



Teachers' resignations are accepted

By Karen Krien

Resignations from two teachers were accepted and another teacher's duties were re-assigned when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Thursday.

Colleen Gardner and Marti Schlittenhardt had submitted letters of resignation which stated that their retirement would be effective July 1 and, both would be applying for Kansas Public Employee Retirement. Mrs. Gardner has taught in the St. Francis schools for 27 years and Mrs. Schlittenhardt has taught for 35 years.

Alice Kinen had agreed to be re-assigned from her Home Economics class which is basically half-time, to the food service manager position and the board approved the re-assignment. The food service position is also a half-time position and will be vacated by Bonnie Hill at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Kinen will continue her present work as the activities assistant for the other half of her contract and her overall salary will remain unchanged. Superintendent Carl Werner pointed out that the school will be saving a half-time salary as part of the staff reduction move but they were also cutting a department. The board took preliminary action to discontinue Home Economic classes but there was discussion about, if Home Economics

was included in an eighth grade block class, who would teach the class. This matter will be discussed at a later meeting when other re-assignments are made. Superintendent Werner reported that he had received letters from two "non-retirements" but the letters were addressed to him and did not require any action so he had not shared their contents at the meeting. However, he said that any of the board members

were welcome to read them. At the end of the meeting, the board went into closed session for an hour and no decisions were made when they returned.

In other business
• Elementary principal Larry Gabel reported on the upcoming Wrestling Homecoming which is held every five years. It

See RESIGNATIONS on Page 8A

Junk vehicles to be hauled off

By Sandy Barnhart

Junk vehicles collecting on private property or on the streets was on the agenda at the Feb. 10 St. Francis City Council meeting. The council agreed to start action in having the vehicles removed.

At a previous meeting city attorney Mike Day had presented a proposed letter asking the public's help in eliminating the city of junk vehicles. The letter was approved by the council and published in the Jan. 29 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger told the council that there was someone who was willing to take the vehicles from the different properties and dispose of them at no cost to the city or property owners.

The council agreed to establish a

deadline of April 1 to either have the vehicles removed or to contact Superintendent Landenberger with their own arrangements to have the vehicles removed.

Property cleanup

Ed Zuege discussed his property on 610 S. Francis Street concerning the cleanup letters the city has sent to him. Mr. Zuege said he has a verbal agreement to sell the property but needs to contact the other owners of the property for their signatures. The potential buyer was in favor of having the house burned but would like to save the garage. He also noted that the buyer, along with himself, knew there was no guarantee that the garage would not burn, as it was close to the house. The council asked Mr. Zuege

See VEHICLES on Page 8A

Prospective judge names submitted

John G. Kite, one of the five-member judicial screening panel charged with interviewing the candidates which applied for the position of Cheyenne County District Magistrate Judge, reported that the three finalists have been selected.

The names (listed in alphabetical order) of Jolene Dodd, Dale Patton and Robert VanAllen were sent to Governor Kathleen Sebelius, along with the resumes and letters of sup-

port, who will then study the information before announcing the person who will fill the position by March 1.

"We had many well-qualified people applying for the position," Mr. Kite said.

The interviews were held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 9. Following the interviews, the panel went into executive session to make the decision.

The position of Magistrate Judge, See JUDGE on Page 8A



ENTERTAINED— Lane Hobrock, one of the Conservation coloring contest winners, was well entertained with a variety of small toys left on the tables. Lane is the son of Brian and Susan Hobrock, St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Regionals begin Friday

By Betty Jean Winston

The wrestling year is drawing to a close with the two most important events happening this weekend and the weekend of Feb. 27 and 28. The first event, the Regional tournament, will be held on Friday and Saturday in Norton. This is the only opportunity for a wrestler to earn a trip to the 2004 3-2-1A State Tournament. A mat man's record and accomplishments for the year are put aside and everything hinges on matches taking place at Regionals.

Other schools that will be involved in the Norton Regionals are Atwood, Belleville, Beloit, Eastern Heights, Hill City, Hoxie, Kensington, Lincoln, Minneapolis, Norton, Oakley, Oberlin, Osborne, Phillipsburg, Plainville, St. John's Military, Sylvan Grove, Smith Center and Stockton.

Mat men know that they need to do their very best as only four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to state in Hays the following weekend.

