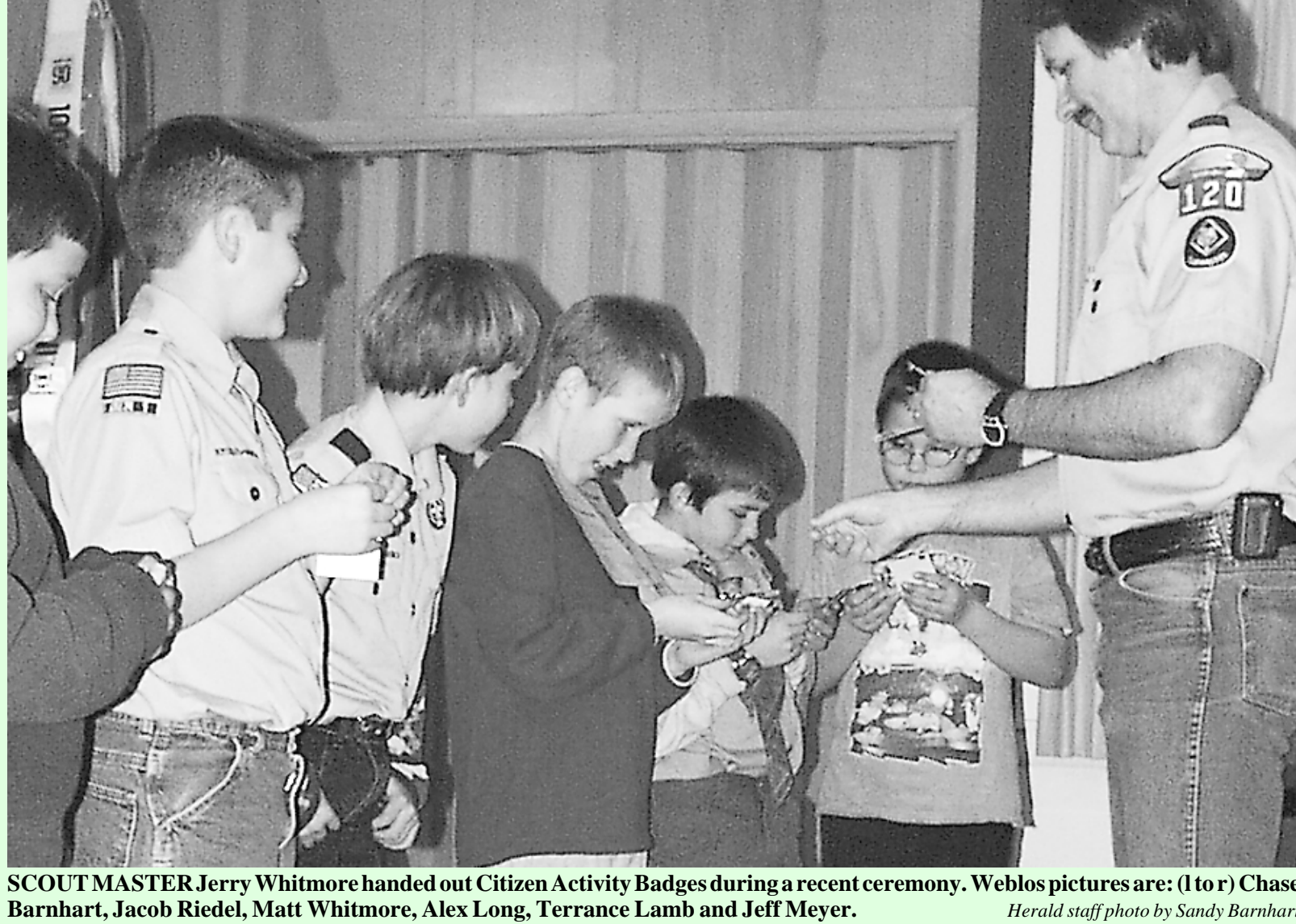
"The tour is usually held during the summer months, but, with Congress taking up the farm bill, health care costs continuing to rise and the state trying to find ways to assist the many small busi-

nesses trying to make ends meet in our struggling rural economy, I felt it was important to meet with Kansans sooner, rather than later, and get their input," the congressman said. "It is essential to my job in Congress that I hear the thoughts and concerns of the people I represent."

