

Prairie dogs discussed at meeting

By Karen Krien

The county attorney talked about prairie dogs when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met Friday.

Kevin Berens, county attorney, reported that he had talked to Chris Tymeson with the Kansas Wildlife and Parks' general council and one of the people who drafted the bill being presented to the Kansas House of Representatives. Attorney Berens said that basically the bill allowed farmers and ranch-

ers wanting to raise prairie dogs the right to do so as long as they presented a control plan to the county commissioners and it was approved. It doesn't take away the rights of the farmer to control prairie dogs on their land.

On the bill, the word "eradicate" had been scratched and replaced with manage and control.

Commissioner Tim Raile said that some of the people in this area had a problem with the Wildlife and Parks being involved but

Attorney Berens pointed out that commissioners do not have the expertise to help with a plan to control or manage prairie dogs while the Wildlife and Parks officials do have the expertise.

As of Friday, the prairie dog legislation is still being debated and no decisions had been made.

Hiring put on hold

Following an executive session, the commissioners agreed to put the matter of hir-

ing the ambulance secretary full time on hold until the commissioners could see what their options would be. Commissioner Raile said he had visited the ambulance office and after talking to the secretary Janelle Bowers, and seeing what she did, he had a greater appreciation for what she did.

Back taxes

Randy Sangster, appraiser, and Deb Smith, part time help in the appraiser's office, had been asked to come to the meeting

to talk more about S & S, gas well company, and the owner Richard Stephen, who has been asking that the county commissioners abate the back taxes on property he had purchased. It was noted that Mr. Stephen had paid the taxes for 2000 to 2002. The county attorney had said that the commissioners had no control to abate the taxes so the commissioners were wanting to know how much the wells and equipment would be. **See PRAIRIE DOGS on Page 8**

What to do with duct tape, plastic?

By Karen Krien

On Feb. 7, the people were alerted that the nation's Homeland Security threat level had risen from yellow to orange, the high risk of terrorist attacks. Within days, the people of the United States were urged to keep a roll of duct tape and plastic sheeting. Why? To cover windows and doors in case there is an airborne chemical attack.

People were also urged to have sufficient water and non-perishable food for each member of the household for three days, battery-operated radio and flashlight. Be sure to have the needed prescription medicine and a first aid kit and a towel for sealing the bottom of the door.

However, in Cheyenne County, the talk of a terrorist attack didn't

seem to attract much attention. Both True Value and Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, the main places for purchasing plastic and duct tape in St. Francis, had sold very little of either.

Liz Semler at True Value said they had duct tape listed in a sale bill last week and had sold some but she figured it was basically because it was on sale and people needed it. Jerry Peter at Tri-State Lumber said he guessed people weren't too worried because they hadn't hardly sold any duct tape.

Tony Howard, owner of Sainty Super Foods, said there had not been a run on either water or food.

Should people be worried? Should they be prepared?

Gary Rogers, emergency man-

See DUCT TAPE on Page 8

Servicemen names wanted for list

The United States has been talking of war and turmoil throughout the world since Sept. 11, 2001, when the Trade Center Towers were attacked and the "Taliban," "al-Qaida" and "Osama binLaden" became household words.

There have been troops and reserve troops called to action and *The Herald* and *Times* would like to print the addresses of servicemen and women so people can send letters of encouragement to them.

The staffs are asking that anyone knowing of a local serviceman or servicemen that may have connections in the communities to please call, write or e-mail the names and addresses.

Call 785-332-3162, or write to Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 or Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731; or e-mail the names and addresses to sfherald@nwkans.com or bctimes@nwkans.com.

See NAMES on Page 8



LOOK WHAT I WON! Logan Whitmore was one of the winners of the Conservation drawing contest.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Team heads to regionals

By Betty Jean Winston

All the wrestlers have been working hard since December to improve their skills for the Regional tournament which will be held on Friday and Saturday. This is the only opportunity to earn a trip to the 2003 3-2-1A State Tournament.

Sainty wrestlers will be traveling to Lakin and will be one of 18 teams at this Regional.

A send off is being planned for the wrestlers on Friday at the high school. All wrestling fans in the community are welcome to attend and cheer the team on as they leave for the important Regional tournament. Be at the school gym at 9:40 a.m. to participate.

Mat men know that they need to do their very best as only four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to state in Hays the following weekend.

"We're looking forward to competing at the Regional tournament," Coach Larry Gabel said. "The kids are wrestling the best they have all year."

"We're peaking and in good shape although we are concerned about some injuries."

