

Contest begins for highway sign design

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Chamber of Commerce's Highway Sign Design Contest is still underway. People, young, old and in between, are urged to design a sign advertising St. Francis and submit it by Jan. 31. One person will receive \$100 in scrip money to be spent in St. Francis.

There are two signs advertising St. Francis, each about 6 miles on either side of town. These signs are beginning to show the wear and tear of time and the elements and it has become evident that they need to be replaced.

Sign painters say that when a sign deteriorates, the sign keeps advertising but it gives a different message.

With this in mind, the committee has decided to hold a "Highway Sign Design Contest." Besides receiving \$100 in scrip money, the winner will have his or her name displayed on the sign.

The theme of the sign should promote the advantages of living and working in St. Francis or just promote St. Francis. The sign measures 10-feet high and 20-feet long and entries should have those proportions.

Advertising experts say a highway sign should contain seven words or less.

"This is not a strict rule but a sign that is too wordy to read at 65 miles per hour will probably not be selected," Robert Grace, committee chair, said.

Members of the committee in-

vestigated the materials to be used on the sign and it was decided on a vinyl-type fabric which can have a photo scanned onto it along with the lettering but the photo or scan needs to be submitted either by mail or by e-mail. Unlike traditional signs, these signs have the ability to display photo graphic images. It opens up the options of the design.

Those thinking about entering have until Jan. 31 to think about, check out other cities' signs and come up with a winning design. A sheet with the rules and regulations can be picked up at the Herald office or check the list on sheets hanging in Chamber businesses.

Designs should be submitted to *The St. Francis Herald*, P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, 67756 or e-mailed to karenk@nwkansas.com before Jan. 31. The Sign Committee will then select the winner. It should be noted that alterations in the design may be necessary to make it work but this will not take away from the prize nor the honor of being a winner.

—Student News—

Kansas Wesleyan University

Kansas Wesleyan University has named Jennifer Henderson, St. Francis, on the president's honor roll for the fall 2002 semester.

This honor is given for maintaining a grade point average of 3.75, or above, on a 4.0 scale.

E-mail back on track at nwkansas.com

Customers of the nwkansas.com Internet service probably noticed that e-mail service slowed to a crawl over the weekend.

The nwkansas.com server started bogging down about Wednesday, running as much as two days behind in delivering mail by Friday.

Efforts to fix the problems began Friday. Tom Betz, director of Internet services, and Evan Barnum, systems administrator, spent Friday afternoon, most of the day Saturday and part of the night trying to pinpoint the cause.

The system was stashing mail in its database files, but fell woefully behind in dishing it out.

It took until Sunday to isolate an apparently faulty disk drive on the main server. After the drive was isolated, it took most of the day for the server to catch up. By midnight, though, it was no more than an hour behind.

Over the weekend, customers say some messages came in at odd times, often a day or two late. Some messages were doubled up. Others may not have come through at all.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers, said at

least twice in the process, the server turned on itself and began rejecting the stored e-mails. Senders then got a message saying the address was not known, even though it was valid.

"We know this may cause our customers some problems," Mr. Haynes said. "For the most part, the sender just resent the message, so the mail was not lost. If it was unwanted spam, though, it likely won't come back."

As of Monday, the mail server was working as intended, with no delay. Mr. Barnum said there might be a few short outages later in the week as he replaced the faulty drive and reconfigures the server.

Customers who are still having problems should call Mr. Betz at 785-877-2338.



NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the St. Francis Sale Barn, Inc. will be held **Sat., Jan. 25 • 1 p.m.**

at the **St. Francis Livestock Sale Barn Cafe**
The Statement of Operations for 2002 will be read and directors will be elected.

Randy Rueb, president

•• NOTICE ••

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Fri., Jan. 31

Sharon's
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WORK ON THE CLINIC in St. Francis has been in progress for several months but the clinic staff recently moved to the hospital basement so the inside work in the clinic can be completed. Ches Adams, right, and Drew Riddell with Thessen Construction are working on the elevator. Patrick Delano makes a phone call from his temporary office in the west corner of the hospital basement. The clinic work is expected to be completed by Feb. 15.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Last month starts with many patients

By Karen Krien

Administrator Les Lacy reported at the Wednesday meeting of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board that the number of people using the hospital had jumped early in December but did not carry through to the rest of the

month. While the clinic remodeling is being done, the St. Francis Clinic staff has moved to the hospital basement. He said that it was too early to say too much about the number of people using the clinic since it has moved to the hospital

basement. However, he did commend the staff for the smooth transition.

