

# Commissioners freeze salaries

**By Karen Krien**

There was a lot of discussion before the Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Monday meeting, agreed to freeze county employee's salaries.

The state of Kansas officials have indicated that counties and cities may not be getting funding as in years past. The budgets were set in August so it is now up to the commissioners to make cuts where necessary and curb

any unnecessary spending. Already, the road and bridge supervisor had held back in proceeding with projects and making purchases.

"Until we know what the state is going to do, I just think we should freeze wages," Tim Raile, commissioner, said. "If we do get funding, then the raises could be retroactive to the first of the year or we could start the raises then — we need to know

more (about what funding is coming in)."

The other commissioners, also concerned about the state funding or lack of funding, agreed to freeze wages.

In keeping with being frugal, several areas of spending were discussed including overtime in the sheriff's department. It was noted that undersheriffs are exempt under the

Fair Labor Standards Act but Cheyenne County currently pays overtime. This matter will be discussed later.

Because money is tight, the commissioners said that it was absolutely necessary that each department spend no more than what was in their line items. After discussion, the board asked that a resolution be written regarding budget line items and obtaining permission from the commission-

ers to spend should a line item go over its budget.

The commissioners questioned the number of hours used to fill out and submit forms in the ambulance department. Janelle Bowers, bookkeeper, and Larry Gabel, emergency medical service coordinator, will be asked to come to a future meeting to discuss the hours. If Mrs. Bowers is working over 35 hours per week, the

commissioners will need to consider her full time and place her on the payroll as such.

Another decision made by the commissioners to conserve county money was to not have the employee appreciation dinner as planned after the first of the year. They discussed possibly a dinner or a potluck get-together in the spring or summer. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

## File by noon on Tuesday

**By Karen Krien**

People wanting to file for seats on the school boards in St. Francis and Cheylin and/or on the city councils in St. Francis and Bird City or for mayor of St. Francis need to do so before noon on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, election officer Terry Miller reported that there have been people filing for all the positions in the city council and school board which are up for election. However, in Bird City, filings are still needed for the city council and the Cheylin School Board.

There are two St. Francis City Council positions and mayor of St. Francis up for election. In Bird City, there are three city council positions open.

In the schools there are four seats up for election in St. Francis and three seats in Cheylin.

### City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are two city council seats and the position of mayor which will be up for election.

Those members whose term are up are: Roger Jensen and Rick Krieh, council members, and Scott Schultz, mayor. Councilman Krieh will have already resigned before the filing but the council will appoint a person to fill out the term until the April 8 regular city council meeting when the elected councilman takes over.

Bird City — There are three seats on the city council up for election. These positions are currently being served by Wade Carmichael, Canda Orten and Ned Smith.

Election officer Terry Miller reported that, as of Tuesday, only Troy Burr had filed for the Bird City Council position. Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks filed for the St. Francis council position and Scott Schultz for mayor.

### Board of education

St. Francis — There four seats on the St. Francis Board of Education  
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**ENJOYING THE WARM SUN** before the cold weather moved in were Cade Bracelin and Valerie Wurm. Cade is the son of Chris and Jill Bracelin and Valerie is the daughter of Shane and Christy Wurm.  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Board looks at new gym plan

**By Karen Krien**

Another plan for a new gym and commons area was submitted to the St. Francis Board of Education when they met Thursday. This plan appeared to be even more attainable than the previous plans and, again, the board agreed to think about it and discuss it again at the February meeting.

For months, the board has been discussing the possibility of building on a new gym and commons area to the south of the present high school but the cost was more than the board wanted to take on. The first plan presented to the board by Glenn Strait, architect, had a down-in-the-ground gymnasium which would hold 2,000 people and a 3,000 square foot commons area but the cost was estimated to be between \$2.4 and \$2.9 million. The commons area would have been big enough for large community gatherings and functions and the gym would have been large enough to handle a regional wrestling or bas-

ketball tournament.

Another plan included knocking out walls in the present gym, adding seating and storage and to the south, a practice gym would be built. The architect said that he did not recommend spending money to knock out walls and thought the sides of the gym were also used to support the roof, so it was back to the drawing board.

