

Commissioners approve letter to Administration

By Karen Krien

At the Friday Cheyenne County Commissioners meeting, the county attorney read a letter he had compiled in behalf of the commissioners about the Clerk of The District Court's computer. The letter was approved.

Before the first of the year, the commissioners were informed that they were mandated to purchase a certain computer for the Clerk of the District Court's office. The commissioners had not budgeted for the computer system which cost \$13,000. The county attorney had donated the money to pay for most of the computer with money from the Diversion Fund. But, then a bill for \$3,800 from Infinitec, an internet company which the clerk of the court's computer is connected, had come across the commissioners' table. In the mandate paperwork, it indicated that the Office of Judicial Administration would take care of the maintenance and upkeep of the mandated computer system.

Kevin Berens, county attorney, had written a letter to the Office of

Judicial Administration stating that the commissioners didn't feel it was their obligation to pay for the maintenance and upkeep and the commissioners approved of the wording in the letter. Attorney Berens also informed the commissioners that Judge Jack Burr, Chief Judge, was not happy with the commissioners action and would be sending the commissioners a letter. He also said there could be a court suit which would demand the commissioners to pay the \$3,800.

Attorney Berens had looked into the Harvest Energy Company which owed \$42,000 in back taxes. He could never find where the company had been incorporated and there was not a current address. The present owner has kept the taxes current. Attorney Berens said the back taxes could be taken off the books after a 20-year time frame. No action was taken.

The commissioners also gave Attorney Berens the authority to collect the money owed by a person who had taken the emergency medical technician classes but had not

fulfilled their obligation.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and the commissioners discussed the equipment in the department. It was noted that some of the graders have over 10,000 hours usage and the commissioners felt that it might be time to start replacing them. No decisions were made at this meeting.

Supervisor Flemming presented the commissioners with the "Authority to Award" contract commitment of county funds in the amount of \$30,175. This is for the Wiley bridge work southwest of St. Francis.

The commissioners decided it was time to take a road trip around the county to discuss the upcoming projects and the various conditions of roads and bridges in the county. The trip will start at 10:30 a.m. after the next commissioners' meeting.

In other business

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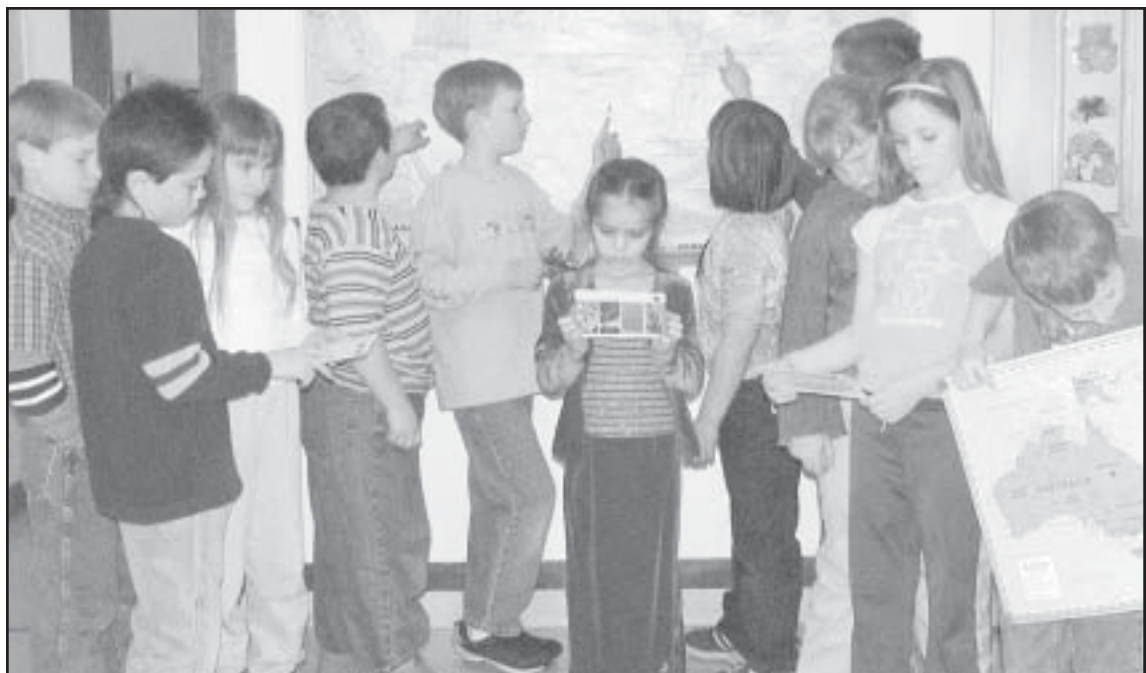
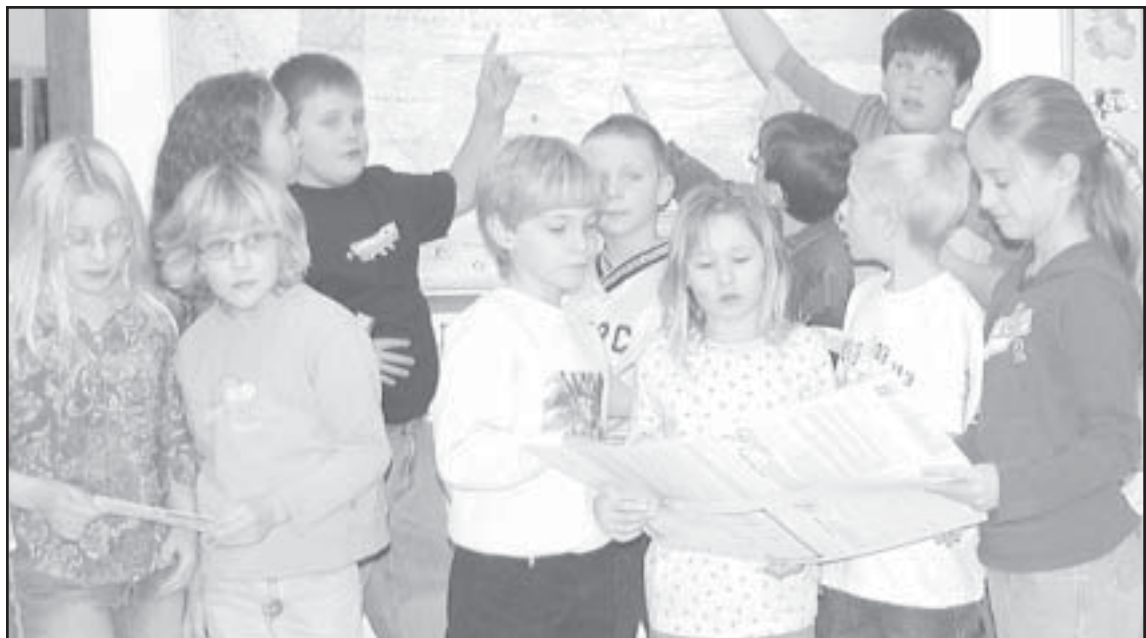
- Dan O'Brien, regional director, Tye Faulkender and Roger Stockton, Northwest Area Crops Specialist, introduced Mr. Faulkender as the new county extension director. Mr. Faulkender explained some of the goals as director. Mr. Stockton told about the no-till wheat plots which he has planted along with other projects he has planned.

