

## Prices up a little but still cheap

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Board of Education made appointments, elected officers and raised the price of breakfasts and lunches when they met on Thursday.

The price of breakfasts and lunches has remained the same since 1999 when there was a slight increase.

Carl Werner, superintendent, reported that the increase was around 14 percent with

the following prices for students:

Grade school: breakfast went from 75 cents to 85 cents; lunch increased from \$1.15 to \$1.30.

Junior-senior high school: Breakfast went from \$1 to \$1.15 and lunch increased from \$1.50 to \$1.70

Adult breakfast and lunch prices also saw an increase.

Secretary hired

The administration recommended Marilyn Raile as the new junior-senior high school secretary and board voted to sign her contract. She replaces Robyn Raile who retired at the end of the school year. Superintendent Werner said there were 17 women who had picked up applications and 13 had completed and returned them. Out of those 13, three were chosen to interview. Superintendent Werner said all three were good

applicants but Mrs. Raile had worked as a teacher and substitute teacher and knew school policies. She will also be the school board treasurer.

There were two contracts for school staff who are not teachers. One had been returned and the board signed the contract. The other contract was with Jared Sowers who had been last year's coaching aide in junior high girls' basketball. Because of his schedule at

Northwest Kansas Technical College, Goodland, Mr. Sowers did not think he would be able to sign a contract this year.

The boys' high school basketball team still does not have a coach. Superintendent Werner said there could be only 14 boys out for high school basketball next year. If that is the case, there might not be a need for an assistant coach. He expects to have a boy's

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## Part-time help hired on county

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners had a brief meeting on July 15 with little listed on the agenda. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, was allowed to give a department report, noting that Helene Landenberger had been hired for part-time mowing. The board signed the wage agreement to make it official.

Supervisor Flemming said he was still investigating the road dispute between Frank Sowers and Troy Burr. Mr. Sowers was at the last meeting and said Mr. Burr was blocking a county road. The supervisor said he had looked at the road in question and said he still needed to talk to Mr. Burr.

Supervisor Flemming had two highway permits for the commissioners to sign. The permits will allow Kenny Richers and Rosewood Resources to cross the county right-of-ways.

The commissioners also gave permission for the Cheyenne

County Road and Bridge crew to help the state department of transportation with dirt excavation on the K-161 bridge project north of Bird City.

Sheriff's report

Ray Lee, deputy sheriff, had turned down receipts while using the credit card and the amount had totaled \$81. Earlier, the commissioners had set a policy that all vouchers required an itemized receipt before the commissioners would approve them. Clerk Miller said that letters had been sent to department heads but not to part-time help. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring said that the memo had been sent out shortly before Deputy Lee had made the prisoner transfer and he didn't think about telling him the importance of keeping receipts.

The commissioners reviewed the dates of the credit card receipts and decided that they would pay the vouchers this time but to tell him to keep all receipts from here on out.

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TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN AROUND 100 degrees and kids are cooling off in the swimming pool. Jeri Rae Merchant dives into the pool on Tuesday. Jeri Rae is the daughter of Mike and Tami Merchant, St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Shooting ruled an accident

The Dec. 13, 2003, fatal shooting of William Joseph Schwab, 43, of Oberlin was an accident, Cheyenne County authorities have ruled.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation completed an investigation, and after reviewing the report, Cheyenne County Attorney Kevin Berens determined that no criminal charges should be filed against former St. Francis Chief of Police Jason Ryan.

The shooting took place in parking lot of the Dusty Farmer Restaurant on Dec. 13. The KBI, assisted by the St. Francis Police Department, was conducting an undercover felony investigation on Mr. Schwab for solicitation of murder.

When officers tried to arrest Mr. Schwab, he fled. Mr. Berens, in his report, said officers identified themselves as "police" and order him to stop. However, Mr. Schwab kept on running.

During a foot chase, the former police chief grabbed hold of Mr. Schwab and as both men fell to the ground, Chief Ryan's handgun discharged, wounding Mr. Schwab. He was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital, where he died.

Mr. Berens said no other shots were fired during the incident. There are no other suspects in the investigation for the solicitation of murder, Mr. Berens said.

Chief Ryan was placed on administrative leave after the shooting and later resigned, moving to Tucson, Ariz., to be near family.

Mr. Schwab's family has been informed that the case has been completed and that it had been ruled an accidental shooting, Mr. Berens said.

## New rules are proposed

The St. Francis Board of Education, at the July 8 meeting, reviewed the proposed scholarship regulations for St. Francis students, which could allow scholarships to be withdrawn later if the student's behavior is determined to be inappropriate.

