



GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN — Brenda Day's advanced reading class had a great time with Joyce Faulkender's first grade class on Monday. Amy Nicklos read the book and some of the other class passed out muffins for the children to munch on while they listened. Children pictured above (l to r) are: Logan Lampe, Scott Warren, Tler Lee, Jonathan Myer, Yo Watanbe, Gaten Cooper and Mason Schiltz.



Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Football schedule is filled

By Karen Krien
Next year's football schedule was just one of the topics of discussion at Monday's St. Francis Board of Education meeting. Superintendent Carl Werner reported, in behalf of Scott Carmichael, junior-senior high school principal, that the St. Francis administration had accepted a ninth football game which will make a full season for the Sainty team. The first game of the season (which was the last game lined up) will be with Clay Center on Sept. 5. Since Clay Center is five hours away, the administrators of the two schools agreed to meet at Phillipsburg, a half-way meeting place for both teams. Following the Clay Center game,

the Sainty football team will play South Park, (Fairplay); Goodland, Oakley, Quinter, Holyoke and district games - Oberlin, Hoxie and Atwood. Superintendent Werner pointed out that Clay Center is a 4A school but Goodland is also a 4A school. "Since it (Clay Center) is the first game of the season, the St. Francis team will need to be ready to play a tough team," the superintendent said. **Questions on redistricting** Pete Raile, board member, asked for more information concerning a news report he had heard which said there were 304 school districts now located in Kansas and there was a proposal to drop that number to 40. **See FOOTBALL on Page 9**

Cement poured at recycling center

By Sandy Barnhart
At the Tuesday St. Francis City Council meeting, councilman Roger Jensen reported on the progress of the cement work at the city's recycling center. Nita Construction is pouring the entire floor at the center and has donated his labor, with the city paying for the materials. Councilman Jensen said he was disappointed in the progress of the cement work noting that he had anticipated the job taking a couple weeks and the work was now in the sixth week. He went on to say that the city was heating the

building and he didn't feel the cold temperatures were a problem. He was also concerned about when the baler would be moved in because, at the progress the cement work was going, when the baler did come in the middle blocks of cement would still be too wet to move the baler across. After some discussion among the council members it was their consensus to set a deadline of Feb. 14 for the work to be done. Councilman Jensen told the council that the next meeting of the four-county recycling group would be **See CEMENT on Page 9**

Fair board discussed prizes vs trophies for winners

By Lezlie Hilt
The Cheyenne County Fair Board met Feb. 5 and prizes vs trophies was one of the topics of discussion. It was suggested that prizes such as gift certificates, curry combs, jackets or something of that nature be awarded to 4-H'ers and FFA'ers instead of giving trophies. There was some concern that trophies

might mean more to these winners 15 to 20 years down the road. However, John Finley, board member, stated that he thought the kids would like the prizes better as there are many adults who now bring in trophies to see if they could be recycled as they no longer have a use for them. No decision was made. **Improvements for fairgrounds**

It will be a little brighter at next year's fair. The lights and poles for the arena area will need to be picked up the first of March. Kelly Faylor will talk to Steve Christy about getting the holes dug and the poles put up soon after that. The rest rooms need to be worked on to make them more handicap accessible. The board also discussed pouring cement in the

south side of the sale ring where the floor is dirt. There has been some concern that someone might fall and, as Mr. Finley stated, it also allows water to run into this area. **In other business** •The county extension representative and ag agent Casey Johnson asked if the fair board members would rent a water cooler

for the Fair Building. It would be similar to the ones rented last year in the livestock barn and also in Jenkins Hall. The members agreed they could work out something. •Volunteer are needed to have forms to give for the rental booths in Jenkins Hall as there have been several people asking where they could get these forms. Lacey Reed, **See TROPHIES on Page 9**

Plans for second gymnasium sent to architect to draw up

By Karen Krien
Much of the Monday meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education was once again spent discussing the possibility of building a new gym. At this meeting, the board agreed to send the newest plan to the architect for him to draw up. It was the consensus of the board that they had gone this far, they might as well see if the architect could come up with a plan that would fit within the board's budget. There have been three plans discussed including the "Dream"

which would have included an "in-ground" gym that would hold 2,000 people with walking area and a commons areas. The cost was estimated at \$2.4 to \$2.9 million. The next plan considered would have found the west side of the present gym being knocked out and replaced with more bleachers, and, to the south, a commons area and a practice gym. The architect did not recommend using building money to knock out walls and there could be a problem with existing supports for the gym roof.

