



Legal assistant selected as judge

By Karen Krien

A legal assistant has been appointed as District Magistrate Judge for Cheyenne County and will be sworn in at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at the courthouse in St. Francis. The public is welcome.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced on Monday that she had appointed Jolene Dodd, St. Francis,

as the District Magistrate Judge. She has been a legal assistant and office manager of James M. Milliken Chartered, St. Francis, since 1996.

Mrs. Dodd, along with Robert Van Allen and Dale Patton, had gone to Topeka last Thursday where they were each interviewed by Governor Sebelius and her assistant.

"I was very impressed with the

way the selection committee handled the interviews," Mrs. Dodd said. "Everything we went through to the point of getting to the governor's office was handled extremely professional.

"I also feel that anyone of us would have done a good job and I would have stood behind the final candidate.

"I plan to bring honesty and integrity to the office and hope the community will stand behind the judge's position."

Mrs. Dodd has spent over 15 years working in the law profession which has included drafting legal documents and legal research. She has worked with matters involving estate and probate proceedings, do-

estic actions, real estate transactions, civil litigations and criminal matters.

Until the new judge's orientation can be completed, she will be observing the different magistrate judges while in court and, of course, she will receive rules from the Judicial Committee. A test is to be com-

See JUDGE on Page 10A



Dodd

Audience visits commissioners Friday meeting

By Karen Krien

Cheyenne County commissioners had an audience when they met again with a St. Francis granddaughter, the sheriff and undersheriff on Friday.

The grandmother complained about the undersheriff stopping her granddaughter at night to give her some subpoenas. This meeting ended much the same as the last one, with the commissioners thanking everyone for coming but, making no decisions or comments on the sheriff's department.

At the Feb. 12 meeting, Bonnie Jones had told commissioners about Undersheriff Cliff Flock stopping her granddaughter, Amanda Jones, at 11:52 p.m. on U.S. 36 west of St. Francis, where he served her with five subpoenas. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring and Undersheriff Flock were present at the meeting

Friday when she and some of her supporters were present to again talk about the matter.

The subpoenas, which are orders to appear in court to testify, were served on five people, Brandi Barnhart, Paul Larson, Miss Jones, and St. Francis police officers Tom Raile and Mark Davidson to testify in a burglary and theft case. Charges were filed Chad Zwegardt, Uriah Williams and Brent Rogers. The trial date was moved from February to April 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Cheyenne County District Court.

Commission Chairman Tim Raile told those present that all questions were to be directed to the commissioners and if there were interruptions, the person would be asked to leave the meeting. About five people accompanied Mrs. Jones to the meeting.

See AUDIENCE on Page 10A

Sainty student wins bee

A St. Francis fifth grader won the 2004 Cheyenne County Spelling Bee on Tuesday, Feb. 17. The county spelling bee was held in St. Francis in the elementary gym.

Mikaela Grace, a fifth grader, won the competition. Dara Loyd, a St. Francis eighth grader, was second; and Vanessa Antholz, a Cheylin eighth grader, was third.

"It was good!" Mikaela said when asked how she felt winning the contest.

Mikaela said she practiced spelling words 15 minutes each day and thought that practice time helped her in the contest. She is looking forward to going to Topeka for the state spelling bee.

There were 30 fourth through eighth grade students from Cheylin and St. Francis competing. Relatives and other students attended and listened as the participants spelled the increasingly difficult list of words. Some of the words, which tripped up the students, were: analyze, strenuous, intricate, larynx, nuisance, deciduous, and homage. The final words which Mikaela was able to spell correctly were "sorcerer" and "mangle."

Dara said she had gone down on the word "sorcerer" and had been surprised to take second place.

"I was happy I had done so well



Grace



Loyd



Antholz

— I didn't think I would going into the contest," she said.

Vanessa Antholz was the first place winner last year and went on to the state spelling bee.

"It was very exciting to go to state," Vanessa said.

As for this year's competition in St. Francis, "I was more relaxed and just had fun," she said.

