



No audience for budget hearing

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis school budget hearing was held during the regular meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education on Thursday, Aug. 14, in the meeting room at the high school. There was no audience to oppose the budget which was printed in the July 31 issue of The Saint Francis Herald.

The school budget for 2003-2004 calls for \$698,687 to be levied in local tax dollars. The rest of the school's operating money, 75 percent, comes from state and federal funds.

Bids sought for Excursion

Superintendent Carl Werner reported that Jeff Raile of Yost Ford-Mercury had told

him that there is now a "state bid" available for Ford Excursions which could save the school \$1,500 to \$2,000. Last year, the board purchased a Ford Excursion and liked it better than the suburbans. Ford has announced that this will be the last year that the Excursion will be made.

Superintendent Werner told the board

that if they were interested in purchasing another Excursion, this would be the time to request bids. If bids were requested now, they could be back before the next board meeting. He named five Ford dealers in the area and recommended that bids be sent to them, specifying that the board was interested in Excursion bids only.

The board agreed to having the bids sent out.

Activity-trip bus pay

At the end of the school year, teachers and staff were given bonuses in place of raises but there was nothing done about raising the pay for activity-trip drivers. Superintendent

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Doctor doing better

There have been several rumors and many questions regarding Dr. Mary Beth Miller's health recently.

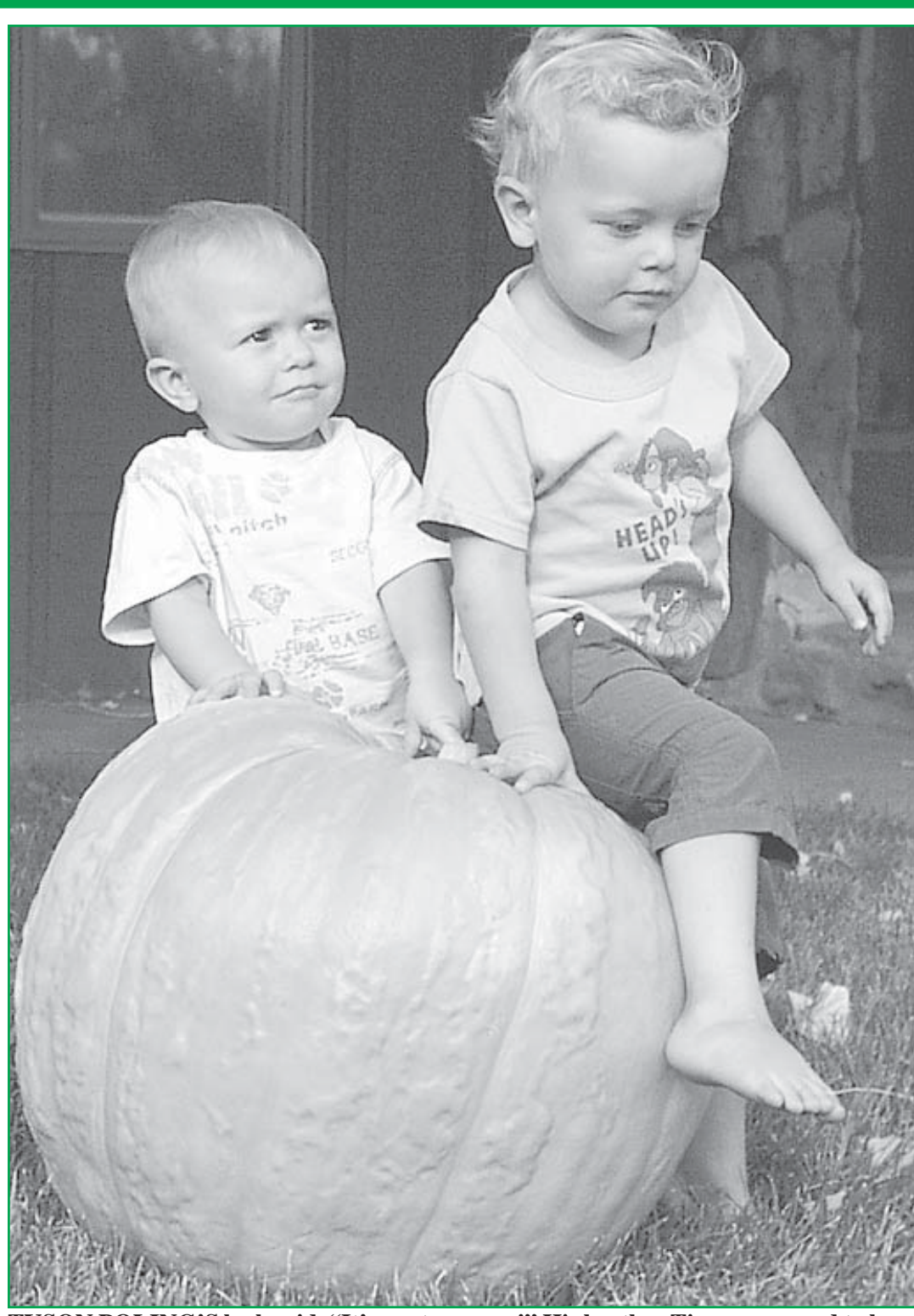
These are the facts said Les Lacy, hospital administrator, who noted that this information is with Dr. Miller's permission.

