

Commissioner looks at illegal transportation

The Kansas Corporation Commission has had investigators in northwest Kansas checking into complaints that farmers are hauling for hire which is against the law unless they have the proper licensed trucks.

Mike Hoeme, transportation director for the Kansas Corporation Commission, said the Commission has seven investigators following up on complaints from commercial carriers because they cannot compete with these farmers using their trucks to haul for hire — that it is unfair.

And, Director Hoeme says that it is against the law and farmers as well as the business hiring the farmer can be fined up to \$5,000 per load.

Commercial truckers are required to purchase the correct tags which cost approximately \$1,900. Commercial truck insurance runs around \$450 per month because they are required to carry cargo and liability insurance. Then, per-

mits to run in other states are around \$1,000. With these expenses added to the cost of the truck, gas and maintenance, the commercial truck owner has to average his charges to come out even.

However, the farmer can run his semi truck on a farm tag which costs about \$600 a year and insurance, because it is to be used only in the farm's operation, is \$600 to \$700 a year. Also, most farmers can write their farm truck off as an operation depreciation.

With less expenses, the farmer can haul for hire at a considerably lower price per load, thus cutting out the commercial trucker.

Semi-tractor trailers with farm tags are exempt from the safety inspections required of commercial haulers. Also farmers are not required to take drug and alcohol tests, don't need driving-hour requirements, medical qualifications and only a minimum equipment standards.

Director Moeme reports that letters have been sent to feedlots and farm cooperatives detailing state law on hauling for hire.

An article in The Salina Journal reported that Steve Baccus, a Minneapolis farmer and president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, said the law often is not understood.

"With the advent of larger trucks owned by individual farmers, we're probably seeing more of this problem," he said. "But a lot of it probably comes from misunderstanding what the law is."

However, if caught, their lack of knowledge may not be enough to keep them from getting a fine.

The state's trucking lobby has warned that if the problem is not addressed, farmers could lose their special exemption.

It is hard to nab an illegal carrier but the investigators are looking and the Kansas Corporation Commission will most likely be handing out fines in the near future.

Holidays will bring first Christmas parade of lights

By Karen Krien

The Thanksgiving holiday is just four weeks away and with the first day of November, individuals, organizations and businesses should be thinking of what they are doing for their first Parade of Lights entry.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Parade of Lights will be part of the St. Francis Christmas Opening always held the Friday after Thanksgiving. The Christmas lights on Main Street are turned on, stores are always open a little later, it is the first night for the Treasure Hunt and Santa is in town to visit with youngsters.

But, the highlight of this year's Christmas Opening will be the Parade of Lights. If all of the arrangements can be made, Washington Street will have only the twinkling lights on the trees and those overhead. Just the setting for a Christmas parade.

There is no theme, just Christ-

mas. Entries can be floats, four-wheelers, horse and buggies, hayracks, walking individuals — the ideas for entries are limitless. Santa will mark the end of the parade and he will hop off to meet kids at Santa's Hut, located at the KN Energy building.

Unlike the Fair Parade, there will not be the need for a fancy float with lots of paper.... Just pick a theme for the float or entry, add lights, maybe some music and plan to have fun. (Lights are generally run by a generator and some are battery operated.)

"This is the first Parade of Lights and we are hoping that many businesses, organizations and individuals will help get this parade off to a good start," said Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary.

There will be families meeting at home for the Thanksgiving holiday. These families might like to take a few hours to come up with their own entry.

"We just want everyone to have fun," the secretary said.

Anyone having questions should contact Secretary Bracelin at 785-332-2961 or one of the committee members. These members include: Dawn Lucas, Dara Carmichael, Kim Ritter, A.J. Marin, Betty Jean Winston, Paul Rainbolt, Rick Reeser, Shawna Blanka and Karen Krien.



Collection site established

By Karen Krien

St. Francis city crew have established a "collection" site where residents can bring grass clippings, yard and garden waste and leaves.

The site will be located just south of the city's recycling center south of the museum. People should turn on the road east of the museum and follow it south a short distance where they will first come to the recycling center

and the collection site is just a short distance to the south.

"We have posted markers where the new collection site is so people will know exactly where to place their items which could be used as a compost," said J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent.

The superintendent cautioned that the city council has not decided how the collection items will be used, however, it will give

residents a place to take these items since the county landfill is no longer able to take them.

The superintendent said that the collection site will NOT take tree limbs nor trash.

"The landfill is still accepting these items and we are not prepared for them," Superintendent Landenberger said.

Anyone having questions should contact the power plant at 785-332-3031.

OPEN HOUSE
 Sat., Nov. 8
 9:30-11:30 a.m.
 Drop in for coffee to meet
Barbara J. Parker
 Stress & Pain Management, Weight Loss (choose your plan) & her friends ...
Susan Jensen with Premier Designs/jewelry & **Sharna Richardson** with Colesce Couture/lingerie
 114 E. Washington Street
 St. Francis, KS
 785-332-2887

The Stamps
 You Can't Wait to Get Your Hands On.
 • PRE-INKED (NO STAMP PAD NEEDED)
 • CLEANER, EASIER TO USE
 • 50,000 IMPRESSIONS BEFORE RE-INKING
 • DOZENS OF MODELS
 • Endorsement Stamps • Adress Stamps
 • Rotary Daters • Inspection Stamps
 • Jumbo Stamps • Motivational Stamps
 • Notary Stamps
The Saint Francis Herald
 310 W. Washington • St. Francis, Kan. 67756 • 785-332-3162
 sfherald@nwkansas.com



D.K. MOLAR - The Devious Dentist will premier at the Cheyenne County Theater this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shown here are two of the performers: Ashley Dogwillo and Connie Jenkins.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Halloween Tips

Choose Healthy Alternatives to Halloween Sweets

Trick-or-treat, but not so sweet, eh? There isn't any reason why pleasing Halloween treats need be high in sugar, calories or fat, said Karen Blakeslee, Kansas State University Research and Extension rapid response coordinator.

