



Landlords protest city ordinance

By Sandy Barnhart

Nine landlords were present at the Aug. 17 St. Francis City Council meeting. They were there to protest the ordinance concerning the landlords picking up their renters delinquent utility bills.

Those protesting the ordinance included: Dan Schlittenhardt, Dave and Dawn Fry, Larry Forsythe, Dale and Alma Neitzel,

Kary Meyer and Wanda Gienger.

In the last 10 years, delinquent and uncollectible accounts of utility bills has resulted in a lost to the city of approximately \$21,500. The average delinquent bill is \$217.99 with the largest being \$571.92. Bills run from the 15th to the 15th of every month, they are due the first of the month. After the 15th there is a late charge of \$10.20

added to the bill and then after the 25th, utilities are disconnected. By this time the utility customer could be 2 months behind. At the present time the utility deposit is \$100.

The ordinance that the city passed at the July 20th meeting, came about when the Kansas Legislature passed a bill which exempts the landlord from being responsible for their renter's delinquent water and sewer

bills. The new State Statute does not apply to gas or electric bills.

Attorney Mike Day explained that the city became aware of this statute through the city's monthly League of Kansas Municipalities' magazine where the statute was highlighted. (The League regularly offers model standard ordinances for cities to adopt.)

The League advised two different options for cities to adopt in order to protect taxpayers. The first option, which the city discussed and rejected, was to have the landlord come to the city office and personally sign up for the utilities. The second option, which the city approved was to make the landowner responsible for delinquent

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Hospital board buys analyzer, CAT scanner

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board agreed to the purchase of a blood chemistry analyzer when they met on Thursday.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, told the board that the lab manager, Darrell Reed MT, had found a blood chemistry analyzer capable of doing several exams which are now being sent out. The hospital currently sends these tests to a reference lab in North Platte, Neb. Mr. Reed had negotiated the price to a point below \$23,000.

While this piece of equipment is not on the capital equipment budget, it has an excellent return on investment. Administrator Lacy agreed with the lab manager's calculation that the analyzer would save the hospital around \$2,000 per month. This adds up to \$24,000 per year — \$1,000 less than the equipment.

Traci Neitzel, board member, asked if Mr. Reed was qualified to operate the equipment. Administrator Lacy responded that the lab manager was qualified to do high complexity testing, including operation of this equipment.

After discussion, the board approved outright purchase of the analyzer, requesting that the administrator negotiate a better price if possible.

Administrator Lacy said that the hospital had signed papers to obtain a CAT scanner for \$122,500 with DEXA-Scan capabilities (bone density testing for osteoporosis). In addition, the hospital is making a trans-

Tourney to raise money

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital's annual Swing Fore Your Heart golf tournament has been set for Sunday, Sept. 12, at Riverside Recreation. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and tee-off is at noon.

Each year, a special project is named for the proceeds of the tournament. Both this year's and last year's funds are going toward a therapeutic pool for the physical therapy department.

A therapeutic pool is used by people with orthopedic and rheumatologic conditions, neuromuscular disabilities and chronic pain. The pool will benefit many people by

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sition to computerized radiology to eliminate the need for film or a dark room when fully operational.

A lease on this equipment will be paid with savings in operational

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KATTIE WURM was fascinated with the performers on the stage at the Relay For Life walk Saturday evening. Kattie, 2-years-old, is the daughter of Shane and Christy Wurm, St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

\$1,000 spree contest to begin

The entry forms are out and customers have until the middle of September to sign up to win \$1,000 in scrip to be spent in a shopping spree in St. Francis.

The promotion is being sponsored by *The Saint Francis Herald* and six participating businesses: K-Store, Owens True Value, Schultz's, St. Francis Equity, St. Francis Super's, and Tri-State Lumber/Paints Plus.

The sponsors' ads and contest rules are on page 7A. Everyone entering the shopping spree must be over 18. There is no purchase required. Employees of sponsoring businesses can't register where they work and employees and immediate family members of *The Saint Francis Herald* are not allowed to enter or win.

The last day to enter the shopping spree is Sept. 17 at noon. The drawing will be held the following day at 10 a.m. on St. Francis Main Street. The winner will need to be present to claim the prize.

There will be one grand prize winner drawn. The winner will have until Monday, Sept. 20, to spend the money. The winner will need to notify the paper when they are going to shop so a photographer can accompany them.