The third plan was drawn up by the superintendent and the gym would be placed south of the wrestling room addition and at the end of the present gymnasium. This seemed to be the most practical of the three plans and would cost approximately \$1.5 million. The board has this much money put away for such a project and it would still leave money for other projects. The superintendent had shown the plan to Glenn Strait, architect, who advised cutting down the size **See GYMNASIUM on Page 9**

Alumni slated June 21

It is cold and June seems a long ways off but a number of the St. Francis Community High School alumni are wanting to know more about the alumni celebration which is held annually. Shirley Zweygardt, secretary and coordinator, said that the date on the school calendar is incorrect (June 14) and the actual date for the event is June 21. She said the letters will start going out around the first part of April. Right now, honor-year class coordinators are needed. Last year, the alumni barbecue was moved back to the high school because it was difficult to round up volunteers to help move all of the tables and chairs to the park. There were many alumni who were happy with the move to the high school while others enjoyed being able to come back and enjoy the park and warm spring air. "We just needed to make some changes and the volunteers were hard to find," said Ms. Zweygardt. For more information, call Ms. Zweygardt at 785-332-2286 or write her at Box 317, St. Francis, 67756.

Organization tells other side of story

By Karen Krien
Last week's issue of *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* told about legislation that is being proposed to the House Committee concerning the control of prairie dogs. Senator Stan Clark had made the statement that in House Bill 2027, farmers and ranchers could loose the ability to control prairie dogs on their land. He had also listed several supporters of the bill including the Kansas Farm Bureau. Steve Swaffer, director of Natural Resources for the Kansas Farm Bureau reported that what the organization supports is that landowners be allowed to control prairie dogs but, if the prairie dogs are placed on the endangered list, that ability for landowners to control the dogs would be taken away. "The bill 'softens' the language, letting those who want to raise and keep prairie dogs keep them," he said. Instead of the word "destroyed" used in the bill, the words "manage and control" is proposed. The bill also talks about the landowner working with counties to maintain the prairie

dogs if they so chose. The Farm Bureau supports developing conservation management plans that will increase or maintain the population and, thus, making the endangered list unnecessary. "Conservation management plans should be the result of cooperative efforts by landowners, agricultural producers, wildlife managers, conservation technicians and the appropriate state and federal agencies," Mr. Swaffer said. "We believe threatened and endangered species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather than imposing land-use restrictions and penalties." Prairie dogs are a concern to ranchers and farmers because of the destruction to the grasslands. Senator Clark called them a rodent that is a carrier of fleas that can and has carried bubonic plague. Representative John Faber was unavailable when this issue went to press but it is rumored that he is in favor of House Bill 2027

Chamber members drop some activities/promotions

Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 19
The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce met Friday and decided to drop some of the activities which they have promoted in years past. There has been talk among Chamber members that there just seems to be too many activities which are either costly, time consuming or not well attended by the public. The Chamber members agreed to drop the Working Womens' Luncheon

and Christmas in July. Among some of the other events which the Chamber will either help with or organize are: the Stearman Fly-In, Craft Show and the Christmas promotion. Since Chamber is there to help with community events, they decided they would take on helping organize the fair parade which will be held the first part of August. The sign-up sheet for activities happening throughout the year was passed around and members agreed to help with different events. The first event to be held this year will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19.

St. Francis signs
The two St. Francis signs on either side of town on U.S. 36 were discussed. Both are in poor condition and need to be replaced but it will cost approximately \$4,000 to do so. The Chamber Sign Committee has only \$839. Members wondered if the city council could help but they were informed that the city cannot spend money unless it is budgeted for in advance. Other options for raising the money for the signs were also discussed. There will be money-making projects held throughout the year until the money **See CHAMBER on Page 9**

Cold weekend reported

Last week temperatures were cold and that cold blast carried over into the weekend where snow piled up from the last storm refused to melt. The highs over the weekend were recorded in the 30s and the lows dropped to 16 degrees.

Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported a trace of precipitation on the 7th and the National Weather Service is predicting a chance of rain and/or snow on Friday and Saturday but that is several days away.