Dr. Miller has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer for the past few months. She had her last scheduled treatment in early August. All signs indicate that treatment has been successful. Even so, the treatment itself is a real challenge to the body, as anyone who has had chemotherapy will report.

Dr. Miller was admitted to the Cheyenne County Hospital on Monday, Aug 11, for treatment of a complication of her chemotherapy. This complication had resolved and Dr. Miller was discharged to home by Thursday, Aug 14. However, on the afternoon of the next day, Dr. Miller was flown out to Swedish Medical Center in Denver when it was determined that small blood clots from her indwelling IV catheter were causing problems.

As of Monday morning, Dr. Miller is cheerful on the phone and looking forward to getting back to work, reporting no residual effects.

Dr. Miller will return to work on a limited schedule as soon as she receives clearance to do so from her oncologist. She will return to her normal schedule as she recovers her strength through the coming month.



TYSON POLING'S look said, "It's my turn now!" His brother Tiernan seemed to have better luck at sitting on top of the huge pumpkin that came from their garden. Tyson and Tiernan are the son of Brett and Cynthia Poling.

Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston.

Cancer walk scheduled for Saturday at 7

Sawhill Park will be the site of the fourth annual Relay for Life on Saturday night. Former and current cancer patients, their families, businesses, civic organizations and the public are urged to take a part in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life set for 7 p.m. on Saturday to 7 a.m. on Sunday morning.

The Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's version of an athletic relay to raise money for the fight against cancer.

The public is urged to bring a lawn chair and come join the activities surrounding the Relay. Check the list of activities with this article. If pitching a tent, the stakes should not be longer than 6 inches.

The Chamber of Commerce will be cooking hamburgers and serving chips beginning at 7 p.m. and proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The Shrine Candy Wagon will be available to sell bottled water, pop and popcorn with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society. Both the Candy Wagon and Chamber's booth will be set up at the west edge of Sawhill Park and the Shrine pavilion in the city park.

As of Monday, there had been no volunteers for the "Locks of Love" ceremony where people with 10 or more inches of healthy hair have it cut and donate it for cancer-survivor wigs. Last year, there were 10 people having their hair cut for "Locks of Love."

During the evening, there will be a variety of events and performances by local talent in the band shell at the park. The public is wel-

Schedule

- 6 p.m. Registration of survivors
Gather at the
Lions Picnic Shelter
- 7 p.m. Opening ceremony and
National Anthem
Survivors walk first lap
- 7 p.m. Music
- 8 p.m. "Locks of Love"
- 9 p.m. Luminary ceremony
followed by lap by
family member in honor
of a loved one lost to cancer
Music
- 7 a.m. Interdenominational
church service

come to come enjoy these events.

The highlight of the evening will be the impressive luminaria service which will start at 9 p.m. A list of honorees and memorials for each luminaria will be read. The luminarias will be lit along the sidewalks of Sawhill Park and left burning as the Relay continues to remind all donors of the incredible importance of their donations.

Everyone is urged to come on down and walk in the relay, just call Paige Gardner at 785-332-3506 to enter.

"You don't have to be on a team but we can put you on a team," she said.

Teams and participants are to look for the tent at the start-finish line at Denison Street (between the parks) to register and for more information.

Survivors should call Kathy Weber and they can get a survivor T-shirt and walk at 7 p.m.

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More surveys need to be returned to the clerk's office

By Karen Krien

Many Cheyenne County residents received a letter accompanied by a survey in their mailboxes two weeks ago and the surveys were to be returned by Aug. 11.

However, many were not returned. It's not too late!! Fill them out — it only takes a minute — and send them to the clerk's office or drop them off. There will be a second mailing coming toward the end

of the week.

"It is just so important to have the survey forms returned," said Terry Miller, county clerk. "If we can qualify, we will have money to relocate the county health office to the basement of the clinic in St. Francis."