During the next two months, Moran will travel over 5,000 miles and meet with thousands of Kansans while visiting all counties in the First District.

For those unable to meet with the Congressman at Wheeler, he will also be in Goodland from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. mountain standard time at the Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade, Goodland; and at the My Place Cafe, 305 Grant Street, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Atwood.

"It's an honor for me to continue the tradition of the tour, and I look forward to meeting with you when I am in your county," he concluded.



SCOUT MASTER Jerry Whitmore handed out Citizen Activity Badges during a recent ceremony. Webelos pictures are: (l to r) Chase Barnhart, Jacob Riedel, Matt Whitmore, Alex Long, Terrance Lamb and Jeff Meyer.

Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart

Webelos earn Citizen Activity Badge

By Karen Krien

Seven St. Francis Webelos Scouts recently earned their Citizen Activity Badge.

"This was quite an accomplishment as the boys had a number of requirements to meet before earning the Citizen Badge," said their leader Dolores Jenik.

Earning the Citizen Activity

Badge were: Jacob Riedel, Matt Whitmore, Tyler Larson and Chase Barnhart, second-year Webelos; and Alex Long, Terrence Lamb and Jeff Meyer, first-year Webelos. Badges were presented in a special ceremony on Jan. 17.

Among the requirements of the badge were:

• Know the names of four presidents

and vice presidents, the governor of the state and head of the local government.

• Describe the United States flag and give a short history of it; know how to raise, lower, handle and fold the flag.

• Know the Pledge of Allegiance and explain its meaning.

• Tell about the meaning of the national anthem and how it was written.

• Explain the rights and duties of a

citizen and what a citizen should do to save the country's resources.

The Scouts visited the city council and learned about the council's duties. They told what they thought would help the city and its residents including a slide at the swimming pool, roller blade rink and sports facility.

See BADGES on Page 11

Gusts up to 60 mph recorded

By Karen Krien

Lately, about all people can talk about is the "wind."

On Saturday in northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska the wind blew, howled and rattled windows all day and most of the night. It made life miserable for individuals who had to be out and livestock.

Richard Grace at Grace Flying Service reported peak gusts at 60 miles per hour with a steady speed of 35 to 40 miles per hour. In Otis, Colo., the National Weather Service reported a wind gust of 98 miles per hour.

In the early daylight hours, there was snow which, along with the wind caused blizzard conditions. Many school functions and the Valentine's dance were called off.

The snow amounted to only a trace. Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported that there was more dust than anything else.

By afternoon, it was covered with dirt. The wetness of the snow also helped the blowing dirt stick to windows, sides of buildings and vehicles.

Tumbleweeds could be found in fences, windbreaks and any other place where they could gather including in front of the buildings on the 200 block of West Washington. The city crew was out trying to push them into the garbage truck early Monday morning.

Sunday and Monday dawned bright and sunny with only a little wind. The temperatures were cool but normal for February.

Weather observer Woodcox reported the following weather facts:

See GUSTS on Page 11



BESIDES THE DIRT, the wind on Saturday blew in huge tumbleweeds which collected in front of several businesses on Main Street.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sainty wrestlers head for regionals

By Betty Jean Winston

Wrestlers always hope to have one of their best outings of the year at the regional tournament which will be held on Friday and Saturday.

Sainty wrestlers will be traveling to Oberlin and will be one of 18 teams to compete there.

"I'm excited," Coach Larry Gabel said. "I'm looking forward to seeing how the kids perform. Hopefully we are over our sickness."

Mat men know that they need to do their very best as only four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to state in Hays the following weekend.

"Again this will be the toughest regionals in the state," Coach Gabel said. "There will be 18 teams and a number of them are ranked in the Top 10."