Teams competing at Oberlin include: Atwood, Cimarron, Deerfield, Elkhart, Hoisington, Hoxie, Hutchinson-Trinity, Kinsley, Lakin, Leoti-Wichita County, Lyons, Montezuma-South. **See REGIONALS on Page 8**



SHERMAN COUNTY SHERIFF Doug Whitson examined a fuel tank on the right wing of a plane which crashed north of Goodland on Wednesday night. The pilot, the only one in the plane, walked away from the crash uninjured.

Photo by Michelle L. Hawkins/

Twin-engine plane crashes, pilot escapes without injury

A twin-engine Piper plane carrying UPS packages from McCook to Goodland crashed in a rugged area of northeast Sherman County about 8 p.m. on Feb. 12, but the pilot walked away uninjured.

The plane, from Key Lime Air, a sub-contractor for United Parcel Service, was heading to Goodland to make a drop-off and then return to McCook. The pilot, Tate Baloun, told Sheriff Doug Whitson he lost power in both engines and he was forced to land about 10 1/2 miles north of Renner Field.

When the plane came down,

Baloun said, he was banking to the left and was having difficulty getting the landing gear down. He said he was working to get the gear down manually when the left wing hit the ground, and he was unable to get it all the way down.

The plane landed on top of a hill in Conservation Reserve Program grassland and skidded about 200 yards down the hill, Whitson said.

The Federal Aviation Administrator investigators from Wichita were on their way to the crash and were expected to arrive Friday afternoon.

Baloun walked to John and Tracy McCoy's house off of County Road 25 between Roads 74 and 75 in Sherman County, about a half mile away. Whitson said he was uninjured.

Tracy McCoy called a neighbor, Ken Klemm, of the Klemm Buffalo Ranch, to say she had the pilot in her living room. Klemm said he called 911 to report the crash. He said he was heading out to McCoy's house when Sheriff Whitson drove into his yard and he told the sheriff to go to McCoy's.

See PLANE on Page 8

Former resident working with doctor at medical clinic

By Karen Krien

Former St. Francis resident, Robbie O'Brien-Leighton is spending four weeks at the Cheyenne County Clinic working with Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Patrick Delano and Nadja Button, physician assistants, along with the rest of the medical staff.

She arrived in St. Francis on Jan. 27 and will stay most of February. The four-week experience is part of the required curriculum at the KU Medical School in Wichita. Medical students are placed in various Kansas communities to receive exposure to the practice of primary care in a non-urban area and increase their awareness of professional opportunities in these areas.

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton began leaning toward working in the medical field when her brother was injured in a skiing accident which required weeks and months of rehabilitation. She has been exposed to different areas of the medical field but is still working toward physical medicine and rehabilitation.

"I have liked all my rotations. This summer, I did four weeks of a rehabilitation elective and really enjoyed it," she said.

She said she wants to work in the medical field because she wants to make a "difference and I know I will never be bored."

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton previously spent some time working with Dr. Miller. Following this experience, she will have four more years of training including one year of preliminary internal medicine and three years in rehabilitation medicine.

She said she has enjoyed working in St. Francis for several reasons.

"Dr. Miller is 'cool' and always stops to explain and make sure I understand everything," she said, not-



LOOKING AT X-RAYS — Dr. Mary Beth Miller, front, and Robbie O'Brien check out one of the X-rays taken earlier in the day.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

ing that the rest of the staff has also been supportive and have let her have "hand-on experience" whenever possible.

"It is also good to be back — I love seeing everyone when they come in."

Ms. O'Brien-Leighton is the daughter of Neal and Julie O'Brien and attended the St. Francis schools up to the seventh grade. In 1989, she and her family moved to Scott City where she graduated in 1994. The next five years were spent in Lawrence where she attended Kan-

sas University. She then went on to medical school in Kansas City for two years and is now at Wichita.

Her husband Scott Leighton is an engineer and is working with the ADT Security Systems in Wichita.

"He is very supportive of my work," she added.

"We are enjoying having Robbie working with us and having medical students come to the clinic is refreshing," said Dr. Miller. She noted that she also appreciates the cooperation of the patients in working with the students.

PRAIRIE DOGS

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worth if the county were to foreclose on the property and sell wells and equipment.

Appraiser Sangster said that if the equipment were to be salvaged, it would be worth approximately \$1,040 per well depending on the size of the well (some could be worth \$850 while another could be worth \$100), however, someone would need to be hired to take the wells down, pull the tubing and pile up the equipment.

Harvest Energy has 21 wells but it was noted that some of the Wheeler field wells were either going to be sold or had been sold.