The surveys sent the second time are identical to the first surveys. Some people have scratched out the code number in the left hand corner

and it is important that the number not be removed because the state will not accept the survey.

Others have neglected to finish filling out the estimated "net" income. Only an "X" is required on either side of the correct family number income.

The instructions are included and easy to follow. People are not asked to tell their exact income, only an estimate.

"It is important that people understand that the survey information is kept strictly confidential," Clerk Miller said.

In order to prove that the county is eligible to receive the grants, the residents must show that the county is in a low to moderately low income level and at least 80 percent of the surveys need to be returned to the county clerk's office as soon as possible.

Two years ago, the city of St. Francis conducted the same survey and received a grant for the city's sewer system. The figures collected for that survey are still good for this grant application, however, to apply for grants for the health department and fire and emergency medical service training room, the figures needed to be collected county-wide. Surveys were sent to residents living in the county but outside the city

limits, to residents in Bird City and to those residents in St. Francis who failed to respond to the survey taken two years ago.

These grants are given for improvement projects and federal money is used. It should be noted that if Cheyenne County does not receive the grant money, someone else will.

St. Francis fire trucks
See SURVEY on Page 7

School numbers are down

By Karen Krien

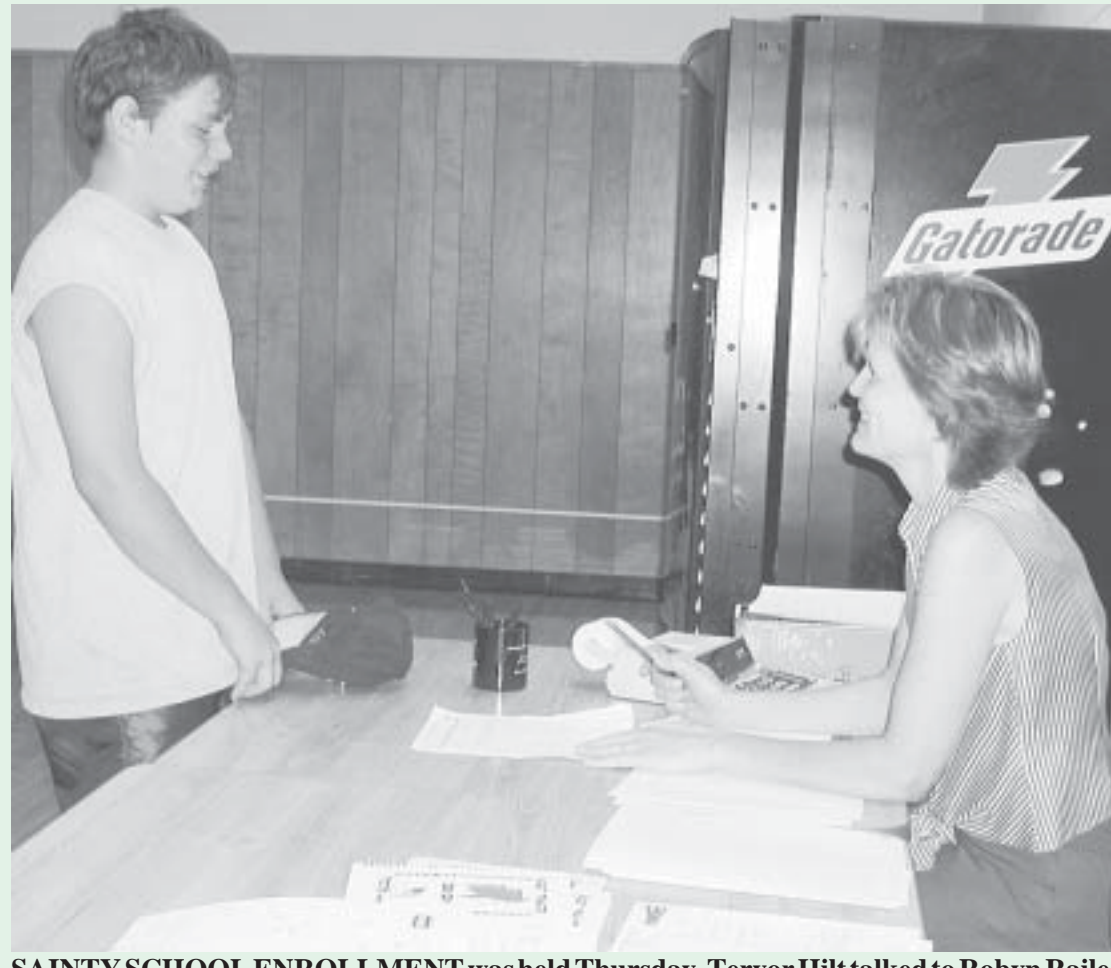
St. Francis school students enrolled Thursday for the new school year, and while all students have not yet enrolled, it appears that enrollment is down this year.

