

Kansas Day is Tuesday

By Karen Krien

The annual Kansas Day celebration in Bird City will be held on Jan. 29 at the American Legion Hall. The hall will open at 9 a.m. and a carry-in dinner will be served at noon.

The schedule of the day after the 9 a.m. shows that opening and registration will take place at 10 a.m. and table grace, meal and special dinner music by the Swingin' Seniors will start at 11:30 a.m.

Following dinner, the national anthem will be sung by Chad Miller. "Kansas - My State" written by the late Leland Neal Hill, will be read by Connie Miller. The business meeting will be held and officers will be elected.

The program will be presented by

the Cheylin fourth graders, elementary vocal classes and students, Michael Sager, Matt Wilson, Andy Smith and John Simmonds along with the St. Francis third graders and the high school speech class.

Tobe Zwegardt, Wayne Deeds, Norman Dorsch, Robert Brubaker along with master of ceremonies J.D. Eggers will share special memories. Marsha Magley will have special recognitions and a memorial tribute will be held. Natalie Knodel, Twila Kramer and Tema Trumbo, Heartland Harmony trio, will entertain with special music.

This year's theme is "Beauty Is Where You Look For It." Everyone including individuals, families and/

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Filing deadline finds not enough people to fill seats

The last day to file was at noon on Tuesday and there is a position that does not have a candidate. The Bird City Council needed three positions filled and only Frank Serrano and Troy Burr filed with the county election officer.

There will be a race in the St. Francis City Council and also the St. Francis Board of Education election.

On April 1, St. Francis residents will be electing only two people out of the three people filing. Those candidates are incumbents Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks; new is Robert "Bud" Erskin.

Filing for a seat on the St. Francis

Board of Education for District 1, position 1, are incumbent Cliff Raile and Pete Kinen.

The full lineup of candidates include:

St. Francis City Council: Roger Jensen, Dale Weeks and Bud Erskin; mayor - Scott Schultz.

Bird City Council: Frank Serrano and Troy Burr.

St. Francis Board of Education: Bonnie Zwegardt, Sherry Weeks, Cliff Raile, John Knodel and Pete Kinen.

Cheylin Board of Education: David Frisbie, Wade Carmichael and Kerby Krien.



EMERGENCY RESCUE TRAINING for firemen and emergency medical technicians was held Saturday at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Pictured is a mannequin which is trapped under an upset tractor and those taking the training are finding a way to lift the tractor without further injuring the victim.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Instructor explains costs

By Karen Krien

In recent weeks, there have been articles taken from the county commissioners' meetings concerning the cost to teach emergency medical technician classes which said that the instructor originally wanted \$18,000 to teach the technician class but had agreed to teach it for just what Colby Community College would pay.

Beth Gabel, St. Francis, instructor for the classes held in the county

for the last 12 years, said that teaching the technician classes had never been about money — "it's about helping people," she said. "I just want to get the record straight."

Last year, the service took in \$96,281.54. Of that money, \$57,248.25 was spent for equipment, supplies, salaries and other miscellaneous expenses and \$30,000 was put in the Equipment Reserve Fund which is being saved for a new ambulance when it is

needed. (At this time, the Fund has \$90,000 — just about enough to purchase a new ambulance for the county.) After all expenses have been taken out, the \$9,039.29 surplus is put into the General Fund to help fund other departments and county expenses.

Mrs. Gabel sees the money brought in not as taxpayer's money but money earned by the emergency medical technicians. Each year,

See COSTS on Page 6

Board may purchase X-ray equipment in near future

The date for installing the new X-ray equipment placement is still in the future awaiting for the remodeling of the old part of the hospital in St. Francis but board members discussed the purchase of the equipment when they met Wednesday in the hospital basement.

Administrator Les Lacy and Deb Jensen, lab technician, had traveled

to two different locations to look at X-ray equipment. The hospital had received bids on X-ray equipment from three companies but they were considering just two of the companies. The Phillips equipment priced at \$90,840 and the company was reported to give good service. The Del is priced at \$81,335.

The hospital will not be ready to

have the new X-ray equipment installed until the new addition on the west end of the hospital has been completed and remodeling of the old facility begins but the prices at this time are exceptionally good — below the budgeted amount of \$100,000.

Dr. Miller was asked how she felt

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Pastor Richard Garcia

Pastor assumes duties

By Karen Krien

Richard "Rich" Garcia is the new pastor at the Christian Church in St. Francis. He assumed his pastoral duties about 11 weeks ago, coming from California where he had spent the last 38 years.

For the past 17 years, Pastor Garcia had served his California church which had around 1,500 members. However, he and his wife Ingrid felt a calling and they had prayed looking for a church they felt needed them. Kansas, let alone St. Francis, had never been considered until one day, "there it was" and it was like God was calling them. He had been considered for other jobs, most in the area where their three sons and families lived but they sensed God was drawing them in the direction of St. Francis. In fact, he actually turned down two other positions to come to Kansas.