Teams competing at Oberlin include: Atwood, Cimarron, Decatur County, Deerfield, Elkhart, Ellis, Hill City, Hoxie, Kinsley, Lakin, Leoti-Wichita County, Montezuma-South Gray, Oakley, Phillipsburg, Quinter, St. Francis, Sublette, WaKeeney-Trego.

The Friday schedule begins at 2

p.m. and runs as follows:

Round 1, first round, 2 p.m.

Round 2, championship quarterfinals, 5 p.m.

Round 3, consolation first round, 6:30

Round 4, consolation cross bracketing, 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, activity begins at 11 a.m. with the remaining five rounds scheduled as follows:

Round 5, championship semi-finals, 11 a.m.

Round 6, consolation quarterfinals, 1

Round 7, consolation semi-finals, 3

Round 8, consolation finals, 5 p.m.

Round 9, championship finals (one mat), 6:30 p.m.

A 16-man bracket will be used for the

tourney.

All of the Indians have been involved in several duals and tournaments and have had numerous practice sessions since the season began but this is by far the most important event.

"Good competition is what it's all about," Coach Gabel said. "By having tough competition you have to bring your level up. It makes you better."

Fair board decides what to do with funds

By Lezlie Hilt

The Cheyenne County Fair Board came up with some money in another account and some of the Feb. 7 fair board meeting was spent deciding what to do with it.

The money, amounting to \$3,099, was in the Premium Sale account. President Dick Bursch reported that the auditor had said that the board needed

to decide what to do with the money which was now sitting in a savings account. The auditor advised that the money not be put in the general fund.

The money in the Premium Sale account was gained when a small commission was taken out of the money bid for each sale item that went across the auction block. The account was set up

See FAIR BOARD on Page 11

Increased income from grass strips is topic of farm meeting

Area farmers are welcome to attend a meeting to learn about new opportunities to increase income by installing Conservation Grass Strips on their farms. The meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5 at the Sherman County 4H Building and will take about an hour.

Conservation Grass Strips, available through United States Department of Agriculture, can be seeded in straight east-west patterns or on the contour. They can be installed on terraced or untterraced land. All such strips provide benefits to the farming operation over and above the annual payments provided through the agriculture department. These benefits include improved growth of adjacent crops, erosion control, reduced fuel and input costs, and great upland bird habitat. Program flexibility makes it possible to design Conservation

Grass Strips to fit into any farming operation, no-till or conventional.

Conservation Grass Strips, also known as "buffers" are part of the "Continuous Signup" of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Applying for these practices is easy and most fields in this area are eligible. Unlike regular Conservation Reserve Program, farmers can apply for grass strips anytime, with no competitive bidding, at their local Service Center. Annual payments are based on prevailing Conservation Reserve Program rental rates and on soil type.

Sponsors of the meeting include the Sherman County Conservation District, the High Plains Roosters Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Kansas State University Extension, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Lunch will be provided after the program.

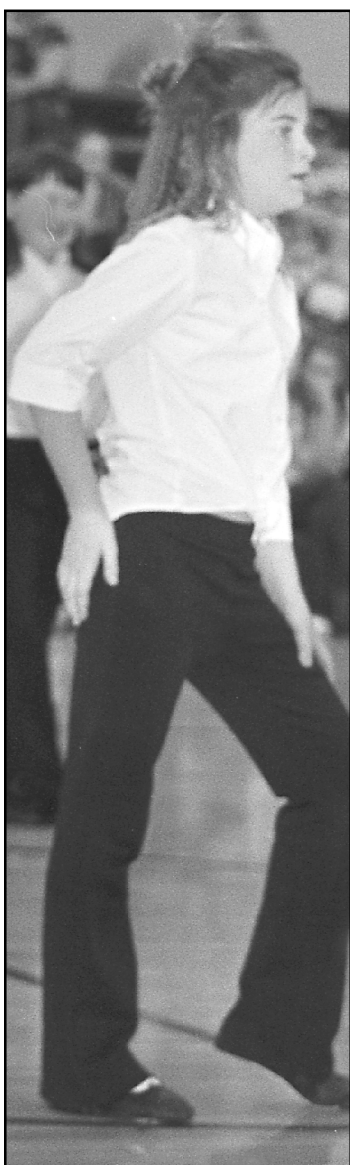
I can improve Kansas by..