"It will be a definite test of our abilities," Coach Larry Gabel said. "That's what it's all about."

Action begins in Norton on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. with many St. Francis fans making the trip down U. S. 36 to view the competition.

"This is the toughest Regionals in the State," Coach Gabel said. "Some See REGIONALS on Page 8A



SUNDAY MORNING was a wonderland of white as the fog lifted. Trees, bushes and, yes, even some of the horses had a frost look.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Newspaper group receives statewide award for section

The Nor'West Newspapers group, including *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, have won the 2004 Burton Marvin Award for News Enterprise from the William Allen White Foundation at the University of Kansas.

The Marvin award is the only statewide news honor given by the foundation and the William Allen White School of Journalism.

The *Herald* and *Times* and its sister papers won for their special edi-

tion, "Rural Schools ... on the Bubble," last spring. The 32-page section, produced by the staff of all six Nor'West papers, examined the condition of school districts across northwest Kansas, including enrollment and budget trends.

It went into the probability of consolidation down the road, and the impact of the last round of school consolidation on Kansas towns.

"This package of stories represents the newspaper group's dedica-

tion to coverage of an issue of overriding public concern, representing a commitment to serve the public and initiative in acting on that commitment," the judge said.

Under the ownership and direction of Steve and Cynthia Haynes, Nor'West includes the *Bird City Times*, *Colby Free Press*, *Goodland Star-News*, *Norton Telegram*, *Oberlin Herald* and *Saint Francis Herald*, ranging in circulation from

See AWARD on Page 8A

Judge awards \$1.3 billion to cattlemen in Pickett Case

The Organization for Competitive Markets praised Tuesday's jury verdict that awarded nearly \$1.3 billion to the class of cattlemen suing Tyson/IBP for using captive supplies to manipulate prices downward.

"This is a great day! Justice has finally been served to cattlemen," said Mike Callicrate, St. Francis feedyard owner and one of the plaintiffs. "This is first step in restoring competitive markets and a fair level of income to all cattle producers and their communities."

"This is the greatest day for cattlemen since the passage of the Packers & Stockyards Act in 1921 and the break up of the big five packers one year earlier," said Fred Stokes, Organization president. "Finally,

'You just don't ordinarily beat these big guys.'

— Swede Calnon

America's cattlemen were able to present their case before an unbiased jury to determine once and for all whether captive supplies manipulate prices. The jury found that Tyson did manipulate prices unfairly with captive supply cattle.

"You just don't ordinarily beat these big guys," said Swede Calnon, father-in-law of Mr. Callicrate. Mr. Calnon had spent the last three weeks at the trial.

The case was filed in 1996 against

IBP. The named plaintiffs are Lee Pickett, Alabama, Mike Callicrate, Kansas, Chris Abbot, Nebraska, Robert Rothwell, Nebraska, Johnny Smith, South Dakota, and Pat Goggins, Montana. They represent a class of approximately 30,000 cattlemen who sold to IBP exclusively on the cash market from 1994 to 2002. IBP was purchased by Tyson in 2002, and thus the case is now entitled Pickett v. Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.

"The plaintiffs experts showed that Tyson depressed prices by an average of 5.1 percent over the 8 year class period," said Michael Stumo, Organization for Competitive Markets general counsel, who assisted plaintiff's counsel throughout the

See \$1.3 BILLION on Page 8A

Grandmother voices concern with county law officer

By Karen Krien

A St. Francis grandmother was at the county commissioners' meeting on Friday to complain about the undersheriff, but basically learned that the board doesn't have much authority over the sheriff's department.

Commissioners told her that, while they appreciated the "heads up" in the situation, the matter was out of their hands — that she should talk to the sheriff, as he hires and fires his people.

Bonnie Jones said her 16-year-old granddaughter had been stopped west of St. Francis on U.S. 36 after 11 p.m. on Jan. 30, and Undersheriff Cliff Flock gave her five subpoenas. Mrs. Jones said she was concerned about the time of the stop on a desolate highway, and the fact that he had the granddaughter get into his patrol car

to deliver the summons.

She said that the granddaughter had been in school all day and had been driving up and down Main Street after school where she could have been easily stopped to be served. She said subpoenas were served on several boys during the day, but Officer Flock had waited until it was dark to serve the girls.

