



NOW OFFICIALLY CHANGED, Goff Insurance will now be known as Leach Insurance Agency. Gary Leach, left, along with Mila Bandel, left back, and Linda Coles welcome everyone to come see what the business has to offer. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Business has new name — the service is the same

By Karen Krien

Gary Leach has officially changed the name of his insurance business from Goff Insurance to Leach Insurance Agency. The business is located at 209 W. Washington Street, St. Francis.

Mr. Leach had worked with Ken Goff before Mr. Goff moved to the Manhattan area. At the time of the

move almost two years ago, Mr. Leach had purchased the business but he was required to take some training before the name could officially be changed.

Today, he along with Mila Bandel, who will be working with the property and casualty side of the business which deals with auto, home and crop insurances; and

Linda Coles, the office professional, welcome people to come in and see what the business has to offer.

Mr. Leach, who is also a farmer and rancher on the family farm west of Bird City, started in the insurance business in 2001. He said the goal of the business which sells all kinds of insurance including auto, home, agri-farm, health, life and financial investing, is to help his clients have the proper coverage and investments, to achieve their goals for the future.

Mr. Leach's wife Merilie fills in wherever she is needed and he says he could not had taken on this challenge without her help and encouragement. The couple has two children Paige and Cliff.

On June 4, an open house will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the business to celebrate the name change. He welcomes everyone to come by and meet him and his staff.

"We hope you will join us for refreshments and great fellowship," Mr. Leach said.

Sorting and placing in right bins essential

By Karen Krien

St. Francis has one of the better recycling centers in the area and residents from both St. Francis and Bird City use the facility.

Ben Andrist, caretaker, reported that most people do an excellent job in sorting and putting items in the right container but recently, there have been a few problems. Over the weekend, someone dropped some large pieces of window glass off at the center and put in the "clear bottle" container.

"It didn't go in that container," Mr. Andrist said, adding that it should have been taken to the landfill.

Consequently, the large container box had to be emptied and the small pieces of glass taken out.

Mr. Andrist said that the easiest way of sorting recycled items is "if it isn't listed (on the sign), then don't throw it in."

There are a few reminders that Mr. Andrist would like to pass on:

- Look on the bottom of plastic items to see what number is in the recycling symbol. The only plastics with a "1" or "2" are accepted at the center. Hard plastics such as containers that cookies, cottage cheese, strawberries, oil containers, etc., come in are not accepted at the center.

- Remove all caps from bottles. Bottle caps of any kind cannot be recycled. Other items not recycled are strings, wire, coat hangers and egg cartons.

- Know your cardboard from

pasteboard. Look before you toss.

- Hard white plastic is considered a "color."

"For the most part, everyone does a good job of sorting things up here," he said.

To make taking items from the vehicles to the different bins, Tony Howard at Saintry Super Foods has donated several carts. And, in the very near future, the recycling center will have a skid loader which will make the job of moving bins much easier.

School board agrees to give year-end teacher bonuses

By Karen Krien

A year ago, when the St. Francis Board of Education discussed raises for teachers and staff, members decided, at the recommendation of the administration, to freeze salaries and, if at the end of the school year, there was money left over, they would be given a bonus.

At the Thursday school board meeting, Carl Werner, superintendent, reported that he had estimated that there would be enough funds left over to give the teachers and staff 1.9 percent bonuses (salary increases). Increases for administrators would be based on a 2-percent increase but because of supplementary assignments, the increase would be 1.2 percent.

The teacher increase is achieved by increasing the base salary on the teacher salary schedule from \$29,800 to \$30,000 and adding a step to all but the first column on the

teacher salary schedule.

The salary increase will be distributed to employees in their salary checks in June, July and August if this is agreeable to the teachers' Meet and Confer Committee. The total amount required to fund the increase is \$38,454.

The superintendent said that at the end of the Legislative session, there would be some changes in how the schools received state aid.

1) The June state aid would be distributed in July giving the state a big carry-over which looked like the state has \$2 million more than it really has.