The Kansas State Spelling Bee will be held Saturday, March 27, on the campus of Washburn University in Topeka.

"We are wishing Mikaela good luck as she prepares and competes in March," said Lea Keller, elementary special education.



TRAFFIC WAS STOPPING at the Windmill Restaurant early Monday morning as U.S. 36 was closed west of St. Francis.



ALMOST SPRING RAIN fell before the snow on Sunday morning. Theresa and Teddy Trumbo had taken their umbrellas when they left the house. Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Rain turns to snow

By Karen Krien

It started with a light rain which, by 8:30 Sunday morning was coming down pretty good. It then turned to huge snowflakes which hit the ground and melted despite the wind.

As the day wore on, it continued to snow some but by 5 p.m., it started to really snow but the wind was whipping around with 45 to 50 mile-per-hour gusts. Shortly after dark, the snowfall had lightened but the wind didn't.

The wind continued to blow all night, causing blizzard conditions. U.S. 36 west of St. Francis was closed until later on Monday morning as was I-70 west of Goodland. U.S. 36 and other roads in the area were solid sheets of ice.

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring reported a semi truck and a pickup had ended up in the ditch between Bird City and Wheeler while a car had slid off the road on K-27 south of Wheeler. No injuries or damages were reported.

The wind blew most of the day but sun came out mid-morning and, while temperatures only reached 37 degrees, much of the snow had melted off the streets and highways.

The National Weather Channel forecasters are predicting colder than average temperatures throughout the week with a chance of rain toward the middle end of the week. Next week is expected to be much

See RAIN on Page 10A

Legislators visit Sainty on Saturday

Kansas State Senator Stan Clark, Kansas Representatives John Faber and Dan Johnson, and special guest Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline will be visiting St. Francis and Bird City and six other communities on Saturday. They will be in St. Francis from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center on 322 W. Washington Street. From 9 to 10 a.m., they will be in Bird City at the Blue Bird Junction at 104 W. Bressler.

For those missing the Cheyenne County meetings, the legislators will be in McDonald from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the bank meeting room and will be in Atwood from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Park Hill Too.

Information will be presented on many of the issues being considered in the 2004 Kansas Legislature and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and their impact on residents. Everyone is urged to attend.

Work begins on new road and bridge

By Karen Krien

Work on the Wiley Road Project, 16 miles southwest of St. Francis, is expected to begin the first full week of April. A new road with a new bridge will be constructed for 1 mile. LMK Concrete Construction, Lindsborg, bid the a 7-foot by 14-foot four-barrel box bridge which is 48.5 feet wide. The cost bid was \$137,160. It is a Federal-aid cost-share bridge in which the county will have an estimated cost of \$30,175.

The Wiley Bridge Project was on the five-year plan and will be started as planned.

The county road and bridge crew will be doing all the earth work, the culverts, fence and seeding at an estimated cost of \$131,786. This project is also included in the Federal-Aid Cost-share of 80/20 percent and the county will be reimbursed 80 percent of the work on this project.

The commissioners signed the Local Public Agreement for engineering on the dirt work at the Friday meeting.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, indicated that the Olofson Bridge, north of St. Francis, is estimated to cost \$238,925 and the

county's cost will be \$52,563. The bridge is projected to be a three-span bridge, 100-foot long and 28-feet wide. After discussion, the commissioners asked Supervisor Flemming to submit a request of change for a 30-foot wide bridge. The work is scheduled to be let December 2005.

Supervisor Flemming talked about the next supervisor's meeting, noting that they would like to have someone speak on county zoning policies.

High Plains Mental Health Tammy Pettijohn and Tracy Hillmer, both representing High Plains Mental Health, told more

about the services and how it is helping Cheyenne County residents. Mrs. Pettijohn said she is working more and more in the county and has been giving presentations on stress and mental health to those groups or organizations asking for information.