Since there were so many questions, the commissioners tabled the discussion until the appraiser could find out if the Wheeler field wells had sold, if the business was still in business or if the bankruptcy was final.

Training sessions

Upcoming training's for the road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming were discussed. Commissioner Jane Brubaker questioned the supervisor to see if he thought the training sessions, which could amount to around 10 training's, were necessary. Supervisor Flemming did think they were important and there was no cost for the training's.

Supervisor Flemming asked for an executive session to discuss personnel and when the session ended, there were no decisions made.

The commissioners discussed giving extra sick leave after an employee had been with the county for 20 or more years and whether more pay should be given when an employee moved to the next classification. The commissioners had earlier frozen the wages and it was the consensus that until the commissioners knew more

about what the state would reimburse the county, they would not give additional pay for classification moves. The matter of giving extra sick leave to employees working for 20 or more years was tabled.

Equipment leases and grader tires were also discussed.

Overtime

Overtime in the sheriff's office was once again discussed. Commissioner Tim Raile reported that he had visited with the sheriff and, from the last month's list of overtime, he had randomly selected several different times and all were documented and appeared to be ligament. He encouraged the other two commissioners to also take some time to question the overtime reports. The commissioners also instructed clerk Terry Miller to pay the overtime on the next month's pay check after the commissioners had approved the overtime.

In other business

In other business:
 • Elmer Kellner, the new representative for the Western Plains Resource Conservation and Development, wanted to know what the commissioners expected of him as a representative. They said that if anything brought up needed to be discussed with them to please contact them.

• The commissioners agreed not to sign the Fair Housing Month proclamation.

• Commissioner Brubaker gave a brief review of the Airport Authority meeting which she had attended.

• Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, was given permission to attend a meeting.

• Prairie dog legislation which has been introduced to the House was discussed.

• Roxie Neitzel and Kelly Frewen

discuss the county's insurance premiums for the upcoming year.

• The commissioners agreed to have a resolution drawn up giving the cities a rebate for recycling instead of filling up the landfill.

• Gary Rogers asked that the commissioners along with all other elected officials be present for a video at the next meeting. The video shows what the responsibilities of elected officials are in the case of a disaster. The video showing was scheduled for 9 a.m. on Feb. 28 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

• The Attorney General's office had written back concerning the questions on consolidated law enforcement, noting that they are working on the matter and will have an answer in the near future.

• The commissioners agreed to take juvenile prisoners to the Trego County facility for \$145 per day opposed to the Southwest Regional facility in Garden City which will cost \$165 per day.

NAMES

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So far, the addresses of J.D. Smith and T.J Powers have been turned in. Their addresses are:

LCPL Smith, J.D.
 2nd MEB A Co. 2nd A.A.BN
 HQ Plt. Det.C
 Unit #76078
 FPO AE09511-6078

LCPL Powers, T.J.
 HML/A 167 MAG 26 1/F
 PSC Box 21014
 Jacksonville, N.C. 28545

DUCT TAPE

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anager for Cheyenne County, said he didn't want people to be scared or worried but it would still be wise if they compiled an emergency kit. The items in this kit will work for any chemical emergency if, for instance, there should be an ammonia or chlorine spill — these are chemicals which are found in the county.

Does it work?

Manager Rogers pointed out that during the 1992 Gulf War, Israeli citizens used the "Shelter-In-Place" technique using plastic and duct tape to protect themselves against the threat of chemical weapons carried by Saddam Hussein's SCUD missiles.

Houses built for winter conditions such as those found in Cheyenne County are especially suited for "Shelter-In-Place" because they are generally tighter constructed and provide a protective barrier against airborne chemicals.

It is good if someone wants to prepare a "Shelter-In-Place" room which will be ready if needed. However, unlike a tornado, the basement isn't the safest place to go during a chemical threat because the chemicals are heavier than air and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.

If there is an emergency

If there is a hazardous material emergency, people are urged to heed law enforcement and emergency manager's orders. The warning will most likely be a siren which will sound for more than three minutes. People should go inside, turn on the radio and find out what to do.

If a strong or unusual odor is smelled and there is no sign where it is coming from, go to the "Shelter-In-Place" and continue to listening to the radio. If the shelter is not prepared, go inside immediately, close all win-

dows and doors, turn off ventilation systems including air conditioners and furnace and close fireplace dampers. Go into and seal a room using the duct tape, plastic or wet cloths. If there are any electrical outlets, seal them with duct tape and if electricity is needed, push the plug through the tape.

If told to evacuate, gather a change of clothing, baby needs, medicine and/or dietary needs. While in the vehicle, keep the vents and windows closed and do not use the air conditioner or heater.

