

# Relay For Life walk set for Saturday

Sawhill Park will be the site of the fifth annual Relay for Life on Saturday night. Former and current cancer patients, their families, businesses, civic organizations and the public are urged to take a part in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life set for 7 p.m. on Saturday to 7 a.m. on Sunday morning.

The Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's version of an athletic relay to raise money for the fight against cancer.

The public is urged to bring a lawn chair and come join the activities surrounding the Relay. Check the list of activities with this article. (If pitching a tent, the stakes should not

be longer than 6 inches.)

The Chamber of Commerce will be cooking hamburgers and serving chips beginning at 7 p.m. and proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The Shrine Candy Wagon will be available to sell bottled water, pop and popcorn with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society. Both the Candy Wagon and Chamber's booth will be set up at the east edge of the City Park and the Shrine pavilion.

As of Monday, there had been no volunteers for the "Locks of Love" ceremony where people with 10 or more inches of healthy hair have it

cut and donate it for cancer-survivor wigs. Last year, there were 10 people having their hair cut for "Locks of Love."

During the evening, there will be a variety of events and performances by local talent in the band shell at the park. Emceeding the event will be Deonn Weise, Mrs. Kansas United Nations. The public is welcome to come enjoy these events.

The highlight of the evening will be the impressive luminaria service which will start at 9 p.m. A list of honorees and memorials for each luminaria will be read. The luminarias will be lit along the sidewalks of Sawhill Park and left burn-

ing as the Relay continues to remind all donors of the incredible importance of their donations. Many of this year's luminaria bags were decorated by Cheylin Elementary Students and Tracy Neitzel's daycare center.

Everyone is urged to come on down and walk in the relay, just call Paige Gardner at 785-332-3506 to enter.

"You don't have to be on a team but we can put you on a team," she said.

Teams and participants are to look for the table at the start-finish line at Denison Street (between the parks)

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## Schedule

**Schedule of events for Saturday evening**

6:30 p.m. Survivors meet at the Shrine Shelter	Moore-Mrs. Colorado.
7 p.m. National Anthem - Debi Moore	8 p.m. "Locks of Love"
7 p.m. Opening ceremony with survivors walking the first lap. Family/caregiver lap following.	9 p.m. Luminaria lighting ceremony when names of survivors and those who have died of cancer will be read as the luminarias are lit.
7 p.m. Program following survivors walk.	6:30 a.m. (Sunday), the earnings will be totaled at midnight and will be announced along with the team, adult and youth highest earners and the campsite and team designator winners.
Among the performers are: KC Connection, Dance Ranch Dancers, Chad Miller, Chelsey Weeden, Gary Cooper, Debi	

## School board cuts one bus route



**By Karen Krien**

The number of bus routes picking up St. Francis students was cut from six to five regular routes when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Thursday evening. There will still be one noon kindergarten route which is the same number as last year.

The administration and bus garage manager had gone over the routes during the summer and, with the resignation of Pat Confer, had decided to combine the routes. The route which Connie Williams had driven last year was combined with two other routes and Mrs. Williams assumed the route driven by Mrs. Confer.

As the board reviewed the maps of the different bus routes, there was discussion of those students who might not ride all the time. The routes could change when all the students are enrolled.

It was noted that the decline in

enrollment was showing up in the number of bus routes needed. By combining the routes and doing away with one route, the school district will save between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

This year's bus drivers will be: Edith Walter, Route 2; Melvin Confer (who drives as a substitute driver), Route 3; Ralph Lebow, Route 4; Ben Leibbrandt, Route 5; and Connie Williams, Route 6. Sean Straub is the bus garage manager and will also drive the kindergarten suburban bus.

**Hourly school day approved**

The board, as in the past, approved to use the 1,116-hour school year instead of 186-day school year. Each year, the board has approved this plan but has always noted that the teachers and administration should make every reasonable effort to attend the total number of days that are scheduled. The Kansas State

**See BUS on Page 10A**

## School bells ring; classes begin on Wednesday

The swimming pool has gone to limited hours and school will begin on Wednesday (Aug. 26). Fall sports practice began on Monday.

Enrollment was held Aug. 12 and 13. The principals, at the Thursday school board meeting, reported that, while the numbers were not as bad as expected, with 148 enrolled at the grade school and 178 at the junior-senior high school and, the administration noted that there are several students which they know will attend who have not registered. The official enrollment date is Sept. 20.

The first day of school is a short day with school beginning at 8:35 and ending at 11:35 a.m. Buses will run but there will be no lunch served. However, the first full day of school follows on Thursday with school beginning

at 8:35 a.m. and ending at 3:40 p.m. Lunch will be served.

There will be a PTA orientation open house/ice cream social at 7 p.m. on Aug. 30 at the grade school. At this time parents will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and make their own sundaes.

