



## Board fills two coaching positions

By Karen Krien

How to fill coaching positions was one of the main concerns when the St. Francis Board of Education met Thursday. At the close of the school year, there were two head coach positions, five assistant coach positions and a co-sponsor of cheerleading needing to be filled for the 2003-2004 school year.

When the board adjourned, they had approved the reassignment for Ted Busse to be the head boys' basketball coach and Devin Dinkel to take over the girls' head basketball coaching position.

Since the board has agreed to add no new teachers and absorb duties from within the staff, filling the positions could be difficult. Bonnie Zwegardt, board member, thought

it would be good to have a woman as the assistant girls' basketball coach but, at the present time, the only qualified woman was Susan Dinkel and she had retired from that position at the end of the year.

The unfilled assistant coaching positions are: high school boys' basketball, high school girls' basketball, high school volleyball, junior high wrestling and junior high

girls' basketball (eighth grade). The board and administration will also need to find a co-sponsor for cheerleading.

Some federal government funding (No Child Left Behind) may be available to hire Carla Schiltz and Ward Cassidy as full-time employees and Superintendent Carl Werner, at the Thursday meeting, said that he was still not sure if those funds would be

available.

If Mrs. Schiltz was hired full time, she would still be teaching junior high math and would be adding Basic Math and Algebra 1/2 to her schedule. This would free Mr. Dinkel to teach Geometry thus allowing Chuck Peters to work on technology throughout the district.

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## Planes fly into Sainty

Near perfect weather made the 21st annual Stearman Fly-In a success.

Over the weekend, the Cheyenne County Airport in St. Francis hosted more than 85 aircraft including 10 Stearman biplanes and three hot air balloons.

The Stearmans are fabric covered, open-cockpit biplanes first used in World War II as primary trainers. Many interesting aircraft flew in including homebuilts and rare warbirds.

Large crowds enjoyed the aerial extravaganza: biplanes in formation flight accompanied by the distinctive roar of their radial engines; hot air balloons floating gracefully over the countryside at sunrise; and 85 skydives by 16 jumpers including 11 tandem jumps and eight night skydives. In a tandem jump, a novice passenger is attached to an expert skydiver.

Some of the crowd participated by riding in a Stearman or a helicopter, allowing them to view the festivities from aloft.

Tracy Lockhart of Sterling, Colo., won the Stearman balloon bust contest.

On Saturday, the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a barbecue which was followed by the presentation of Ann Birney, who portrayed Amelia Earhart.

The Stearman Fly-In takes place on the second Saturday in June so next year's event will be June 12 and 13.



87-YEAR-OLD Maurice Blume boarded a Stearman for the first time and reported that he liked the flying experience and believed he would try it again.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Around 300 expected to arrive this week

By Karen Krien

The 46th annual St. Francis Community High School alumni reunion has arrived. The dinner will be served at the high school cafeteria on Saturday following the short business meeting and taking of class pictures. The meal will feature baked steak and all the trimmings.

Shirley Zwegardt, alumni coordinator, reports that reservations have been slow coming in but expects over 300 to 350.

New this year will be entertainment provided by Kirk Mlinek, class of 1973, and his band. The entertainment, a variety of blue grass music, will be heard during dinner.

Those who have ordered tickets many have had them sent to their home address but many will be able to pick them up at the high school starting at 5 p.m. Those having questions should contact Ms. Zwegardt at 785-332-2286.

Most of the honor class chairmen along with other class members have been organizing and planning special get-togethers. Classes honored this year are: 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1993.

A listing of planned activities for these classes are in a related article.

Members of those classes wanting more information should contact the class organizer. Ms. Zwegardt can also answer many of the questions.

## Gatherings reported

The honor classes are planning special gatherings besides being at the St. Francis Community High School alumni banquet on Saturday evening. Many have planned several events while others are pretty simple, especially the older classes where only a few of the classmates are able to attend.

The following classes and their planned events are:

### Class of 1933

The class of 1933 doesn't have any reunion plans.

### Class of 1938

Ruth Moore reported that members of the class of 1938 are few but they still plan to meet at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant at 7 p.m. for supper on Friday. They will be at the alumni dinner Saturday evening and on Sunday, will meet at 9 a.m. at the Windmill Restaurant for breakfast.

### Class of 1943

Bessie Burr and Darlene Feikert are just a few of the honor class representatives. The 1943 classmates meet the first Monday of each month for lunch and then to one of the classmate's home for an afternoon of visiting. Since this is the 60th year, they are looking forward to seeing those who live too far away for the monthly lunches.