For more information, contact Emergency Manager Rogers at 785-332-2560.

REGIONALS

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 On Saturday, activity begins at 11 a.m. with the remaining five rounds scheduled as follows:

Round 5, championship semi-finals, 11 a.m.
 Round 6, consolation quarterfinals, 1 p.m.
 Round 7, consolation semi-finals, 3 p.m.
 Round 8, consolation finals, 5 p.m.
 Round 9, championship finals (one mat), 6:30 p.m.

A 16-man bracket will be used for the tourney.

All of the Indians have been involved in several duals and tournaments and have had numerous practice sessions since the season began but this is by far the most important event.

"We looking forward to competing," Coach Gabel said.

Idalia school publishes book

By Brooklynn Gregory

Last spring, a new book arrived at Idalia School, written by the 2001-2002 writing lab class. *Gust of Dust III: Sifting Through Idalia's Past* is written by the students and teacher, Lucille Rossbach.

The students who helped piece together this history book are: Ryan Cure, Brooklynn Gregory, Neil Hutton, Molly Manser, German Penzing, Jobediah Rittenhouse, Colt Strick, Kendra VanMeter, Candice Walkinshaw and Whitney Weyerman.

The Foxfire Core Practices are the method that Mrs. Rossbach used to help guide students in writing a good book. These philosophies were first used in Rabun County, Ga., to produce the *Foxfire* books.

Gust of Dust III includes stories of Idalia's more unknown history. One can read about the ghost towns of Yuma County, an overview of the fashions in the 20s, Joe Zion's sod house, the drought and flood of 1935, the salute to the veterans, the old general stores and the dolls they offered for sale, the Mullin Ranch, the early-day crank telephones and how the branding, farming and irrigation reflect the culture of Idalia.

The dedication of collection of oral histories reads, "We offer this volume of *Gusts of Dust* in honor of the men and women who gave their service to our country in defense of freedom. We salute you!"

And since this book was dedicated

to the veterans, Candice Walkinshaw's article was placed at the beginning because it is about the veterans of the area and because the book was started after 9-11.

The first volume of *Gust of Dust: A new Dawning of Idalia's Past* was written by the class of 1998-1999. In this history lesson, there are stories of Walt Disney wolves that once roamed this area, sports teams of Idalia, the consolidation of northeastern Colorado schools, past and present oral histories of several community members, business establishments in Idalia, a quilt designed by Idalia students, the uses of native plants, the overnight move of old Idalia and the changes in fashion over 50 years.

In 2000-2001, the second *Gust of Dust: Refocusing on Idalia's Past* was published. One will read about Bonny Dam, archaeological digs, the first church in the area, Roman Nose's body, some WWII flights over German by Clarence Lidke, children's grave sites and unknown grave sites and a newly discovered cemetery, the dangers of blizzards, and the hunting of Idalia-area game animals.

Dennis Schiel, Idalia artist, served as publisher for all three volumes.

Anyone interested in seeing the volumes can see them at St. Francis at Stevens' Territorial or log on to amazon.com. They are also available at the Idalia schools.



VALENTINE SINGERS sang at the Herald office on Friday. Those singing were: (l to r) Heidi Rohweder, Sawyer White, Ashley Dowgwillo, Janessa Jordan, Jade DeGood and Kari Gienger.

Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart

Rule opens for comments

The proposed rule for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, was published in the Federal Register for comment on Feb. 10, according to Harold L. Klauge, state conservationist for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This will allow farmers and ranchers to use program funding in the coming year.

Highlights of the revised Environmental Quality Incentives Program proposal include:

- reducing in the amount of planning requirements needed to develop a contract;
- providing up to 90 percent cost share for limited resource and beginning producers;
- providing livestock producers with cost-share assistance for waste storage facilities regardless of size, but must develop and implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan;
- allowing producers to have more than one contract per tract at any given time;
- allocating 60 percent of Environmental Quality Incentives Program

funds toward livestock related practices; and,

• delegating Environmental Quality Incentives Program is administration to the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

"Conservation incentive programs for working lands, in combination with technical assistance, help reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and ranchers," State Conservationist Klauge said. "We hope potential Environmental Quality Incentives Program participants will take time to comment on the proposed rules to ensure they are producer-friendly and will achieve the intended results of

these programs."

Comments on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program proposal will be accepted for 30 days after publication or until March 12. Additional information on Environmental Quality Incentives Program is on the Web <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/index.html> then scroll down to "http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/%20" (Proposed Rule for Environmental Quality Incentives Program Available for Public Comment) and click on the links listed for more information.

