

<sup>12</sup> Pages

Thursday, September 5, 2002

118th Year, Number 36

# Commissioners talk taxes on-line Commissioner's

#### By Karen Krien

Dolores Jenik, treasurer, talked about counties which are using on-line services to pay for registration and taxes when the commissioners met on Friday. Cheyenne County is one of the convenient for some, especially college stu-

**County residents** 

allowed to burn

Brubaker was not in favor of having taxes online and asked if this would help the workers in last counties to make use of the on-line service. the treasurer's office. Treasurer Jenik said that county newspapers on the delinquent real estate She said that she could see where it would be it probably would save some phone calls, not- tax listing which appeared in both the Bird City

ing the property taxes on-line. This would al- having the listing was discussed but no decision person and will update the board at the next low anyone to see property taxes paid by them- was made as the matter was only for the comselves as well as others. Commissioner Jane missioners' information and what is coming in the near future.

The treasurer discussed the billing by the ing that many of their calls come from realtors Times and The St. Francis Herald for three conand mortgage companies and she pointed out securive weeks, noting that it was higher than She and the commissioners talked about hav- that it was public record. Charging a fee for she had expected. She has contacted the billing

meeting

### **Replacing outside door locks**

County clerk Terry Miller reported that through the years, there have been a number of employees who did not turn in their keys to the front doors. Consequently, there could be some former employees who could get into the courthouse. They discussed that, after entering the See ON-LINE on Page 11

# roundup

The Cheyenne County Commissioners also discussed:

• That the general obligation bonds for the hospital would be up for sale on Sept. 20. See article below.

• The burn ban and agreed to lift it. See article on this page.

· Having an emergency medical technician re-certification classes. See Page 6.

# **Sept. 30** is bond sale date

The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Aug. 30 meeting, adopted a resolution which will authorize the sale of general obligation bonds for the remodeling of the Cheyenne County Hospital.

The bond sale will be held on Sept. 30 during the commissioners' meeting. Present at the meeting will be Chuck Curfman of Cooper Malone McClain who will be taking bids on the bond. The bond bid deadline will be 11 a.m. on Sept. 30 and all bids will be publicly read and evaluated at that time. The commissioners will then act upon the bids

The principal amount of the general obligation hospital bonds is \$1,400,000. The first payout for the bonds will be November 2003 and will be \$260,000. The interest is due every six months and interest is bid each year.

For more information on bidding on the bonds, contact Mr. Curfman at 316-685-5777.

# Charges made against judge

By Karen Krien The burn ban for Cheyenne County was lifted at the Friday meeting of commissioners after most of the county had received measurable rain.

The burn ban has been in effect since the first of the summer because of the extremely dry conditions and hot dry winds. During that time, there had been few fires and most of them were caused by lightning or were accidental.

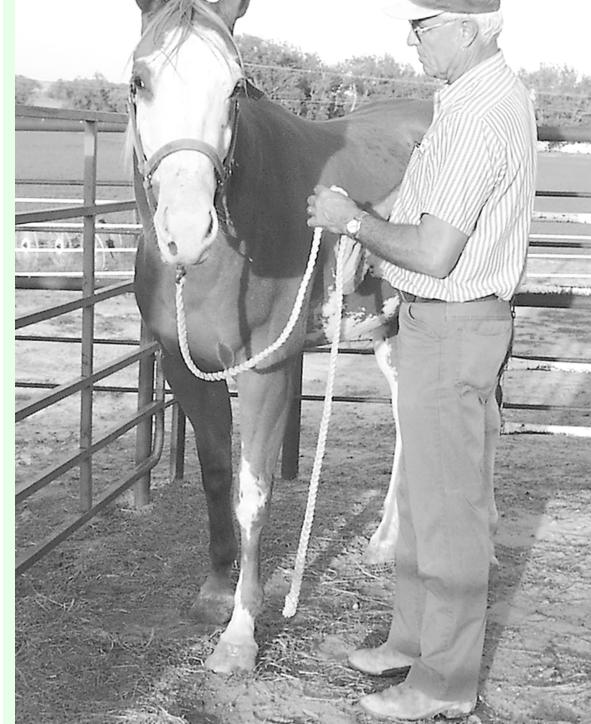
Commissioner Tim Raile said he had received several calls asking that the ban be removed but, until the rains had recently fallen, the commissioners felt Francis Fire Chief, had, at that time, lifting of the burn ban.

also agreed with the continued burn ban.

