

## Matters at recycling center discussed

By Sandy Barnhart

Wages for the recycling maintenance person was at the top of the July 8 St. Francis City Council meeting. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Wages for Ben Andrist, who takes care of the recycling center, was discussed. Councilman Roger Jensen said that Ben had been putting in more hours at the center since the baler had been put in. He explained

that, as of now, the city pays Mr. Andrist \$120 a week and for the hours he had put in during just one week total \$5.85 an hour. Councilman Jensen said that Mr. Andrist puts in approximately three hours a day and is at the center seven days a week.

Council woman Kay Shay suggested paying him by the hour instead of a salary rate, but no hourly rate was discussed at the time. The council agreed to wait until the time

when the council regularly reviews employee wages.

The council discussed the possibility of Bird City bring their recycling items to St. Francis as their contractor would not be picking up certain items any longer. Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Coordinator, said that she had attended the Bird City City Council meeting the previous night. She explained that although the

previous contractor, Jeremiah Wickham, would not be picking the items up, his partner, Marcia Ruda, had renewed the contract between Bird City and herself. The one problem would be that Ms. Ruda would not be transporting the glass or tin items. Mrs. Hobrock said that the Bird City Council hated to turn the items down as it would be more items taken to the county dump and they would like to bring the items to St.

Francis. The council agreed to take the items on a two-month trial basis. In this time the council will see what the quantity of items coming over will amount to.

The closing of the county dump has been a big issue for the county and both St. Francis and Bird City. St. Francis takes 1,000 tons a year to the dump, even though the recycling center has brought the amount. See **RECYCLING** on Page 7



NEW OCTOPUS RIDE will be ready for action at the Cheyenne County Fair Aug. 6-9. Pictured (l to r) are Amusement Authority member Greg Walz, Bill Ehrman, Sam Miller and Marvin Confer. The ride needed repairs, painting and greasing before it was ready to go.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Octopus will be ready by fair time

The Cheyenne County Amusement Authority has spent months working on and painting new and old equipment, painting fences and booths as well as just fixing up and getting ready — just part of the commitment they make as Amusement Authority members.

Now just three weeks until the fair, the carnival crew is hustling. The prizes for games have been ordered, most of the fences are painted and the newest ride, a second Octopus, is almost ready.

“We’ll have it ready to go by

fair time,” said Greg Walz, Authority member.

Bill Ehrman, Marvin Confer and Sam Miller were busy measuring what would be needed to rebuild the seats and the safety chains will be welded on before the ride is ready for use.

“We don’t take any chances,” Mr. Walz said.

Mr. Ehrman is also talking about getting the equipment greased, an important element in keeping the equipment running smoothly during the fair and hold

it through until next year.

The new ride was purchased from Norton and the men working on the project reported that it needed greasing when they got it but after spending an entire evening power washing the ride so it could be painted, it really needed grease.

The Authority decided to purchase the second Octopus ride because it is the most popular ride at the fair. Often the lines would get pretty long during busy times. One ride will have cooling water

splashes allowed where the other will not.

The home-owned carnival is one of the better carnivals in the area and kids can still ride for 25 cents (kiddie rides) and 50 cents for the adult rides. The length of each ride is long and well worth any cost.

Anyone wanting to help with the carnival during the fair or help prepare for fair should contact Greg or Susie Walz, Bill Ehrman, or Marvin and Esther Confer and Sam Miller.

## Six people apply for bus mechanic job

By Karen Krien

Between the meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education on Thursday and the last regular meeting in June, six people had applied for the job of school bus mechanic. There were also seven people applying for the custodian job at the high school.

Since Stan Wahrman had retired as the bus mechanic, the board had discussed several different ways of replacing him. At a previous meeting, the board agreed that they would prefer the new mechanic to serve in basically the same way as Mr. Wahrman had fill the position.

Superintendent Carl Werner said that all six people applying for the

job appeared to be qualified and interviews would take place the following week. He said that most of the applicants were presently working for other employers and did not want their names released until after the hiring was done and they had a chance to turn in their resignations.

The superintendent indicated that interviews for the custodian would also be around the same time as the mechanic interviews were made.

There were also several assistant coaching positions which, at the last meeting, had not been filled but Superintendent Werner thought all but one position had been filled and was confident that there would be no

See **JOB** on Page 7

## City council deals with cleaning up property in town

By Sandy Barnhart

At the July 8 meeting, the St. Francis City Council reviewed five pieces of property previously brought before the council concerning cleanup. The council passed resolutions to proceed with abatement procedures on three of the five properties.

At 218 E. First, Norman and Mary Morrow - The council felt that substantial progress had been made on the property, although the property still was not in compliance with city ordinances. Attorney Mike Day informed the council that a prospective buyer for the property had contacted him inquiring if he was able to buy the property if the abatement procedure would cease, giving him time to clean up the property? The council felt that given a plan and time table, the abatement on the property would cease.