I can improve my state of Kansas by picking up trash to help people. If I pick up trash by the side of the highway I would be helping a lot of people. I would be helping the people that walk on the highway because they wouldn't get glass in their hands or feet. I would also be helping the people that are driving in their cars because they would

give them a flat tire.

Another place that I could help people by picking up trash would be in the park. The people that play there wouldn't get cut from sharp pieces of trash laying around.

Ashton Knorr
PTA Essays
St. Francis sixth grade



SYDNEY CRABTREE was one of the Dance Ranch performers at the halftime during a recent boys basketball game.

Staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Seventh grade girls fall short to both Oakley and Quinter

By Betty Jean Winston

With a make up game on Monday, Feb. 4 and the regularly scheduled contest on Thursday, the seventh grade girls were busy. The varsity team fell to both Oakley (in a very close final score) and Quinter as did the B-team in limited action.

A-team

Oakley 32, St. Francis 30

"If we would have played better from the beginning of the game we would have been in a much better position to win," Coach David Morrow said. "By the end of the first half, we were down by eight points, which in seventh grade basketball is pretty significant. Through the third quarter and into the fourth we clawed back into an even game, but couldn't hold on.

"Looking back on the game, we know we all made some mistakes that contributed to the poor performance. We didn't shoot well and went 6-of-23 from the charity stripe. Bottom line: next time we should beat this team."

Lauren Ross led the scoring with 12 points, followed by Megan Rice with eight.

When you notice the quarter scores, you can see how the team improved as the game progressed.

SF	01	07	10	12	30
O	05	07	08	12	32

Scoring: Ross 12, Rice 8, Alecia Zimbelman 4, Danielle Flemming 3, Brittany Lucas 2, Mindy Cooper 1.

B-team vs Oakley

"We didn't score in the fifth quarter but did do some good things," Coach Morrow said. "Some of our post players are rebounding pretty well. We did have some taller kids in this group and they're getting much better about boxing out and going for rebounds.

"Melissa Burton got a pile of steals again."

A team

Quinter 25, St. Francis 12

"Thursday night we again ran directly into our twin nemeses: lack of size and poor shooting from the field," Coach Morrow said. "Quinter is a very tall team and we had trouble with that all night. In most other aspects of the game, we out-played Quinter. We broke the ball down the court in the fast break, made some

good passes, took care of the ball well at times, etc. We just found it difficult to score against them. In fact, we scored only two field goals in the game.

"Our one saving grace was that we made eight free throws, in a 50 percent effort from the line.

"Our successes against this team came in the press and the fast break. These two aspects of our game must become more solid to beat these big teams."

SF	01	04	02	05	12
Q	06	08	05	06	25

Scoring: Ross 5, Zimbelman 4, Rice 2, Addie Swihart 1.

B-team vs Quinter

"The same story line continues: Melissa Burton steals, but we find it difficult to capitalize," Coach Morrow said. "We weren't able to break the goose egg off the score board but, again, found ourselves in position to have good shots. If we can improve a little in our ball handling and find a way to hit our post players on the bottom, then we'll be in good shape. Until then, we're going to have to keep fighting and looking for a win."

— Health Talk —

About 3,000 cases of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning among kids 5 years old and under was reported to poison control centers in 1996.

"But the real figure is double that, maybe more," Brenda White, a certified specialist in poison injury for the Central Pennsylvania Poison Center, said.

The reason is because carbon monoxide poisoning often goes unrecognized. Carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas, will affect a small child before an adult. But the symptoms the child complains of - a headache, achiness, nausea - mimic those of the flu. Thus a parents might treat a child for the flu, unaware of the carbon monoxide poisoning unless an adult becomes infected. In a worst case scenario, the illness can be fatal.