Mrs. Jones said she had talked to the Kansas attorney general's office to see if this way of serving subpoenas was legal. She was told that as long as the officer had his lights flashing and he was in a marked law enforcement vehicle, it was legal.

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring, later said that Officer Flock had delivered over 30 subpoenas that week and would be delivering them again be-

cause court had been postponed. He also said that officers can deliver subpoenas 24 hours a day, but they try not to deliver them at schools or businesses as a courtesy to the people.

However, sometimes, those are the only places an officer can catch them. Undersheriff Flock later said that he had seen the granddaughter drive down Main Street twice while he was in the sheriff's office, on the second floor of the courthouse, and mentioned to the secretary that he needed to serve her with some summons. However, she disappeared shortly after that.

He said he delivered the subpoenas west of St. Francis on U.S. 36 but had his lights flashing and had called into the dispatcher at 11:50 p.m. He said

See CONCERN on Page 8A

Board applies for grant

At Thursday school board meeting, Superintendent Carl Werner told the board that the engineer had found lighting to be the best opportunity to receive an energy-saving grant.

Superintendent Werner was recently informed that there were energy-saving grants available to schools. However, the object of the grant is to be able to prove that the school would be able to pay for the

proposed improvements within 10 years or less. Before applying, a study needed to be made.

At a recent board of education meeting, the board approved to hire Chapek Research and Engineering for \$4,200. The firm has made similar studies showing the proposed improvement would pay for itself in the required time.

An engineer from the research/engineering firm had visited St.

Francis and he, with the superintendent, had studied the different areas in both the junior-senior high and the elementary school building where energy could be saved. The engineer thought that the building most likely to be eligible for a grant would be the elementary building.

In the elementary building, there were three areas which were studied and included replacing windows, boilers or lighting.

Most of the windows in the elementary building have already been replaced with double-glazed windows however, there were four classrooms and the cafeteria which still had single-paned glass. While replacing the windows in those rooms would be considerable energy savings, it really didn't justify for a grant.

The window-replacement improvement in those specified rooms would cost \$20,734 but there would only be a \$965 savings per year and it would take 21.5 years to regain the improvement costs in savings.

The steam boiler in the elementary could save the school some money if it was replaced with high efficiency forced draft-type steam boiler. The boiler is old and inefficient and the engineer thought the it should be replaced but the cost would be \$30,880, would only save the school \$1,756 per year and it would take 17.6 years to recoup the costs of the boiler in savings.

Surprisingly, it was the lighting that would save the school \$5,660 per year. The engineer proposed fluorescent lighting fixtures with high efficiency fluorescent lamps and electronic ballasts in most areas throughout the building, thus making a drastic improvement in the lighting quality throughout the building. The other lighting project evaluated would be to have occupancy sensors installed in certain areas such as the rest rooms, work rooms, copy room and lounge, just to name some. These lights would be turned on when a person entered the room and automatically turned off a short time later.

The cost of the lighting would be \$32,752 with a savings of \$5,660 each year. It would take 5.8 years to pay off the cost of the project with the energy savings and since it was less than 10 years, the engineer felt like this would be the best project in which to apply for the grant.

It was noted that the \$32,752 included the fixtures, wiring and labor costs.

With the study made, the school can now apply for the 50-50 matching grant which would include paying for 50 percent of the study and, if the school receives the grant, the lights will be installed sometime this summer before school begins.



HANGING ROBES—50 robes are now sewn together and were hung in the Christian Church sanctuary by Deb Lindsen. Holding on to Deb is Bonnie Stuart. Helen Burnham hands up more robes. The robes will be delivered to Colorado Christian Home, Tenison House.

REGIONALS

Continued from Page 1A
say it is not fair but we'll just bring our level of competition up."

A pep assembly is being held at the high school on Thursday afternoon to give the team a grand send off. This assembly will take place at 3:25 p.m. The Indian bus will be leaving for Norton at 11 a.m. on Friday morning.

The Friday schedule begins at 2 p.m. and runs as follows:

- 2 p.m. First round followed by championship quarterfinals
- 6:30 p.m. Consolation first round followed by consolation cross bracketing.