Quinter Stuco
would like to invite the
Basketball Players & Fans to their
POTATO BAR
Friday, February 21
Serving from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Free-Will Donation

Congratulations Wigwam — On receiving an All-Kansas Award from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association



SFCHS WIGWAM STAFF: front row - Jessica Flemming, Jenny Weems, Dennon Zimbelman, Heidi Rohweder, Heather Culwell, Heather Merklin, Brooke Kibel; second row - Megan Ford, Brooke Lucas, Kelsey Dunn, Toni Rice, Dana Raile, Choromi Jang; third row - Emily Walz, Ale Tygart, Meredith Knodel, Julie Voeller, Janis Dodd; top row - Grant Keller, Amy Grace, Clancey Livingston, Gina Frohlich. Not pictured: Kali Rueb and Dillan Zwegardt.



Good Luck at Regionals

- All Pro Auto Parts
 Randy & Denise Andrist
 Bandel Home Center
 Bankwest-Of Kansas
 Bartlett Grain Co. L.P.
 Becky's Bierocks
 Bier's Hometown Store
 Brice's Auto Repair
 Bud & Eunice Burnham
 Burr Retail Liquor
 Craig & Nadja Button
 Captain Hook's Fine Dining
 Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael
 Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King
 Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
 Cheyenne Co. Feedyard
 Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
 Crabtree Well Service
 Pat & Vicki Cress
 Theron & Carolyn Culwell
 Patrick & Brenda Delano
 Dankenbring Auto Body
 Diamond R Bar & Grill
 Dr. Melvin & Barb Dunn
 Farm Bureau Insurance
 Bruce & Sharon Feikert
 First National Bank
 Frewen Insurance Agency
 Fromholtz Body Shop
 Larry & Beth Gabel
 Goff Agency
 Good Samaritan Village

- Goodell Greenhouse & Floral
 Lezlie Hilt
 Homesteader Motel & Trailer Park
 Jaqua Abstract Co.
 Jenik Oil Co.
 K-Store
 Keller Auto Supply
 Perry & Paula Keller
 One More Year Ranch -
 Pete & Alice Kinen
 Knodel Funeral Home
 Don & Twila Kramer
 Krien Masonry Service
 Krien Pharmacy
 Krien Steel Buildings
 Lampe Hardware
 L & W Andrist Ins. Agency LLC -
 Linda & Walt Linthacum
 Daryl & Keely Loyd
 Neitzel Insurance Service
 James M. Milliken, Chartered
 Mill & Seed Co.
 Owens True Value
 Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge
 Pizza Hut
 Tim & Robyn Raile
 Ranch Food Direct
 Republican Valley Vet Clinic
 Bud & Marla Rice
 Tim & Teri Richard
 Ross Manufacturing
 Terry & Dr. Mary Beth Miller

- Marlin & Anabelle Rueb
 Randy & Rikki Rueb
 Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring
 St. Francis Equity
 St. Francis Herald
 St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix
 St. Francis Tire & Service
 Saintry Super Foods
 Schultz's
 Shay Realty, Inc.
 Silver Crest Farms
 Sublette Truck Sales, Inc.
 Stuart's Jewelry
 Dr. Pat & Bonnie Stuart
 Sunshine Travel
 Town & Country Clothing
 T.R. Services Inc. -
 Tom & Kathy Roelfs
 Tri-State Lumber & Tubing
 Unger Chiropractic
 Van Allen Inc.
 Video Connection
 Video Kingdom
 Gale & Mary Walz
 Wiese Angus Farm -
 Kip & Deone Wiese
 Carl Werner
 Western Sprinklers
 Wheeler Equity
 Betty Jean Winston
 Greg & Julie Wolters

NAMES

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Shortly after the plane went down, the emergency locator beacon began sounding and the Kansas Highway Patrol and sheriff's offices in Thomas, Cheyenne and Sherman counties were notified of the downed aircraft. FAA officials gave out several possible locations.

The authorities began looking for the plane in part of Thomas and Sherman counties. Using the beacon, they narrowed the search to the northeast part of Sherman County about the time the pilot showed up.

Sheriff Whitson said a pilot of another plane headed to Goodland saw a light from the ground.

"He had heard the pilot give out a 'mayday' before going down," Whitson said. "and when he saw the light he knew it was from the plane."

"I saw the plane circling to the north of where we were searching and followed him," the sheriff said, "and then we got the call from Klemm and I knew we had it solved."

"That guy had an angel on his shoulder," Whitson said, looking at the wreck.