Rick Wells, Thissen Construction supervisor, reported that he is looking at Feb. 15 before the clinic staff can move back into the clinic. Privacy issues were stressed and he agreed that the inside work needed to be done for that reason.

The hospital staff has made and renewed three contacts in search of a surgeon. The administrator said that he and the staff are also identifying issues dealing with scope equipment used in certain procedures. Many of the new surgeons have been trained on newer equipment which is also more efficient so may be reluctant to come to the county if this equipment is not available.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller is participating in the search for a surgeon. The medical staff is also looking into specialty physicians which will help expand the hospital's offerings to patients and bring more people in to use the facility.

The hospital does not have the volume to support a full-time surgeon however, sharing one for a day each week would not only be more convenient and better for patients at home but would also bring in more people to use the hospital.

Proposed budget

Dennis Fredrickson with Great Plains Health Alliance presented the proposed 2003 budget. Also present to listen to Mr. Fredrickson was Dr. Miller who asked several questions. Each board member was given a copy of the proposed budget but since there were two new members who had not had the opportunity to study the budget, Jackie John, area director of Great Plains

In other business

Jones Gillam, the architect/engineering firm for the clinic and hospital, had submitted two bills for a total of \$32,260 but the board questions the mileage costs which had been added on the total. The board asked that Les Lacy, hospital administrator, check the contract because the board was under the impression that the mileage should be included in the total — not a separate cost.

The administrator reported that the county health office had been absorbed by the hospital several years ago and while it is an expense to the county, the point of having good medical care is to keep people well which also keeps insurance costs down.

The county health office has received Juvenile Justice Authority Mini-Grant funds of \$1,220 to use in helping teens to make better choices.

Between Dec. 5 and Jan. 3, the hospital needed cash from the board totaling \$240,000. The administrator explained that it was a cash flow issue.

Next meetings

The next meeting of the hospital board was a special meeting at 7 p.m. on Jan. 22. The board will be approving the blue prints for the hospital renovation.

A second special meeting has been set for 11 a.m. on Feb. 10 and this is a construction meeting.

The regular meeting has been set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 with the place of the meeting to be announced later.

New hospital board members installed

New board members were sworn in at the Wednesday meeting of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board.

Terry Miller, Cheyenne County Clerk, swore in Traci Neitzel and Joy Anderegg. They will take the seats of former board members, Leon Brethower and Kelly Gienger. Mr. Brethower was not present at the January meeting but Mr. Gienger commended Mr. Brethower on his years of service to the board, noting that he had been instrumental in implementing funding depreciation. Mr. Brethower had also worked in getting a strategic plan in place for the board.

Mr. Gienger, who has used his construction knowledge in the planning of the remodeling of both the hospital and clinic in St. Francis, said that

he would be willing to continue working with the board until these projects were completed. Mr. Gienger will be notified when meetings involving these projects are called.

At the end of the Wednesday meeting, officers were elected with Rueben Schultz taking the office of president; Mrs. Anderegg, vice chairman/secretary; and Mrs. Neitzel, treasurer.

The board agreed that the meeting times be set for 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. It was noted that there will be an occasional change in the meeting times and dates but there will be notification if there is change. There will also be special meetings until the clinic and hospital renovations are completed.

Sign up for Cost-share funds to be available

The Cheyenne County Conservation District's 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 Jan. 21 through 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 sys-

tems upgrades, livestock waste control facilities, abandoned well plugging and septic system upgrades.

Cost-share assistance rate is 50-70 percent. 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.

Those interested can contact the office on West U.S. 36 in St. Francis or call 785-332-2341.

The City of St. Francis is accepting applications for SWIMMING POOL MANAGER

Must be 16 years or older.
Pick-up an application form at the City Office.

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Coyote Jakes Inc.	'Kansas Outdoor Network'
Tri-State Gun Shop	radio show

Thank you to the helpers....

Jeff Raile	Robin Petersen
Chris Bracelin	Margaret Bucholtz
Derek Tice	Lezlie Hilt
Jon Stevens	Lexi Hilt
Harold Tygart & sons	Trey Hilt
Cliff Semler	Trevor Hilt
Riverside Recreation	

Thanks to the community for your interest & support of this event!