To keep your family safe, make sure your furnace or other heating appliances are tested and serviced. Your chimney should also be checked every two to five years. Or buy a carbon monoxide detector with an alarm.

Dancing on Common Ground to be presented

Dancing on Common Ground is a very "uncommon" combination of energy, precision, and dancing artistry that is a joy to see. Its simple elegance comes, not from theatrics or production gimmicks but, from the feet and hearts of its performers as they put on one of the finest performances of Irish Step Dancing, Tap Dancing and Clogging ever seen.

Using Irish Step Dancing as its foundation, the seamless integration of sensational Tap Dancing and Clogging, and strategically placed vocals, *Dancing on Common Ground* tells the story of the Irish immigration to America and their assimilation into its society in a way that will never be forgotten.

The energy level alone is enough to make the "Energizer Bunny" turn green with envy.

When that energy meets up with the dancing and entertainment skills of this cast and excellent choreography the result is a dynamic and truly unique entertainment experience that should not be missed.

Common Ground is an exciting and contemporary look at three related forms of dancing and the production takes all three forms to a high level of performance, guaranteed to set your feet to tappin' and your hands to clappin'.

They will appear at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Hoxie High School auditorium. Admission by Western Plains Arts Association season passes or tickets at th4e door.

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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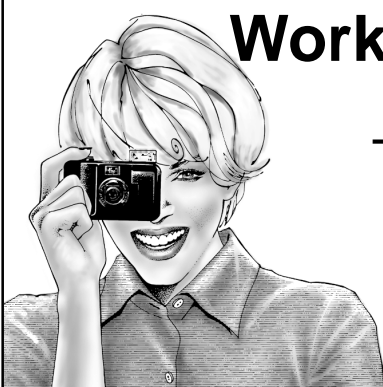


Coming Soon ...

A complete page filled with the St. Francis Tigers, Bears, Wolf's, Webelos and Boy Scout of the area.

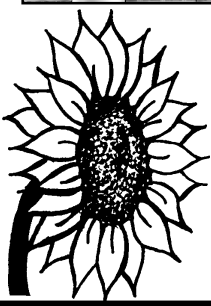
Conservation Tab

This tab features award winner in Cheyenne County.



Working Women's Supplement

This supplement is packed with ads featuring women who work. Corresponds with the Chamber of Commerce Women's Luncheon.



The Saint Francis Herald

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— and —

Bird City Times

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Thank You

The Cheyenne County Hospital would like to thank the family of Barbara Dorsch for their generous memorial contribution to the hospital.

Public Notices

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursdays, February 14 and February 21, 2002. (7-8)

RESULTS OF THE MARKET STUDY ANALYSIS FOR CHEYENNE COUNTY FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2002

FEBRUARY 1, 2002 PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 1995 SUPP. 79-1460A

A study of the residential real estate market indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend for the 2002 tax year of approximately 3%.

A study of the commercial real estate market indicated that the market is stable with no general upward or downward trend.

A study of the vacant real estate market indicated that the market is stable with no general upward or downward trend.

Values on specific properties may not follow the general trend because of the changes in the property, correction of descriptive information, or adjustment of values based on sales of similar properties.

Published in the St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, February 7, February 14 and February 21, 2002. (6-8)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS In The Matter of The Estate of Case No. 02-P-03 Merlin Ray Lampe a/k/a Merlin R. Lampe, Deceased. PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

NOTICE OF HEARING THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Violet L. Lampe, spouse and one of the heirs of Merlin R. Lampe, deceased, praying:

Decent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Cheyenne County, Kansas:

An undivided one-fourth (1/4) interest in the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) and the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S1/2NW1/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township Three (3) South, Range Forty-one (41) West of the 6th P.M., Cheyenne County, Kansas;

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death and that such property be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 1, 2002, at 10:00 A.M. of said day, in said court, in the City of St. Francis, in Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Violet L.Lampe, Petitioner

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED Kari Milliken, #17386 101 W. Washington Street, P.O. Box 627 St. Francis, Kansas 67756-0627 (785) 332-2101 Attorney for Petitioner

Thank you to the Pleasant Hill 4-H Club for the cookies we received. St. Francis Police Department



Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, February 7, and February 14, 2002. (6)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHEYENNE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the Cheyenne County Conservation District, notice is hereby given that pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1907, as amended, on the 18th day of February, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. an annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Conservation District will be held at the High School Cafeteria in St. Francis, Kansas.