They have rented the St. Francis senior center for Saturday and will

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FARMERS gathered at the Keller wheat test plot east of Wheeler to hear the agronomist critique the varieties of wheat.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Wheat crop looks good

By Karen Krien

Roger Stockton, Kansas State University agronomist, met with a group of farmers on Wednesday for the county wheat tour. At the test wheat field, he said this was the 27th plot he had looked at this year and the wheat was looking good. However, he also warned that there was rust.

He said that the cool temperatures in the last few weeks has helped the wheat to mature but there was damage from the two days of 100-degree temperatures especially in certain vari-

eties. The moisture has also helped the wheat crop and there was no comparison to last year's crop which suffered with drought.

Mr. Stockton was concerned about the stripe and leaf rust which was present at the wheat test plot. He said that stripe rust shows up about every 50 years but this time, it is present for the second year in a row. He pointed out that the rust could be found in certain types of wheat such as Trego, Karl 92 and 2137.

He is looking for good yields in the wheat crop this year.

Mr. Stockton recommended hy-

brid seed, and noted that the wheat crop and there was no comparison to last year's crop which suffered with drought. He said that this cross was resistant to both stripe and leaf rust as well as being mosaic resistant. This seed will be available this fall and he expected it to go fast.

Another variety that he had seen doing well was Thunderbolt which is crossed with Tam 107. He said that this seed was disease resistant, a good baking wheat and high yields. He expects to see Tam 107 retired.

## Reps talk about available grants

By Karen Krien

Four people attended the Cheyenne County Commissioners meeting on Monday with the main interest being to hear and ask questions of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission representatives. The commission helps participating counties and cities write grants for needed projects.

Amy Griffey, economic development coordinator, and Randall Hrabec, executive director, informed Les Lacy, representing the county hospital; Dave Flemming, county

road and bridge supervisor; Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development coordinator; and Laura Miller, Bird City city clerk, about available grants and listed some of the changes made by the government.

Earlier, the Commission representatives had been informed that only the figures compiled by the last census would be used in determining who would receive the grants which are based on low-to-moderate income levels. However, they

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## Salaries frozen; calendar approved

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Board of Education agreed to freeze the salaries of teachers and staff and approve the 2003-2004 school calendar when they met on Thursday evening.

The recommendations for the two decisions came after the Meet and Confer Committee had met. The contracts are being prepared for signatures and the only salaries the administration has to go by are the 2002-2003 salaries.

Superintendent Carl Werner said that the new procedure the administration is using is to work under the previous year's salaries and then at the end of the school year, salary increases will be considered if funds are available.

The only exceptions will be: 1)

employees who have changes in their assignments will have their pay changed accordingly; 2) teachers who earn additional college hours during the summer will advance to the next column on the salary schedule when it applies; 3) new noncertified employees will begin at the usual "beginning wage" for that position.

"Otherwise, everyone will be working for the same salary as the previous school year," Werner said.

In order to officially put the practice into place, the board took action to freeze all employees' salaries at the 2002-2003 level except as noted and to issue contracts accordingly.

School employees received a letter stating the above facts and noted

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## Contest winds down

By Karen Krien

Wheat harvest is probably just days away, depending on Mother Nature. Kansas State University agronomist Roger Stockton said at the annual test wheat plot tour on June 11 that the cool days allowed the wheat heads to mature for better yields and now warmer weather is forecast for this week.

But, when will harvest be?? There are nine businesses in St. Francis who are sponsoring the Harvest Countdown contest and people are urged to stop by and fill out an entry blank guessing when the first load of 2003 wheat will come in to one of the St. Francis or Wheeler elevators.

There will be three people winning a total of \$100 in scrip money (\$50 first prize, \$35 second prize, and \$15 third prize).

The Herald is sponsoring the contest but it would not be possible if it were not for the participating businesses: Pizza Hut, Stevens' Kansas Territorial, Sainty Super Foods, Yost Farm Supply, Windmill Restaurant, St. Francis Equity, P & L Ideal Meat Market, Krien Pharmacy and K-Store. The scrip

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West side sign designed by Nate Fiala

## Chamber signs to go up in June

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce sign project will soon be completed when the new signs, one 7 miles west and the other is 6 miles east of town, are up and telling travelers about the city of St. Francis.

A contest was held and out of the entries, two were chosen by the committee. The design with the flag, sunflower and wheat submitted by Kaye Bauman, will be placed on the east sign and the design with the pheasant which was submitted by Nate Fiala will go on the west sign.

