

# St. Francis man bound over for trial

By Karen Krien

Raymond John DeAragon, St. Francis, appeared for a preliminary hearing on multiple drug-related counts in Cheyenne County District Court on July 24. Judge Pat Carroll determined that, on testament of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab and witness reports, there was probable cause on all charges that Mr. DeAragon should be bound over for trial at 10 a.m. on Sept. 16 in Cheyenne County District Court.

In March 2002, Mr. DeAragon was served with a search warrant at a trailer on 408 S. College Street and another white trailer at 506 E. Second Street, both in St. Francis. Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents along with a special agent with the Quad County Drug Task Force and St. Francis Police officers conducted the investigation and found numerous items including those to manufacture methamphetamine, and others indicating the possibility of selling or distributing a controlled substance. There were also amounts of marijuana or its active ingredient, THC, found within 1,000 feet of a school and Mr. DeAragon possessed no drug stamp.

At that time, the drug bust uncovered in the two St. Francis trailers was found to be one of the largest meth labs in the state of Kansas.

At the preliminary, Judge Carroll read the six counts Mr. DeAragon was charged with:

Count 1) Unlawful manufacturing any controlled substance, severity level 1 drug felony which carried a sentence of 138 to 204 months in prison and/or \$500,000 fine;

Count 2) Unlawful possession, severity level 1 nonperson drug felony but prosecuting attorney

Kevin Berens ask that the court amend the count to a severity level 4 which would lower possible time served to 10 to 42 months in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine;

Count 3) Possession of a hallucinogenic drug with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of the two St. Francis schools, 46 to 83 months in prison and/or \$300,000 fine;

Count 4) Unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia to sell/distribute a controlled substance, a 4-nonperson drug felony, 10 to 42 months in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine.

Count 5) No drug tax stamp, severity level 10 person felony, five to 13 months in prison and/or \$100,000 fine;

Count 6) Attempt, severity level 1 drug felony, 138-204 months in prison and/or \$500,000 fine.

The prosecution called on three

witnesses: Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents Tim Leaky and Robert Conde, and Quad County Task Force detective Douglas Murphy.

Agent Leaky told of the investigative search of the two trailers, noting that many of the items found indicated the manufacturing of methamphetamine in the trailer on College Street and the possessing the hallucinogenic drug marijuana in the white trailer on Second Street. A portion of a video tape of the search was played several times during the hearing.

Agent Conde told his version of the search which was similar to what Agent Leaky had said.

Detective Murphy told about taking Mr. DeAragon to the El Camino near the alley and asking him if there was anything which would harm the agents in the trailer on

College Street. Mr. DeAragon said no — that he had asthma and was trying to make his medicine better on the advice of his doctor.

Mr. DeAragon, at first, waved his rights to have legal counsel and asked the court to allow him to defend himself. Mr. DeAragon was carefully questioned by Judge Carroll who allowed him to do so. However, before the hearing ended, Mr. DeAragon agreed to let his court-appointed counsel Aaron Krannawitter, to cross examine the witnesses.

In the end, Judge Carroll determined that with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab reports and testimony of the witnesses, there was probable cause on all charges and that Mr. DeAragon should be bound over for trial at 10 a.m. on Sept. 16 in Cheyenne County District Court.



TUMBLEWEED ROUND-UP— Phil Crawford will be performing at the Cheyenne Theater on Aug. 6.

## Cowboy singers and poets perform on Wednesday

By Karen Krien

Phil Crawford has once again organized St. Francis' Tumbleweed Round-Up which will feature cowboy and cowgirl poets and musicians along with "just plain story tellers." The production will be held at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6, at the Cheyenne Theater on Washington Street, St. Francis.

Mr. Crawford reports that there will be a number of performers including the Highway 385 Blue Grass group out of Colorado. The band has performed all over the state of Colorado and will be one of the main performers at the Wednesday Round-up.

Among the other performers tentatively planning to come to the Wednesday shows are: Ernie Ketzner, poet from Bird City; Fred Krien and Ferdinand Krien playing their "squeeze box" and guitar; Don Love, guitar and sing; Gary Cooper, poet; and Fred Magley, poet.