The meeting agenda shall include the following business items:

ONE: The supervisors of the Cheyenne County Conservation District shall make full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting.

TWO: They shall conduct an election by secret ballot of qualified electors, there present, of two supervisors to serve for a term of three years from date of said meeting.

The term of Alan Archer and Spencer Schlepp is expiring.

All in the county of Cheyenne in the State of Kansas.

By Roger Orth Chairperson Cheyenne County Conservation District

Attest Jeanne Dunn Manager/Secretary

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The Saint Francis Herald P.O. Box 1059; St. Francis 785-332-3162

THOMPSON CATTLE CO. LLC 14th ANNUAL BLACK & RED ANGUS RANGE BULL SALE MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 1:00 P.M. THOMPSON SALE BARN 7 MILES EAST OF PLAINVILLE ON HWY 18 & 3-1/2 MILES NORTH ON 24 ROAD SELLING 140 BLACK AND RED ANGUS BULLS LOTS INCLUDE: 80 BLACK 18 MO. OLD 20 BLACK 2 YR. OLD 30 RED 18 MO. OLD 10 RED 2 YR. OLD

SOME OF THE A.I. SIRES REPRESENTED: TWIN VALLEY PRECISION VDAR LUCY BOY BT DIRECTION HLH BUSTER RED ROYAL RAMBO 79F RED ROYAL ELWAY 69F

READY FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE 90 DAY BREEDING SEASON GUARANTEE FOR SALE CATALOG OR SALE INFORMATION CONTACT: RON HRABE 785-434-2663 EVENINGS 785-623-8054 MOBILE EMAIL: rrrhrabe@ruraltel.net

Continued from Page 1 for \$300 more he suggested the city double the size of the transformer.

• There will be four employees from the power plant plus Councilman Rick Kriegh attending a conference in Wichita at the end of February. Superintendent Landenberger said the city's Cherokee would not be adequate to transport the five men attending and Don Voeller had offered his van for transportation. Clerk Lampe will look into the mileage costs.

• Superintendent Landenberger brought up at the previous council meeting that the remote well system is set up on the city's existing radio frequency and that a representative had felt that this would cause problems on the city channel. Superintendent Landenberger informed the council that the problem had resolved itself.

Attorney report

City attorney Mike Day said he had been contacted by a representative of the museum that they were in the process of applying for a grant and would need a written copy of the lease with the city. Attorney Day said that the museum has a 33-year lease with the city and pays \$1 a year and must maintain liability insurance on the ground. The museum has been in the building for 17 years. The council approved Mayor Scott Schultz to sign the lease.

Clerk report

Recycling center - Clerk Lampe informed the council that a check for the second installment of the \$55,000 grant money for the recycling site had been received from Cheyenne County Development Coordination. The city should receive one more final check for the center.

Reimbursement - A check in the amount of \$3,788 was received from Hill City for the reimbursement of law officer training expenses for Ray Prentice.

Dog tags - The city now has 35 dogs registered for the year.

Pool - Clerk Lampe informed the council that the city had received several applications for lifeguards, but only one for pool manager. She explained that the ad for manager had been running in the *St. Francis Herald* since January. The council with Councilman Kriegh abstaining, approved to hire Danielle Kriegh as pool manager.

Other business

• The city police chief and clerk approved the plans for their offices in the new city office building, formerly the Vets hall. (See related article.)

• The city clerk was instructed to look into the purchase of a baler for the recycling center. (See related article.)

• The council approved to pass the Mutual Aid Resolution adding the city to the membership of the program.

• The council approved to pay \$1,862 in membership dues to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. The city has been a member along with the county. The county's dues share is the same as the city's.