This time, superintendent Carl Werner came up with a plan to have a gym just south of the wrestling room (the wrestling room addition was built in 1992). The structure would be wide enough to have a standard basketball court which would run east and west. The structure would end at the west double doors on the south side of the present gymnasium. A lobby would be placed in the west end of the structure and would have adequate rest rooms for large crowds and a place to take tickets. The lobby would give access to the present gym and the

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## Congressman plans stop in Bird City

Congressman Jerry Moran will be making a stop in Bird City on his "Big First Listening Tour." This is the first leg of the congressman's annual tour of the district. When the tour is completed, Congressman Moran will have made a stop, holding town hall meetings in each of the 69 counties in the First District.

He will be at the First National Bank, 210 Bird Ave., from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

The stop in Bird City will offer county residents the opportunity to personally meet the congressman as well as express their concerns and ask questions on federal issues.

The congressman's tour will be held throughout January and February and he will have traveled over 5,000 miles to meet with thousands of Kansans living in the First District.

## New city council member approved

**By Sandy Barnhart**

The St. Francis City Council opened the Jan. 7 meeting short of Councilman Rick Krieh, who had resigned at the previous meeting. At that meeting Mayor Scott Schultz had asked the council for input on replacing Councilman Krieh for the remainder of his term. Mayor Schultz recommended the appointment of Dale Weeks, which the council approved.

Mr. Weeks will fulfill the remainder of Mr. Krieh term until April.

### Recycling center

Councilman Roger Jensen in-

formed the council that the concrete work at the recycling center was underway. He noted that everything in the building had been moved out and the center was temporarily closed to the public. The concrete work will take between two and three weeks.

### Sewer grant

The city has been notified that they have been awarded the sewer grant in the amount of \$400,000. The city had applied for the grant through the Community Development Block Grant program.

City clerk Mary Lampe reported

that there would be a regional technical meeting in Colby on Jan. 14. The meeting will inform the council on how the grant funds will need to be distributed.

### Superintendent report

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger gave the council bids from Yost Ford-Mercury on three F150 Supercab 4x4 Ford pickups.

The council approved the purchase of a 2003 pickup for the amount of \$23,900.

The other two bids included a used 2002 with 20,000 miles for approximately \$22,275; and a used

2001 with 30,000 miles for approximately \$20,000.

### Police report

At the request of Chief Jason Ryan, \$6,000 which was originally allotted for the purchase of radar units to be used with the \$19,000 allotted for police vehicles was approved. This will give the police department \$25,000 to purchase police vehicle(s).

Chief Ryan plans on bringing bids for the vehicle(s) to the next meeting.

### Clerk report

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## County markers named in letter

Tobe Zwegardt, local county historian, reported that Cheyenne County has been named in *We Kan!* published by the Kansas Sampler Foundation. The rural culture newsletter named the county as having one of the rural culture element of history - historical markers.

The county is dotted with 120 disks which were made and erected by Mr. Zwegardt, Fred Magley and Gus Zwegardt. The disks, made from farm machin-

ery, mark old post office sites, cemeteries, and one-room schoolhouse locations just to name some of the sites. There is a brochure located in several of the restaurants, at the courthouse and museum in St. Francis.

For more information about the disk markers or some of the sites to see in St. Francis, contact Mr. Zwegardt, the Cheyenne County Museum or the Cheyenne County Development Cor-  
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## Officers installed at board meeting

**By Leslie Hill**

Officers were voted on and installed at the Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting Thursday night. Dick Bursch was voted back in as president. John Finley is the vice president; Wade Krien will be the new secretary and Kelley Faylor, the treasurer. Rita Koros, Jeanne Dunn and Shawn Blanka all handed in their resignations from the board. Cliff Bursch and Lacy Reed are new members.

There should be 15 fair board members — five from the three commissioner districts. Present

board members besides those listed above include: Ernie Ketzner, Mark Mills, Jared Douthit, and Cliff Pilkington.

More fair board members are needed and anyone interested in being on the board should contact Dick Bursch or call Terry Miller at the county clerk's office.

### Fair entertainment

Baxter Black has been confirmed for the Thursday night grandstand entertainment for the 2003 fair. The Kids' Ranch Rodeo contract was received and needed to be signed  
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**CITY CREW** took advantage of the nice weather and the last of the Christmas lights came down.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*



# GYM

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The new gym would have permanent seats on the north, east and south and would seat 1,400 people or more (the present gym seats around 900). Under the bleachers would be a place for concessions and an eating area, and locker rooms for two teams and officials. A wide hallway around the perimeter of the building could also be used as a walking track. There was also the possibility that the east side could have an overhead door and track equipment could be stored underneath the bleachers on the east.