"We will have good, homespun entertainment and it is free," Mr. Crawford said.

People are welcome to come for all or part of the performances.

"We have a "swinging door policy" where people can come and go at their leisure," Mr. Crawford said.

He has been traveling in the area, attending other cowboy poet and music shows for the last six years. For the last five years, he has performed in the Valentine, Neb., show which is the largest such show in the United States. In fact, the St. Francis show is similar to the Valentine show.

"I've patterned the St. Francis show after the Valentine show," he said.

Recently, Mr. Crawford was invited to host sessions of the Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Lewistown, Mont., Aug. 15 through 17. He will also be a performer.

"I plan to go to Lewistown... I think, being an out-of-towner, it (hosting) is one of the highest honors I could receive," Mr. Crawford said.

The Tumbleweed Round-Up has been supported by a number of businesses. For more information, contact Mr. Crawford at 785-332-2367 or go to StFrancisKs.com.

## Host plays, sings, writes

Phil Crawford has been playing the guitar since he was 9 years old.

"I was in the hospital and a nurse taught me to play and I've been playing ever since," he said.

He is also a poet and writes the lyrics to his songs. Following is one of the newest songs and he will be performing it at the Wednesday performance held at the Cheyenne Theater at 2 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Montana Slim

He sat tall in the saddle, While hazing the cattle, Spring roundup was about to begin. This rangy ole cowpoke, Never a cross word he ever spoke, And his troubles he took with a grin.

He hailed from Montana, Wore a big red bandana, And a hat that was mostly all brim. His jeans were quite faded, A shirt that was jaded, and old boots that were made just for him.

His chaps seen their best, And he wore a buckskin old vest And gloves that were nearly worn through.

But look at that saddle, That he sits a straddle, It shines like it did when brand new.

His horse is a buckskin, But, you knew it had good kin, It's lines were those of the best. Was bred to chase cattle, With a man in the saddle, Strong legged and wide in the chest.

He could ride with the best, And he roped with the rest. He tamed a wild stallion or two, But when it came time, For life more sublime, He returned to the old Circle U.

He rode for the brand, Was the round-up's top hand. He knew all the ways of the range, But as time went on,

The old days were gone, His old West was a makin' a change. His days are now numbered, His reflexes encumbered, His eyes are beginning to dim. If you want to hear a story of the old West in it's Glory. Just ask Old Montana Slim.

But if you want a great story, Of old cowboy glory, Just ask Old Montana Slim.

## Youth end season

The Junior Golfers of Riverside celebrated the last day of junior golf with a local golf tournament on July 18.

Twenty-two youth ranging in age from 8-14 participated. Regular junior golf tournament rules were followed by the youth. After playing for two hours, the youth and the tournament helpers had lunch at the Pizza Hut in St. Francis. Winners were announced and pizza was given out.

Those receiving a set of colorful golf balls for first place were: Aubrey Mills, girls 8-9; Brock Zwegardt, boys 8-9; Brett Lampe, boys 10-11; Taylor Spike, girls 12-13; and Zach Mills, boys 12-13.

A Riverside golf towel was given to the following second place winners: Ty Zwegardt, boys 8-9; Brandon Keeker, boys 10-11; and Justin Sherlock, boys 12-13.

Everyone received a small bag of tees for participating in the tournament.

Junior Golf will return next spring with hopefully more youth participating.

## Song producers descend upon town

By Casey McCormick

Cicadas have descended upon Bird City, but are they a danger or just a simple producer of an odd song?

Cicada (pronounced as si-ka'da) is a large insect with membranous wings and specialized organs producing a shrill, droning sound.

They are not heard during the heat of the day but their strange symphony of buzzes and hums fill the air during the morning and evening hours. Some people mistakenly call it the "locust," another fear of farmers which can cause damage of Biblical proportions to crops.

These insect visitors are first noticed by the hard, brown shells that are found gripping bricks, trees or another solid place. They then go through a difficult transformation from crawling bug to winged insect.