GYMNASIUM

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of the remodeling, leaving it with 20,000 square feet. The addition would include a regulation-sized gym, permanent bleachers and less expensive bleachers which would seat around 1,450 people, a concession area, rest rooms and lobby. After much discussion, the board agreed to see if Mr. Strait could draw up plans, making reasonable cuts that would fit into the school's planned budget for the project. The addition at the high school

had brought some complaints from personnel at the grade school. Cliff Raile, board member, reported that he had been asked about the grade school heating system as the west rooms get less heat than those in the middle. In fact, during a cold spell, the children were wearing their coats in the classrooms. Superintendent Werner said he was aware of the problems and that the Lampe Hardware crew has been working at correcting the heating problem. The main problem is that,

as the buildings (both the high school and grade school) were added onto, more pipes were added and the boilers were required to reach to the very ends and sometimes, the air did not go that far. Several ideas for correcting the problem were discussed including a new boiler/heat system but Gene Dodd, board member, said that adding a new boiler system would probably not correct the problem. Lampe's crew had first put in blowers but the blowers worked all the

time and when there was not hot air present, the blowers were putting out cold air which was not good. They have now installed heat sensors which will shut down the blowers when the temperature drops and turns them back on when the temperatures goes up. Superintendent Werner said that it was too early to tell if the sensors would make a difference and advised that the board put the matter on hold until the results are known.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1
is raised. The signs will be replaced with vinyl instead of wood which is less expensive and would last around three to four years. A sign design contest ended in January and the winners would be announced within the next week or two.

In other business
In other business:
• Sara Schield was elected as the new Chamber president. Vice president is Kim Ritter. Former Chamber secretary Gloria Bracelin is helping out in that capacity until a new secretary is hired.
• One of the members suggested that one way to promote St. Francis is to advertise that the

city has broad band, a high-speed internet. Tobe Zweygardt thought that more emphasis should be placed on the fact that Astronaut Ron Evans was born in St. Francis.
• Businesses were encouraged to make sure their 2003 dues were paid.
• It is time to update the Chamber's web site. All businesses owners were urged to turn information to Stephanie Schafer who will do the updating.
• Lodging tax was discussed as a way to promote tourism.
Next meeting
The next meeting of the Chamber will be held the first Friday of March with the place to be announced.

CEMENT

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Feb. 18. The group is continuing to work on the bi-laws and should have a rough draft for Attorney Mike Day to go through by the next meeting. The four counties are Thomas, Cheyenne, Logan and Gove, with each county having two voting members chosen by that county.

City hall
At an October meeting, the council approved the bid of approximately \$10,000 to Roger Goltl, McCook, to stucco the front of the city hall building. Councilman Jensen said that Mr. Goltl had contacted him and explained that because of the cold weather he had not moved his equipment to St. Francis. Mr. Goltl assured Councilman Jensen that once the weather straightened up he would be there. The council then approved to extend Mr. Goltl's deadline to May 15.

Swimming pool
Council woman Kay Shay updated the council on the progress of the new Swimming Pool Committee. The committee will be meeting for the first time at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 at the library. The committee is in hopes that those interested people will come to give input and see if there is interest

in proceeding with the project, also discussed will be different fundraisers and possible fund sources for raising the money in the future.

Superintendent report
• Superintendent J.R. Landenberger informed the council that he had requested bids for a trash truck with the deadline being March 1.
• The tower which the council approved to erect behind the city office is in, but he said they would need to wait until the weather warms up to pour the cement.
• A filter is needed for the Unicel repeater that has been put on the water tower. The antenna should improve the cellular service.

Police vehicle bids
Bids for a new police vehicle were opened, but no decision was made as Police Chief Jason Ryan was unable to attend the meeting. Bids received were from:
• Burlington-Limon Ford Mercury - 2003 Expedition, \$25,800; 2003 Explorer, \$23,535; 2003 Crown Victoria, \$21,961.
• Yost Ford Mercury - 2003 Expedition, \$26,875; 2003 Expedition with trade-in of 1993 Crown Victoria, \$26,450.
• Vince's Chevrolet, Burlington-

2003 Tahoe, \$31,300.
Clerk report
• City Clerk Mary Lampe had heard from Blue Cross Blue Shield and they stated that the city was already at the lowest tier in insurance and the company would not be re-adjusting their rates.
At the Jan. 7 meeting Clerk Lampe had informed the council that Blue Cross Blue Shield's premiums would increase approximately 39.78 percent.