The Chamber Sign Committee started planning the project over a year ago and it looked like it might be several years before the signs were up because of the cost. However, when people heard of the struggle that the Chamber was having, donations started coming in. There were also several fundraisers held but it was the donations which really came through to help make the signs a reality.

The signs are a computer image which is scanned on to a vinyl material. The signs will need to be replaced in four to five years as that is

the average life span of this type of sign. Painted signs would have been much more expensive and would have lasted a few years longer.

The present painted signs were older than five years but should have been replaced several years ago as the message the ratty old signs sent was not a good advertisement for St. Francis.

Robert Grace, head of the Sign Committee, reported that there was a good chance that the signs would be erected this week. There are several former residents and St. Francis Community High School graduates who gave generous donations for the sign and the committee was aiming at getting the signs ordered and up by this weekend which is the alumni celebration.

Former residents donating money toward the sign were: Larry and Barbara Hartley, Mt. Calm, Texas, Dale and Edna Reichert, Boise, Idaho, and Robert and Doris Duncan Dallan, Bristol, Conn. Keith and Elizabeth Kehmeier and the Cheyenne County Historical Society gave earlier.



TANDEM JUMPS, where a person rides on the back of an experienced skydiver, was a popular activity during the Stearman Fly-In held this weekend. Heidi Rohweder, St. Francis, (above) had wanted to jump since she had been 9 years old and when she turned 18, she was eligible. Her grandfather had been a paratrooper in the Korean War. Right, Gina Frohlich, St. Francis, also made her first tandem jump and thought it was "awesome." Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



## GATHERINGS

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meet at 2 p.m., then go to the banquet at the high school and then back to the senior center for more visiting. They are expecting 16 to 20 classmates along with their spouses.

#### Class of 1948

Gertie Zwegardt reported that the class of 1948 will meet at the high school for the banquet on Saturday. On Sunday, they will gather at 9 a.m. at the Ye Ole Country Church by the Cheyenne County Museum where they will have church services with the class of 1953, then they will have brunch at the Cheyenne Manor, Ash.

#### Class of 1953

Members of the class of 1953 are celebrating their 50th year since graduating. Ella Mae Keller and Donna Zwegardt are sharing the responsibilities of the entertainment which will start on Friday at 5 p.m. with a barbecue at the Roadside Park

behind the museum. The next day they will meet at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and rolls at Dusty Farmer before taking off on a tour of The Breaks and other historical sites. They will meet back at the Dusty Farmer for lunch and there is nothing planned for the afternoon but everyone is encouraged to come to the banquet at the high school.

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, they will share church services with the class of 1948 at Ye Ole Country Church on U.S. 36. A brunch will follow at Riverside Recreation.

#### Class of 1958

Carol Lampe reports that the class of 1958 will meet at the home of Gordon and Betty Orth, 516 S. Francis, at 6 p.m. on Friday where they will enjoy a barbecue and lots of reminiscing. Following the banquet on Saturday, they will again meet at the Orth home. They class is expecting about 30 people.

#### Class of 1963

The class of 1963 will be meeting at the Ewing lot near the fairgrounds where a tent will be erected and ready for a fun gathering. Bonnie Cooper said they will meet there at 5 p.m. Saturday morning, they will meet at Riverside Recreation, east of St.

Francis on U.S. 36, where they will have coffee and rolls. After the banquet, they will once again go back to the Ewing's lot.

#### Class of 1968

Kaye Bauman reported that the class of 1968 will meet at the home of Roger Jensen, 412 E. Spencer, at 5 p.m. then they will go to the banquet.

#### Class of 1973

Pat Crabtree, class of 1973, said they will meet at Riverside Recreation, east U.S. 36, at 6 p.m. on Friday. They will go back to Riverside for golf at 1 p.m. on Saturday and then again before going to the banquet.

#### Class of 1978

Traci Neitzel said that the class of 1978 will meet at Diamond R at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Friday night. Saturday, they plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. for a round of golf at Riverside, then travel northwest to the country home of Chelly and Roger Moore for lunch. At 4 p.m., they will again meet at Riverside for a pre-party before the banquet and if anyone is interested, they will meet back at Riverside after the banquet.

#### Class of 1983

Tammi Sherlock reported that there had been only a few 1983 classmates notifying that they will be

present for their honor class gathering. However, those present will meet at 6 p.m. at the Mike and Tammi Sherlock home, 429 E. Second Street, for a barbecue. On Saturday, they will meet at the Sherlock home before going to the banquet and then go to Riverside following the banquet.