Superintendent Werner said that when the state delays the payments, the schools can count it as a June receipt so they will not be written up by the auditors and this will probably be the method of distributing state aid from here on.

2) There will be a new way of pay-

ing property tax. Instead of paying it by June 20, it will be due in May and schools will receive their second half in June instead of July so the state will owe less state aid next June.

Superintendent Werner said that he saw a problem in this way of paying taxes because farmers harvest wheat in June and July and do not have the money for taxes in May. There may be delinquent taxes.

Knowing that there could be delays and changes in state aid, the board agreed that they indicate their intent to offer contracts to all personnel (with the exception of the part-time "classroom size reduction" instructor) who have not resigned and to include an extension of an additional year to the two-year contracts of the three administrators.

Resignations/contracts

There were three resignations accepted at the board meeting. Daryl Loyd resigned from his wrestling coaching aide duties in junior high. Susan Dinkel resigned as assistant coach in both high school volleyball and high school girls' basketball. Rob Schiltz resigned from his position as junior high girls' basketball coach.

However, summer teaching positions were recommended for Shirley Swihart and Tammy Grice to teach grade school summer school and for Kent Kechter to teach the junior-senior high school summer school.

Tim Lambert, Ted Busse and Chuck Peters will be offered contracts for supervising the summer weightlifting program, sharing the salary for two positions.

Seniors gain more scholarship offers

At the Thursday school board meeting, superintendent Carl Werner informed the board that there had been gift-offers of two scholarships which the board accepted. The scholarships, each amounting to \$500, will be given to 2003 graduating seniors.

One scholarship is from the St. Francis New Generation Fund.

The other scholarship, the "Trinity Scholarship," is offered by anonymous local donors and the recipient will be selected by those donors in accordance with a set of guidelines that accompanied the scholarship offer.

The Trinity Scholarship is called that because it is awarded to a senior who loosely embodies the three virtues of "character, service and spirit."

On April 23, the Scholarship Committee, comprised of Scott Carmichael, principal; John Knodel and Pete Raile, board members; and Superintendent Werner, met and recommended the selections for the Alice Gillispie Academic Scholarships (one non-renewable at \$1,000) and the Walter Stephenson Memorial Scholarships. After studying the money on hand, the committee decided to give eight \$500 and one \$300 scholarship

from the Walter Stephenson Memorial Scholarship Fund. These scholarships will total \$4,300 instead of \$1,400 which they had originally planned to give.

The recommended selections were shown to the board at the regular meeting and the names will remain confidential until graduation on Sunday.

Students run across Kansas for veterans

By Karen Krien

A group of students from the Kansas City Christian School will arrive in St. Francis on Thursday, May 22, where they will be fed by the VFW Post 1528 and Ladies Auxiliary and later entertained by local veterans in a program held at the high school which will be open to the public.

Supper for the students and sponsors will start at 6:30 with the program at 7:30 p.m. That night they will stay in the high school gym and will be served breakfast at 6 a.m.

"We really enjoyed the group of runners last year — they were so polite," said Marlys Poulignot, Auxiliary member.

The mission of the runners is to raise money to help hospitalized veterans. This year there are expected to be approximately 60 students taking the challenge to run approximately 400 miles to the Capitol building on Memorial Day. (One route is shorter.) Their ages rang from seventh grade to seniors with the majority of the students being junior high

age. Many of their parents accompany them on the trip so each group could have up to 40 people.

They run three groups simultaneously. A group will run the south route starting at the Colorado-Kansas line to Tribune and another will start at the Oklahoma line and going to Ark City.

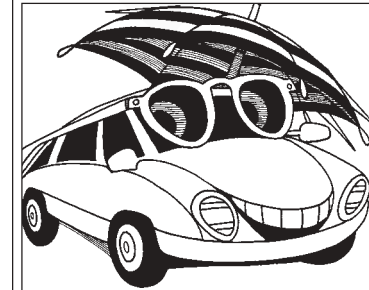
Last year the runners collected \$14,000 for veterans.