NEW POSTMASTER PENNY SHELDON was installed as the St. Francis Postmaster in a brief ceremony on Friday. Pictured to the left is her husband Shad Sheldon, and to the right is Mark Kerschen, manager of post office operations.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

New postmaster installed at St. Francis Post Office

By Karen Krien

St. Francis' new postmaster was installed on Friday at the post office. Refreshments were served following the installation.

Mark Kerschen, manager of post office operations, Hutchinson, installed Penny Sheldon.

Postmaster Sheldon started her postal career as a part-time carrier in Goodland. She later moved up to the part-time window clerk and officer in charge at the Winona and Lyons post offices. Also, when the Goodland postmaster was gone, Postmaster Sheldon was in charge

of that office.

Postmaster Sheldon said she plans to leave the St. Francis office much as it is with the exception of cleaning and organizing files. She also plans to give the same efficient service which people have enjoyed in the past.

She would like to help customers become more familiar with several of the programs which the post office offers such as the "NetPost" and "Click and Ship."

"Look for more information about these programs," Postmaster Sheldon said. "They are available

and easy for customers to use."

Postmaster Sheldon was born and raised in Goodland. She and her husband Shad will continue to live in Goodland where Mr. Sheldon has an electrical business and their home has a recording studio in which Mr. Sheldon also works. The Sheldon's have twin children, 13-year-old Kade and Courtney who will be eighth graders in the Goodland Schools.

Postmaster Sheldon said she has already met many nice people in St. Francis and is looking forward to working with them in the future.

Kidnapped girl rescued by good samaritans of Village

Good samaritans of the Good Samaritan Village were largely responsible for the rescue of a kidnapped victim and arrest of two men.

On Thursday, a group of residents and staff members from the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village were in Denver as part of the "Grant a Wish" program in the Village's activities department. The Village recreation director, Cathy Loop worked with the First National Bank in getting enough tickets so that approximately 15 people could attend a Rockies baseball game.

After the game, the Good Samari-

tan van was parked at an fueling station near Strasburg, Colo., and a pickup with a camper shell was parked directly across from the van. There were two men in the pickup who were also getting gas, and it was later observed that a young female was in the back of the shell. The two men were constantly staring at the Good Samaritan van until staff members became suspicious.

Closer observation and the continued attention the two men gave to the van, made the Village staff think that something was wrong. It was then that they noticed that the young lady did not get out to use the rest

room but seemed to be confined to the back of the pickup.

One of the staff members suggested they turn license plate numbers and the incident into the sheriff's department which they did and on the return trip home, one of the staff received a call from the sheriff's dispatcher saying that the vehicle had disappeared in the Denver traffic after he had notified them. However, on Saturday, the sheriff's department called again and said that the vehicle had been stopped in Texas on Saturday and the two men were being held for possession of

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Dove season begins

Dove season will be split into two seasons with the fall season starting Wednesday, Sept. 1, and running until Oct. 14. The second season will run Nov. 1 through the 16th.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks said this year's dove bag will again include mourning doves, white-winged doves, Eurasian collared-doves, and ringed turtle-doves. The daily bag limit of 15 doves includes any combina-

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Owner against transient bed tax

By Sandy Barnhart

The Transient Tax which was approved at the May 18 meeting of the St. Francis City Council was protested at the Aug. 17 meeting. After hearing the argument against the tax, they agreed to stand fast on their previous decision and the Transient Tax will be implemented.

Kathy Woodcox, owner of the Homestead Motel, was present to protest the Transient Tax (bed tax) which the council passed by Chartered Ordinance at the May 18 council meeting. Mrs. Woodcox had turned in a petition on Friday afternoon, Aug. 13, with 30 signatures protesting the Transient Tax and demanding that the matter be put to a city vote.

According to the state constitution, a petition must have 10 percent of the number of people who voted at the last city election. There were 234 voters at the last city election, which would then require the petition have 23 qualified signatures. The signatures must be those of city residents who are qualified to vote, not necessarily must they be registered or have exercised their right to vote.

The ordinance was published in *The Saint Francis Herald* on June 10 and June 17 and the ordinance would go into effect 61 days after the last publication, which would be Aug. 17. Mrs. Woodcox's petition carried 30 signatures which was pre-

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 sented to the city office late on Aug. 13. On Aug. 17, after review by the city clerk and county clerk on Aug. 16, Mrs. Woodcox was notified that the petition only carried 19 qualified signatures. Mrs. Woodcox felt that the 3 percent tax added onto the already 7.3 percent tax the motel has to charge would be a burden on the motels with travelers going to Goodland more. She also felt that creating money for tourism should be more of a community effort and the burden should not lay on the two motels. She felt the bed tax ordinance should be brought before the public by vote. The tax collected can only be used to promote tourism.