They also studied the Old Testament book of Nehemiah who had prayed, counseled, surveyed the land and saw what was needed.

"It had to be a God thing," the pastor said about the move.

Moving from busy, on-the- See PASTOR on Page 6



JOSEPH LEE MELTON was not too happy when this photo was taken. He was the first 2003 baby born to parents in Cheyenne County. He is pictured with his parents Jim and Tanya Melton and brother and sister, Danielle and Dalton.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

First baby of year arrives on Jan. 13

By Karen Krien

The first baby born to parents living in Cheyenne County arrived on Jan. 13 to Jim and Tanya Melton who live in Wheeler. Joseph Lee Melton weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 3/4-inches long. He was born at Hays Regional Medical Center in Hays at 12:43 a.m. He was welcomed home by sister Danielle and brother Dalton.

Joseph and his parents will receive a number of gifts from St. Francis businesses including: A full car wash from the St. Francis Equi-

Bankwest, \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, a toy from Van Allen Inc., \$15 gift certificate for baby food or formula and new born diapers from Saintry Super Foods, \$15 gift certificate from KM Clothier, and a year's subscription to *The St. Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

"We really appreciate all of the gifts but most of all, we appreciate the fact that Joseph arrived safe and healthy," Mrs. Melton said.

Last year's first baby of the year was Korbon Clay Russell who was born on Jan. 8 to Lacie Russell.



DONATING THEIR TIME — John Amack, right, and his helper Jeff Fryburger are running the cement floor in the city's recycling building and have volunteered their labor.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

COST



GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMA Louella Bofman is pretty proud of Trey Aaron Bradley, son of Lisa Zwegardt Bradley, far left. Trey's great-grandmother is Grace Bofman Zwegardt, middle; and his grandfather is Ron Zwegardt.

X-RAY

Continued from Page 1A
 about X-ray equipment compared to CAT scans or MRI equipment. Dr. Miller said that X-rays will always be needed and, in many cases, the other equipment is used for more information following X-rays.

The administrator and staff will continue to look into the equipment, getting the best price for the best equipment which will fit the needs of the hospital. They discussed the digital X-ray equipment compared to the original equipment and the board was informed that either of the X-ray equipment being considered can easily be converted to digital in the future but, right now, digital X-ray equipment is extremely expensive. The board will make the final approval and the specific equipment needed will be built into the hospital remodeling plans.

"Purchasing X-ray equipment will be a huge step up for the hospital," Administrator Lucy said.

The hospital remodeling is being funded with state tax credits through the Community Service Project. These credits can be gathered until December 2003. As of the end of the year, the administrator reported that \$115,060 had been collected or pledged. The next targeted amount collected is \$300,000 by this time next year.

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Continued from Page 1
 or organizations are asked to bring displays showing the beauty of anything they would like to share. This can include various things such as old recipe books, old tools, old or new dolls, photographs, family albums, scrapbooks, quilts, clothes, hats, trunks or anything else people may come up with.



"It is a great way to share beauty from the past as well as the present," president Connie Miller said. Everyone is urged to attend this special celebration, enjoy the displays and the entertainment.

Continued from Page 1

technicians need to update their hours and some of this money is spent for providing classes for recertification. The county is now in need of technicians, especially in the Bird City area and there have been eight to 10 people wanting to take the class.

"If I would have taught the class for \$18,000, Colby Community College would have paid for \$3,500 to \$4,000 depending on the number of students enrolled and the number of semesters the instructor had taught for Colby Community College," she said. "The actual cost would have been around \$14,000 and it would have come out of the Ambulance's Budget.

"If another county would send students to the class and additional \$800 would have been deducted from the \$14,000."

Mrs. Gabel and her husband moved to St. Francis 29 years ago and have been emergency medical technicians for 20 years. Through those years, they have seen and helped the service grow in good emergency medical technicians with good equipment and adequate supplies. All the time the technicians were working, they were bringing in ambulance run revenue paid for by private insurances, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Medicare and private pay. For years, the county was under the going rate for ambulance runs and still are under that amount in many other counties but Mr. Gabel, emergency medical service director, and the commissioners have tried to keep it a place where insurances would pay but private pay people would not find it impossible to pay the bill.

"There are write-offs each month but we cannot judge what Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield will pay or will not pay," Mr. Gabel said.

Before teaching, Mrs. Gabel went to school in Great Bend and the county paid the \$200 for the training. She came back ready to teach. Not knowing what to charge, she contacted Jerry Cunningham, an instructor in Phillipsburg and a region I coordinator at that time, to see what the going charge for teaching a class would be. He reported that he would not come to St. Francis for less than \$7,000 and mileage from

Phillipsburg would be tacked onto that amount.

Mrs. Gabel reasoned that there would be no mileage since she lived here and she wanted to give something back to the people who had been so good to her. Besides, there was a great need for technicians, so she agreed to teach the class for half the price of Mr. Cunningham's charge — \$3,500.