• The council approved to give Northwest Kansas Family Shelter \$500. The Shelter provides assistance to domestic violence victims. For the last three years the city has given \$300 a year. In 1999 the Shelter helped eight victims in Cheyenne County; 17 in 2000 and 15 in 2001.

Council comments

INSURANCE

• Councilman Roger Jensen explained that a professor of a college in Chicago would be riding his bicycle across the United States for awareness of the 911 disaster. The professor will be riding through St. Francis on July 4 and would like a 20-minute outdoor welcome ceremony. Councilman Jensen noted that the Chamber of Commerce had also been notified and that possibly the city could have Mayor Schultz contribute something to the ceremony.

• Steve Christy of Prairie Land Electric had asked about leasing the city's digger truck and hiring one of the city's operators. Mr. Christy explained that because of the ice storms back east, he had sent some of his crew and their digger truck back east. In case of an emergency in this area he wanted to know if the city's digger truck would be available. The council, along with the superintendent, did not feel there would be a problem but asked that Clerk Lampe

check with the insurance company and notify Mr. Christy of her findings.

• Councilwoman Natalie Knodel said that someone had approached her concerning the bushes on the intersection of Benton and Main Street which were making the intersection a blind corner. After some discussion the council did not feel there was a problem.

• Councilman Kriegh noted that the council needed to follow-up from last fall on the property clean-up to see if progress had been made. Attorney Day said that he would get with Superintendent Landenberger and evaluate the properties from last fall and report back.

• Councilman Rod Bracelin asked to have clarified why the road between the Pizza Hut and Bill Wilson Accounting on U.S. 36 was classified an open road.

Attorney Day noted that the street was indeed a platted/dedicated street. Councilman Bracelin asked why

there were street signs on other streets but not this one. He also noted that the street was so narrow that even a curb or gutter could not be put on it. Councilman Kriegh wondered if maybe the street might need to be closed.

Councilman Jensen explained that since there was more development going on to the north on that street, traffic was increasing between the two businesses. He also noted that there were signs posted about not parking in that area.

Superintendent Landenberger said that he would look into other possibilities.

Executive session

Superintendent Landenberger requested 5 minutes in executive session for personnel.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the St. Francis Public Library.

FAIR BOARD

Continued from Page 1

to help pay for expenses such as pictures and advertisement. It was also used to give buyers certificates to use for a meal at the 4-H Council's food stand.

After some discussion, board member Wade Krien moved to put the money in the Grandstand Fund and the vote was unanimous.

The board then discussed whether or not to continue taking out the commission from the kid's checks. It was noted that only about 20 percent of the certificates given to buyers were ever cashed. Ernie Ketzner, board member, moved to drop the commission from the kid's checks and, again, the vote was unanimous.

Antique Tractor Pull

President Bursch had been informed that the Northwest Kansas Tractor Association would not be able to hold the Tractor Pull this year during the fair.

Mr. Krien said that he had been in contact with McClain Mutton Busting and Ranch Rodeo. The mutton busting is for kids 60 pounds and under but he noted the McClains offer a wide variety of events that range from toddlers to grandparents.

The board discussed whether or not to hold the mutton busting and/or calf riding contest which is usually held on Saturday of the fair. The members felt like most of the activity was at the mud volleyball pit, so they decided not to have the mutton busting nor calf riding on that day.

The board voted to have the McClain Mutton Busting/Ranch Rodeo. However, the board had planned to have the Denver Broncos cheerleaders along with the Tractor Pull and, since the Tractor Pull was not going to be possible this year, the board decided not to have the cheerleaders.

The fair board also decided not to hold the Fun Night on Wednesday during the fair. Cliff Pilkington, fair board member, asked how the board felt about holding a county team roping that Wednesday night. No decision was made.

Other Business

In other business:

• The members were given sign up sheets for committees they would like

to be on for the 2002 year.

• A group of families who will be on vacation had contacted Mr. Bursh about parking their trailers and using the stalls for their horses. There would be five trailers and 14 horses. The board said they didn't have a problem with that as long as the electricity was paid.