Councilman Dale Weeks noted that on a \$30 room the 3 percent would amount to 90¢ and if this added tourism to Cheyenne County, it would surely add more business to the motels. It was also noted that Cheyenne County is one of only a few counties statewide which does not have a Transient Tax.

The council had voted previously to pass the ordinance and stood fast in their decision.

Recycling Center
 Councilman Roger Jensen informed the council that the mayor, Scott Schultz, would need to sign a Grant Security Agreement. The agreement basically states that Thomas County would retain ownership of the baler that Cheyenne County has. Cheyenne County agrees to provide maintenance, upkeep, insurance and training for the baler, then after 5 years Thomas County will be removed from the title and the baler will belong to Cheyenne County. The grant was written through Thomas County Conservation District for the organization. All grants that the five counties receive are written through the Thomas County Conservation District and therefore the grants are awarded to Thomas County.

Pool report
 Bruce Swihart, pool committee, told the council that Margaret Poling and Crissy Cooks would be helping to keep the pool open longer by serving as guards. He also said that by next year, the floors in the bathroom would need attention, signs repainted and possibly the council would consider looking into replacing the lower board as there is a crack in it.

Other Business
 In other business:
 • The council approved to raise water rates 20 cents per 1,000 gallons which will increase the amount to \$1 per 1,000 gallons. Also approved was to add \$1 to trash rates for recycling and compost.
 • A building permit was ap-

proved for the First Christian Church to erect a sign.
 • City clerk Mary Lampe reported, as of Aug. 17, \$8,855 has been donated to the theater for seats.
 • Clerk Lampe reported that the city has received a refund from Kansas Municipal Energy Agency in the amount of \$2,466.

HOSPITAL

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 funds created by the change. Jackie John, Great Plains Health Alliance director, said that another Great Plains Hospital administrator was very interested that the Cheyenne County Hospital was putting the X-ray equipment in the same room as the CAT scanner. When all of the equipment is up and going, Administrator Lacy said that the nearest places (from St. Francis) where people can obtain the same services on a day-to-day basis will be Yuma, Imperial, Garden City and WaKeeney.

Opening of bids
 The board was informed that the opening of bids for renovation work on the county health office in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis will be held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 2 at the courthouse in St. Francis. The architect's invoice for the health clinic was \$2,545. Administrator Lacy said the board would need to approve the amount and he would then send it to Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning Commission, Hill City, recommending payment. The county health clinic work is being done through a Community Development Block Grant.

Old entrance open again
 The board was also told that the entrance of the hospital will be moved back to its original place on Sept. 1. The entrance had been moved to the basement entry during the remodeling of the original part of the hospital.

Approval of pay application
 The board approved the 13th pay application for Rhoads Construction, Goodland, for work done on the hospital addition/remodeling project. The application was for \$121,037. Administrator Lacy said the general contractor had asked that retainage be reduced from 10 to 5 percent, but the board consensus was not to reduce the retainage at this time.

Director's report
 Director John, in her hospital financial report, noted that both the clinics in St. Francis and Bird City had done exceptionally well which had brought the loss of the hospital finances down to \$18,971 this month.

In other business
 In other business:
 • Administrator Lacy has been elected as the vice chairman of the Kan-Ed user Advisory Council.
 • It was noted that Dolores Kincheloe had given the hospital \$1,000 in memory of Walt Kincheloe to be used toward the CAT scanner.
 • Swede Calnon, board member, said the closest de-tox facility for alcohol and drug users is Dodge City and that most of the people needing treatment do not have money to pay for it.
 • The Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) regulations required to be used by the hospital were given to hospital board members to review.

Next meeting
 The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 7 p.m. on Sept. 16 in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

DOVE

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 tion of these four species.

Dove hunters should also look for leg bands on mourning doves they shoot. This is the second of a three-year mourning dove banding project involving Kansas and 25 other states. The purpose of the project is to estimate annual survival rates, harvest rates and distribution of the harvest, as well as to refine techniques for a future dove-banding program. Information gleaned from this study is necessary for understanding population trends and dove harvests, and the hunter's participation is critical. By checking all harvested doves for bands and reporting banded doves, hunters help wildlife biologists manage this important migratory game bird resource.