Superintendent Landenberger said that he would visit with Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance, on the different options the city could have.
• Clerk Lampe said she had received two applications for swimming pool manager. The council decided to discuss the applications in executive session.
• The council also instructed Clerk Lampe to advertise for life-guards and power plant summer help.

Other business
In other business:
• A kennel license for Greg Cooper was approved.
• A franchise check for \$4,888 was received from Midwest Energy.
• The city received \$10,781 from the State Highway Fund. This

amount was \$2,000 less than the city received in 2002 at this time.
Visitors
• Carol Redding was present to encourage the city to continue with their recycling efforts. She noted that possibly some time down the road the city might consider incorporating picking up recycling items into their regular city pick up.

• Jerry Toler, St. Francis, was present to ask the council for permission set up a small concession trailer around town to sell popcorn and cheesy popcorn. He asked the council to consider waiving all or part of the \$250 license fee. No decision was made.

Council comments
Councilman Rodney Bracelin said that when he had attended the Airport Authority meeting there was an individual wanting to erect an airplane hanger. He asked if there were certain bi-laws as to what kind of building this would need to be. Attorney Day said that the building should comply with the city ordinances and is within the Airport Authority's approval.

Correction
In the Jan. 31 issue of *The St. Francis Herald* it was stated that one of the requirements for the sewer grant would include that no more than \$500,000 could be kept in the account for a long period of time. The amount should have read \$5,000.

Executive session
Attorney Mike Day requested 15 minutes in executive session for legal matters. The council went into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss the two applicants for swimming pool manager. The council's decision was to interview both applicants before making a decision.

Next meeting
The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the St. Francis Public Library.

FOOTBALL

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school districts. Superintendent Werner said that superintendents from Manhattan and Pratt had studied the business system used by Wal-Mart and McDonalds to come up with the plan. This plan is supposed to save the state \$480 million. Lately, superintendents from Dodge City and Salina have joined the other two superintendents.

In the proposed plan, each of the 40 school districts will have just one superintendent but each will also have 11,000 students. Superintendent Werner had received an e-mail from the Norton superintendent who said that in northwest Kansas, a district which would contain 11,000 students would start at Hays and go north and west.

While the proposal hasn't been put into a bill, there is rumor that such a bill will be proposed to the Legislature during this session.
Memorial gift accepted
The board accepted a gift of \$1,000 in memory of Christa

Navarro who was killed in an accident this fall. The stipulation of the scholarships will be three \$300 scholarships to be awarded to 2003 graduating seniors and \$100 to go to a 2004 graduate with the remaining money to be given to a next year's senior until it is gone. The scholarship recipients will be chosen by Christa's parents, Kip and Deonne Wiese, and the money will not be awarded until the recipient's second semester in college after he/she has proven that they have achieved a 2.0 or above grade point average.

In other business
In other business:
• Those up for election to fill vacancies on the St. Francis Board of Education in the April 1 general election are: District 1, position 1 - Pete Kinen and Cliff Raile, incumbent; District 2, position 2 - Bonnie Zweygardt, incumbent; District 3, position 3 - John Knodel; At-Large position - Sherry Weeks. There will be no need for a primary election and those elected will serve a 4-year term.

• The board accepted the resignation of Robyn Peters as the junior high track coaching aide. The coaches would like to have another coach as they expect around 50 students participating in track. The administration will have a recommendation to fill the position at the next meeting.

• On the list of expenses, Superintendent Werner explained that one of the larger expenses was for the new pole vault pit which is a requirement from the National Federation of State High Schools Association. Another expense was for three fire extinguishers which had been stolen.
• The superintendent had distributed questionnaires for board members to complete. The information will be put on the school's web site.
• The proposed addition was discussed. See related article for more information.

Next meeting
The next meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 10 in the board room at the high school.

