

## Hospital wants city to pay for transformers

By Sandy Barnhart

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator, was present at the Oct. 22 St. Francis City Council meeting to discuss the upgrade of electrical supply to the hospital.

Mr. Lacy explained that basically the transformer on the pole would need to be eliminated with two transformers on pads replacing it. He went on to tell the council that one of his concerns is, "as a hospital, I'm a little uncomfortable owning some percentage of a transformer. We're not in the power supply business. I'm also interested in what liability the hospital would have owning a percentage of the transformer."

The council noted that in the past it had been the city's stand to take the electricity to the property. The owner of the property then stood the cost of the transformer which, in turn, becomes the city property. Both the school and Equity had paid considerably for their transformers. The city then acquires responsibility of maintenance of the transformer.

Mr. Lacy asked that if the council decided that it was the hospital's responsibility to pay for the transformers, could the city possibly prorate the cost of the transformers over a period of five years and add that onto the hospital's monthly bill.

He also read a letter he had received from the architect which stated "that in the designs all over the state of Kansas I have found it to be the norm for the utility company to provide the material and labor including the upgrading or addition of a transformer. It is also the understanding that the utility rates and/or fees cover the costs."

An estimate for the project had been done approximately two years ago and the cost had been at \$24,250.

At this point Councilman Roger Jensen made a motion that the city stand the cost of putting in and installing the transformers.

Councilman Rick Krieger asked that before making a decision the council get a more recent and exact bid on the project, in which the council agreed.

## Cement floor still on council agenda

Once again, the possibility of pouring concrete for the city's recycling center's floor south of U.S. 36, St. Francis, was discussed at the Oct. 15 St. Francis City Council meeting.

At a previous meeting several council members had felt that there had been enough money put into the center and that it was not a cost-effective project. The total project is going to cost around \$25,000. The council had decided to have the city crew spray water and pack the floor instead of pouring concrete.

Councilman Roger Jensen asked whether the council would object to advertising for bids to pour at least one-third of the floor. It was noted that the city crew had not had time to spray water and pack the floor to see if that would be a possible solution.

Councilman Jensen said that the recycling center was "one of the projects the city had taken on and asked if they really want to abandoned the project before it was complete?"

He noted that there would probably be money leftover from the grant after the baler had been purchased and there needed to be cement for the baler to sit on. There possibly would be enough extra grant money to do part of the one-third of the building. The estimated cost to concrete one-third of the floor is \$8,000. The council agreed to advertise for bids.

Councilman Jensen updated the council on the progress of the four- See CEMENT on Page 9A

## St. Francis woman takes coats to Denver

Cold weather has hit and it is time to get coats, hats and mittens out of storage. It is possible that last year's coat may not fit or the gloves don't match or the wearer just wants a new coat, hat and gloves. Now, what do they do with the old coat or the extra coats still hanging in the closet.

Connie Jenkins, St. Francis, is once again collecting coats, hats and gloves to take to the Urban Peak Teen Shelter in Denver. She has been collecting warm clothing for these homeless kids for five years and each year, she has almost more than she can carry in her car.

Urban Peak is the only shelter for homeless teens in Denver. There are

counselors, medical assistance and career training for these youth but many just stop in to get out of the cold.

"Life would have to get pretty rough to opt for the streets," Mrs. Jenkins says.

Wanting to help, year after year, St. Francis people have opened their hearts to these youth.

"There have been more coats than I can take in just one trip and the shelter is most grateful for the warm clothing."

The youth range from 12 to 20 years old.

"If you have extra coats this year, you may put them on my porch at 304 W. Spencer, St. Francis. I will be making a trip to Denver by Nov. 23."



LOVE THOSE PUMPKINS — Madeleine Adair was one of those decorating pumpkins at the Farmers' Market on Saturday. The pumpkins were donated by Linfred Oster.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## More booths for show

By Karen Krien

This is the seventh year for the Arts and Crafts Show which is slated to be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the St. Francis Grade School on Washington and Francis streets.

