

# Chamber discusses highway signs

By Karen Krien

Highway signs and what it is going to take to make them look better was the main discussion at the Friday meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.

There are two 10- by 20-foot signs each located on either side of St. Francis. The signs are no longer in good condition. Both the structure and the board need to be replaced.

It was noted that when a sign representing a community looks bad, it portrays a bad image for the community. Robert Grace, one of the members of the Sign Committee, felt that the struc-

ture could be made out of square tubing and then corrugated backing would be used for the bottom face. Hot Brush, Bird City, could be hired to provide the board and paint the sign.

Discussion turned to how big to make the sign, whether it should be in a specific shape and what to have the sign say.

While some thought a specific shape would be good, they couldn't come up with what shape would tie in with the town.

Some members thought that the sign should have all of the events happening in the town from the Stearman Fly-In to

the carnival. Others thought that seven to nine words should be the maximum number of words.

Shawna Blanka, president, said she had talked to Mary Biekman, St. Francis schools art instructor, about making the theme of the sign a contest or project in her art class and she was enthused. But there were members who thought the project needed a specific theme or guidelines.

No decisions were made but everyone present agreed that the sign needed to be completed as soon as there is enough funding.

Funding for the sign will be raised in several different ways with the first fundraiser being the Chamber sponsored Garden Party set for 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15. (See related article for more information.)

### In other business

In other business:

- It was announced that Fall Festival, sponsored by the Chamber, will be held Oct. 26 in conjunction with several other happenings including the Senior Citizen's pancake feed.

- Stephanie Shafer, member, is working on the Chamber's web site but several more businesses are needed to commit to this marketing tool to make it the best it can be. To see the web site, go to [www.stfranciskansas.com](http://www.stfranciskansas.com).

- It was announced that the Cel-

ebration on the High Plains was set for Saturday in Colby and Robert Grace would be sky diving and Phil Crawford would be performing with his guitar.

- The River Walk controversy is still be worked on but people are using the walk.

- The Chamber's Main Street property is still up for rent.

- The Chamber declined the offer to furnish a barbecue or hamburger fry to make money for the clean-up demolition derby set for Saturday, Sept. 14, because they did not feel that there would be a good attendance.

- Halloween bags will once again be available for merchants to list their businesses on the side. The cost is \$14 per business.

- The Student of the Month will begin again with the starting of school. These students are chosen on merits of courtesy, working toward good grades and being involved in community service. A team of teachers make the selection.

- Visitor Darin Miller of Southwestern Bell was introduced.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the Chamber will be held at noon on Oct. 4 with the place to be announced later. For more information about any event or to become a member, contact Chamber secretary Paige Gardner at 785-332-2961.

# Contract signed to begin clinic work

By Karen Krien

Signing the contract with the construction company doing the work for the Cheyenne County Clinic in St. Francis was the main reason for the early Thursday morning meeting. Both the county commissioners as well as the hospital board members and hospital administrator were present for the discussion and the signing.

The hospital board and administrator reported that the lowest qualified bidder for the clinic addition and remodeling was Thissen Construction Company which is headquartered out of Greeley, Colo., with an office also located in Wray. The project is scheduled to take 195 days and a penalty will be imposed for every day the construction goes over the scheduled time. A hospital board member will work with

the on-site construction superintendent to oversee the project.

After concerns and questions were answered, Commissioner Tim Raile asked if the hospital board members were willing to proceed with the project. Each board member stated that they were ready so Commissioner Raile made a motion to sign the construction agreement on the recommendation of the hospital board. Commissioner Jane Brubaker seconded the motion and the vote was carried 2 to 0.

Hospital board chairman Leon Brethower will sign the contract agreement with Thissen Construction.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the commissioners has been set for Monday. The hospital board's next meeting will be Sept. 19. Both meetings are open to the public.

# No new cases of virus reported in county

By Karen Krien

Dr. Judy Baxter and Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, said no new cases of West Nile virus has been found in Cheyenne County.

Two weeks ago, Gary Cooper, St. Francis, had a 2-year-old gelding which was diagnosed with West Nile but, as of Tuesday, he reported his horse appears to be improving each day.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has received confirmation that specimens from six people in Kansas submitted to the Centers for Disease Control for West Nile virus testing were negative. Several states including Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas have reported confirmed human cases of the virus.

The virus has been confirmed in horses, mules, birds and/or mosquitoes in a total of 63 Kansas counties including Cheyenne, Decatur, Logan, Norton and Thomas counties.

West Nile virus originates from Africa, Asia and Europe and was first found in the United States in late summer 1999 in New York City. Since

then, it has spread down the eastern seaboard and westward into 41 states.

The disease is transmitted when a mosquito bites an infested bird and then bites another animal or a human. Infested birds carry this disease for a short time but mosquitoes provide the only known method of transmission to animals or humans. People cannot get the disease from horses or from the birds carrying the virus but the Centers for Disease Control is studying whether transmission of the virus can occur through blood transfusions or organ transplants.

In humans, West Nile virus usually causes mild symptoms but does not generally require medical treatment. In rare cases, patients with encephalitis may require hospitalization and death can occur in very severe cases. Human testing for the disease is generally recommended only for hospitalized patients with severe symptoms and medical treatment does not change for those who test positive. People more than 50 years old are most susceptible to serious illness as the result of the virus.

# Junior varsity starts season with two wins

By Lezlie Hilt

Two wins! What a great way to open the season for the junior varsity volleyball team.

The opening games were played in Hoxie, Tuesday, Sept. 3, with the St. Francis team defeating Golden Plains 15-11, 15-8 and Hoxie 15-11, 8-15, 15-13 (rally score).