• Matt Bandel resigned his position on the fair board and there were also several volunteers who had resigned. (See related article.) The board will be looking for some people to serve on the fair board as they are down to 13 with Mr. Bandel leaving. The commissioners had informed Mr. Bursch that the fair board could find members but they needed to be approved by the commissioners.

BADGES

Continued from Page 1

They talked about laws and why it was important to obey the law. They each told three laws which they had obeyed that week.

Scouts learned that being a good citizen is complex, even for adults. In a democratic nation, citizens are always addressing complex issues and presenting its citizens with difficult choices. The rights and freedoms of individuals need to be balanced against those of the majority.

Belt loops earned

A special belt loop was earned by the scouts after they completed three requirements:

• They developed a list of jobs they could do around the home and charted their progress for one week. • Made a poster showing things they could do to be a good citizens. • Participated in a family, den or school service project.

Academics pins earned

Scouts needed to complete five of 10 requirements to earn their academics pin. The St. Francis scouts wrote a letter to the St. Francis Herald showing concern about the number of youth that were getting in trouble in St. Francis. They felt that

kids were staying out too late. Some of their solutions to the problem included: Parents asking questions about what their child had been doing and who they were with, monitoring the television shows and just staying in touch with their kids and the police should walk around and be present when the kids gathered.

The Scouts stated they would like to see more jobs for 13- to 16-year-olds and more activities.

Following their visit to the city council, the Scouts took a poll at school and the results included: 52 students felt St. Francis could offer more activities and 45 felt things were okay. The roller skate park earned 36 votes; slide at pool 32; and bike trail course 29. Some of the other activities listed by students included: skating rink, Pee Wee football and basketball, arcade fun house and an indoor swimming pool.

The Scouts also created a collage about America, visited the city council and interviewed someone involved with the governmental process, visited the court room and listed ways to recycle various materials.

Other badges earned by some of the Webelos are: Fitness, Aquanaut, Traveler and Outdoorsman.

Library system schedules programs

The Northwest Kansas Library system in Norton has been selected as one of six sites across the state to celebrate the centenary of Langston Hughes's birth via group study of four of his works. Scholars from Kansas and Missouri will lead the discussions.

The following works will be discussed at the Norton Hughes Poetry Circle:

• Feb. 24: *The Collected Poems* • March 10: *The Best of Simple* (character sketches in prose) • April 7: *The Big Sea* (an autobiography) • April 14: *Not Without Laughter* (a novel)

Born in Joplin, Mo., on Feb. 1, 1902, Langston Hughes went on to become one of America's foremost writers of poetry, drama, short fiction and novels. He lived in Kansas from 1903 to 1915, primarily in Lawrence, but also in Topeka and Kansas city. The year 2002 will see a number of important celebrations

GUSTS

Continued from Page 1

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Feb. 6	44	16	
Feb. 7	55	20	
Feb. 8	64	20	
Feb. 9	61	25	Trace
Feb. 10	41	17	
Feb. 11	46	17	
Feb. 12	69	22	

of Hughes's birth take place. This project, entitled *Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes*, is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council.

According to project director John Edgar Tidwell, an associate professor of English at the University of Kansas, this opportunity is a "historic moment, one that transcends both time and place, since it enables us to understand the enduring legacy of Hughes's life and art." The forum for this celebration will be the organizing of a "poetry circle." A "poetry circle," as Dr. Tidwell said "is a reading group that takes its name from the poetic vision Hughes used to see the world and to recreate it in all his writing. He wrote plays and fiction, but he did so with the soul of a poet."

All books to be discussed will be loaned to participants at no charge, and will be available for check-out from Norton Public Library approximately two weeks before the program date. All of the programs will be held in the Norton Public Library meeting room at 2 p.m. except the April 14 program, which will be held at 4 p.m.

For further information, please contact Ann Bailey at Northwest Kansas Library System at (785) 877-5148 or by e-mail at nwkls@ruraltel.net. The program is also described online at www.kuce.org/hughes.

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