Foreign Animal Disease plan Gary Rogers, emergency manager for Cheyenne County, presented a Cheyenne County Foreign Animal Disease plan for the commissioners' signature. The plan lists the people and what duties they will be required to do if there is a disaster. See WORK on Page 10A

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1A
 completed by Mrs. Dodd within 18 months of her appointment.

"Jolene Dodd's experience and understanding of legal matters will be extremely useful as she assumes the position of District Magistrate Judge," Governor Sebelius said. "I am certain she will do a fine job."

The Selection Committee who made the recommendations of Mrs. Dodd, Mr. Van Allen and Mr. Patton to the governor were: Lee Amsberry, Bird City, Jerry D. Fairbanks, Goodland, John Kite, James Milliken and Rueben F. Schultz, all of St. Francis.

Mr. Kite reported that they had received a letter from the governor thanking them for making the recommendations.

Mrs. Dodd replaces Tamara Zimbelman who had served as the District Magistrate Judge since August 1994.



SAINTY POM PON SQUAD was the entertainment before the finals at the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament held in Hays on Friday and Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Doug Ross

WORK

Continued from Page 1A
 ter such as Hoof and Mouth Disease. It was noted that there are four levels of disasters and a resource list. The commissioners signed the Foreign Animal Disease plan and also signed a State and Local Assistant Funding agreement which is necessary to access the funding.

In other business

In other business:
 • The commissioners OKed the pay order to Rhoades Construction, Goodland, contractor for the hospital remodeling project. Commissioner Krien questioned the change order of \$996 but said he would look into that matter. The hospital board had already approved the order of \$166,691.

• Approval was given for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling dues of \$3,165. The dues are figured on the county's population (\$1 per head).

• Southwestern Bell Company had given the county a quote of \$600 annual commitment which is 2 cents a minute less than the amount paid to Nex-Tech. The county would save 71 percent on its phone bill. The commissioners voted to use Southwestern Bell as

the county's phone service provider.

• The clerk said there are several old printers which may have some use left in them. The commissioners agreed to either run an ad in the newspaper or sell them on E-Bay.

• Law officers Eddie Dankenbring and Cliff Flock along with Bonnie Jones talked about the matter of how and when subpoenas were delivered. (See related article.)

• Commissioner Brubaker asked where money which fire departments receive from the Fireman's Relief Fund is deposited. No one seemed to know. The clerk said he would ask the county treasurer.

• The commissioners noted that there were \$1,869 in contractual obligations (write-offs) listed on the emergency medical service budget last month. However, there were \$8,114 billed for ambulance services.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on March 15 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.



Continued from Page 1A

In a statement, Sheriff Dankenbring first talked about freedom of speech compared to slander. He said he had contacted the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to investigate Mrs. Jones' claims. A senior agent had looked at the evidence and stated the no crime had been committed, he said, so the KBI had nothing else to investigate.

"Cheyenne County had outstanding law enforcement officers," the sheriff said. "Our goal is to keep the youth safe and alive and alcohol and drug free as possible."

He also said that the county was privileged to have Undersheriff Flock and his family in the community.

"He is willing to lay his life on the line for the people of Cheyenne County," the sheriff said. "If anyone has a complaint, fill out the complaint form and sign it."

Mrs. Jones said she called the state attorney general's office, he told her that the undersheriff was within the law when he delivered the subpoenas.

"I'm not arguing that," she said. What she said she was con-

cerned about was the time and place he delivered them and the fact that he had taken her to his vehicle to fill out the forms.

The dispatcher in Goodland said the stop took 11 minutes, she said.

Mrs. Jones wanted to know why the undersheriff hadn't followed the girl to her home, which was only another five or six miles away, knocked on the door and told her parents that he had subpoenas to deliver to their daughter.

"It looks bad for the sheriff's office and for the undersheriff," she said.

She said she called the high school principal and he said that, while he does not want subpoenas delivered in the school, from now on he would be willing to send a student to the sheriff's office for a subpoena.

St. Francis resident Dave Wright, a supporter of Mrs. Jones' cause, had a lot to say during the meeting. He asked why the undersheriff was not speaking up, accused commissioners of sweeping the matter under the carpet and claimed that people were afraid to come forward because they would

"pay" for it later.