- Roxie Neitzel, Neitzel Insurance, and Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance, discussed the county's insurance coverage. One of the concerns was the insurance coverage of the county's Historical Society's church. The board decided that the Historical Society needed to decide on what coverage, if any, they wanted to carry on the church as the payment comes from the Historical Society's budget. There was also discussion on self-insuring but this matter was tabled until a future meeting.

- The public hearing for closing a mile of road south of St. Francis was held with no one present. The commissioners approved the resolution to close the road.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.



THIRD GRADE STUDENTS check out maps. Top photo: (l to r) Krissy Harris, Aubrey Mills, Clarice Neitzel, Lucas Carmichael, Dalton Davenport, Thomas Douthit, Mercedes Ritchey, Nate Clark, Billy Lee, Casey Keller and Katie Lambert. Bottom photo: (l to r) Josh Teeters, Keegan Sherlock, Sarah Whitmore, Tony Meyer, Dillion Straub, Ally Northrup, Chloe Miller, Jandy Dunn, Zach Gienger, Laura Brunk and Foster Grant.

Victims served better

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter, Inc., is announcing that starting in March they will be extending Domestic Violence Support Groups to better serve victims of domestic violence in the 18 counties of northwest Kansas. The groups are offered at no cost to all participants and cover issues relating to all aspects of domestic violence situations.

Domestic Violence Support Groups available March 2 will include:

- Two Women's Domestic Violence/Survivors Support Groups: one on Tuesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. and the second on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. Contact Northwest Kansas Family Shelter staff at 800-794-4624 or (785) 625-3055 for locations and childcare information.

- Men's Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors Support Group which will meet on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. Contact Northwest Kansas Family Shelter staff at 800-794-4624 or (785) 625-3055 for location.

- Youth Support Group - contact Donna Munsch, Northwest Kansas Family Shelter Youth Services coordinator at 800-794-4624 or (785) 625-3055 for time and locations.

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter has offered services to victims/survivors of domestic violence in northwest Kansas for 20 years. These include, but are not limited to:

- 24-hour toll free crisis line, emergency shelter and crisis intervention, adult and youth services, community referral services, non-judgmental supportive domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, legal and personal advocacy, and community education presentations of domestic violence and sexual assault issued.

Acute awareness of how violence affects lives in northwest Kansas has been brought to light by recent events. No one deserves to live in abusive environments. If you are in an abusive situation or know someone who is, please call Northwest Kansas Family Service's toll-free crisis line (800-794-4624) for services today.

Third graders write letters

The St. Francis third graders have been writing letters and studying the maps as part of a social studies/English project.

They began by reading the book "Flat Stanley" which tells about a boy who wants to travel and see his friends but his family doesn't have the money. Then, one day, the bulletin board at school falls on him and flattens him out.

His parents put him in an envelope and sends him to many places.

The third grade students of Cindy Wiley and Kathy Rainbolt started the project by filling out a passport. They each had a drawing of a flat cutout which they colored to depict themselves and each was named "Flat _____" (the name of the student).

Letters were written and sent across the nation and world.

"We are now looking forward to the mail coming," Mrs. Wiley said. They are receiving postcards

from Australia, Iraq, Guam along with the United States and Canada.

This is the first year for the Flat Stanley project. Mrs. Wiley sent a Flat Stanley letter earlier and she wrote for permission to use the project in the third grade class.

"The Flat Stanley project helps children learn more about the world plus it has helped with their letter writing skills," she said, adding that the students are having fun while they are doing it.



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