Hard white wheat incentive program is introduced

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Jim Moseley recently announced the final rule and key program details of the Hard White Wheat Incentive Program, for which \$20 million was authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill. The deputy secretary made the announcement Jan. 29 at the 2003 Wheat Industry Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. "We appreciate the cooperation of the hard white wheat industry in developing the parameters of this program that was created by the 2002 Farm Bill," said Deputy Secretary Moseley. "The goal of the program is to increase the number of bushels of hard white wheat produced in the United States for the 2003 through 2005 crop years, and we anticipate the provisions announced today will achieve this."

According to Deputy Secretary Moseley, the Farm Service Agency will administer Hard White Wheat Incentive Program through the 2005 crop year beginning with the 2003 hard white wheat crop. The final rule is published in the Jan. 29 Federal Register. Key components include:
• Sign-up for 2003 program is scheduled to begin March 3.
• Both hard white winter wheat and hard white spring wheat are eligible for payment.
• A production incentive in the amount of 20 cents per bushel is provided for a minimum of number two or better Hard White Wheat as established by Federal Grain Inspection Service.

• Payment can be earned on a maximum of 60 bushels for each planted acre.
• An additional incentive in the amount of \$2 per acre is provided for each acre planted to certified seed.
• Producers are eligible to earn both the production incentive and the certified seed incentive in the same year.
• Total Commodity Credit Corporation outlay for the three years is to be based on not more than 2 million acres or equivalent volume of production.
• Settlement sheets must be provided to Farm Service Agency upon disposal of the production certified

on the application, to be eligible to earn the production incentive.
• The end use of the hard white wheat may not be for feed use.
White wheat is preferred for noodles and is in demand by North African and Central Asian markets. Currently, United States hard white wheat exports are small, partly due to inadequate supplies of consistent quality. Target markets are predominately in Southeast Asia, where had white wheat varieties are used to produce Chinese noodles. Incentives to grow hard white wheat are expected to increase supplies of consistent quality so exporters can compete in this export market.

- What America represents -

The seventh graders of Marti Schlittenhart were asked to write about "What best symbolizes what America stands for" and Mrs. Schlittenhart felt that the Herald readers would enjoy what these young students had to say. Keep in mind that the students had only five minutes to write their ideas down. The students' work will be appearing in different sections so be sure and look for them.

What Best Symbolizes What America Stands For
Immigrants from foreign lands stand in tight packs aboard a small

boat, young children fight their way to the cold rails and suddenly, a happy shout arises and fills the air. There in the distance lies the Statue of Liberty, her torch held high and proud like a guiding star to the future Americans aboard the small wooden boat. I believe this Statue is a great symbol of what it means to be an American, proud, free, and powerful. I have never seen the Statue up close, but in seeing only pictures of it, I still feel a sense of overwhelming pride.
Katelyn Jones



TROPHIES

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board member, said that she could keep some at the Diamond R, St. Francis, and Agent Johnson said she didn't see a problem having some at the extension office if that would make it more convenient for people.
• Last year there were some open class superintendents who did not receive food vouchers for the fair. The members decided that this was an oversight and they would make it right for the next fair.
• The members agreed to pay the high school girl who helps in the extension office at the fair \$6.59 an hour for the four days she works. This person is very helpful to both the fair board and the extension office personnel.
• The board agreed that it would take three sheets of peg board to finish the wall in the fair building.
• Al Davis will not be the janitor/night watchman for the 2003 fair as he is moving in July. President Dick Bursch had talked to Pastor Scott Baker who had appeared interested in the job.

• There was discussion on putting up a bulletin board for posting notes for fair board members outside the office at the fair building. In the past someone had to go run the person down. This way it would be the members responsibility to check the board to see if they had any messages.
• Pictures at the premium sale were discussed. To help move things along during the sale, the

members discussed taking the pictures before the 4-H'ers go into the ring or after they come out, however no decision was made.
• New locks have been put on all the fairground buildings with the exception of the Amusement Authority building.
• The grandstand events are all set. The contract has been signed and returned to McClain for the Kids' Ranch Rodeo. The Antique Tractor Pull Association has confirmed that they will be at the county fair.
• The date for the spring demolition derby has been set for June 7.
• The members discussed using wristbands at the fair for all grandstand events. Also adding more volunteers to watch the gates as several people are still walking in without paying.

Next meeting
The next meeting of the fair board will start at 8 p.m. on the first Thursday of March. Meetings are held at the courthouse in the commissioners' room.



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