"We have more booths and more vendors signed up this year and it looks like we are going to have an even better variety of items," said Tammy Grice, one of the co-coordinators of the event.

There will be hand-crafted items including Santas, snowmen, wood-painted items, yard ornaments, Christmas ornaments, wooden shelves, candles, original oil paintings, Victorian wood-carved items, rope baskets and much more.

"Each year, the show grows in the number of items but we are especially happy with the quality of work which comes with each of the vendors," said Bonnie Zweygardt, co-coordinator.

Non-profit organizations are welcome to also set up booths. As of Tuesday, the junior class was holding a bake sale, the sophomore class will be selling pop and candy bars, the Christian Church ladies will be selling pecans, and Allison Grice and Trisa Orth will have a caramel apple stand.

Throughout the day, door prizes will be given away. Prizes will be provided by the craft vendors and area merchants.

"Over half of the people who came to the Craft Show last year were from out-of-town," Mrs. Grice said.

With this information, merchants are taking advantage of these shoppers. See SHOW on Page 9A

## Candidates vie for office

By Karen Krien

There will be races for national and state offices in the general election on Tuesday but, in Cheyenne County, the only local election will be to fill the seat of county commissioner in District 1, Bird City.

Incumbent Jane Brubaker beat out her opponents in the primary and will be running unopposed on the ballot. However, Tuesday morning, Sam Beeson who ran against Mrs. Brubaker in the primary, announced a write-in campaign. (See related article about both Mrs. Brubaker and Mr. Beeson.)

Another interesting race will be that for state board of education. Connie Morris, St. Francis, won an overwhelming victory in the primary over I.B. "Sonny" Rundell.

However, after Mrs. Morris made a stand on not educating the children of illegal immigrants, Mr. Rundell decided to conduct a write-in campaign. (See related article about Mrs. Morris and Mr. Rundell on this page.)

Candidates which voters will find listed on the ballot will include:

### National offices

U.S. Senator: George Cook, Reform; Pat Roberts, Republican; Steven A. Rosile, Libertarian.

U.S. Representative, 1st District: Jerry Moran, Republican; Jack Warner, Libertarian.

### State offices

Governor and lieutenant governor: Dennis Hawyer and Joel Heller, Libertarian; Ted Pettibone and Mike Wilson, Reform; Kathleen Sebelius and John Moore, Democratic; Tim Shallenburger and David Lindstrom, Republican.

State treasurer: Sally Finney, Democratic; Lynn Jenkins, Republican.

Attorney General: Chris Biggs, Democratic; Phill Kline, Republican.

Secretary of State: David Haley,

## General election set for Tuesday

By Karen Krien

The general election has been set for Tuesday but those wanting to cast their votes earlier may do so at the county clerk's office where a voting booth has been set up. The advance voting booth will close at noon on Monday.

On Tuesday, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at several places in Cheyenne County. In Bird City, people will vote at the American Legion Hall. In St. Francis those living in Wano I Township will vote at the Peace Lutheran Church and those living in Wano II will vote at the Methodist Church. Those living in Benkelman, Calhoun, Cleveland Run, Jaqua and Orlando townships will vote in the basement of the courthouse.

Terry Miller, county election officer, said that there have been many questions about the write-in campaign since I.B. "Sonny" Rundell announced a write-in campaign.

Points of interest include:

- The name doesn't have to be spelled correctly. It is up to the county board to determine the intent of the voter so anything close will most likely be counted.

- Ideally, the box should be checked as well as a name written in. However, the vote will count even if the box isn't checked (write-in candidates only).

- Cheyenne County has decided to not allow stickers to be placed on the ballot. Some candidates supply stickers to be placed on the write-in line and it is up to each county to decide whether to allow this or not.

Democratic; Charles St. George, Reform; Ron Thornburgh, Republican.

Commissioner of Insurance: Jim Garner, Democratic; Sandy Praeger, Republican.

State Representative, 120 District: John Faber, Republican; Bob Strevey, Democratic.