On Saturday, activity begins at 11 a.m. with the remaining five rounds scheduled as follows:

- Championship semi-finals, 11.
- Consolation quarterfinals, 1.
- Consolation semi-finals, 3 p.m.
- Consolation finals, 5 p.m.
- Championship finals

All of the Indians have been involved in several duals and tournaments and have had numerous practice sessions since the season began. All of their experiences on the mat were in preparation for this weekend.

"We looking forward to the challenge," Coach Gabel said.

\$1.3 BILLION

Continued from Page 1A
trial. "This means that Tyson received one out of every 20 cattle free due to their manipulation of inventories that allowed them to depress prices."

"Tyson argued that they needed to use captive cattle to procure quality cattle, keep their plants full, and reduce transaction costs," continued Mr. Stumo. "Tyson's experts, including Professor Ted Schroeder of Kansas State, said that beef quality would go down without captive supply. The

jury found that those alleged business justifications were contrived and not true."

"This is an historic day that will be remembered for generations as the beginning of a turnaround for competition in the cattle industry," Mr. Stokes said.

The judge ruled that the \$1.3 billion will be split among 32,000 ranchers and farmers.

The opposition will appeal.

RESIGNATIONS

Continued from Page 1A
was held on Friday.

• Junior-senior high school principal Scott Carmichael told that three schools had declined to join the Northwest Kansas League. (See related article for more information.)

• The information for *The Saint Francis Herald* article concerning the 43 students who had attained the "Standard of Excellence" on the 2003 state assessments was submitted for the board to review.

• The board agreed to sign a three-

year audit contract with Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball to audit the St. Francis Schools. The fees are \$4,169 for this year, \$4,294 for next year and \$4,423 for the following year.

• The board reviewed the energy study prepared by Chapek Research and Engineering which is the first step in applying for an energy grant. The study showed that lighting in the elementary building would save the most money at this point. (See related article for more information.)

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

489 to 2,160. The total news staff for all six papers is just eight, and all eight were involved in the analysis of rural school districts in 12 northwest Kansas counties.

"This award represents a lot of hard work by our staff, from the news department through advertising and the press," said President Steve Haynes. "They should be proud of this recognition by the White Foundation judges."

The Marvin award is named for an early dean of the School of Journalism. It usually goes to a project by a larger newspaper that is considered above and beyond the ordinary run of news coverage, but judges are al-

lowed to split the award if they consider an effort by smaller newspapers to be worthy.

In this case, the judges gave two awards. The other went to *The Wichita Eagle* for a three-year project to reveal crimes by Kansas parolees. The newspaper had to sue to get the information, taking the case to the state Supreme Court under the Open Records Act. It eventually discovered more than two dozen murders by felons supposedly under supervision.

Steve Haynes is a 1970 graduate of the White School of Journalism and Cynthia Haynes is a 1971 KU pharmacy graduate. They have operated Nor'West Newspapers for 10 years, since September 1993.

CONCERN

Continued from Page 1A

he makes it a practice to fill out the paperwork in front of the people receiving the subpoenas and, since it was only 10 degrees that night, had asked her to come to his car while he did the paperwork which, according to the dispatcher's report, took 12 minutes, a normal length of time for a stop.

As far as delivering the boys' summons in the daytime, Officer Flock said one summons had been delivered at the Pizza Hut at supper time, after dark.

Mrs. Jones said she had been to the sheriff's office and the sheriff was not there. Some parents would not come forward, she said, because it could put their jobs in jeopardy. She said she thought that the sheriff would "blow it off" like the county attorney did when she went to talk to him.

County Attorney Kevin Berens was at the commissioners' meeting and said that he had followed up on Mrs. Jones' visit with a call to the dispatcher to check the record, then had visited with the sheriff and undersheriff. He said he told them that his subpoenas were not to be delivered at that time of night.

The commissioners assured Mrs. Jones that they appreciated her concern, but again advised her to talk to the sheriff.

letter to the sheriff and to the attorney general. She said she advised other parents to do the same so Officer Flock "could never get another job in law enforcement."

Sheriff Dankenbring said that, according to the law, Officer Flock has done nothing wrong.

"We (officers) are trying to keep our teens alcohol and drug free and keeping them alive," he said.

Officer Flock said he would be at the next commissioners' meeting with records in hand and will be glad to answer any questions. Mrs. Jones said she would also be there.

