

# Board accepts teacher resignations

**By Karen Krien**  
The St. Francis Board of Education agreed to accept the resignations from two elementary teachers when then met Monday evening.  
Jennifer Krien, second grade teacher, and Gloria Cassidy, first grade teacher, had turned in letters addressed to the board, superintendent and principal. The board read

the letters and then Superintendent Carl Werner said that the board could either address the letters as "letters of objections" or "letters of resignations." If they chose to treat the letters as objections, they could wait a month to make their decision but if they decided to address the letters as resignations, that vote could be made at the Monday meeting.

Sherry Weeks thought the letters sounded like the teachers really didn't want to retire and Superintendent Werner said that, when he had talked to them, they didn't seem mad and he had told them that he was not forcing them to retire. However, he admitted that the letters sounded like they were not happy and they were being forced into retirement.

"I'm not sure how to 'read' the letters," the superintendent said.

He said that the school will be short approximately \$230,000 to \$240,000 next year.

"How do we get there (find the money)?" he asked.

The board voted unanimously to accept the letters as "resignations."

Four teachers, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Krien, Colleen Gardner and Marti Schlittenhardt have resigned, as has Superintendent Werner. Alice Kinen's duties went from Home Ec instructor to Food Service Manager. She will continue to be the assistant athletic director.

The board and administration talked. See **RESIGNATIONS on Page 10A**

## Finance to judges talked about

**By Karen Krien**  
There were a number of issues discussed when a state senator, representative and Attorney General came to St. Francis early Saturday morning. Some of the matters discussed were school financing, gay marriages, judges and health care.  
Rep. John Faber, Sen. Stan Clark and Attorney General Phill Kline arrived at the senior center where they enjoyed pancakes and coffee served by the Republican party.  
The time was short as they were only allotted an hour before they left for their trip down U.S. 36 to talk at other small town meetings.

Rep. Faber talked briefly about school finance, noting that he thought the present school finance was serving the district schools pretty well. He also touched briefly on the animal identification program which could mandate cattlemen to pay so much per head so the animal can be tracked from the producer to the packer. It was his opinion that if the senate passes this legislation, the results could be disastrous for producers.

Senator Clark had pages of figures for those present to look over and take home with them. He pointed out that in the state general fund, the percent of tax increases was ahead of last year by 5.3 percent or \$13,643,000. The figures showed that Kansans were smoking and drinking less but chewing more.

Sen. Clark's figures also showed that in 2002-2003, the Salina schools had 7,289 students, received \$36,832,952 in state aid and spent \$12,219 per student. (The Salina school officials are mostly responsible for the court case in which District Court Judge Terry Bullock ruled that the funding per student was unfair.)

In 2002-2003 at Cheylin, there were 172 students and the school received \$1,221,960 which allowed \$10,534 per student. In the St. Francis school, there were 393 students and the school received \$2,293,488 in state aid which equaled out to \$8,149 per student.

Sen. Clark also talked about the rising health care costs and how the president is proposing to establish refundable tax credits of up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for families to help low-income workers buy health insurance coverage. (See related article.)

Attorney General Kline congratulated Sen. Clark and Rep. Faber for standing up for "right and wrong." He thought that laws passed must be based on morality and based on prin-



**PETE JENSEN, St. Francis, had some issues to discuss with Sen. Stan Clark, left, at the meeting held Saturday at the senior center.**  
*Herald staff photos by Karen Krien*



**REP. JOHN FABER, gave a brief overview of what has been happening in the House.**

cipals.  
"Judges have a tendency to impose what they think — not what is moral," he said.

He pointing out that Judge Bullock doesn't come to St. Francis and he doesn't care if kids ride the bus 6 hours a day.

The attorney general voiced concern about criminals getting out of prison early because there wasn't enough prisons. He said there were new state buildings going up in Topeka but there isn't enough money for prisons.

"We are recycling criminals," he said.

He also pointed out that, instead of pulling more jobs into Topeka where there are already too many people, the jobs should be relocated in northwest Kansas.

**Comments from the audience**  
Dr. Mary Beth Miller voiced her concern about insurance companies being able to pick and choose people



**LEE NICHOLS, St. Francis, talked to Attorney General Phill Kline following the Saturday meeting.**

for long-term insurance and many who need the insurance will not qualify.

Ranae Pilkington, who had worked with insurance claims, said Medicaid would save money if they could eliminate fraud. Attorney General Kline said that a computer system is being installed to help

track fraud and, gave the example of a doctor writing more prescriptions than usual.

Candi Hedrick asked about same-sex marriages. Attorney General Kline said that some judges will say that "gender is a state of mind."