Cicadas spend most of their lives as nymphs underground. This may

be as long as 17 years. Once they leave the "nymph" shell they become winged adults, but they do not have much time. The average life span of an adult cicada is two to three weeks, however many only last a day or two. During this time they must find a mate, breed and die.

The male cicada makes one of the loudest sounds in the insect world. He has a built in sound system. This is a pair of sound-producing, or "singing," organs located on the sides of his first abdominal segment. The song he creates can be heard for up to 1 mile.

The North American periodical cicada is not a locust. The Pilgrims dubbed the cicada a "locust" when it appeared to them in Plymouth, Mass., in 1634. The insect undoubtedly reminded them of the migratory locust, a species of grass hopper, that ruined crops in Egypt in Biblical times and still is a threat to crops in many parts of the world.

## Board approves fiscal year budget

The St. Francis Board of Education met Monday night for a special meeting where they approved the 2004 fiscal year budget. The budget appears in this issue of The Saint Francis Herald. It was noted that the mill levy for the budget is projected to increase approximately 2/10 of a mill. The budget hearing will be held at the next meeting on Aug. 14.

Other business which came before the board included:

- The board will purchase part-time counseling service from the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley with these services to be provided by counselor Ward Cassidy, who will also serve as assistant high school boys' basketball coach.
- The approved the new contracts for Sean Straub as the bus mechanic

and manager and for Vicki Killiongsworth as the high school custodian. A contract amendment was approved for Carla Schiltz to expand her time from half-time mathematics teacher to full-time; Coaching contracts were approved for Mike Frewen as assistant junior high wrestling coach; Talley Morrow as assistant high school volleyball coach; Robyn Raile as cheerleader co-sponsor; and Cory Zion as assistant high school girls' basketball coach.

The only other vacancy in the coach staff to be filled is for a junior high (eighth grade) girls' basketball coach. Plans are to leave this position open at this time and wait until after school has started to fill it.

• The board approved to keep meal prices and textbook rental fees the same as they were last year



A CICADA STRUGGLES to free itself.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

There is an old-wives-tale which claims that when a cicada's buzz is heard in the morning the first frost of the season is only six weeks away. This is a "cool" thought during 100-plus degree days. Whether this myth is fact or fiction, it is reassuring that no matter how long it will take the "dog days of summer" will give way to fall, harvest temperatures.

Below is editor's note for the Herald.....

From the editor: Do you have an interesting "old wives tale" or family tradition which deals with nature? If so share it with The Saint Francis Herald so we can list them for others to enjoy. Drop them off at the office on Washington Street, mail to P.O. Box 1050 or call me at (785) 332-3162.

## Occasion

Birthday club luncheon

Attending the July birthday club luncheon on Thursday, July 17 at Park Hill Restaurant were Deloris Knorr, DeEtta Knorr, Sharon Penton, Reva Pownell, Rosemary Bierig, Dolores Kincheloe, Lois Leydig and Arlene Walz.

# BAXTER BLACK

COWBOY HUMORIST

APPEARING LIVE

**Baxter Black**  
 Cowboy Poet and Entertainer will be performing at the Cheyenne County Fair Thursday, August 7 7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Grandstand St. Francis

Free Tumbleweed Round-up Free

2nd annual

Cowboy - Cowgirl Poets & Musicians And Just Plain Story Tellers

Wednesday Aug. 6, 2003

At 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. & 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

At the Cheyenne Theater St. Francis, Kansas

Supporting Businesses

Grace Flying Service  
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Shay Realty  
Frewen Insurance  
Yost Ford - Mercury  
Ross Manufacturing  
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K.M. Clothier  
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Carousel Cleaners -pick up at-

Cheyenne Co. Hospital  
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Video Connection  
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The Windmill Restaurant  
Goodell Greenhouse  
St. Francis Equity  
Keller Auto Supply  
Schultz's  
Van Allen Inc.  
Homesteader Motel  
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Country Pantry & Embroidery

Who will be the #3 Bonzi Bob Crowd Pleaser Award go to in 2003?

Last year's winner was Darren Workman!

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8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: Men's walk-ins

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For appointments or information call (785) 734-2335 or Home (785) 734-2405 Sherry Beeson Cosmetologist

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Watch for Open House at Later Date