Commissioner Ron Krien said he had talked to a lot of people about this matter. Mr. Wright asked if anyone said they were afraid to come to the meeting. Mr. Krien said "no."

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Wright, in separate comments, reminded the sheriff and commissioners that elections were coming up and they could be replaced.

Mr. Wright claimed that there had been 35 law officers in her county since 1997. Years ago, he said, the county had one law officer and one police car. Now, the county has three officers and three police cars and the county is wasting a lot of money.

"We had a quiet little community," he said. "Why can't we keep it quiet?"

County Attorney Kevin Berens stressed that if no formal complaint is made, neither he nor the sheriff can do anything about it.

The commissioners pointed out that they had no control over the sheriff's department, since the sheriff is an elected official. They said, since no laws had been broken in the stop, the considered the matter closed for the time being.

Commissioners invited any of the audience to come back, but noted that if they had a complaint with the law enforcement department, they hoped that they would address the complaint to the county attorney and/or the sheriff.

RAIN

Continued from Page 1A
 warmer and will be closer to March 20, the first day of spring.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported .51 inch of precipitation. The temperature on Sunday was 37 degrees but the wind chill was in the teens.

Following are the temps the weather observer recorded throughout the last week:

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Feb. 24	52	18	
Feb. 25	59	23	
Feb. 26	55	28	
Feb. 27	60	29	
Feb. 28	68	31	
Feb. 29	37	26	.30
March 1	38	22	.21



INDIAN WRESTLERS ~ Job Well Done!



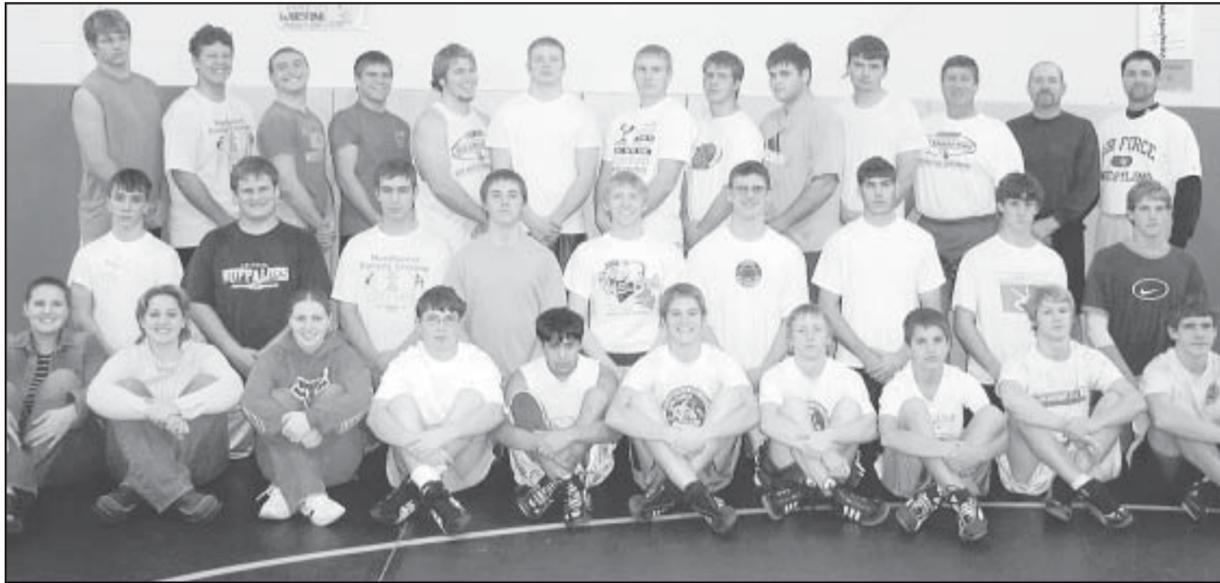
Trevor Richard - 103 lbs.
 ★ 2nd place ★