The first high school volleyball games will be played at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 31, at Golden Plains. The first high school varsity football game will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 3 at Oberlin.

**Swimming pool**

The swimming pool has new hours. Starting Aug. 15 through Aug. 22, the hours will be 4 to 9 p.m. This will allow children to swim and cool off and let the lifeguards participate in fall school sports.

## Little increase shown in school budget; mill levy is the same

**By Karen Krien**

There was no one to contest the 2004-2005 St. Francis school district budget. The budget hearing had been set for 8 p.m. on Thursday and, at that time, those protesting the budget as published in the July 29 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* or having questions were invited to attend.

The mill levy of 33.152 plus 1 mill for the Recreation Commission remains the same as last year's bud-

geted mills which totals to \$853,688 tax dollars plus \$27,404 for the Recreation Commission. It should be noted that a mill for the General Fund this year equals an estimated \$24,663 and a mill for the General Fund last year was \$22,213.

The Board was reminded that the 2004-2005 budget is based on 400 students but it will need to be cut when the actual enrollment is known on Sept. 20, the official enrollment date.



**COUNTRY HOME BURNS DOWN** — The house of Elvera Neitzel was burned to the ground early Monday morning. Mrs. Neitzel was asleep when the fire alarms went off. She left the house with her life and a few clothes

on her back. The house is located 3 miles south of Wheeler. Pictured in the distance is the barn where Mrs. Neitzel spent the night.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Lightning starts fire, house destroyed

**By Karen Krien**

Lightning was determined as the cause of a fire that burned down a house 3 miles south of Wheeler early Monday morning.

A storm moved through the St. Francis/Wheeler area about midnight. There was a constant show of lightning along with some rain.

Elvera Neitzel, 77, said the first bolt of lightning and thunder brought her straight up and she unplugged all of her appliances. The thunder with the second bolt sounded like it was right beside the house but, since everything was un-

plugged, she didn't worry.

About 1:05 a.m., Mrs. Neitzel woke up with the sound of smoke alarms going off. She said there was smoke everywhere and all she could think about was getting out of the house.

"The curtains and walls were burning and the smoke was so thick I could hardly see," she said.

She hurried to the barn where she kept her car but the keys were in the house and she had no way of going to get help. The wind was blowing the smoke into the barn so she shut the door, leaving just a crack where

she could see the house going up in flames. She had some old blankets stored in the barn which she wrapped up in and got into the car where she spent the rest of the night.

At about 6:30 Monday morning, Stanley Lamb was riding his bike (MSue, his wife, was walking) by the Neitzel place and the house was pretty much burned to the ground.

"I rode back and told MSue and we called 911. Then we went back and started calling for Elvera," Mr. Lamb said.

"She didn't answer. It scared the heck out of me!

"Then MSue started calling and that was when we saw the barn door open."

Mrs. Neitzel said all of her belongings were gone, even her glasses, but she felt fortunate to be alive.

"I have never been so scared — I know God was watching over me," she said.

Mrs. Neitzel's brother-in-law Don Bruder had earlier installed four smoke detectors. Mrs. Neitzel said they were all going off.

George Harper, St. Francis Fire

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## New postmaster heads Sainty office

Penny S. Sheldon has been appointed postmaster at St. Francis, effective Aug. 7. The appointment was announced by Mark A. Kerschen, manager, Post Office Operations, US Postal Service.

Installation ceremonies are scheduled at 12:30 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 20, at the St. Francis Post Office. Manager Kerschen will administer the Oath of Office.

Ms. Sheldon succeeds Steve Schultz who was promoted to postmaster in Goodland as of May 29. Ms. Sheldon has served as officer-in-charge at Winona and Lyons.

The new postmaster began her

career in September 1995 as a part-time flexible (PTF) Carrier in Goodland. She then transferred to a Part-Time Flexible Distribution Sales/Service Associate in Goodland. While working at the Goodland Post Office she also was in charge of the office in 2000 and from April, 2002 through October, 2002. Ms. Sheldon was assigned as officer-in-charge at the Lyons Post Office in May, 2004, where she served prior to becoming the postmaster at St. Francis.

Ms. Sheldon is looking forward to serving the community of St. Francis as their postmaster.

## Board members concerned about work on hospital

Two hospital board members attended the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Monday to discuss hospital and clinic projects.

Reuben Schultz and Robert Van Allen, both hospital board members, reported that they were disappointed with some of the work at the hospital renovation project.

Now, it is time to start renovation in the clinic basement where the county health office will be located. They were wondering if they had to accept the lowest bid on the clinic project or if they could accept a local bid, even if it were to come in a bit higher?