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1A
previously filled by Tamara Zimbelman, has been vacant since Jan. 1. Gov. Sebelius had announced to have the position filled in two months. The person selected by the governor will serve the position until Nov. 2 when the election is held. At that time, the judge will again be up for election along with anyone else wanting to run for the position.

Those serving on the selection panel were Lee Amsberry, Bird City, Jerry D. Fairbanks, Goodland, Mr. Kite, James Milliken and Rueben F. Schultz, all of St. Francis.

VEHICLES

Continued from Page 1A

to try, by the second meeting in March, to have the property sold.

Attorney Mike Day noted that after talking to Farrell McAtee concerning the property at 613 W. First Street which is owned by Marvin Miller and Bonnie Coates, that Mr. McAtee was still planning on bring the house down for the fire department to burn. Mr. McAtee also noted there were structures behind the house which contained personnel items and he was trying to find out who they belonged to.

Kan Step grant

At a previous meeting George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had approached the council concerning applying for a grant to expand the fire house. Chief Harper had left the council with a tape and literature pertaining to a grant program called Kan Step grant. The grant program would provide the money for materials while the community would provide the volunteer labor to do the job. The program is offered through the Department of Housing of Commerce and is not a competitive grant.

After viewing the tape and literature, the council discussed some of the issues concerning the program. One main concern was the survey of the community which the grant requires. Although the survey completed when the city obtained the grant for the sewer project would work they suspected the survey may run out before the end of the year.

The other concern was that the program requires the city have 50 to 100 signatures of volunteer help for the project. This volunteer work could be as simple as fixing meals and picking up at the site.

Recycling center

Councilman Roger Jensen updated the council on the progress of the grant that the Five-County Recycling Organization is applying for. He

noted that bids on a fan with motorized lubers plus new signage for the recycling center had been received.

The organization has also been busy putting literature together for educational purposes and press releases. Brochures will be sent to other communities for recruitment into the recycling venture and literature will be sent to each entity involved in the organization on the rules and laws of accepting recycling items.

The council approved for Councilman Jensen to attend a recycling compost conference in March. The cost will be \$69 plus room and mileage.

Superintendent report

Superintendent Landenberger reported:

• That the transformer for the Good Samaritan Village had been ordered at a cost of \$4,280.

• While installing the transformer at the hospital, it was found that the Over Current Resisters (OCRs) had wrong settings. He noted that the problem had been corrected.

• Bob Hankins, John Larson and he recently attended a water school. Mike Meyers, Dan Blair and John Larson attended an electrical school.

• That along with him, Councilman Dale Weeks will be attending a Kansas Rural Water Association conference in Wichita in March.

• That Seargent Well Drilling will send a camera down Well 9 at a cost of \$750. The camera will give a more detailed description of the repairs needed to bring the well up and running. The council approved.

Police report

Troy Gardner was officially appointed, with the consent of the council, as chief of police for the city of St. Francis.

The council approved the bid for the repairs on the 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee police vehicle in the amount of \$949.75 to Brice's Auto-

motive Repair. Yost Ford-Mercury's bid was \$999.

Clerk report

City clerk Mary Lampe reported that the city had received a franchise check from Midwest Energy in the amount of \$5,197.79.

She also noted that, in regards to a letter from the auditor, the auditor explained that when figuring the budget they had estimated the library property valuation lower than what was certified by Terry Miller, county clerk. Therefore it had lowered the library's mill levy to 3.465 which is less than last years. The state librarian will not approve a grant to the library unless the City agrees to give the library some money. The city had \$2,705 extra at the end of 2003, the auditor suggested that the city transfer this amount to the library. The council approved.

Other business

In other business:
• The council approved the amount of \$500 to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter which provides support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

• Councilman Dale Weeks reported that besides a few minor repairs, the fire trucks had been inspected and passed.

• Those appointed to the swimming pool board include: A.J. Marin, Margaret Poling, Bruce Swihart, Kody Krien, Larry Finley, J.R. Landenberger and Kay Shay.

• The council approved to sign a 3-year agreement with Nex-Tech. The outcome of the system would be a 25- to 35-percent savings on the city's telephone bill.

• The council opened one bid for the city's sand conveyer belt. The bid was from St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix in the amount of \$200. The council decided to keep the belt as the city still uses it from time to time.



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