

Kansas to conduct bioterrorism exercise

The state of Kansas will soon be the site of "Prairie Plague 2002," an exercise designed to simulate a bioterrorism event within the state. Local, state and federal authorities will be participating in this exercise on June 26-27 to help them prepare to respond in the event of a bioterrorist attack or other widespread public health emergency. An estimated 700 people will participate including Cheyenne County's emergency manager, Gary Rogers and six or seven people from the county.

The State of Kansas has established a pro-active stance toward addressing potential catastrophic events by working collectively to build the partnerships that would be necessary to respond to any such event. Educational and exercise activities help to develop these partnerships and to prepare local, state and federal responders to work together in the event of an emergency.

Prairie Plague 2002 is a bioterrorism exercise focused on the structure in place to address the consequences of a biological attack. Its purpose is to gain new insights on the realities of a massive public health crisis from a local perspective and to identify new planning and training priorities for every level of response. The exercise is designed around teams of local officials from each county across the state, representing a network of response systems. The response of local, state and federal authorities will be examined, laying the foundation to identify effective response capabilities that will benefit future planning and training endeavors.

There have been state level bioterrorism exercises in the past. The focus of this exercise, however, is on the facilitation of policy discussions

and roles clarification at the local level. In Topeka, teams from nearly every Kansas county will be located in the Maner Conference Center, and state agency participants will be located in the Emergency Operations Center at the State Defense Building. Participating federal agencies will be operating out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Operations Center in Kansas City and the Office of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

A cross-section of relevant agencies have been invited to participate in the exercise. Participating county teams may consist of a variety of local officials, including county emergency managers, public health officials, hospital/medical officials, law enforcement (sheriffs), public information officials, county commissioners, coroners and county attorneys. Participating state agencies will include Kansas Emergency Management, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol and the Office of Governor Bill Graves. Participating federal agencies include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The first day of the exercise will consist of presentations in Topeka focused on information pertinent to a bioterrorism scenario. Exercise information will be provided that will help the participants to prepare to address the simulated events of the second day. On the second day, a simulated biological attack will occur, and the participants will work to respond appropriately to the attack.

Marysville site of US 36 annual meeting Saturday

The United States 36 Highway Association will hold its annual meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Marysville.

The meeting will feature reports from the three district engineers with the Kansas Department of Transportation who cover parts of the road. The engineers will talk about recent improvements, maintenance and improvement projects and future plans for the road.

The main program at lunch will be given by transportation officials from Topeka, who will talk about the Marysville grade separation project. The state and federal governments, the city and the Union Pacific Railroad are spending millions to move rail lines out of the town and carry the highway over the new lines, eliminating untold hours of delay.

Legislators serving districts along the highway will speak, and a representative from Rep. Jerry Moran's Washington office, Kip Peterson, will make an appearance. He handles transportation matters for the office.

After lunch, the group will hold its annual meeting for members and directors. Steve Haynes of Oberlin is president of the association, which represents highway users along the route.

U.S. 36 stretches from Estes Park in Colorado to Indianapolis, and the shortest route from the Indiana capital to Colorado.

Tickets for the event are available at The Herald's office.

-Our School is Great-

By Dale Northrup
I think the St. Francis Grade School is great because the teachers are great and, it's kept clean.

We have breakfast and lunch served everyday. The food is very good. Music programs are what grades do every year.

The janitors keep the school swept and mopped. The students are nice and kind to each other. Mr. Gabel is our principal and Teri is our secretary. There are two teachers for each grade. Our teachers teach us what we need to learn and review it with us.

Please come and check our school out. It's a great place to learn and grow!



ALUMNI COORDINATOR SHIRLEY ZWEGARDT (left) is busy manning the check-in desk as the alumni register for the banquet on Saturday evening at the high school. Three hundred and thirty-five came home to celebrate. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Promotions discussed as Chamber meets

By Karen Krien

Past results and upcoming promotions were the main items of business discussed at the June 7 St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

President Shawna Blanka reported that she had heard many good comments on the car show and garage sale which the Chamber helped sponsor the first part of May. Donna Northrup, member, said that she had been in Wray the day of the meeting and talked to a couple who thought that the events were "super." Most of those having garage sales had pulled in some good profits and some of the people from out-of-town had commented on the variety of businesses on Main Street. Deb Harper, who was on the committee, reported that the barbecue had

served 400 people and brought in \$829. The T-shirt sales had totaled \$317 and there were 15 to 20 left over and they could be purchased at the Chamber office.

Kim Ritter, Chamber Board member, said that Sainty Super Foods had held its own garage sale in the store and had cleared away extra merchandise. Ruth Milliken, KM Clothier, said there were a lot of people looking but sales, while they were probably better, were not outstanding. However, she was happy with the results of the day.

The Stearman Fly-In was set for the weekend and it appeared that the Chamber committee helping had everything under control. The next promotion will be held around July 20 after harvest.