State Board of Education: Connie Morris, Republican.

### County office

Jane C.W. Brubaker, Republican.

### Questions

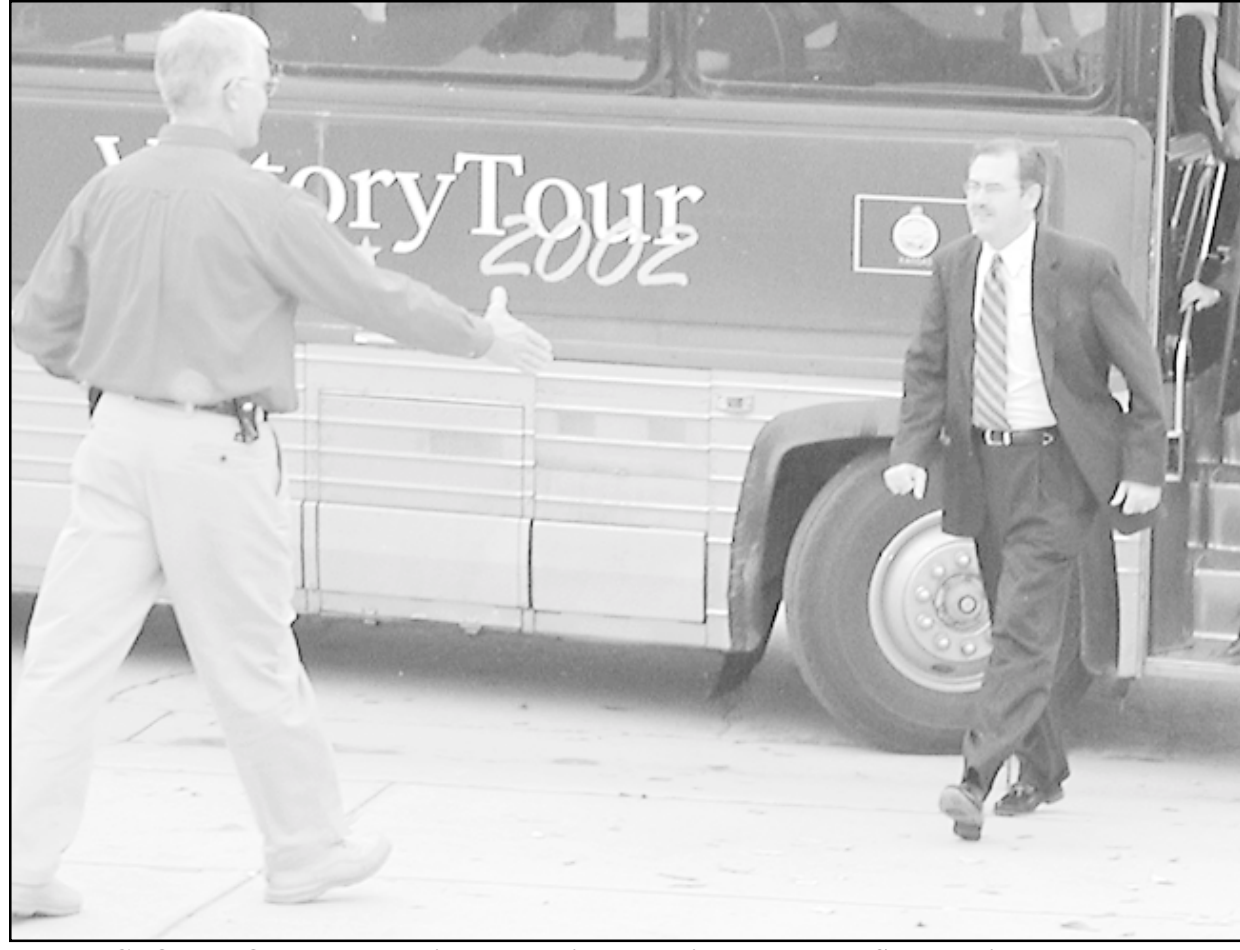
There will also be two questions listed on the ballot:

1) To vote for a Justice of the Supreme Court being retained in office, make a check in the square left of the "yes." To vote against the Justice of

the Supreme Court being retained in office, check in the square left of "no." Voting "yes" will retain Kay McFarland as the Justice of the Supreme Court.