Commissioner Ron Krien warned residents that, even though there had been rain, that they should use caution when lighting fires.

The regulations for controlled burns are still in effect. Those burning weeds. logs or other items must call the power plant in St. Francis (785-332-3031) to report their intentions to burn. If the call is not made and firemen have to make a run to extinguish the fire, the burn could be very expensive.

County attorney Kevin Berens will it was just too dry. George Harper, St. type up the new resolution stating the





30-YEAR-OLD Jeanette Wallis is walking across the United States gathering letters of grievances.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Woman walks across U.S. for democracy

### By Karen Krien

Jeanette Wallis is walking across the country, gathering letters and listening to people's concerns and grievances, which she hopes to give to President George Bush when she gets to Washngton.

She passed through St. Francis on Friday and plans to be in Oberlin from 1 to 3 p.m. this Friday at Centennial Park, on the corner of Penn and Commercial.

She said that once she crossed

the Colorado-Kansas border, she noticed that people began to wave and stop to see if she needed help. These friendly faces and kind words made the 5,000-mile walk from Seattle to the

White House more enjoyable, she said. Ms. Wallis, 30, said she walks about 15 miles a day. Steven Navarro, drives an aging Isuzu station wagon as a support vehicle.

Wallis talks while she walks and ac-notes people have written about concerns they'd like hand-delivered to President Bush.

"I'm just a messenger," said Wallis, who carries a placard on her back declaring her mission. If she makes it to the White House by February, it will be her first visit to the nation's capital. She said she might never have considered walking for a cause had she not been walking home during the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle three years ago, where the police and demonstrators clashed often. She said she wasn't a participant, but was horrified to see how willing the elected lead-See WALKER on Page 11

WEST NILE VIRUS attacked this 2-year-old gelding. Owner Gary Cooper curry the horse after he had eaten. The horse is recovering and the Coopers hope to be riding it within the next month. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## West Nile strikes in county

## By Karen Krien

One case of West Nile virus has been identified in a horse in Cheyenne County. Dr. Judy Baxter said that there had been one other unconfirmed case but the owner did not have any blood drawn.

Gary Cooper, St. Francis, had called Susan Roelfs, Cheyenne County Health Nurse, to report that his horse had been tested and had been diagnosed as having the virus.

"Gary did a great job of reporting to the health department and we, in turn, reported it to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment," said Nurse Roelfs.

There have been over 800 cases of West Nile virus identified in horses throughout the United States and, in Kansas, there have been 34 cases identified. The death rate was not available however, if the horse is already aged or in poor health, its immune system has more trouble fighting the virus and has less chance of living.

This may be the case of Sharon Olofson's 11-year-old mare. The mare has been in poor health and, when the Cooper horse was diagnosed with the virus, Mrs. Olofson decided it was time get her horse vaccinated which she did. However, on Monday the mare was disoriented and there was muscle twitching. The vaccine contains a little of the virus and she wondered if her horse had contacted the virus or if it was just a reaction to the vaccination. She did not expect the horse to live through the night but on Tuesday, the horse was doing better. As of Tuesday afternoon, she had not decided if she would have the horse tested.

Mr. Cooper's horse is a 2-year-old gelding which appears to be getting act strangely. Mr. Cooper said that "he

## Symptoms to look for

Health and Environment reported that, as of Aug. 28 in the United States, there were 480 cases West Nile virus found in humans but none had been detected in Kansas.

West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes which have been infected with the virus. The mosquitoes become infected by biting a bird that carries the virus.

The virus is not spread from person to person such as touching, kissing or caring for someone who is infected or directly from birds to humans

In people, the disease usually causes only a mild illness but may cause encephalitis (swelling of the brain), meningitis (swelling of the lining of the brain), or even death in rare cases.

Anyone can be infected with

better each day and he certain that the horse will live. This horse had been at a trainer near Ogallala, Neb., and when he came home at the end of June, he had some ringworm and, when he was taken to the vet, they noticed that his blood count was down but, after a month of rigorous training in the Nebraska sandhills, they thought the horse was extremely tired. Because of the ringworm, which was located where the saddle sat, Mr. Cooper and his son Greg decided to let the horse rest for a couple of weeks but, then, when Greg rode him, he said that there was something "weird" about the horse. They kept an eye on him and he continued to

The Kansas Department of West Nile virus if bitten by an infected mosquito. More severe infections are seen in the elderly and those with a weakened immune system. Most people infected with the virus do not become ill. People with a mild infection may have a fever, headache, eye pain, muscle aches, joint pain, a rash on the trunk or swollen lymph nodes. In severe cases, symptoms include extreme muscle weakness, inflammation of the brain, paralysis and coma. In rare cases, the infection may be fatal, particularly in the elderly and people with other medical problems.