At 512 W. Spencer, Norman and Mary Morrow - The council also felt that significant progress had also been made on this property, but the property still does not fall into compliance with city ordinances.

The council approved to allow properties 218 E. First and 512 W. Spencer more time where there was significant progress.

At 318 E. Whittier, Linfred Oster - The council noted that there had been some cleanup and organization of items, but still had some serious health issues. They noted that the house had no running water, plumbing or electricity which is a requirement.

The council approved to file abatement procedures with District Court for the 318 E. Whittier property.

See **PROPERTY** on Page 7

## Council faced with storage container dilemma

By Sandy Barnhart

At the July 8 meeting of the St. Francis City Council meeting, the members again faced the decision of what kind of containers could be used for storage within the city limits. In the end, the matter was tabled until a future meeting.

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger said that he had been asked if the city would allow businesses to use cargo containers for storage. The containers are square, stackable metal and come in different sizes. Councilman Roger Jensen thought that this type of storage was not much different than the trailers which the council had addressed at a previous meeting and decided not to allow storage in these containers.

However, the city ordinance does not refer to this type of container so no decision was made and the matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Bird City Internet

Frontier Equity of Bird City had requested to enter into the same wireless Internet agreement as with

the other grain storage facilities in the county. The agreement would allow an antenna to be placed on top of Frontier’s elevator with free internet access given to Frontier.

With the antenna on top of the elevator, the wireless internet would be accessible to Bird City residents plus some country residents. Superintendent Landenberger thought there was enough interest in Bird City to pay for the equipment. The council approved.

City equipment

In his report, Superintendent Landenberger told the council that he had sent requests to two businesses for a sealed bid on a back hoe for the skidster. The back hoe is budgeted into the 2003 budget.

The boom truck has mechanical problems and the mechanics will need to come out of Oklahoma City to repair it. The cost will be \$1,200 for traveling time plus whatever repairs and parts the truck needs.

Website

Councilwoman Shay went over See **STORAGE** on Page 7



TOBE ZWEYGARDT works at his bench making a cowboy out of metal parts and a horse shoe.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Self-taught welder’s works to be displayed

By Karen Krien

Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis’ historian as well as a self-taught welder, was notified over the weekend that his piece of sculpture will be displayed at the Grassroots Art Center at Lucas.

This year marks the centennial of the first flight of the Wright brothers and the Grassroots Art Center has curated the exhibit “Flights of Fancy.” Mr. Zwegardt is one of 17 grassroots (self-taught) artists from across the state of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Canada to provide sculptures, drawings and photographs that indicate the visual delight of fanciful flight.

The artists were to use their imagination with recycled parts to portray not only aircraft in flight but also man, animals and insects. This order was right down Mr. Zwegardt’s alley! He has been creating art from recycled parts for years for most of his life.

Earlier in the year, the

Grassroots Art Committee had taken his scrapbook filled with pictures of his work and he was then asked to submit an art piece. They would have taken his blue helicopter at the entrance of his drive which greets people traveling on U.S. 36. However, Mr. Zwegardt had another idea.

He studied a drawing of Orville Wright’s airplane and then began working on it.

“I’d work for awhile and then I would stop and think about what I was going to do next,” he said.

He positioned the plane in a metal tree but he said there was something not quite right.

“I had forgot to put Orville in the plane,” he said.

Orville was fashioned out of square-head nails and other parts and took the seat in the plane.

Mr. Zwegardt has created many pieces of art throughout the county with the most noticed pieces being the Cherry Creek Encampment site

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# JOBS

**Continued from Page 1**

problem in filling that position. A special meeting to review the school's budget will be held at 8 p.m. on July 28 at the high school meeting room. At that time, the board will make the final decision on the bus mechanic, custodian and possibly part of the assistant coaches.

The superintendent reported that an agreement had been reached with the Kansas State Department of Education that there is a way avail-

able to use some of the "No Child Left Behind" federal funds to add more time to Ward Cassidy's counseling contract, extending the contract to three or four days a week and to provide more time for Chuck Peters to work as technology consultant. This would then make some General Fund money available to add more time to Carla Schiltz's mathematics teaching contract. He noted that the changes will be dependent (both now and in the future) on the receipt of No Child Left Be-

hind funding.

### Schedule of events

The board agreed to the following schedule of events:

Monday, April 28 at 8 p.m., a special board meeting will be held to study and ask questions about the proposed budget.

Thursday, July 31, the proposed budget will be published in The St. Francis Herald.

On Thursday, Aug. 14, a budget hearing will be held in combination with the regular board meeting.

On or before Monday, Aug. 25, the certified budget will go to the county clerk.