Paul Rainbolt talked about Medicaid. See **FINANCE on Page 10A**

## City council looks at two insurance plans

**By Sandy Barnhart**  
Health insurance has been on the agenda for the St. Francis City Council for the last two meetings. The Feb. 17 meeting found Tim Carson, representing Corporate Plan Management, visiting with the council concerning his insurance plan.

At the March 2 meeting, Charles Krull, informed the council on a policy through Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Both policies are self-funded.

The Corporate Plan Management has slightly higher deductibles than what the city employees presently have and with the projected annual cost, the policy would be \$303,122 a year.

The self-funded policy through Blue Cross with the same coverage as what the city presently has will cost \$200,292 a year.

Each policy will require the city to put a certain amount of money in a fund monthly.

The city's present policy with Blue Cross-Blue Shield runs out April 1 and with a 5.8 percent increase, will cost \$219,226 a year.

The council asked Mr. Krull to fax a self-funded policy with a higher deductible of \$500 to city clerk Mary Lampe for the council to review and make a decision at the March 18 meeting.

**Girl Scouts**  
Six Girl Scouts and their leaders were present while Mayor Scott Schultz signed the proclamation for Girl Scout Week set for March 7 through 13. Those present were Mickey Geihlsler, Aly Schlepp, Bailey Merklin, Rande Grover, Sarah Whitmore and Krissy Harris, along with leaders Dee Wilson and Lila Whitmore.

**Superintendent report**  
Well 9 - Superintendent J.R. Landenberger informed the council that the screen on Well 9 was 50 to 60 percent plugged. Seargant Well Drilling will clean the screen for between \$3,000 and \$6,000 depending if the procedure will need to be repeated. The council also approved, while the work is being done on Well 9, to replace the meter at a cost of approximately \$1,800.

**Vehicle** - Superintendent Landenberger said that the city had budgeted the power plant \$25,000 for the year to purchase a vehicle. He asked that instead of buying one new vehicle to possibly purchase two used vehicles and the council approved.

**Pool** - Superintendent Landenberger noted that a representative from Arnold Pool Sup-

See **COUNCIL on Page 10A**

## Coffee meeting on agronomy is set

The Cheyenne County Extension office has planned a Coffee Shop Agronomy Meeting at 10 a.m. on March 15 at the Equity meeting room. This will be an informal question and answer session for area producers.

Some topics of conversation might include different options for abandoned wheat acres, or possible crop rotations on irrigated land. However, anything is open for discussion.

"We will have Roger Stockton, Area Extension Crops and Soils Specialist, on hand to field questions and concerns of the area producers," said Tye Faulkender, county director. "This meeting should be very informative, as well as enjoyable, and we hope to see you there."

Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

Any questions can be directed to the extension office at 332-3171.

## College singers to perform Thursday

St. Francis Community High School auditorium is the place to be this evening (Thursday) if you enjoy vocal and instrumental music. The Colby Community College Sunflower Singers and the Community College Jazz Ensemble will be presenting a program, sponsored by the Western Kansas Arts Association. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

The groups will perform a variety of entertaining selections. Many of the members in these ensembles are familiar to north-

west Kansas families and these groups give outstanding performances with secular, pop and show tunes and old familiar standards. This will be a presentation to attended.

Admission is available at the door or with Western Plains Arts Association season pass.

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## Board discusses building remodel

**By Lezlie Hilt**  
A St. Francis resident was again present at the March 4 Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting to discuss the condition of one of the buildings at the fairgrounds.

Janice Krien along with Brent Rueb, owner of Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, discussed the fair-ground building and Mrs. Krien felt like there were several people interested in volunteering time and labor to help clean and paint the building. Mr. Rueb brought a bid of \$4,000 for paint and other materials needed to cover and insulate the walls.

Mr. Rueb had also talked to the

Cheyenne County Wildlife organization and they were interested in maybe helping fund the project as they felt there was a strong need for a community building, however, the group also wanted to make sure that there was a plan as to how the building would be operated and taken care of. Mrs. Krien also mention that possibly different groups would like to get together and decorate the bathrooms and kitchen.

The board felt that they and the Wildlife Committee needed to get together and discuss a plan.

There are several items in the See **REMODEL on Page 10A**



**JUDGE JOLENE DODD was sworn in by Judge Jack Burr on Monday.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Judge sworn in Monday

The new District 16 Magistrate Judge was sworn in on Tuesday afternoon in the courtroom at the courthouse. Judge Jack Burr conducted the ceremony swearing in Jolene Dodd, noting that he and others in the area were happy to have a judge in Cheyenne County. Following the official swearing in, he presented her with a judicial robe which Judge Dodd's husband Gene helped her put on.

