

Sports official honored

By Karen Krien

St. Francis resident and wrestling official, Eldon Zimbelman, was named Section 5 National Federation High School Distinguished Active Official of the Year and was given the award at the Kansas State 4-5-6A Tournament held in Wichita over the weekend.

"I was happy to receive the award," Mr. Zimbelman said.

In the March *Kansas State High School Activities Journal*, it stated that the National Federation Officials Association nominees must exemplify the highest standards of ethical conduct, moral character and carry the endorsement of their respective state high school association and "Zimbelman does just that."

In two weeks, he will be in St. Louis to evaluate officials at the National Collegian Athletic Association Division 1 Wrestling Championships which is an honor. He is considered an area supervisor of Kansas Wrestling Officials and Clinician, and a rules interpreter for the state of Kansas.

Two years ago, he was presented an award for 40 years of dedication and leadership to the betterment of the sport of wrestling in Kansas by the executive director and the Kansas State High School Activities Association and the Hays High School Wrestling Coach. He was introduced by the president of the Kansas Wrestling Officials Association as "the officials' official."

Mr. Zimbelman has been named to officiate in state championship meets 39 times. He founded the Kansas Wrestling Officials Association and served as the first president. In addition to officiating at the interscholastic level, Mr. Zimbelman previously officiated at the National Collegian Athletic



ST. FRANCIS RESIDENT and wrestling official, Eldon Zimbelman began his career in 1961 and continues thru the winter months officiating and in the summer the operates his own custom harvesting business.

Association.

Mr. Zimbelman was raised in Cheyenne County and graduated from St. Francis Community High School where he was on the wrestling team, working under coaches Frank Brown and Will Derby. An injury kept him from competing in the state tournament and he looks at the injury as leading him to officiating.

While attending Fort Hays State University, he began officiating in 1961 with his first officiating job being at Russell High School. He also officiated both Grand State Tournaments held in Hays as well as many college tournaments.

He officiated the first Kansas four-time state champion Doug

Duell of Goodland and since then he as officiated most of the other four-time state champions. Not taking anything away from today's four-time state champions, he said that if the early St. Francis wrestlers would have wrestled in "school-sized" leagues like today, there would have been more four-time state champions.

However, he said today's wrestlers are more skilled.

"The wrestlers today have more skills and are more aggressive which makes wrestling more of a spectator's sport," he said.

He also thinks that many wrestlers have had opportunities to compete in Kid's Wrestling where they pick up skills at an early age.

Mr. Zimbelman spends much of the winter officiating wrestling but when spring arrives, he has his custom harvesting business ready to spend the next six months in fields across the midwest.



INDIAN WRESTLER, Eldon Zimbelman wrestled on the St. Francis team.

Photo courtesy of Eldon Zimbelman

Fifth grader dies at home Saturday

Eleven-year-old Michael Penn died of aspiration in his home on Saturday. He was a fifth grader at St. Francis Elementary.



Penn

Michael was born in Colby on Aug. 2, 1992, to Dawn Penn. He is survived by his mother, Dawn of St. Francis; grandfather, Danny Penn, St. Francis; brothers Casey House of Goodland and Demetruis Tomlin, St. Francis; sisters Jami Mayberry and Tia Penn, St. Francis;

great-grandmothers Melvia Penn and Mildred Edwards, both of St. Francis.

The funeral was held Tuesday at the First Christian Church with burial in the St. Francis Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the family and a memorial fund has been established at First National Bank and Bankwest to help with funeral and other expenses.

Bill would do away with elected sheriffs

By Karen Krien

A bill has been introduced to the legislators which will do away with the elected office of county sheriff.

In January 2003, the Lincoln County Commissioners discharged a deputy sheriff which caused the sheriff, Ray Nielander to eventually be recalled by the voters. Sheriff Nielander was right by law in saying the commissioners did not have the right to fire the undersheriff and eventually, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in his favor, even though the District Court Judge had ruled against him.

Lincoln County Undersheriff Gordon Krueger sent a letter to Eddie Dankenbring, Cheyenne County Sheriff, reporting that House Bill 2805 has been introduced and if the bill is passed, voters would no longer elect a county sheriff but a board of seven would appoint a director of law

enforcement for the county.

At this time, Lincoln and Cloud counties are the only two listed on the bill. Mr. Krueger said he had visited with Darrell Wilson, president of the Sheriff's Association, who told him he would not be surprised if the legislature includes all remaining Kansas counties — that Riley County is already under such a bill.

"I think that voters should be allowed to elect the sheriff," Sheriff Dankenbring said. "If they don't, they will lose their 'voice' in law enforcement."

Anyone feeling that the sheriff should be elected should write or call their representative and show opposition to this bill as soon as possible. Jeffery S. Bottenberg, legislative council for the Kansas Sheriff's Association, has already shown opposition to the house committee regarding the bill.

Presidential Facts

- The ancestry of all 43 presidents is limited to the following seven heritages, or some combination thereof: Dutch, English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Swiss, or German.

- The oldest president inaugurated was Reagan (age 69); the youngest was Kennedy (age 43). Theodore Roosevelt, however, was the young-

est man to become president — he was 42 when he succeeded McKinley, who had been assassinated.

Fourteen presidents served as vice presidents: J. Adams, Jefferson, Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, A. Johnson, Arthur, T. Roosevelt, Coolidge, Truman, Nixon, L. Johnson, Ford, and George Bush.

Book Review

St. Francis Public Library
Return To The Hiding Place
By Hans Poley

"In May 1943, I was an outlaw," So begins Hans Poley's engaging chronicle of his life as a young man in hiding. Sustained by the watchful care of his hosts, Corrie ten Boom and her family, Hans endured eight months hidden away from the Gestapo during World War II. Separated from family and fiancée, living in near-constant fear of discovery, Hans and his companions wondered when the unbeliev-

able reports of Nazi oppression would end.

Yet, other memories also remain - of friendships that developed among those who hid alongside him, of long evenings in the parlor singing songs of faith and patriotism, of the eagerly awaited news of Allied victories and the war's end.

In *Return to the Hiding Place*, Hans Poley shares the frustration and the ultimate hope of his time in "The Hiding Place," providing a very personal account of the power of faith in the face of hatred.

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Atwood - All Day

Legislative Townhall Meeting with
Sen. Stan Clark & Rep. John Faber
Attorney General Phill Kline
Saturday, March 6, 2004

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. St. Francis — Senior Citizens Center
9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bird City — Blue Bird Junction
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. McDonald — Bank Meeting Room

Pd by Clark for Senate, Jim Robben, Treasurer & Faber for House, Ed Carson, Treasurer

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