All meetings are open to the public.

### In other business

In other business:  
 • Gene Dodd was elected as the new board president, taking the place of Bruce Feikert. The new vice president will be Sherry Weeks.  
 • Terry Miller, county clerk, swore in the newly elected board members: John Knodel, Cliff Raile, Sherry Weeks and Bonnie Zwegardt  
 • The board appointed Sharon Olofson as the board clerk; Robyn Raile, as the treasurer; and Kite and Day as the law firm if and when needed. Other appointments were: Building principals Scott Carmichael and Larry Gabel will be the schools' attendance officers; Clay Keller will fill the position on the St. Francis Rec Commission, taking Marla Ross's place; Mr. Dodd, although he was not present, was re-elected as the Kansas Association of School Board governmental relations representative; and Sherry Weeks will continue as the school's representative on the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center Board.

• The board approved out-of-district students currently attending St. Francis schools. They are Tony Tieg and Alecia Zimelman. No tuition will be charged.  
 • Times and dates of board meetings were approved. (See related article.)  
 • The board agreed to pay the Kansas Association of School Board dues of \$3,415 and the Association's Legal Assistant Fund which has dues of \$900 each year.  
 • Superintendent Werner's quarterly summary of his automobile expense used for school matters was \$62 per mile but takes the school's reimbursement of \$.36 per mile.

• Both schools' principals made brief report. Principal Carmichael reported that the school is in the process of being cleaned for the summer and it looks very good. Also, noted that the air conditioning system which had quit right before school had ended, had been repaired and was working well.

**Next meeting**  
 The next meeting of the St. Francis School Board will be a special meeting held at 8 p.m. on July 28 at the high school meeting room. The regular meeting has been set for 8 p.m. on Aug. 14 in the meeting room.

# STORAGE

**Continued from Page 1**

the website plans for St. Francis. She, along with Superintendent Landenberger, Stephanie Schafer and the Chamber of Commerce, have

been organizing and designing the site which will give insight to Cheyenne County, St. Francis and Bird City and will include organizations, attractions, city governments and oth-

ers. Councilman Shay noted that a questionnaire would be sent out to organizations asking for input and would have a return deadline of July 31 so the information could be put onto the website.

She asked that the council consider paying Ms. Schafer an hourly wage of \$10 an hour for the work she has done and will be doing. The council approved the request.

Superintendent Landenberger said that he had heard concerns about the domain name for the city internet — that people had complained that the name was too long, making it hard for people to remember and hard to fit on the e-mail space. For a \$15 charge for two years, Superintendent Landenberger said he was looking for a short version people could use for e-mail purposes.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for the following businesses and residents: Robert McDanel, grape arbor; Don McQuillen, erect fence; Chuck Peters, erect fence; Grace Flying Service, pour concrete.

### Clerk report

• The council approved Paige Gardner's request to use both parks Aug. 23 and 24 for the "Relay for Life" cancer walk.

• A check for \$200 was received from the Recreation Commission to be used for swim team lifeguards.

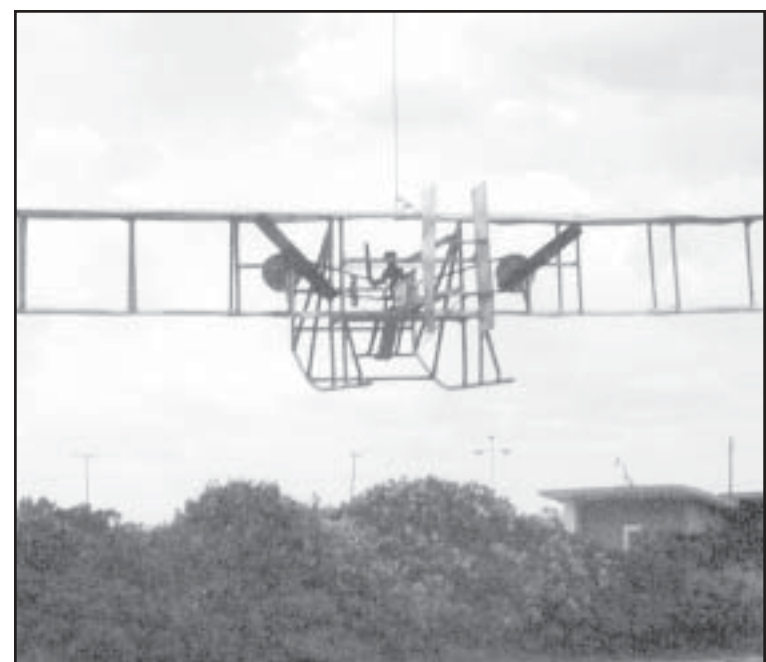
### Other business

• The council approved the purchase of six oxygen tanks for the fire department. The city's share will be \$900.