Board member Cliff Raile said that the newest plan made more sense than tearing out and Gene Dodd, board member, pointed out that even though it was called a "commons room" that the proposed lobby was still going to be fairly big.

It appeared to be the consensus of the board that it was important to stay under \$1.5 million as there is sufficient funds in the Capital Outlay Fund to cover that amount.

The new plan will be talked about more at future meetings and, if the board decides that this plan might work, it will be sent to the architect to draw up. But, right now, it is still just in the "thinking" stage.

**Board member's terms**  
There are four board members

whose terms will be up for election in April. Board members, John Knodel, Sherry Weeks and Bonnie Zweygardt had already filed for re-election but Cliff Raile, whose term is also up, reported that he was still thinking about filing. He said that he had served on the board for 16 years and felt that it might be time for someone else to be a school board member.

**Proposed calendar**

The proposed calendar for the next school year was reviewed. On the proposed calendar, students would start school on Aug. 25, Christmas vacation would start Dec. 19 and school would resume again on Jan. 5; there would be a week spring break and the last day of school would be May 26, ending before the Labor Day weekend. The calendar will now go to the Meet and Confer Committee for the teachers to respond. The calendar will be discussed and approved at a future meeting.

**In other business**

In other business:

- Board members reviewed the results of the Kansas School Building Report Card for 2001-2002 in both the elementary and junior-senior high school. Superintendent Werner pointed out that the St. Francis students scored better than the state average on 18 out of 19 total scores reported.
- The superintendent's automobile

expenses showed that the school's reimbursement rate of \$.365 per mile did not cover the actual expenses of \$.5759 per mile during 2002. It was also noted that the superintendent was reimbursed for a total of 2,333 miles of school travel last year.

- Junior-senior high school principal Scott Carmichael reported on filling the nine-game football schedule for next year. He said that Holyoke had been added but Bridgeport, Neb., would not be coming to St. Francis. At this time, St. Francis has eight of the nine games lined up. Other teams which might be interested in playing or playing the St. Francis team in a year or two were discussed but, as of Monday night, there were no other teams lined up.

- Board member Cliff Raile said he had been approached about people in the community (other than school personnel) using school equipment. The school policy says that school employees and their family can use the facility unless the administration asked them not to. Mr. Raile felt that the school is a public facility and should be used by the public as long as they follow the rules and as long as they are not using it when students needed it.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the school board has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 10 in the meeting room.

# APPROVED

**Continued from Page 1**

Clerk Lampe reported that the city's ratings for Workman's Compensation was good at .82 percent, which would help with the premiums for the following year.

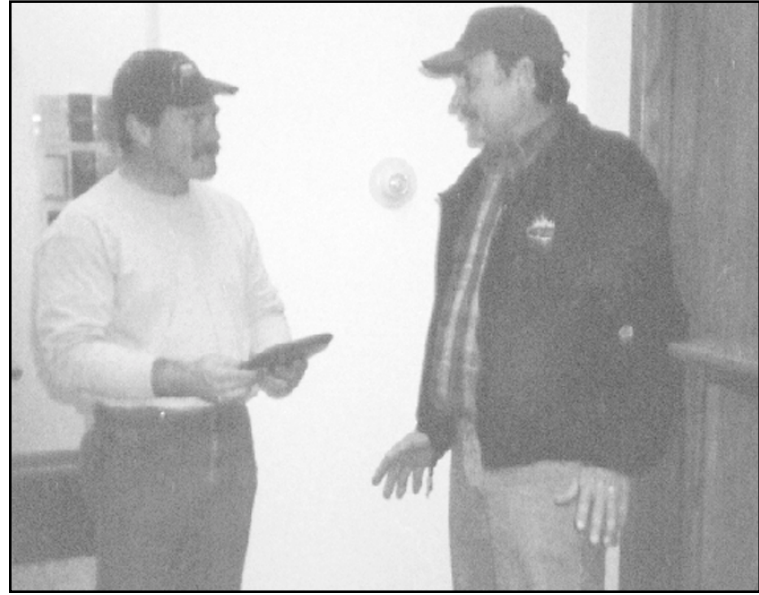
She had also been advised that the premiums for Blue Cross and Blue Shield would have an approximate increase of 39.78 percent. She noted that more information on this increase would be coming.

The council approved to start advertising for a swimming pool manager.