Dylan Loyd - 125 lbs.
 ★ 3rd place ★



Derek Ross - 171 lbs.
 ★ 3rd place ★



First row, left to right - Managers Emily Walz, Kali Rueb and Janelle Zweygardt; Zach Mills, Mario Tafoya, Gabe Gienger, Trevor Richard, Brady Frewen, Jordan Gienger and Russell Rogers; second row - Darren Laffond, Brennon Wilger, Josh Walters, Devin Rohweder, Dylan Loyd, Gabe Smull, Troy Zweygardt, Matt Brown and Joe Miller; third row - Cody Barnhart, Seth Swihart, Derek Ross, Trey Hilt, Gabe Walz, Grant Keller, Nick Keller, Luke Keller, Teegan Callicrate, Tai Earl, Coach Larry Gabel and Assistant Coaches Daryl Loyd and Steve Jenkins.

Thanks for a great season

Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts
 (Formerly All Pro Auto Parts)
 BANKWEST-OF KANSAS
 Bartlett Grain Co. L.P.
 Becky's Bierocks
 Bier's Hometown Store
 Brice's Auto Repair
 Bud & Eunice Burnham
 Burr Retail Liquor
 Craig & Nadja Button
 Captain Hooks Fine Dining
 Hoagie & Dara Carmichael
 Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King
 Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
 Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
 Sam & Paula Crabtree
 Pat & Vicki Cress
 Theron & Carolyn Culwell
 Patrick & Brenda Delano
 Dankenbring Auto Body
 Diamond R Bar & Grill
 Dr. Melvin & Barb Dunn
 Farm Bureau Insurance
 Bruce & Sharon Feikert
 First National Bank
 Frewen Insurance Agency
 Fromholtz Body Shop
 Larry & Beth Gabel
 Leach Insurance Agency
 Good Samaritan Village
 Goodell Greenhouse & Floral
 Lezlie Hilt
 Homesteader Motel
 & Trailer Park

Jaqua Abstract Co.
 Jenik Oil Co.
 Kite & Day Law Office
 K-Store
 NAPA Auto Supply
 Perry & Paula Keller
 One More Year Ranch -
 Pete & Alice Kinen
 Knodel Funeral Home
 Don & Twila Kramer
 Krien Masonry Service
 Krien Pharmacy
 Krien Steel Buildings
 Lampe Hardware
 L & W Andrist Ins. Agency LLC-
 Linda & Walt Linthacum
 Daryl & Keely Loyd
 Rick & Dawn Lucas
 Marvin & Anita Miller
 Neitzel Insurance Service
 James Milliken, Chartered
 Mill & Seed Co.
 Owens True Value
 Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge
 Pizza Hut
 Dr. Tim & Margaret Poling
 Tim & Robyn Raile
 Ranch Food Direct
 Bud & Marla Rice
 Republican Valley Vet Clinic
 Tim & Teri Richard
 Kenneth & Janet Roberson
 Dick & Michele Rohweder
 Ross Manufacturing

Terry & Mary Beth Miller
 Marlin & Anabelle Rueb
 Rueb Cattle -
 Randy & Rikki Rueb
 St. Francis Equity
 St. Francis Feed Yard
 St. Francis Herald
 St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix
 St. Francis Tire & Service
 Sainty Super Foods
 Schultz's
 Silver Crest Farms
 Shay Realty, Inc.
 Stuart's Jewelry
 Dr. Pat & Bonnie Stuart
 Sunshine Travel
 Unger Chiropractic Clinic
 T.R. Services Inc. -
 Tom & Kathy Roelfs
 Tri-State Lumber & Tubing/
 Paints Plus
 Van Allen Inc.
 Video Connection
 Video Kingdom
 Gale & Mary Walz
 Wiese Angus Farm -
 Kip & Deone Wiese
 Carl Werner
 Western Sprinklers
 Wheeler Equity
 The Windmill Restaurant
 Betty Jean Winston
 Yost Farm Supply
 Yost Ford-Mercury