Chairman Tim Raile said they may have to take the lowest bid since the project is funded by a government grant. Clerk Terry Miller called Amy Griffey with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development for more information. She said the county would have to select the "lowest responsible bid" and if the county deemed someone not responsible, they would have to present a legal argument as to where their reasoning was coming from.

Both hospital board members were not happy about some of the workmanship done on the hospi-

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## FIRE

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Chief, said that most of the fire had burned down by the time the firemen arrived. He thought that the lightning had probably hit the house.

Later, a tree to the east of the house began burning and Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring, Mr. Bruder and Mr. Lamb carried water to extinguish it. There were still some flames in the basement after lunch

on Monday.

The house had been built around 1895 by Mrs. Neitzel's father and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Neitzel Sr. Elvera and Harry Jr. moved to the farm after Harry returned from the war and they were married. Through the years, the house had been remodeled.

Harry Jr. died in 1993 but Elvera continued living there saying that

when houses are left empty, they are vandalized. Besides it was still her home.

Mrs. Neitzel is staying with her sister and husband, Don and Darlene Bruder in Bird City. Her daughter and husband were coming and she would know more about what she was going to do after talking to them.

## WALK

Continued from Page 1A

to register and for more information. Survivors should call Kathy Weber and they can get a survivor T-shirt and walk at 7 p.m.

For information about buying a luminaria memorial for a loved one who lost their fight to cancer, or in honor of a survivor, call Sherry Schultz at 785-332-2860. For other questions, call Mrs. Gardner, chairperson, at 785-332-3506.

"This fifth annual cancer Relay for Life promises to be an awesome community event — don't miss it," Mrs. Gardner said.

"Remember, we must not lose track of the real reason that we are doing this and that it to raise funds

for the fight against cancer!

Everyone is urged to find a team member today and buy some luminaries.

"That is how we can be most effective (in the fight for cancer)," she concluded.

There are many major sponsors for this event and the generosity of these sponsors allows all donations to go directly to the American Cancer Society. Corporate sponsors are: Bankwest of Kansas, Grace Flying Service, CTX Mortgage Company, Shay Realty, First National Bank, St. Francis Equity, Schultz's, James M. Milliken, Mary Beth Miller, B & R Bierocks, Keller Auto Supply, Saintry Super Foods, Krien Phar-

macy, Jensen Construction, Owens True Value, Kite & Day, Tim Poling, DDS, Frewen Insurance, Ross Manufacturing, Neitzel Insurance, Weber Barber Shop, St. Francis Tire And Service, Van Allen, Parkhill Restaurant, Frontier Equity Exchange, Girlfriends & Guys Too, Poling Chiropractic And Family Health Center, Pleasant Hill 4-H Club, Leach Insurance Agency, Pizza Hut, Walz Welding Shop, Lampe Hardware, L&W-Andrist Insurance Agency, Windmill Restaurant, Yost Farm Supply, Topside Office Products, Gardner Construction, Melvin Dunn, DDS, Diamond R. Bar & Grill and K-Store.

## WORK

Continued from Page 1A

tal project. Following discussion, Chairman Raile said that if the contractor was completing the work within specifications, there was probably not much the county could do.

No one protests 2005 budget

The hearing for the 2005 proposed budget was held with no audience being present. The budget which was published in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* was adopted and signed.

In 2005, the proposed budget calls for \$3,356,196 in expenditures with \$238,000 being transferred, leaving the total amount needed for expenditures at \$3,118,196. For this year, the estimated expenditures is \$2,963,576 with \$171,247 being transferred. The assessed valuation is up from \$35,951,970 to \$38,503,182 so consequently, the mill levy is down, from 51.944 to approximately 46.639 which is a 5.305 decrease.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, discussed the possibility of getting a new pickup for himself. He had a

quote on a new pickup but the board asked that he get a quote on some used vehicles, if there were any available.

The supervisor said the part-time help which were recently hired, were working out well and were going good jobs. He asked if he could increase their pay upwards one level at the end of their three-month probation period. The board approved.

Sign-making machine to be sold

Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness director, reported Rooks County was interested in purchasing the county's old sign-making machine. Cheyenne County had purchased the machine in 1995 for \$2,000. The county recently replaced the equipment with a different system.

The commissioners told Director Rogers to try to get a purchase price of \$1,000 but, if not, sell it using his discretion as to the price.

In other business:

Danny Schlittenhardt, weed supervisor, and Mary Morrow, register of deeds, were given approval to attend meetings.

A sample resolution, presented by the Kansas County of Commissioners Association was reviewed. The Association needs 21 counties to adopt the resolution so they can advance a proposed amendment to the Kansas Association of Counties membership at the Kansas Association of Commissioners meeting in November. The amendment deals with a Legislative Policy Committee and its workings. The board tabled the matter until another meeting.