The board had reviewed the proposed regulations at the June meeting and had made some changes and suggestions. After looking it over for a second time, they still had some suggestions, including having the Greene Scholarship Committee review the proposed regulations.

If adopted, the proposed regulations will be presented to students at the beginning of school and will be called the "School and Community Citizenship" regulation.

Citizenship is encouraged within the school and community, as this behavior often opens many doors of opportunity to them while in school and after graduating.

It was pointed out that many of the honors and valuable scholarships go to those students who practice good citizenship throughout their school years. Near the end of the school year, the Scholarship Committee begins making their preliminary selections. If, after the selections have been made, there has been one of the selected students found misbehaving, the administration will request a special meeting of the Board of Education and will recommend ac-

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**Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show**  
**July 29-Aug. 1 • Bird City**



MAKING ROOM for the trunks of the trees on Main Street is keeping the city crew busy. Above, Mike Meyers and John Keller lay in the grate after making the cut.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Queen will be crowned

Last week, the readers saw an early photo and a short biography of the 2004 Thresher Queen and many may have already guess her identity. In case some are still in doubt, here is the rest of the story!

One of the happiest times in this year's Thresher Queen's life was when she was a telephone operator. She loved her job. It was the best paying job she had ever had and she was able to help her parents out financially and still have money left for her needs. She was working at the switchboard the night of the Republican River Flood. It was a very busy and exciting night and she will never forget it.

After her marriage, she continued her harvest cooking. The harvest crews usually came to the house for breakfast, lunch and supper. She always had a huge feast prepared for them. She and her husband also provided a place in their home for the crews to shower and clean up. This continued for many years.

She was a very dedicated wife and mother. Her children were the "joy of her life." She always opened her home to their many friends. To this day, she doesn't



2004 Thresher Queen

know a stranger.

Times have not always been good for the Thresher Queen. Her family has suffered many difficult times. You won't hear her complaining though. She'll tell you that life just goes that way once in a while and it makes you appreciate the good times. In the end, you turn out to be a better person. you just have to trust in the Lord.

Her family is still farming in the Bird City community today. They will be the first to tell you that she always makes the best out of any situation. They are very proud of her and very happy to call her mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and now "Queen."

Plan to attend the Thresher Queen revealing at noon on Thursday in front of the bleachers on the Thresher Show grounds.



**DAN RASURE and Casey McCormick discussed politics when Mr. Rasure came to The Herald office on Tuesday. Mr. Rasure is running for State Senate.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## CHEAP

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basketball coach contract for the board to sign at the next meeting.

Other positions open include the girls' basketball assistant coach and the co-sponsor of the high school cheerleading.

Other appointments were: Alice Kinen, four-year term on the Recreation Commission, replacing Tim Lambert whose term expired; reappoint Gene Dodd as representative to the Kansas Association of School Boards governmental relations network; re-appoint Sherry Weeks as representative on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center Board in Oakley; reappoint Myra Douthett as the representative on the Northwest Kansas Technical College Board in Goodland.

### Student approved

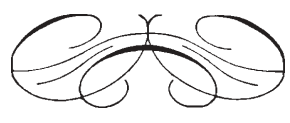
## RULES

**Continued from Page 1**  
tion to withdraw the scholarship(s). In the case of the Greene Scholarships, some guidelines have already been set letting students know that if they receive a misdemeanor, felony, or even a diversion, a portion of the scholarship could be taken away. These proposed guidelines would be in addition to the guidelines already set.

Carl Werner, superintendent, pointed out that in these proposed new guidelines, in the case of Greene Scholarships where Cheylin students also receive a portion, if a Cheylin student has a scholarship taken away, it will go to the next eligible Cheylin student — not a St. Francis student.

The same rule applies to St. Francis students. Once the scholarship check is delivered to the student, the selection becomes final — the scholarship money cannot be taken back.

Following the reviewing by the Greene Scholarship Committee, the proposed regulations will once again be looked at by the board and then they will make the final decision.



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SLICKS 867 B

# Young engineers at work

By Casey McCormick

Next week will see the 51st annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show at the show grounds in Bird City. But before the event can occur a great deal of preparation must take place.

There are about 16 to 18 vintage steam engines stored on the grounds that need a good deal of service to get in shape for the show. Over the years the majority of maintenance for the massive vehicles has been done by Gerald Wright.

However, Mr. Wright is currently working his regular job as an over-the-road truck driver. But his absence will not delay the 51st show.