As such, she spends her days answering food and food safety questions. When asked about alternative treats, here's what she had to say: Fresh fruit, a small box of raisins, snack-size package of crackers with cheese or peanut butter, envelope of

hot chocolate mix or microwave popcorn can serve as alternatives to treats that may be higher in calories and fat.

If interested in skipping food all together, stickers, crayons, sidewalk chalk; or holiday decorations such as a rubber spider are apt to please trick or treaters, Blakeslee said.

For more information on nutrition and health, contact the local K-State Research and Extension office or visit the Extension website: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>.

Come Enjoy A
Pleasant Hill 4-H Club BIEROCK
 at the 8th Annual Craft Show
Sat., Nov. 1
 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Proceeds go to the Senior Center

The St. Francis PTA would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the PTA "Old Fashion" Carnival a big success!

High School Students for running the game booths
 St. Francis School Officials
 St. Francis Grade School Teachers and Staff Members, Johnnie Miller
 The Cheyenne County Shriners for the Concession Stand Proceeds - Shawn Blanka and Mickey Graves for running the concessions
 St. Francis Firemen for the Train Rides
 Yost Farm Supply for the use of the tractor for the hayrides
 Cheyenne County Amusement Authority for the use of the game booths
 Bill Ehrman for helping us with the game booths
 Andy & Mary Beikman - carnival committee members
 Shane & Christy Wurm - carnival committee members
 Greg & JaNan Cooper - carnival committee members
 Martin & Charlotte Hill - carnival committee members
 Matt Bandel - carnival committee member
 Chris Bracelin - carnival committee member
 Ed Marin - carnival committee member
 Greg & Susie Walz - carnival committee members
 St. Francis Sheriff's Department - Under sheriff Flock for helping with the jail
 St. Francis Police Department - Tom Raile for helping with the jail
 Lampe Hardware for the duck pond tank
 St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce for the Sponge Toss game
 Tom Keller, Janet Jensen & Carla Lampe for taking tickets
 Matt Smull for driving the hayrides
 Shannon Grover for driving the train rides
 Stevens' Kans. Territorial Store - donation of prizes

Thank you to the students, parents, grandparents and community members who attended the carnival and brought canned goods for the food pantry. And to anyone else we might of unintentionally left off of this list. Thank you!

Yours truly, St. Francis PTA Officers —
 Kathy Rainbolt, President; Mary Nicklos, Vice President; Jill Bracelin, Secretary; Mila Bandel, Treasurer; Anita Marin, Public Relations; Shawna Blanka, Membership; Lea Keller, State Rep.; Becky McAtee, Teacher Rep.

Cafe is closing doors

By Casey McCormick

Bird City has said farewell to a local business and popular gathering spot. The Blue Bird Cafe recently shut its doors.

"Closing the Blue Bird Cafe has been one of the hardest things I've had to do," said owner-operator Peggy Horinek. "The five years of running it has had a lot of fun, sweat and tears."

Mrs. Horinek has had her share of tough times lately. The former editor of the *Bird City Times* had to leave that post last year to put all of her efforts into the care of her husband Dennis, who was suffering from cancer, and keeping the Blue Bird Cafe performing at its high standard.

Mr. Horinek passed away. Mrs. Horinek's plans were to keep her business going despite her loss. Unfortunately the loan that she and Mr. Horinek signed five years ago came due and she was unable to qualify for a new loan.

"With the restaurant being my only income and left with huge medical bills and other expenses, closing the restaurant is my only choice," Mrs. Horinek said.

The Blue Bird Cafe was a favorite of locals for both good food and a place to sit and visit. The oval counter in the center of the main entrance room was where the local farmers and men folk would meet to discuss the weather and crops over a cup of coffee and fresh popped pop corn while the ladies chatted at the outer tables. In the larger dining room to the east, families and friends joined after Sunday services for a delicious meal.

"You miss the restaurant and I miss all of you. You were my wonderful customers and also my friends," Mrs. Horinek said.

She has no intention of leaving this area which she loves. Mrs. Horinek has taken employment at the Dairy King and Cheyenne Bowl in St. Francis and hopes to see many of her customers there.

She still owns the restaurant building and hopefully the cafe will open again soon under new ownership.

'No Hunting' signs available

at the
St. Francis Herald
 310 W. Washington
 785-332-3162
 St. Francis

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
 Stop by for Coffee & Cookies
Saturday, Nov. 1
 Register for 1 of 4 - \$50 Gift Certificates!
 Featuring **Fresh Frozen Steaks & Roast \$1.00/lb. OFF Price**
 The Ideal way to Grill...
Ideal Meat Market
 413 E. Washington • St. Francis • 785-332-2236
 Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.