Welcoming speeches were given by John Kite, one of the members of the Judge Selection Committee, and Jim Milliken, who was Mrs. Dodd's former employer.

A reception, provided for by the Cheyenne County Judicial Committee, was held following the ceremony.



# REMODEL

## The miracle was rain!!



**YES, IT WAS LIKE A MIRACLE — IT RAINED!!!** Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported .17 inch rain last week. It wasn't a lot but, in northwest Kansas, people will take all that falls.  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

**Continued from Page 1A**  
kitchen that belong to the Extension office and the board asked Tye Faulkender, county director, if he would ask Stephanie Shafer to see what they wanted and dispose of the rest of the things that are not needed or any good.

Following the meeting, the board, Mrs. Krien and Mr. Rueb went down to tour the building.

**Derby dates set**  
The Demolition Derby dates have been set for this year. The early derby will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. Other derbies will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 7; and the clean-up derby has been set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18. The group will get together and go over the rules so the book can be printed and advertising started.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• Director Faulkender, representing the Extension office, said there were trophies highlighted on the list he handed to the board that would be eliminated this year as some of the age divisions had been merged. Also, some of the sponsors weren't interested in sponsoring trophies this year. The 4-H'ers will help with trash in the eating area at the fair.

## COUNCIL

**Continued from Page 1A**  
ply of Ogallala, Neb., had been down to look at the swimming pool for maintenance and the cost to paint the pool would be around \$3,400. The council asked the superintendent to get some price comparisons.

**Power plant** - The council approved to have testing done for gas leaks at the power plant at a cost of approximately \$300 including mileage.

**Other business**  
In other business:  
• At the Swimming Pool Board's recommendation, the council approved to hire Meredith Knodel as pool manager.  
• The council approved Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) 2004 dues of \$391.  
• The council approved Rodney Bracelin to remain as a Kansas Municipal Energy Agency Governing Body Member for another two years.

Director Faulkender also said that they were going to have a special meeting to recruit new members. There are 64 members compared to last year's 130.

• President Bursch announced that the insurance went down to \$1,634, about half of what it was last year.  
• The fair book should be ready by the first of May and to the state for printing by the first of June.

• Discussion on the open class cow/calf class was held. Ernie Ketzner will check with some people and see what their feelings are.

• President Bursch said the new valve pipe and padlock had been put on the water valve. Last month it was reported that someone had turned on the main water valve and broke three of the toilets at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Bursch had asked if he should call Lampe Hardware to come down and check out the damage. After an executive session the board decided to wait until they had a chance to check it out.

President Bursch told the members that until they called someone they would not know what the problems were. He said he needed to know if he could call Lampe Hardware if there were problems at the fairgrounds. Jared Douthit thought that they should talk to Lampe's about signing a contract. However Mr. Bursch explained that the board would not know how many times they would need to call Lampe for the year so that would be difficult to do. The board moved that Mr. Bursch call Lampe Hardware for service and all agreed except for Mr. Douthit.

## RESIGNATIONS

**Continued from Page 1A**  
about the classes which could be eliminated from the schedule. These classes included Home Ec, speech and drama. However, when students begin enrolling, if there is a need or demand for these classes, there are alternatives and ways of possibly keeping one or more of the classes.

The board review the list of teachers and their assignments. They agreed to the preliminary reassignments of Kathy Rainbolt from third grade teacher to teach eighth and ninth grade English and some other

assignments which have not been determined; David Morrow will be reassigned from eighth grade English to teach 11th grade English and all classes of World History (he will continue to be the 10th grade English instructor and coach). Other assignments will be made at a later meeting.

The board went into closed session to further discuss budget cuts and staff but no decision was made when they returned from the session.

## FINANCE

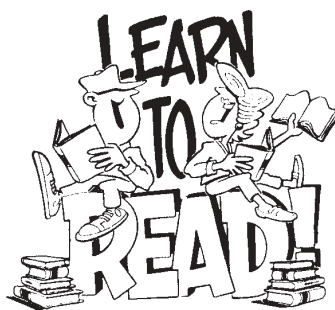
**Continued from Page 1A**  
icaid and its funding of nursing home care, noting that there was an extreme amount of paperwork.

Bob VanAllen talked about watching judges and to change the way some of the judges are selected, there would need to change the constitutional amendment. Mary Morrow said that when the Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeal Judges are listed on the ballot, most people don't even know who they are and if they are any good. She suggested that maybe voters should just mark the "no" box.

Attorney General Kline said there is an effort going on to educate voters but he felt that it would take an-

other four years. One of the audience remarked that if something wasn't done soon, it would be too late.

School superintendent Carl Werner asked if schools were going to be on the same budget next year. Sen. Clark said that he thought there would be "At Risk" dollars.



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