#### Class of 1993

The class of 1993 will be having a barbecue on Friday at the gun club south of town. The families are asked to be there at 6:30. On Saturday, they will meet at the home of Priscilla Grice Prentice with the time to be decided at the barbecue the night before. They plan on having 15 people there.

Check next week Saint Francis Herald for more about the gatherings as class representatives report on activities held.

## CONTEST

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money won will need to be spent in these businesses.

Last year, the first load of wheat was brought into the Wheeler Equity on June 18, four days earlier than the first load in 2001. The load of wheat was brought by Harvey and Glen Neitzel, the test weight was 56 pounds and there was 13.5 moisture. Winning the contest was Barbara Waters of Bird City.

The contest allows anyone over 18 years who is not employed at the newspaper, or related to someone who is, to try to guess when the first

load of 2003 wheat will be brought into one of the elevators in St. Francis and Wheeler.

Participants should guess the day, hour and minute of the arrival of the first load that has a moisture content of 14 percent or less. Businesses in the contest are featured in an ad in this week's Herald.

Boxes and entry blanks along with the contest rules are located in participating businesses. Look for the sign in the window and register your guess at the service counters. Be sure to check their merchandise and services while in the business.

## COACHS

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Mr. Cassidy, who retired from the district several years ago, has been a counselor but has requested more time in the school as a counselor. He also said he would consider being one of the assistant coaches. Superintendent Werner said there had been some mixed reaction to this request but those in favor of it are convinced that there should be a way to afford it.

Since there was no definite government funding available at the meeting, the matter was tabled. The administration should know more about the funding at the special meeting at the end of June. Superintendent Werner said that if this funding did not come through, there may be some other ways these positions can be filled.

A letter of resignation had been received from Phyllis Zwegardt who is a custodian. The superintendent said that this position was an 8-hour a day position for nine months. The position will be advertised.

The board also talked about what the administration planned to do about the resignation of Stan Wahrman, bus mechanic. Several different ways of filling the position were discussed including having a bus garage person who would keep the same hours as the drivers, then drivers would be responsible for seeing that their buses are kept up and, if repairs needed, take them to the station where they are serviced. The automobile dealer would change the oil, do other upkeep and cleaning the activity buses and suburban.

The board agreed that the superintendent should place an ad for the custodian vacancy at the high school and advertise for a bus mechanic in order to more carefully consider the possibility of filling that position as it has been instead of cutting back.

The board approved the contracts for Tammy Grice, Shirley Swihart and Kent Kechter to teach summer school; and for Ted Busse, Tim Lambert and Chuck Peters to supervise the summer weightlifting program.

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that, for the 2002-2003 school year, the teacher base salary was increased from \$29,800 to \$30,000 and a step was added to all but the first column on the teacher salary schedule. This resulted in an average salary increase of 1.9 percent for certified teachers and the increase will be distributed to teachers and other employees in their salary checks.

Members of the Meet and Confer Committee were Gene Dodd and Bonnie Zwegardt, board members; Superintendent Werner, Ted Busse, Gloria Cassidy, Kent Kechter and David Morrow, teachers.

#### Calendar approved

The previously proposed calendar was also approved by the board.

The 2003-2004 school calendar has the first day of school scheduled on Aug. 25; Christmas vacation starting on Dec. 22 and ending on Jan. 5; spring break on March 15 through 19; and the last day of school is May 26.

#### Bids for suburban

Superintendent Werner recommended that the board ask for bids on an additional suburban-type vehicle. The last such vehicle purchased was a Ford Excursion and he had been notified that this is the last year of production for the Excursion. He noted that the board hasn't purchased a new bus in the current fiscal year.

After discussion, the board agreed to request bids on a new Excursion or a Chevrolet/GMC suburban with the bids due by the special board meeting at the

end of June.

#### In other business

In other business:

- Grade school principal Larry Gabel commented favorably on the new ball backstop installed on the playground. He also said that the playground equipment is being painted and stained.

- The board will need to appoint someone to fill Marla Ross's position on the Recreation Commission. Mrs. Ross has stated that she is not interested in serving another four-year term and suggested that Clay Keller might fill the position. The board will decide at the July meeting.

- Myra Douthit was reappointed as the board's representative to the Northwest Kansas Technical College Board in Goodland. A former board member, Mrs. Douthit has served Technical College Board for a number of years. She reported that she would be glad to come to a school board meeting and report anytime the board wishes.

- Sherry Weeks, board member, said that the Accelerated Reading Program parade held down Main Street at the end of the school year was very impressive.

- Thank you notes received for various activities and graduating seniors receiving scholarships were read.