Carol Redding introduced herself as the new coordinator of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation. Ms. Redding said she plans to be in the office, located in the southwest corner of the courthouse basement, every weekday morning from 8 a.m. until noon.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Aug. 31 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.



MARGO DOUTHITT had her dog's full attention at the 4-H Dog Show held during the Cheyenne County Fair. Margo was the Reserve Champion in the senior division.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## BUS

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Department of Education will be notified of the board's decision.

Contract/amendment signed

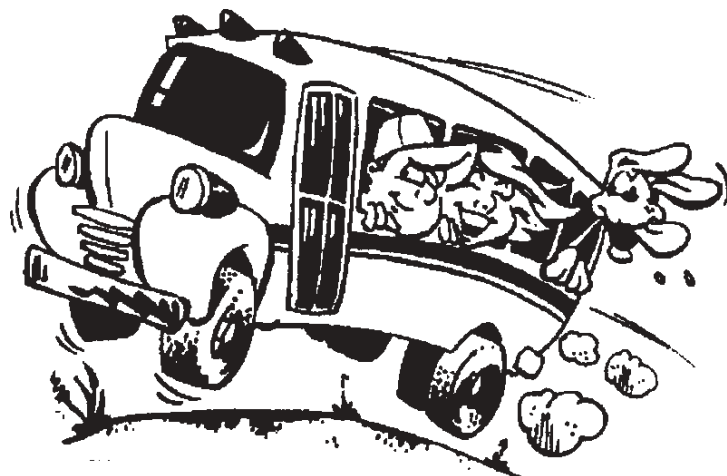
The board agreed to sign one contract and amend a contract: Teri Richard's contract was amended to add the responsibilities as cheerleader co-sponsor. She will get one-half of the supplementary pay schedule.

Charlene Laffond had indicated that she would accept the custodian position at the junior-senior high school. The position had previously been filled by Vicki Killingsworth. Six people had applied for the position which requires the custodian to work 171 days, 8 hours per day.

So far, the board has not filled the assistant girls' basketball coaching position.

In other business:

In other business:



The board agreed to allow Taylor Archibald, fourth grader, to attend the St. Francis Schools as an out-of-district student. The tuition was waived.

A meeting had not yet been scheduled with the Greene Scholarship Committee concerning the scholarship/citizen-ship regulations but the board

agreed that Scott Carmichael, junior-senior high school principal, could present the proposed regulations to students at the opening of school.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board of education has been set for 8 p.m. on Sept. 13 in the board room at the high school.

## CHEYENNE THEATER NEEDS NEW SEATS



The Cheyenne Theater needs \$24,000 to replace the original seats, which are over 50 years old! Donations are now being accepted to replace the old seats with new ones.

If you are interested in helping, please make a donation!

- STAR WARS**  
\$1,500  
I would like to donate a row of seats in memory of all the good times I had at the movies with all my friends.
- SOUND OF MUSIC**  
\$600  
I would like to donate four seats in memory of all the times I went to the movies with my family.
- LOVE STORY**  
\$300  
I would like to donate two seats in memory of all the great dates I had at the theater.
- BLUE HAWAII**  
\$150  
I would like to donate one seat in memory of all the Elvis Presley movies I saw at the theater.
- CADDYSHACK**  
\$50  
I would like to donate one armrest in memory of all the popcorn and Milk Duds I ate at the theater.
- PENNIES FROM HEAVEN**  
\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25  
I would like to donate in memory of all the gum I stuck under the seats.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ and/or email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you do not want your name included in the donor list.



Mail this form and your check payable to:

First National Bank Charitable Trust  
c/o Cheyenne Theater – Seat Fund  
P.O. Box 517  
St. Francis, KS 67756

Create Your Own Category  
Movie \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

## WANTED — BIDS

The City of Bird City is now soliciting bids for the re-roofing of the City Hall building.

Bids will be accepted in the City Clerk's office through 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 3, 2004.

For specifications contact the City Clerk, 111 E. 4th Street or 785-734-2616.

The City of Bird City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

## LAND AUCTION

320 ACRES RAWLINS COUNTY, KANSAS  
4-H FAIRGROUNDS BLDG., ATWOOD, KS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - 10:30 A.M.

Selling the East 1/2 section 30-4-33 located on Hwy. 25 nine miles south of Atwood, KS. Farm offers a high percentage of cropland with mostly all Keith soils. Sale is subject to tenant rights to plant the 2005 wheat crop. Buyer will receive a one-third share of 2005 wheat. All owned minerals are included, if any. 10% down day of auction with closing on or about October 15, 2004

For property details call:

Farmers National Company

Vern Hazlett, Auctioneer

785-462-8271 or 785-443-3456

Colby, Kansas