"The junior varsity got off to a very good start, winning both matches," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "The young lady Indians had very few first game butterflies. With the occasional lapse of communication being the exception they played very good volleyball. Even in the Hoxie match, after the second loss, they did not lose focus. This was a great start to what we hope will be a very successful season."

### Bethune

#### Invitational Tournament

St. Francis vs. Kit Carson: 1-15; 3-15. St. Francis vs. Wray Junior Varsity: 15-3; 5-15; 15-13.

St. Francis vs. Liberty: 15-10; 15-7.

The Junior varsity team traveled to Bethune for the first time, with the exception of Wray and St. Francis, all other teams were varsity teams and several were ranked in the top ten in preseason polls in Colorado.

"We started in the morning with Kit Carson, and they played very well,"

said Coach Olofson "and we played very poorly. The result was we lost very quickly. The young ladies did not go on the court ready to play. There was no focus and no fire."

"Against the Wray junior varsity we started to play with a little enthusiasm and we turned the heat up. In the second game we let them back in the match but we held on and won the third game of the match. As the day progressed the young ladies kept getting better at communicating on the court. This is a very important volleyball skill and we need to keep working on it."

After sitting around for several hours in an extremely hot gym we got to play our last match of the day against Liberty High. I was afraid that the heat fatigue would affect our concentration but we played an excellent match with few mental errors. This was a great win because Liberty has a talented team and we were able to control play at the net, we served aggressively and finally won fifth place in the tournament."

This was a good experience for our junior varsity. It gave them a chance to prove themselves against very good competition. Every girl that went improved her volleyball skills and contributed to our victories. As a team they now know they can play together."

## College Football

### Southwest Missouri State

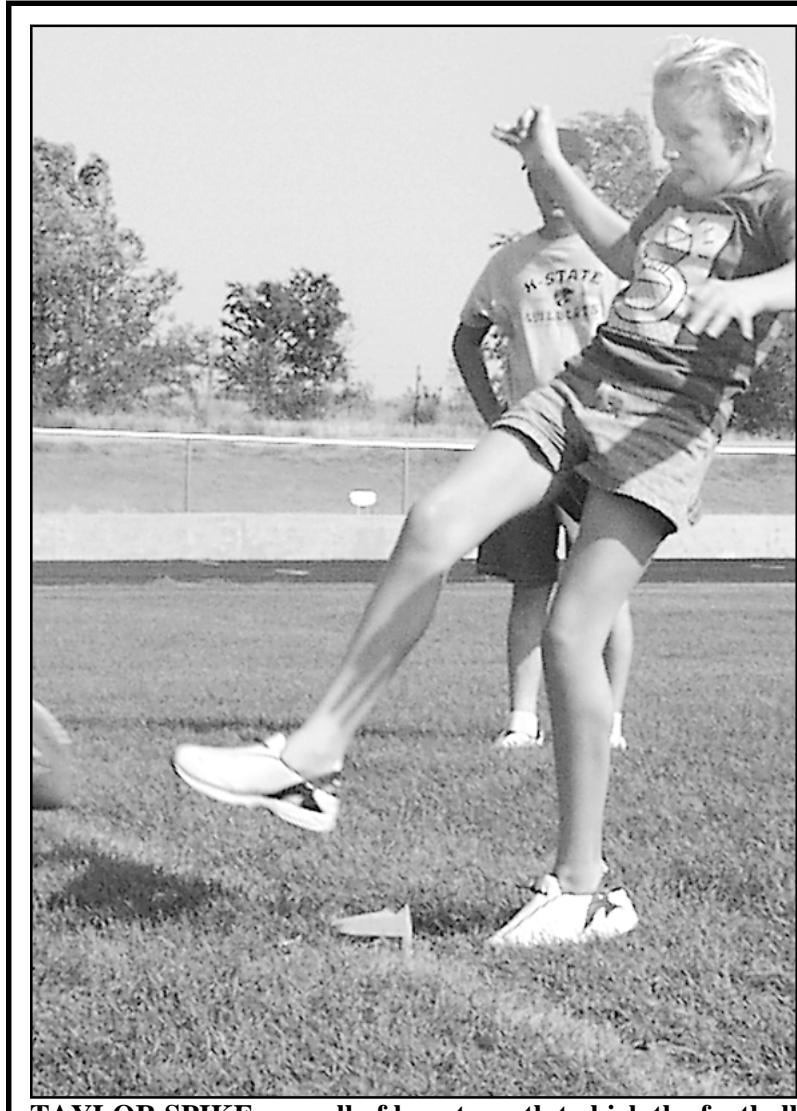
On Saturday Southwest Missouri State football team defeated Hampton College team 28 to 26 on the Hampton's home field in Virginia. The Southwest Missouri State football Bears are off to their first 2-0 start since 1989 following a 28-26 road victory.

Southwest Missouri State backup quarterback Michael White, who replaced injured starting quarterback Ryan Porter early in the first half, com-

pleted 8-of-16 passes for 143 yards and tossed a pair of touchdowns to lead the Bears to victory.

St. Francis' Jon Zwegardt, wearing the number 69, plays for the Bears. On Aug. 29, Zwegardt had the lead block on the Southwest Missouri State Bears go-ahead touchdown and Southwest Missouri State defeated East Central Oklahoma University Tigers 26-14 at Springfield.

On Saturday the Bears will play Kansas University in Lawrence. The game is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.



TAYLOR SPIKE uses all of her strength to kick the football during the Punt, Pass & Kick contest held last Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Jennifer Boyles

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