"Enrollment is down below 400 students -- the first time since the unification in 1964," said Carl Werner, superintendent.

As of Monday, the enrollment at the schools, kindergarten through 12th grade, showed 372 students.

Last year, the official enrollment count was 405 students which was more than Superintendent Werner had expected however, he is wondering if there will be 30 students turn up before the official enrollment.

The official enrollment will be taken Sept. 20.



SAINTY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT was held Thursday. Tervor Hilt talked to Robyn Raile, office secretary, about his first year in junior high.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Extension agent resigns ag post

By Karen Krien

Dale Weeks, representing the county Extension Council, met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Friday where he announced that the ag agent, Casey Johnson had resigned. The commissioners discussed whether it was necessary to have an agent or not and what the other alternatives were. In the end, they agreed to table the matter until more information on the county extension council expenses could be brought to them. A special meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday to talk further about a county agent.

The county appropriated \$72,520 to the Extension Council last year and plans were indefinite as to what the council would receive this year. Kansas State University pays all but \$16,000 of each agent's salaries and, as Tim Raile, commissioner, pointed out, the \$16,000 which the county pays is less expensive than hiring a coordinator (instead of an agent).

Ron Krien, commissioner, thought it was important to keep an

active 4-H program in the county. Mr. Weeks pointed out that the agent is supposed to spend 30 percent of his/her time working with 4-H and reports from the agent is that this percent of time had been spent with that program but he also noted that in years past, there had been two agents and, together, they had spent twice that time or 60 percent.

If the commissioners approve that the Extension Council seek another agent, they felt like it should be an ag agent and it will take at least three months plus training (if needed) before the county could have an agent in place.

Bird City law enforcement agreement

Kevin Berens, county attorney, and the commissioners discussed the Bird City City Council's proposal to work with the county sheriff to provide law enforcement coverage for the city. The commissioners felt that it was important that the items that the city is giving the county were itemized. Attorney

See RESIGNS on Page 7

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 Berens will meet with Leslie Beims, attorney for Bird City, and will then draw up the agreement, noting that the city will pay the county \$25,000 for a year's coverage and the county will provide coverage and benefits to a law officer that is agreeable to both the city of Bird City and the sheriff.

Attorney Berens said that the law officer would need to continue using a Bird City ticket book which issuing tickets as the city wanted to keep its court and city ordinances.

In other business

- In other business:
 - J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis City Supervisor, will be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the purchase of two radios for the dispatch office.
 - Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, and Dolores Jenik, treasurer, were given permission to attend meetings.
 - The commissioners agreed to pay 10 hours overtime for the undersheriff.
 - A highway permit allowing Murfin Oil to cross a country road was signed.
 - The city of Bird City had requested \$3,860 of the Special Parks Funds to trim and cut down trees. Discussion followed as two of the com-

missioners thought that the special funds should be used to improve the park with equipment or something similar... that trimming and cutting down trees was maintenance work and should be done by the city crew. The request was voted down.

• The commissioners were urged to attend a Northwest Kansas Sub-Regional Summit where those present would discuss agriculture, tourism, service business and production business. The summit is being formed at the request of Gov. Sebelius. Commissioner Jane Brubaker agreed to represent Cheyenne County by attending the meeting.

• Attorney Berens had researched the subject of a line item budget and how these items can be controlled by the commissioners. The matter will be discussed at another meeting.

• Executive sessions were called by both Terry Miller, county clerk, and Dale Weeks, representing the Extension Council. The only comment to come out of the meetings was that the county agent had resigned.

• The commissioners agreed that when one of the fire trucks had a breakdown, it should be fixed by the county road and bridge mechanics, rather than take it to one of the mechanics in the county. This would keep the costs down.

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1
 The fire trucks used in the county are also needing to be replaced and the commissioners can apply for grants for these. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, uses Community Block Grants for bridge building.

The fire trucks and possibly the bridge building will be applied for next year.

"We weren't really prepared to purchase fire trucks this year," said Gary Rogers, emergency manager and member of the St. Francis Fire Department.

He reported that most of the rural fires are on Conservation Reserve Program land which is land that is not farmed and tractors have trouble getting over it, to say nothing about fire trucks.

The rural fire trucks are around 20 years old and the older they are, the more maintenance work they need. The oldest truck recently needed to have brakes installed.