The council was reminded of the election filing deadline of Jan. 21. The positions of Councilmen Kriegh and Jensen and Mayor Schultz will be open.

**Other business**

- Transfer of \$125,000 from the Utility Funds to Equipment Reserve was approved. The transfer will cover the 2003 budgeted purchase of a trash truck and pickup for the power plant.
- Transfer of \$65,000 from Utility Funds to Employee Benefits was approved.
- The council approved to reappoint Rodney Bracelin and Dave Yost to the Airport Authority.
- The council approved the appointment of Councilman Bracelin to the Resource Conservation and De-



**RETIRING councilman Rick Kriegh visits with Scott Schultz, mayor, after receiving a plaque in a special meeting.**

velopment Committee.

- The council approved to give the Cheyenne County Council on Alcohol and Drug Related Problems one-half of the money which the city has collected from tax on alcohol. The other half is put into the Parks and Recreational Fund. The money given to the Cheyenne County Council for the year of 2002 consisting of: March - \$104.01, June - \$94.29, and Dec. \$251.97
- The council accepted the donation of \$120 from the family of Velma Zimbelman. The money was a deposit return from the city and, at the family's request, will be used toward a city project involving children.
- The council approved to pay a share of the expense for the firemen to attend a farm accident training on

Jan. 18. The county will also share in the expense.

**Special session**

A special meeting was held Dec. 31 for yearend business. Yearend bills were approved and paid. Approved transfers from the Utility Funds were: \$60,000 to the General Funds and \$50,000 to the Capital Improvement Funds.

Cereal malt licenses were approved for K-Store, Diamond R, Cheyenne Bowl and Pizza Hut.

**Executive session**

Councilman Jensen 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.

# FILING

**Continued from Page 1A**

which will be up for election. Positions are: District 1, position 1, Cliff Raile; District 2, position 2, Bonnie Zweygardt; District 3, position 3, John Knodel; and Member-At-Large, position 7, Sherry Weeks.

There has been three incumbents, Bonnie Zweygardt, Sherry Weeks, Cliff Raile and John Knodel, file for positions on the school board.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board of Education has three seats up for election including District 2, position 2, Eric Churchwell; District 1, position 5, David Frisbee; and District 2, position 4, Kerby Krien. No one has filed.

**When filing**

Those filing will need to either pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be filled by the candidates with the most votes in the April 1 election.

To run for a seat on the city council, the candidate must live within the city limits. School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidate running in a district, there will be a primary election on Feb. 25, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.

# OFFICERS

**Continued from Page 1**

and returned. The Antique Tractor Pull Association is planning on being at the fair if the association gets their scales fixed.

**Extension office**

Dale Weeks, representing the county extension board, and Casey Johnson, extension agent, were present.

Mr. Weeks asked that the newly elected fair board officers set up a meeting with the extension board so the they can decide who is taking certain responsibilities in the upcoming year. There had been some confusion last year that needs to be worked out. A meeting was set for 7 p.m. on Jan. 28.

Agent Johnson discussed a lack of rabbit cages during the fair. Last year they could have used a few more and they expect the rabbits exhibits that were there last year to be at the fair again this year along with more offspring so several more cages are needed. The members discussed that

maybe there were people who would be willing to donate cages or allow the extension office to use them for the fair. No decision was made.

**Derby**

The fair board is having an early derby this year. There was discussion about getting the committee together to set a date so that they can get flyers out. No date was set, however, they thought the derby would be held sometime in June.

**In other business**

In other business:

- Members signed up for the committees.
- The scales at the fairgrounds were discussed and it was decided that the scales do not need to be certified as long as all animals are weighed on the same scale.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the fair board will be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 6 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

# MARKERS

**Continued from Page 1**

poration. The newsletter says, "Historical markers helped tell the story of an area and are always 'open.' Explorers love these markers."

A recent survey sponsored by the Kansas State Historical Society has shown that there are over 1,200 historical markers in the state; 117 were erected by the state historical society.

Other places in Kansas having historical markers are:

- Caldwell which has 19 histori-

cal markers downtown which tell the story of Caldwell.

- Nicodemus has installed three limestone markers recognizing three cemeteries in the area. Four new interpretive signs have recently been placed in front of historical buildings.

- There are 97 Daughter of the American Revolution markers that mark the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas.

- The FFA is making posts to help mark 14 sites in Greeley County. A map will accompany the markers.



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2. The St. Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
3. A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.