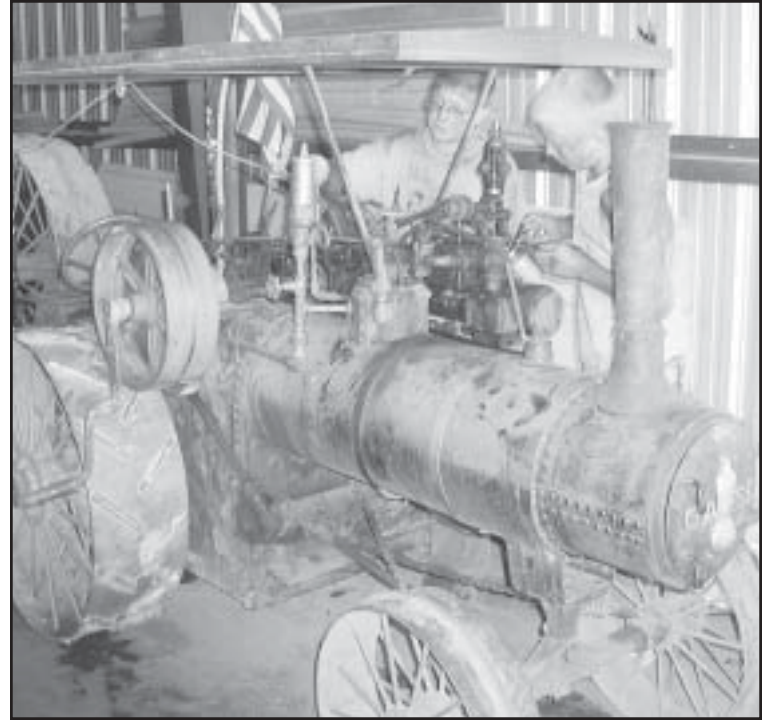
Two of the hardest workers at the show grounds are Rex Weishapl and Jacob White. Even though they are not old enough to have driver's licenses (both will be in the eighth grade next school year) they are comfortable with operating the giant steam engines.

"It's a fun, learning experience," said Rex.

He has been working on the steam engines for five years and Jacob has worked for four.

"We like getting dirty," Rex said. "Chicks, except for our moms, dig it."

It is a dirty job as much of the work is done handling the black, sooty coal



**REX WEISHAPL AND JACOB WHITE work on the small steam engine used for the kids tug-of-war. Although it's all volunteer work these two young men are instrumental in getting the Thresher Show off the ground.**

*Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

that fuels the machines. Also the smaller volunteers have the task of crawling into the fire boxes to sandblast built-up residue on the inside, as was done last year.

"This year we're checking the fuse plugs," Rex said, "to make sure they aren't melted."

Mr. Wright has taught these young men everything they know about steam engines. He trusts them to work solo on the antique machines.

As for the regular maintenance much must be done: mud is cleaned

off, small packings are replaced and each engine is hydro tested.

"The test puts the engine over the normal pressure of the relief valve," Rex said.

The relief valve is the safety device which keeps the steam engine from building up too much pressure and possibly exploding.

When Mr. Wright returns from the road next Friday he will be pleased with what these two workers have accomplished.

## HIRED

**Continued from Page 1**

Bonnie Jones was present. While she wasn't on the agenda, she was given an opportunity to speak after the executive meeting. She was unhappy with undersheriff's ebay sales of porn videos. She had a letter to the editor which she said would go to the newspaper unless something was done about the undersheriff. Commissioner Tim Raile said that "good will prevail."

Later the sheriff informed the newspaper that the undersheriff had been released but shared no further details.

Clerk Miller said he had called the SBC phone company about the cost of the sheriff's office phone bill in Bird City. Clerk Miller, while talking to the phone company representative, was told that there would probably be a decrease in the next phone bill be-

cause of a misunderstanding.

Following the prior meeting of the commissioners where the Bird City sheriff phone bill was discussed, Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring had informed the clerk that there were two phones in that office: one for phone calls and the other is for internet service.

### Health insurance

The commissioners discussed why the county's health insurance payment was higher. Clerk Miller said the insurance representative said it was because a number of big claims were made within a month. The total the commissioners will have to pay is \$72,806 which includes the \$15,000 the county pays each month. The commissioners agree to pay the amount but asked that representative Tim Carson come to a future meeting to further explain the

policy.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Carol Gamblin, part-time deputy, thanked the commissioners for allowing her to attend the training academy. She is now a certified deputy

• Larry Gabel had turned in a mileage bill which the commissioners rejected. In 2001, the commissioners had set a rule that mileage would be paid to and from Bird City. In Mr. Gabel's case, he had heard an ambulance call while enroute to another town. He had turned around to answer the call and felt he should be reimbursed for that mileage.

### Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on July 30 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

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