Symptoms usually occur three to 15 days after a West Nile virus-infected mosquito bites a person. Being bitten by an infected mosquito will not necessarily make the See SYMPTOMS on Page 11

just wasn't tracking right - that he didn't walk straight." Several things happened throughout the week including the horse running into a windbreak and, when they took him back to the vet, the horse was still not tracking right and now, he acted like he couldn't straighten his neck and held it to one side. The vet questioned if there was a pinched nerve, if the horse was stiff from hitting the windbreak or if the horse had West Nile virus. A blood test sent to the lab confirmed that West Nile virus was present and the horse was treated and sent home where he is recovering. The vet said the Cooper horse was

See VIRUS on Page 11

Tamara Magistrate Judge Zimbelman has been charged with misdemeanor intimidation after she accused Christopher Merklin of taking her purse at the bowling alley in St. Francis. However, Mr. Merklin said he didn't take it and doesn't think there even was a purse stolen.

Her husband Rell Zimbelman, St. Francis, and Scott Baumfalk. Kanorado, then took matters in their own hands and went to the Merklin home in St. Francis. They entered the home and demanded that the purse be handed over. While there, they yelled obscenities to both Mr. Merklin who is 21 and his sister Heather, 17. Also in the house at the time but was in the bathroom was Mary Merklin, Chris and Heather's mother.

Mr. Zimbelman and Mr. Baumfalk were charged with criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct which are also misdemeanors. The attorney general had contacted Dennis Merklin, Chris's father that the first hearing for the Zimbelmans and Mr. Baumfalk would be held Aug. 13 in Cheyenne County District Court but the case was not heard. According to Mark Ohlemeier with the attorney general's office, a judge had not been assigned. Judge Jack Burr has taken himself off of the case. The case will be heard by retired Judge J. Stephen Nyswonger of Concordia and a conference call has been set for Oct. 4 and will involve Judge Nyswonger, Athena Andaya, assistant attorney general and the defense attorney, Mike Day. At that time, a new hearing date will be set. The case against the judge is expected to be tried separately but the cases against the men might be combined

According to the complaint filed in District Court, the incident occurred on Dec. 22.

Mr. Merklin's pickup was searched by the police but the purse was not found. Later in the evening, Mr. Zimbelman and Mr. Baumfalk showed up at the Merklin house and entered without being invited.

Judge Zimbelman's lawyer had contacted Karen Krien, publisher for The See JUDGE on Page 11



**ON-LINE** 



WATER JUST ABOUT OVER BRIDGE — Creek were rolling and out of their banks when the area north of Bird City received over 2 inches of rain on Aug. 26. Photo courtesy of Eddie Dankenbring

## WALKER

## Continued from Page 1

ers were to wage war on their own people if they interfered with big money.

After three days of talking to activsts from around the world, she said, she decided to get involved. The next couple of years, she worked with labor, environmentalists, human rights activists and others to promote "economic and social justice" and to become educated about issues. She said that often she felt overwhelmed with the information and helpless to change any of it.

In 2000, Ms. Wallis heard about Doris Haddock, a 90-year-old woman who walked from Los Angeles to Washington for campaign finance reform. That was her inspiration

Upset because the results of the presidential election took three months to come out, and seeing the influence "big money" has over citizens in the current political system, she said, she decided to devote her life to encouraging folks across America to rise up and demand that their politicians do their job and represent the people.

A grievance, she said, is a letter, preferably handwritten, addressed to President Bush telling him how the writer would like to be represented. "For democracy to work, we

shouldn't think the government ex-

Public Notices

## ists outside of ourselves," Ms. Wallis was the intent of our founding fa- deliver it. thers, and the reason they specified that our grievances must not only be more about Ms. Wallis, see her heard by our politicians but redressed website

or made right." She's not sure anyone in the gov- ance in her ernment will listen when she gets to grievancegirl@riseup.net.

Washington, but she's going to take said. "We are the government. That whatever people give her and try to

For those who would like to know at www.thewalk fordemocracy.org or drop a grieve-mail at

## JUDGE

### **Continued from Page 1**

St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times and reported that his client had no comments.