#### Next meeting

The next meeting of the school board will be a special meeting to approve the final business transactions of the fiscal year. The meeting will be held at 7 a.m. at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant on Friday, June 27.

## FROZEN

## GRANTS

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were recently informed that surveys could be taken to determine if city and/or counties would be considered to be in the low-to-moderate category. This new ruling would open up better chances of obtaining a grant.

The county can apply for two grants and each of the cities (Bird City and St. Francis) would be eligible to apply for one grant.

The commissioners were interested in getting money for new fire engine(s) and to replace a bridge. Mr. Lacy was seeing what it would take to get a grant to help with the ambulance entrance and to finish the county health office which will someday be located in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis. Bird City was wanting to widen the highway and fix a drainage problem within the city. The city of St. Francis recently received a \$400,000 grant to repair the city sewer system.

Mr. Harbe and Ms. Griffey encouraged surveys be planned and completed in the very near future if the county and/or cities were interested in applying for grants. They noted that the county would probably qualify for some of the grants available but they would need to be making decisions very soon.

#### Graders

Supervisor Flemming reported that of the nine graders owned by the county, there were several that would need to be replaced in the future. The newest graders are 1995 models while the oldest is a 1989er.

He said that next year, a new series of Caterpillar graders would be coming out costing between \$165,000 and \$170,000 with 3.2 percent interest. The new grader cost also included the government discount allowed to counties.

The supervisor could also purchase a used grader for around \$60,000.

The commissioners were concerned that they had not continued to replace the older graders because of tight budgets and questions in state funding. They debated whether it was better to spend the money for one new grader or to get two or more good used graders. It was noted that the trade-in value would be about the same as if the supervisor would advertise and sell the old grader (around

\$30,000) but there would be more warranty on a new grader.

The matter was tabled until the supervisor could get more information.

#### Development Corporation

Mr. Berens, representing the Cheyenne County Development Corporation in the absence of Ms. Hobrock, asked the commissioners to consider giving the Corporation \$9,800 which is the same amount asked for last year.

Some of the projects which the Development Corporation was involved in last year included: seeing that the recycling projects had been completed, contacted new industries and continued to write grants, and listed the St. Francis Recreation Commission, the Cheyenne County Historical Society and the fire department as a few of those needing grants.

Tim Raile, commissioner, thought it would be nice if an industry such as a dairy farm could be brought into the county but thought the possibility of such an industry would be next to impossible to lure to Cheyenne County. However, he did think that some of the housing grants available through the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission which had made a presentation earlier were more realistic.

Mr. Berens said that the Corporation's goal was to build one business at a time while keeping what the county has.

#### In other business

In other business:

- Roger Jensen, St. Francis City Council member, reported that the corrected Interlocal Recycling Agreement had not arrived but when it did, it would need to be signed by the commissioners and resolution stating the fact would also need to be signed.

- The commissioners asked Mr. Jensen if the city had any plans to compost grass clippings near the recycling center. He said the city council was investigating it but noted that equipment would be needed along with supervision while the dumping area was open.

- Ilene O'Leary, executive director of the St. Francis Housing Authority, and city attorney Mike Day asked if the Housing Authority taxes could be waived. They have been paying \$2,100 in taxes. Having questions, the

commissioners asked county attorney Kevin Berens to see if the Housing Authority needed to pay the taxes and to see what the situation is with the Bird City low income housing project. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. They were informed that the city of St. Francis had waived its part of the taxes.

- The commissioners were concerned with two vouchers for mileage turned in by the Emergency Medical Service Director, Larry Gabel, in connection with the teaching of an emergency medical technician class. A call was made to Joe Mildrexler at Colby Community College which hired the technician class instructor. He said the college covered the cost of mileage and lodging for state testing. Mr. Gabel was asked to turn in the mileage to the college, with the exception of the costs for the recertification of the instructor which should be turned into the county to be paid.

- The commissioners went into executive session to discuss the ambulance secretary position. When they came out, they said a decision would be made after the ambulance director had talked to the secretary.

- Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, reported that the hospital remodeling contract was not ready. The hospital board had made some cuts and change orders in the contract would need to be signed.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker said that she could not understand how the architect could be far off in his original estimate of the remodel project. Commissioner Tim Raile suggested that the architect's fee be held as this was what the commissioners did when the airport runway project was done.

- Dundy County officials had asked the Supervisor if Flemming if the county would be interested in making signs for their county as they were going to be doing 911 signing. The county attorney will look into the legalities.

#### Next meeting

The commissioners worked on the budget following the meeting. The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on June 30 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.