In other business

In other business:

• The Business of the Month promotion sponsored by the Chamber was discussed and Mrs. Milliken thought that the promotion should be held in conjunction with a quarterly Chamber meeting. Elmer Kellner, member, said that he had enjoyed the speaker that was at the All Pro Auto Parts gathering. The suggestions will be discussed at a board meeting and plans will be made closer to fall.

• President Blanka reported that the selected Students of the Month had been recognized in a final ad sponsored by Kansas Territorial and Super Foods. It was reported that two or three teachers make the selection of the student based on a certain criteria. The promo-

tion will start again when school starts.

• Stephanie Schafer, member, has the Chamber's web site up and running. It can be seen at www.stfranciskansas.com. More businesses are urged to commit to make this marketing tool the best it can be.

• The road sign at the Roadside Park was being worked on after the meeting and was completed before the Stearman Fly-In.

• The Kansas State Historical Society and Kansas Department of Transportation had returned a letter thanking the Chamber for the information on the Cherry Creek Encampment site north of St. Francis but said that the site would be looked at when all sites were reviewed in the next year or so. Paige Gardner, Chamber secretary, had asked the county's Historical Society to head up a fund raising project but felt that they were a little reluctant to do so but, with the Chamber's help and some volunteers, maybe the ball could be set rolling. There were no volunteers to help with the fund-raising project.

• Eloyce Pettijohn, Linda Ketzner and Helene Landenberger had been to the Kansas Sampler Festival and reported to the Chamber board, noting that they had talked to many people, telling them where Cheyenne County was and the sites and scenes the county had to offer.

• Elmer Kellner, U.S. 36 Association coordinator, informed those present that the annual association meeting was set for June 21 and 22 in Marysville at the country club. He also reminded members that homemade ice cream would be served at the Fly-In. The funds raised would be matched by the Aid Association of Lutherans and given to the ABC Preschool and Headstart to help purchase books and supplies.

• Phil Crawford, member, told about the Tumbleweed Round-Up set for July 31 in St. Francis. He said there will be poetry, music and lots of fun.

Next meeting

The next noon meeting of the Chamber will be held on July 5 with the place to be announced closer to meeting time.

Chamber Chatter

Architecture is Rural Cultural Element

As promised, here is the first Rural Cultural Element ...Architecture.

Yes, we do not have many extremely old buildings, but we, as a relatively young community, have some very cool stories behind what we do have. As I told a "city" friend who was commenting on the lack of houses for sale with "character," like what they have where this person is from... "I am only two generations out of a sod house, what do you expect?"

Here is what to look for as you open your eyes to what is in our town archi-

tecrally. The method or style of building, such as sod houses, bungalows, cottages or we could even capitalize on all our "ranch" style houses. The type of material used, such as sod or limestone.

The time period that structures were built; would not a walking tour of the old houses that we do have be great?

Was the architect famous, we do not have any Frank Lloyd Wright but we do have an all-metal house on Spencer, do we know all there is to know about it?

By Paige Gardner
Chamber secretary



Do we know all there is to know about the history of the buildings that we do have? I was fascinated to find out that Grace's house on Spencer was made from bricks of the brick factory that was once in the community.

Stevens' Kansas Territorial used to be a bank that was robbed twice and a pool hall where they played cards in the basement and escaped the police through the tunnel to the post office?

When we bought our house everyone called it the "Connett place." I thought that was humorous when Mary (Morrow, register of deeds) showed me the courthouse records and their name never appeared — there has got to be a story there.

How many great stories are we not telling? How terrific would it be if every business had a picture of what it looked like when the building was built or what used to stand there?

We have architecture here in St. Francis — we just see it every day. Those who know... tell us, and tell us again, please.

Sappa Creek retreat planned for writers

Sappa Creek Writer's Retreat will present the fifth annual "Catching Your Dreams" gathering from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the Oberlin Covenant Church, 812 W. Cedar, in Oberlin. Sponsor is the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

Local writers Barbara Dehlinger and Merlou Robinson have created a retreat to inspire and motivate both novice and experience writers. Activities will include playing with words to inspire creativity; continental breakfast and lunch; a book to inspire and encourage; walks and solitude, outdoors and words; and catch your writing dreams.

Advance registration is required and the fee will include meals and book.

For details, call Mrs. Dehlinger at (785) 475-3344, or Mrs. Robinson, 475-3289.

-Our School is Great-

By David Stephens

I think the St. Francis Grade School is great because the kids are nice. They always respect all the teachers and each other. We get recess at least once a day.

The principal is always very nice. The teachers don't give you a lot of homework. There are a lot of great students. The recesses are about 22 minutes long. The students don't do drugs or smoke. The principals' name is Mr. Gabel. All the kids like the teachers. I hope you will come because you will like it.

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Dr. John D. Ferris, M.D.
Burlington, Colorado
1-800-593-0009
Thursday, July 11th, 2002

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd

Colby Jaycee Center, 780 E. 3rd

Registration: 9:00 a.m. • Game time: 10:00 a.m.
BBQ Lunch and Bottomless Cup
Dance to "The Wild Ride" @ 9:00 p.m.

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