Each year that she taught the class (and that was not every year), she was given a cost-of-living raise of \$100. Colby Community College also reimbursed her for part of the amount, depending on the number of years she taught. The first year, she received about \$1,200 from the college bringing her cost for instructing to around \$2,300.

Continued from Page 1

move California to a much slower-paced community has been a definite change for Pastor Garcia and his wife. He noted that people go by "seasons" and he is trying to understand what "seasons" are but he knows that, regardless, he likes the people in the community.

He wants the community to know that he is not only working with members of his church but is also reaching out to the "unchurched."

"I want the church to be known as a 'visitor-friendly church,'" he said. "Often people have had a bad or misunderstood experience in the church and I want them to know that they are always welcome (to worship with us)."

Pastor Garcia, who not only has a bachelor's degree in pastoral studies and leadership, also has a master's in counseling, says he has a passion for people who hurt and has already started a 'crisis care training' for those in the community and surrounding communities who are hurting due to a crisis or loss.

In his former church, the goal was to bring 100 people a year or two people into the church each week. In that area, there were many famous people, athletes, authors and speakers who would

Today, many of the counties in northwest Kansas are paying around \$18,000 to have a class taught.

Jerry Chaput, emergency medical service director in Oakley, reported that he had paid \$18,000 to have an emergency medical technician training class. He reported that it is difficult to get qualified instructors to come teach a class two evenings a week and weekends for six months. If the Logan County would have paid mileage to go to the classes in another location, it would have been extremely expensive.

He also said that he had gone through Colby Community College to have the class taught because the college would take liability responsibility if an accident were to happen. Otherwise, the appointed

agency would take on this liability.

State rules and regulations changed through the years and it used to be that 10 college credit hours were required in the class but today, 12 hours are needed. The class takes 6 months of instruction and testing at the end.

Emergency medical technicians are always needed and accredited instructors are not always available and when they are, there may be a wait for the people wanting to take the classes and it could be a lot more expensive than expected.

"I love my work and teaching classes but more than that, I love being able to help people and that's what it's all about!" said Mrs. Gabel, who is now completing her schooling to be a registered nurse.

PASTOR

come to the church to speak but in St. Francis, he does not have the same type of resources pool. However, he feels that God is leading him and there are other ways.

He wants the church to be a church where people have fun, make good friendships and where all activities revolve around God's love.

Mrs. Garcia is his right-hand helper and an excellent cook. She is organizing meals and people are always welcome to join them in their special dinners. Pastor Garcia noted that Jesus always met and broke bread or talked over food.

"Good fellowship is formed over food," he said.

The biggest challenge to the Garcias is the longing for family left in California. Pastor and Mrs. Garcia met when they were in junior high and eventually ended up as a married couple. They have

three sons with one of them following in his father's footsteps as an intern youth pastor. They also have four grandchildren which they miss along with parents, other family, friends and the members of their church.

Having spent their life along the coast, they also miss the availability of fresh seafood and the ingredients for Mexican dishes.

They have found some outlets for many of the food items and their family plans to make visits in the near future. Their niece, Sabrina, has already joined them and is attending the St. Francis school.

Pastor Garcia welcomes everyone to come visit the Christian Church on Webster and Benton streets. Those wishing to talk or counsel with him may call him at 785-332-2956.

"I am looking forward to knowing the people of the community," he concluded.

Bowling News

Monday Mixed 1/13
 Team standings: Hooks Auction & Realty 13.5-6.5; Captain Hooks Fine Dining 12-8; Z-Tubing 11.5-8.5; Bandel Home Center 9-11; Krien Pharmacy 9-11; Cueballs 5-15
 High game (handicap): Rell Zimbelman 216; Kelley Faylor 215;


Bob Hankins 209; Tammy Zimbelman 225, Pam Hook 215, Linda Yonkey 214
 High series (handicap): T. Zimbelman 613, Linda Yonkey 601, Kathy Bexley 572; Hankins 591, Rell Zimbelman 588, Faylor 565

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Cost-Share Funds Available



The Cheyenne Co. Conservation District announces sign up for the Water Resources Cost-Share Program and the Non-Point Source Pollution Cost-Share Program. Applications will be taken at the Conservation Office, January 21 - 31.

The following practices are eligible for cost-share assistance: Diversions, Cross-Fencing, Field and Feedlot Windbreaks, Irrigation Water Conveyance Pipeline, Livestock Pipelines, Wells and Tanks, Spring Developments, Terraces, Range Seeding, Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Upgrades, Livestock Waste Control Facilities, Abandoned Well Plugging and Septic System Upgrades.

Cost-share assistance rate is 50-70%. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District Board of Supervisors and funded according to priorities recommended by the Kansas Water Plan. Work may not be started until notified by the Conservation District Board. Deadline to complete work is May 31.

If you are interested, please contact our office on West Highway 36 in St. Francis or call 785-332-2341.