The Memorial Day Run Across Kansas was organized by Lisa Cowan and Lester Wendt six years ago. Ms. Cowan was the school's track coach and an avid long-distance runner.

Everywhere, there was an American flag prominently displayed and more often than not, a Veterans of Foreign War post.

"I wanted my kids to experience those places," she said.

Soshe contacted Mr. Wendt and they organized a road race. The kids were excited about the idea and decided to set an ambitious goal for themselves to run across Kansas and to raise money for hospitalized veterans.



The Cheyenne County Cruisers would like to say **THANK YOU** to all who helped us to make this show a success. Without the help of the following individuals and businesses we could not make this show a reality. Again, thank you, and if we missed listing anyone, please accept our apology.

- Wilkins Truck & Trailer, Inc., Goodland, KS
- Walmart, Goodland, KS
- Kansasland Tire, Goodland, KS
- Sahling Kenworth, Inc., Kearney, NE
- Harchelroad Motors, Inc., Wauneta, NE
- Peavey Company, Omaha, NE
- St. Francis Equity
- Grace Flying Service
- Tim E. Poling, D.D.S.
- Frewen Insurance
- St. Francis Tire
- Bier's Hometown Store
- Burr's Retail Liquor Store
- Roger McQuigg Plumbing
- P & L Ideal Meat Market
- Bartlett Grain Co.
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- Yogi's, Calamus, Ia.
- Pizza Hut
- Captain Hook's, Wheeler, KS
- Goodells Greenhouse
- Gwen Keller, Avon
- Owen's True Value
- Brunk Machine
- Republican Valley Vet Clinic
- Stuart's Jewelry
- Krien Pharmacy
- Becker Tire, Great Bend, KS
- Limon Chrysler, Plymouth, Dodge, Jeep, Inc., Limon CO
- Hemmings, Bennington, Vermont
- St. Francis Car Wash

- Motor City Flooring, Madison Heights, Mi.
- Affordable Street Rods, Great Bend, KS
- Wright Carpets
- Rhonda & Gary Rose, C&R Cattle Co. & Arena & Cowboy Supply Store
- Brice's Auto Repair
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- Hot Brush, Bird City, KS
- Krien Steel Buildings
- Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
- Lampe Hardware
- KM Clothier
- Video Connection
- Bankwest
- First National Bank
- Cheyenne Bowl
- The Windmill
- Kuegler
- Girlfriends & Guys Too
- Knodel Funeral Home
- Henderson Paint & Body Shop
- Bill Wilson Accounting
- Shay Realty
- Ann Dirks
- Sunshine Travel
- Ross Manufacturing
- Jensen Construction
- St. Francis Herald

- St. Francis Chamber of Commerce
- St. Francis Fire Department
- Mill & Seed
- Video Kingdom
- Andy Beikman Engineering
- Kent's Auto Service
- Herbal Life, Cindy Fiedler, Independent Distributor
- Eric Churchwell, Downtown Repair & Auto Sales, Bird City, KS
- Country Pantry
- Jessica Schultz, Graphic Designer, Phoenix, Az.
- Neitzel Insurance
- Ron Neitzel Automotive
- St. Francis Council & City Crew
- St. Francis Schools
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- Dankenbring Auto Body Repair
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- SBC, Southwestern Bell, Garden City, KS
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- Good Samaritan Village
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- Too Cool Refrigerator Kits
- Kaye Bauman

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5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13th --
 Ingalls, KS at Ingalls Cafe

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 14th --
 Boise City, OK, Cimarron Co. Fairgrounds, W. Hwy 287

5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15th --
 St. Francis, KS, Riverside Recreation, W. Hwy 36
 (Cheyenne Co. Feedyard Circle)

5:30 p.m., Friday, May 16th --
 Oakley, KS, Colonial Steak House, I-70 & Hwy 83
 (Mike Stephens Circle)

Call 800-462-8483 for meal reservations and more information

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Atwood - A.M.
Colby - P.M.
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Fri., May 23
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