Dennis Merklin was scheduled for surgery in Denver this week and was that Chris said he had passed a lie denot available for comments.

An article with the charges against Judge Zimbelman first appeared in

The Salina Journal on Aug. 29 and the Associated Press quickly picked it up and it has appeared in other newspapers since then.

The Salina Journal article reported tector test with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

## VIRUS

**Continued from Page 1** young and had a good appetite, which were in its favor.

Dr. Baxter never thought the virus would reach Cheyenne County but, should be given in three weeks. The since it is here, she is recommending vaccine is annual and after the first that owners have their horses vacci-



## nated even though it is getting close to winter.

The vaccine takes five to seven days to kick in and then a booster year, only a booster is needed.

## minated Angie Powell and Carol Gablin would be the new dispatcher in ister of deeds. One of the latter three the sheriff's office. The sheriff will not be hiring any part-time dispatcher for

Sheriff Dankenbring had more information about repeaters. At the last commissioners' meeting, the sheriff had asked that 911 funding be used to purchase two repeaters which are used when the officer is out of the vehicle. The repeater then works off the vehicle's mobile radio. Since the last meeting, he had contacted K-N Communications, Colby, and the repeaters would cost less than those from Prairie States Communication, Imperial, Neb. Also, since the last meeting, Commissioner Raile had talked to Gary Rogers, emergency manager, and he felt that the repeaters would be a good investment. The commissioners agreed that the sheriff could purchase two repeaters for \$1,100 each and the money would be taken out of the 911 fund.

**Continued from Page 1** 

locked with separate keys.

building, the doors to the offices were

Clerk Miller had talked to Rodney

Ritchey, locksmith, who said he could

install locks with keys which could be

duplicated only by him. The locks on

the three outside doors could be opened

with one key and now, it takes three

different keys to open the three differ-

ent doors. The cost of the outside locks

and keys would be \$337. The clerk and

commissioners thought the cost was

reasonable and agreed to have the locks

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring called

for executive session and, on coming

out, it was announced that he had ter-

replaced.

the time being.

### **Firemen gear lockers**

Dave Hickert, Bird City Fire Chief, asked that the commissioners help purchase lockers to store the firemen's gear. He had two different examples of lockers with one appearing to be less expensive but after they had figured the costs, the more expensive sets of lockers actually were less expensive per locker and were better built. Three units at \$1,029 each would be needed. Chief Hickert reported that the majority of the fire calls made were in the rural areas so the commissioners asked that he approach the Bird City Council to see if they would be willing to pay 20 percent of the cost.

The fire chief also informed the council that front drive shaft had gone out of the 1961 IH fire truck and the repairs will cost \$2,000. He is looking to prevent mosquito entry.

## for a grant which might help replace the truck.

### In other business In other business:

 Commissioner Brubaker reported more money was being asked for when she attended a Greater Western Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center meeting. Further details will be discussed at a meeting on Sept. 10 and she plans to attend.

• Ed Garner, landfill supervisor, was given permission to have tires removed from the landfill on a quarterly basis.

• Voting delegate for the Kansas Association of Commissioners will be Commissioner Brubaker with alternates listed as Commissioner Raile, then either Terry Miller, clerk; Dolores Jenik, treasurer; or Mary Morrow, regwill be the third alternate, depending upon which one attends the meeting.

 Clerk Miller reported that J.R. Landenburger had contacted him about the emergency service director Gary Rogers using wireless internet provided by the city so he could monitor radar with his laptop while in his vehicle. After discussion, it was decided that Manager Rogers should come to the next commissioners' meeting to discuss the wireless service.

Kevin Berens, county attorney, reported that EBH and Associates, held at 8 a.m. on Sept. 16 in the com-Goodland, the engineering company missioners' room at the courthouse.

hired for the resurfacing of the county airport, was demanding the final payment but the commissioners still felt that, until all of the work is completed, the payment would not be made. The work should be completed by the middle of September. The attorney also asked for 10 minutes executive session to discuss attorney client matters.

 Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, gave his monthly report along with talking about the St. Francis Cemetery road. He noted that Pete Jensen, St. Francis Sand and Redi Mix, had donated the use of one of his trucks to help with the resurfacing of the cemetery road. He reported that the heavy rains which had recently fallen had been hard on county roads and bridges.

 Register of Deeds Morrow was given permission to attend meetings in Oakley and Colby. Treasurer Jenik was given permission to attend a certification meeting and the fall meeting, both in Wichita.