2) To vote for a judge of the Court Appeals being retained in office, mark "yes." To vote against a judge of the Court of Appeals being retained in office, mark "no."

Judges running to be retained in office include: David S. Knudson, Position 1; Lee A. Johnson, Position 2; Carol A. Beier, Position 4; Robert J. Lewis Jr., Position 6; Henry W. Green Jr., Position 7; Jerry G. Elliott, Position 8; Gary W. Rulon, Position 9; Robert L. Gernon, Position 10.



THE VICTORY TOUR bus carrying Republican candidates came to St. Francis on Thursday. Paul Rainbolt met governor candidate Tim Shallenburger as he came off the bus.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Political bus rolls into St. Francis

By Karen Krien

The Shallenburger bus rolled into St. Francis accompanied by a blast of patriotic music Thursday afternoon. The stop had been first scheduled at the city park but with cold, chilly weather conditions, the location was moved to the senior center on Main Street.

About 25 to 35 people gathered to hear the Republican candidates, Tim Shallenburger who is running for governor, David Lindstrom, lieutenant governor, Connie Morris, state board of education, Sandy Praeger, commissioner of insurance and Lynn Jenkins, state treasurer. Rep. John

Faber came in his own vehicle.

The four-day bus tour, dubbed as the "Victory 2002 Tour," stopped in Abilene, Salina, Hays, Colby, Goodland and went on to Atwood, Oberlin and down U.S. 36. These were just some of the many stops he and the other candidates made. Retired Sen. Bob Dole joined the group in Russell, showing his support of Mr. Shallenburger. However, by the time the bus reached St. Francis, some of the passengers including Sen. Dole had gotten off.

Paul Rainbolt, St. Francis, opened the Thursday session by introducing



Morris



Faber

Rep. Faber who said a few words before the bus arrived. After that, Mrs. Morris, St. Francis, took over the introductions and many of the candidates said a few words but the majority of the See BUS on Page 9A



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 county recycling group. The group involves Thomas, Gove, Logan and Cheyenne counties. He said they planned on meeting with Charles Peckham, an attorney from Atwood, who will be advising the group on the legal aspects of forming a co-op of this nature.

**Stuccoing front of building**

At a special meeting, the stuccoing of the front of the new city hall was discussed and the council looked at the contractors' bids for texturing the building. Earlier it was noted that the leakage on the building was coming from the mortar around the bricks. Councilman Jensen had told the council that Roger Goltz, a plaster, drywall and stucco contractor out of McCook, had given a verbal bid of \$10,000 with a leeway of 10 percent. At the special meeting Garrett Quint, Sharon Springs, was present to discuss his bid of \$8,900. Mr. Quint's bid would include applying foam to the front of the building and then blowing on a texture. Mr. Goltz's bid would include stuccoing the front and also blowing on a texture. The council moved to accept Mr. Goltz's bid to be completed this fall.

**Island project**

Council woman Kay Shay informed the council that the Island Project Com-

mittee had met again and had decided that the timing for applying for the island beautification grant was not right with the other projects going on. The committee discussed the possibility of putting the project on the five-year plan and continuing to possibly meeting quarterly, giving the project more research and planning. The council agreed to put the island project on the five-year plan.

She also clarified that Troy Porter had been in no way reimbursed by the city for his services in the island project. He was not a member of the committee but had attended several meetings and had helped with the plans and design.

Committee members for the island project include: Natalie Knodel, Susan Hobrock, Jeff Raile, Tim Raile, Paul Rainbolt, Deb Harper and Kay Shay.

**Superintendent's report**

**Development - Superintendent J.R. Landenberger** informed the council that the parts had been ordered for the water line for the property owners south of the city limits. The work will need to be subcontracted out.