"We hadn't looked at prices before because the money wasn't there but if we can get a Community Block

Grant, we could get the trucks we need."

Manager Rogers estimated that the new trucks would cost between \$50,000 and \$80,000, depending upon the size of truck purchased.

Bird City

Dave Hickert, mayor of Bird City and city fire chief, reported that the training room was planned when the Walt Eggers Emergency Building was built 13 years ago but there just hasn't been the funding available to finish it. When the project is complete, it will have a meeting room, sink for cleanup, small kitchen area as well as laundry facility for emergency medical technicians and firemen for cleaning up gear and equipment. The training room already has a rest room, office, carpet and a heating and cooling system which were installed with money used from community fund raisers.

Questions - call clerk's office

Anyone having questions about the survey form or needing some help can call the clerk's office at 785-332-8800.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1
 Werner recommended that the pay of \$6.80 per hour for drivers be raised to \$6.90 per hour. Teachers driving were paid \$1.68 per mile and it was recommended this raise to \$1.7 per mile. The cost of a meal would raise from \$8.40 to \$8.50.

Last year, the total paid to activity-trip bus drivers added up to \$5,350 and teachers driving the buses had a total pay of \$1,169.

Gene Dodd, board president, asked what the other schools in the area were paying their activity-trip drivers. The superintendent said he would look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

The board members seemed to agree that it wasn't much payment for the responsibility and time spent in-between times of arriving at a game and waiting to take the teams back home.

Bus routes

Last year, the school started the school year with seven bus routes and ended up with only six. This year, school is starting with six bus routes but Superintendent Werner said that the number could drop to five routes.

Each route was looked at and the board reported on residences which could have children riding and others where the families had moved.

The school year will also probably start with one noon kindergarten bus route. The superintendent said that Pat Confer had resigned from driving the noon route and it was uncertain what arrangements would be made.

1,116-hour school year

The board approved the school to use the 1,116-hour school year. Each year, the board must let the Kansas State Department of Education know if the school will be using the 1,116-hour or 186-day school year.

Superintendent Carl Werner said that the 1,116-hour school year allows more flexibility for snow days if needed. However, he stressed that the administration makes every reasonable effort to attend the total number of days that are scheduled.

In other business

- In other business:
 - The board accepted the resignation of Lea Keller who will be resigning from her afternoon employment with the school. However, she planned to continue working with the district's Advanced Learning Pro-

gram. Superintendent Werner said the position would be filled from within the staff.

• The board was invited to attend the PTA-sponsored Teacher Appreciation Night scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the elementary school. This year, there will be no hamburger fry but there will be pizza which will be provided by the school and the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce will give out ice cream bars. Board President Dodd will give the "Address on the state of the schools."

WALK

Continued from Page 1

For information about buying a luminaria memorial for a loved one who lost their fight to cancer, or in honor of a survivor, call Sherry Schultz at 785-332-2860. For other questions, call Mrs. Gardner, chairperson, at 785-332-3506.

"This fourth annual cancer Relay for Life promises to be an awesome community event — don't miss it," said Mrs. Gardner.

"Remember, we must not lose track of the real reason that we are doing this and that it to raise funds for the fight against cancer!

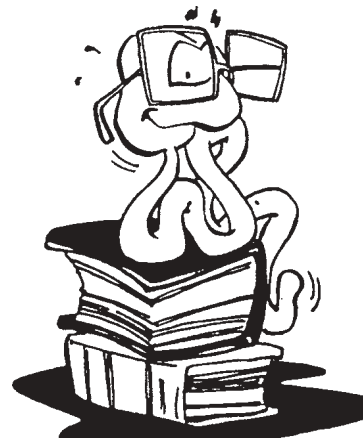
Everyone is urged to find a team member today and buy some luminarias.

"That is how we can be most effective (in the fight for cancer)," she concluded.

There are many major sponsors for this event and the generosity of these sponsors allows all donations to go directly to the American Cancer Society. They are: First National Bank, Grace Flying Service, Bankwest of Kansas, Diamond R Bar and Grill, Lawn Ridge 4-H Club, The Windmill Restaurant, Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus, James M. Milliken Chartered, Ross Manufacturing, Captain Hook's Fine Dining, St. Francis Equity, Pizza Hut, Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, Lampe Hardware, Neitzel Insurance, Dr. Tim Poling, Dr. Melvin Dunn, Kite and Day, B & R Bierocks, Saintry Super Foods, Weber Barbershop, Krien Pharmacy, Pleasant Hill 4-H Club and Jensen Construction.

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