## Next meeting

The next meeting was a special meeting held at 7 a.m. on Thursday. Both the commissioners and county hospital board members met to sign the contracts for the clinic remodeling project.

The next regular meeting will be

## **SYMPTOMS**

**Continued from Page 1** person sick but, instead they may have no symptoms or only a mild ill-

If a person does develop signs of encephalitis, with fever, muscle weakness and confusion, they should seek medical care immediately. Once a person has been infected with the virus, it is thought that they will have lifelong immunity. However, there is no specific treatment for West Nile virus and there is no vaccine.

If there are a lot of dead birds in a particular area, this information can be reported to the toll-free hotline at 1-866-452-7810 in Manhattan.

## Prevention

To help prevent getting bitten from an infected mosquitoes, limit time outdoors at nightfall and dawn when mosquitoes are active; wear longsleeve shirts and long pants; use insect repellents and screen the home

It is also important to reduce mosquito populations. Some communities have control programs to reduce mosquitoes but if not, people can eliminate standing, stagnant water where mosquitoes breed and empty water in containers and replenish water every three days — this will interrupt the mosquito life cycle.



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September 5, 2002. (36) **ORDINANCE NO. 513** AN ORDINANCE REGULATING

TRAFFIC WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS; INCORPORAT-ING BY REFERENCE THE "STAN-DARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR KANSAS CITIES," EDITION OF 2002, AMENDING SECTION 101 OF AR-TICLE 14 OF THE 1994 CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 510.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOV-ERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS, that Ordinance No. 510 be repealed and that Section 101 of Article 14 of the 1994 Code of the City of St. Francis, Kansas, and entitled 'INCORPORATING STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE" is hereby amended to read as follows:

14-101 INCORPORATING STAN-DARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE. There is hereby incorporated by reference for the purpose of regulating traffic within the corporate limits of the City of St. Francis, Kansas, that certain standard traffic ordinance known as the "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities," Edition of 2002, prepared and published in book form by the League of Kansas Municipalities, Topeka, Kansas. No fewer than three copies of said Standard Traffic Ordinance shall be marked or stamped "Official Copy as Adopted by Ordinance No. 513," and to which shall be attached a copy of this ordinance, and filed with the city clerk to be open to inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours. The police department, municipal judge and all administrative departments of the city charged with enforcement of the ordinance shall be supplied, at the cost of the city, such number of official copies of such Standard Traffic Ordinance similarly marked, as may be deemed expedient.

This amendment to the 1994 Code of the City of St. Francis, Kansas shall be ATTEST: effective upon its publication in the St. Francis Herald.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the governing body, this 3rd day of September, 2002.

/s/ Scott Schultz SCOTT SCHULTZ, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/ Mary P. Lampe MARY P. LAMPE, City Clerk September 5, 2002. (36 **ORDINANCE NO. 512** 

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUB- Business Opportunity LIC OFFENSES WITHIN THE COR-PORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS; INCORPORAT-ING BY REFERENCE THE "UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KAN-SAS CITIES ADDITION OF 2002 AMENDING SECTION 101 OF AR-TICLE 11 OF THE 1994 CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 509.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOV-ERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS, that Ordinance No. 509 be repealed and that Section 101 of Article 11 of the 1994 Code of the City of St. Francis, Kansas, and entitled **"INCORPORATING UNIFORM PUB-**LIC OFFENSE CODE" is hereby amended to read as follows:

11-101 INCORPORATING UNI-FORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE. There is hereby incorporated by reference for the purpose of regulating pubic offenses within the corporate limits of the City of St. Francis, Kansas, that certain code known as the "UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE," Edition of 2002, prepared and published in book form by the League of Kansas Municipalities, Topeka, Kansas. No fewer than three copies of said Uniform Public Offense Code shall be marked or stamped "Official Copy as Adopted by Ordinance No. 512," and to which shall be attached a copy of this ordinance, and filed with the city clerk to be open to inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours.

This amendment to the 1994 Code of the City of St. Francis, Kansas shall be effective upon its publication in the St. Francis Herald.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the governing body, this 3rd day of September, 2002.

/s/ Scott Schultz SCOTT SCHULTZ, MAYOR /s/ Mary P. Lampe MARY P. LAMPE, City Clerk



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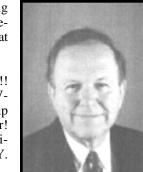
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