• The audit and budget meeting was held July 15 at the old city hall building.

### Special meeting

A special meeting was held July 1 to open bids for the Krien sewer project. Morris Plumbing was approved for the job with the lowest bid of \$39,836.



TOBE ZWEYGARDT modeled his work of art after this photo.

# DISPLAY

**Continued from Page 1**

north of St. Francis on K-27 and the Seventh Cavalry Camp located north of Bird City on K-161. However, many people from all over the United States and abroad have smaller pieces he has made including his famous windmills, cactus, yucca and Indian/eagle dancer. All are created out of miscellaneous items including square-head nails, bolts, horse shoes and barbed wire, just to name a few.

His first piece of sculpture was of a windmill. About 35 years ago, his wife Irene was in a Denver hospital and he said that she really didn't appreciate flowers so he came home, went to work in his shop and made the windmill. When he took it to the hospital, the nurses, doctors and anyone else who came into the room commented on the windmill and wanted one.

"I came back to St. Francis and started making more," he said.

He let his creative juices run and started making different sculptures and items, making a name for himself as well as items to sell and give away.

Mr. Zwegardt said he watched and help his father, J.E. Zwegardt, who was a blacksmith. When Mr. Zwegardt first started putting odd pieces together to make a design, he didn't have a welder so he used solder. During World War II when it was impossible to buy welding equipment, he made his first welder out of a 32-volt light plant. Later, when he could afford it, he bought a welder and did welding for farmers

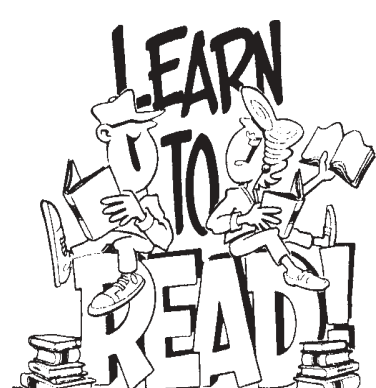
and on oil well equipment.

Today, his shop is located by his home and has been set up with a small fire-proof table, low seat and the welder and equipment close by. The shop is filled with miscellaneous items and he said that he will probably never run out because people are always bringing him boxes of odd pieces which he digs through to find something for his next piece of art.

The exhibit at Lucas will be in place from Aug. 1 through Oct. 31. The art center will be open daily from 10 to 5 p.m. and, on Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In October, the hours will shorten.

Mr. Zwegardt plans to go to Lucas on Saturday, Aug. 30, of Labor Day weekend when the Lucas community will continue the theme "Lucas Takes Flight" with a parade, speakers, exhibits, children's activities, talent show and a barbecue.

For more information on the exhibit or activities, call 785-525-6118, or e-mail grassroots@wtciweb.com.



# PROPERTY

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At the June 17 meeting, the council had not passed a resolution on the other two properties as not enough time had elapsed from when the property owner had received notice.

At 610 S. Francis, Ed Zuege - The council felt that Mr. Zuege had made an attempt by attending a council meeting and keeping in touch with Superintendent Landenberger. Superintendent Landenberger said that Mr. Zuege was in hopes of waiting until cooler weather to burn down one of the structures with a controlled burn. After some discussion the council instructed Superintendent Landenberger to contact Mr. Zuege

and have him talk to the fire department to find a time table for when the control burn could be done.

At 613 W. First, Bonnie Coates - It was noted that although the property had been mowed, that was the only progress on the property. The council approved than to file Resolution 2003-6 to proceed with abatement procedures on this property.

Superintendent Landenberger also noted that another letter had been sent to a property owner on Dennison Street in regards to abandoned vehicles being parked around the house. He noted that some of the vehicles had been moved, but there still were some that needed to be moved.

# RECYCLING

**Continued from Page 1**

down drastically. Mrs. Hobrock said the estimate for the dump filling up was 20 to 25 years, and any measure of extending this time period would be a plus. Councilman Jensen noted that Colby was in the process of putting in a new cell at the cost of approximately \$750,000. Add that to the expense of covering the old cell, the cost was going to run around \$1.2 million.

Now with the dump not accepting grass clippings as of Oct. 1, both cities needed to be thinking of developing a compost site. It was noted that the biggest expense for a compost site would be fencing off an area, a large rototiller and the man-

power. Councilman Jensen said that Colby has a very successful compost site and it would benefit the councilmen if they were to look at the site to see how it's run.

Councilwoman Shay suggested setting up a joint meeting between the commissioners and both city councils to go over the recycling center's expenses which would include wages, hauling, electricity and insurance on the building. These expenses are paid by the city of St. Francis. Cheyenne County pay a \$1 per resident, which amounts to \$3,465. Also Councilwoman Shay said the three entities could discuss the possibilities of a compost center.

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