Before the sewer can be put in Attorney Mike Day noted they will need the abstract certificate on the property and the property owners will need to sign a consent contract for annexation.

Skidster - Superintendent

Landenberger asked that the council consider buying a jack-hammer for the skidster. The jack-hammer, he felt, would suit the city's need was a 750-foot pound one for around \$12,100. Originally the jack-hammer was scheduled to be purchased in 2003 and after examining the equipment reserve funds it was noted that after the new pickup was purchased there was not enough money in the funds and the jack-hammer would need to wait till the first of the year.

**Metering - Superintendent Landenberger** asked the council to keep in mind the possibility of replacing the Totalizing meter at the city plant. He noted that the meter had not been accurate and that he had contacted Mid American Consultants to look into the matter.

**Well 11 - Superintendent Landenberger** told the council that he has contacted the company that had put the well in because it was not working.

He also asked that the council consider signing a maintenance contract with the same company that put Well 11 down. The company would do the maintenance on the wells, check water level, water output, electrical usage and the efficiency on the wells. The cost would be \$150 per well and the wells would be checked once a year.

**Other business**

In other business:  
 • Attorney Day informed the council that Erva Gene DeAragon's attorney had withdrawn from the case, but he was in the process of filing a motion for a court order for inspection of the property, hopefully the first of November.

• After a brief discussion the council decided not to accept the proposal from Paddock Enterprises. The proposal detailed an engineer study on the repairs on the swimming pool and would cost \$6,500. The council felt that the main problems with the pool was replacing the boiler and installing a new drain-off valve — that the drain-off valve is the main problem for the pool losing water.

The council also agreed to set up a committee to start planning for fundraisers and grants for a new pool sometime in the future.

• The council reviewed the Water Emergency Plan and instructed Clerk Mary Lampe to work with Superintendent Landenberger and Chief of Police Jason Ryan on corrections. It was noted that the plan comes due annually and in January, adjustments can be made.

• Councilman Rodney Bracelin told the council that he had been approached concerning the flag being tattered on the old city hall building. It was noted that the flag would be taken down.

**Special meeting**

The council held a special public meeting on Oct. 15 to discuss the sewer grant and funding. Thaniel Monaco, of Miller and Associates, McCook, updated the council on the progress of the grant and answer questions. There was no public comment at the meeting.

**Executive session**

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger requested 1 minute 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.



**OUTSTANDING OLDER AMERICAN** Barb Ewing and her son Ron showed senior citizens the flag which Rep. Jerry Moran presented her. The flag was flown over the Capitol when she was in Washington, D.C., representing Kansas. She also received a plaque. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# BUS

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 speaking was done by Mr. Shallenburger.

Mr. Shallenburger is a firm believer of not raising taxes but also not trimming school education funding. Coming from the small community of Baxter Springs, he said that he understood the problems of small communities and thought all schools were important — that good educations came from small schools as well as the bigger schools, noting that his opponent Kathleen Sebelius was favoring the consolidation of small schools.

He said that in rural communities where the livelihood depends on the farming income, there is just less

money. He said that when there is no income, there are no taxes paid and with no money coming in, it was going to be a hardship on the businesses as well as the schools.

"We need to be more efficient — not buy a new truck when the old one still works and not remodel when there is no money," he said.

St. Francis superintendent Carl Werner disagreed that Mr. Shallenburger's plan to not raise taxes and not cut school spending could be done. He also pointed out that schools are allowed to raise the Local Option Budget a certain number of mills but this was not fair because a mill in some counties was around \$20,000 while in other counties, a mill was worth \$135,000 — over six times as much.

Mr. Shallenburger said that, if elected, he planned to redistribute the wealth and determine what kind of formula would be fair to all schools.

"We need suitable education everywhere which is funded at 100 percent," Mr. Shallenburger said, adding that administrative costs might be a problem.

"The Legislature is often blamed for low teacher salaries but the Legislature doesn't set teachers' salaries — school boards set them."

Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Cheyenne County's only medical doctor, expressed concern that when taxes are cut, the effects are felt much worse in rural areas, pointing out that in the urban areas when one or two home health care facilities are lost, there are others to take up the slack but it hurt when Cheyenne County lost their home health facilities.

The stay of the candidates was short and after only a half hour, they were back on the bus on their way to Atwood. This was the second visit that Mr. Shallenburger has made to Cheyenne County and with only days left until the election, he is feels that it is important to get out and hear what the people have to say.

# SHOW

**Continued from Page 1A**  
 offering them coupons and discounts when they take time to shop their businesses after the Craft Show closes.

"The coupons and discounts will get shoppers downtown to see the business district and shop some of the stores," Mrs. Grice said, noting that there are always compliments on the variety of businesses and items stocked in the local shops.

The Craft Show also gives local crafters the opportunity to show off their talents.

"We have a lot of talent in the area and it's great to see what people can do," Mrs. Zwegardt said.

**Kid's Craft Corner**

A popular activity during the show is the "Kids' Craft Corner." The corner gives children of all ages an opportunity to come to the make-and-take table, make a gift for themselves or a family member and then take it home. There is a small cost for the craft items but it is worth it as kids are busy while their parents shop.

For more information, contact Mrs. Zwegardt at 785-332-25679 or Mrs. Grice, 785-332-2910.

# Echoes in the Wind

By Dorothy L. Mast

Benjamin Bird of English ancestry was born April 16, 1833, to Jesse and Leadicia Bird at Hardin County, Ky. on the family plantation where he grew to manhood.

As I have no written records on his growing up years, I will attempt to give you a little historical background of how a plantation came into being during that period of time.

While an area in America was still in the primitive stage of development it was usually visited by an Eastern planter seeking a favorable spot for settlement. That individual usually owned a large plantation and many slaves in the east but he had decided to move, either because of soil exhaustion in the old fields or he recognized the chance for greater profits on the west's virgin land. On arriving at his newly purchased land, the planter directed his slaves into the main tasks needed to lay out a plantation. Some were set to building cabins that would serve the owner's family, others to clearing land and planting the first crops.

In the following years the plantation profits steadily mounted, for his slave labor allowed him to extend his cultivated areas more rapidly. In good seasons the price of crop produce favored the larger plantations and in poor seasons they were more able to survive than the small farmers. Slavery and the large plantation system permitted wealth to perpetuate itself and combined to drive the less fortunate westward.

One would have to study the daily events of a Kentucky plantation during the time frame of 1830 to 1860 to understand its effect on the life of young Benjamin Bird.

Benjamin Bird married Amanda Snail on June 21, 1859, and resided on a small plantation near Danville, Ky. At the time of their marriage Ben and Amanda were given a family of slaves as a wedding present. Three girls, Lila, Fannie and Elle (Nellie) were born on this plantation. Later Benjamin Bird gave the slaves their freedom. However, the slaves chose to remain with the Bird household.

One has to understand that slaves during that period of time had known no other life but one of servitude to a master. Quite often the slaves were denied the knowledge of how to read or write and were punished if they attempted to learn. Family sources state that Benjamin and Amanda treated the slaves fairly and with dignity. They were housed and fed well which led to the decision of the slaves

to remain with the Bird household rather than to take the road to freedom.

Mrs. Helen (Munn) Larkin, granddaughter of Benjamin and Amanda Bird, leaves us the following family story: "When I was 16 years of age, my father and mother, William and Nellie (Bird) Munn and I went to St. Joseph, Mo. and found the old slave lady. She was 103 years old at that time and was in good health. My mother offered her a home with them in Aurora, Colo., but the old slave lady said, "All my family is buried here so here I will stay."

Sometime during the 1863-64 period, the young Ben Bird family with the slave family left the Danville, area and went north by The Underground Railroad, through the northern lines into Missouri, where Benjamin Bird was engaged in the mercantile business.

Next month: Civil War and its effects on the Bird family.

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