Because dove bands are very small, hunters can easily overlook them. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is asking dove hunters to carefully check all doves bagged for the presence of a leg band, and if a band is found, to report it by phoning 1-800-327-BAND (2263). Banded birds may also be reported on the internet at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl. At this website, scroll down to "How to Report a Bird Band" and click. Hunters may keep the bands and will be provided a certificate identifying the age, sex, date, and location the bird was banded. For more information, phone 620-793-7730.



LUIS CERNA uses a tractor to dump surplus material into a burn pit near the bridge that he and his co-workers have completed north of Bird City. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Construction crew ends work on highway bridge

By Casey McCormick
 After two and a half months of "roughing it" a crew of construction workers finished work on the bridge north of Bird City on Highway 161. Alejo Carbajal was the foreman of the crew for L & M Construction out of Great Bend. He and his six men spent about 10 weeks living at the building site and working long days. "The nights were cool," said Luis Cerna, one of the workers, "We used a lot of blankets for heat." Along with cool evenings the workers only had a trailer and wood

shed to protect them and their belongings from storms. "One storm knocked down the shed where my clothes were," said Mr. Cerna, "The next morning I found them down hill in a ditch." The men did make occasional visits to the towns north and south of them, but spent the majority of time at the bridge location. They bathed from a water well that only provided cold water. But the crew from L & M dealt with the weather and now a nice

looking bridge spans the creek about half way between Bird City and Benkelman, Neb. One thing that made the experience more comfortable was the cookies and cakes that a Bird City resident brought the men at the job. "Susan Schultz treated us very good," said Mr. Cerna, "We wanted to thank her." The other workers were Andres Garcia, Roberto Cruz, Saul Paeralez, Angel Gonzales and Sebastian Leyva.

ORDINANCE

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 renter's bills. It was noted that the city would still make every effort to collect from the renter before turning to the landlord.

The new ordinance also provides that if the city is unable to collect from the renter and the landlord refuses payment, the city then has the option of applying the delinquent charges as a lien on the real estate serviced and the charges could be placed on the tax rolls. The council approved the ordinance at the July 20 meeting with the ordinance being published in *The Saint Francis Herald* on July 29 and Aug. 5. The ordinance then takes effect 61 days after the last publication, or on Oct. 4 unless there is a protest petition concerning the ordinance which would then bring the issue to a vote by city residents.

Mrs. Meyers said not all cities choose to adopt the League's ordinance. After calling Hays she said that they had voted on the issue and choose not to pass the ordinance because the Hays council felt that once a renter was delinquent on the city's account, more than likely the landlord was also going to be out monthly rent money. Mr. Schlittenhardt said that this was the same ordinance that came before the council 10 years ago and they voted the ordinance down. "The city didn't need the ordinance then and it doesn't need the ordinance now," he said.

He also felt that what the city collected in utility charges, the esti-

mated \$21,500 lost from unpaid utility bills was minor compared to how the city wastes the taxpayers' money daily. Councilman Roger Jensen noted that was a matter of opinion.

Mrs. Meyers asked the council to look at what the city would lose if landlords shut down their rental houses.

Mrs. Neitzel said their policy with their rental house was if they were unsure that a renter would pay, they will not rent. She also noted that they felt landlords should find out where the renter came from and check into their paying history.

Attorney Day said that the city legally cannot ask for past credit references, but a landlord can and this

would be beneficial to both the landlords and the city.

After much discussion the crowd and council came to an agreement that the city will notify landlords immediately when accounts become past due. The deposit, which will be discussed further at the next meeting, will be raised for utilities with the landlords also asking renters for references from previous landlords which, if the reference is presented to the city, the deposit could be adjusted.

The council then instructed the city clerk that the ordinance's paragraph defining "delinquent accounts" not be strictly enforced for a year at which time the situation will be reviewed.

GIRL

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 illegal drugs and kidnapping.

It seems that the young lady was being held against her will and that she had told the two men that she would be rescued by a "good samaritan," therefore, when they saw the van full of folks with Good Samaritan Village written on the side, it caused them a great deal of concern. Actually, all the staff traveling on

the trip were heroes as they worked and acted together.

"They are the embodiment of our motto and philosophy statement, 'To share God's love in word and deed by providing shelter and supportive services to older persons and others in need, believing that 'In Christ's love, Everyone is someone,'" said Paul Rainbolt, Village administrator.

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RAISE

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 mproving mobility, flexibility, strength and endurance. The pool will also reduce stress on weight-bearing joints, improve balance, coordination and functional skills as well as improving circulation, respiration and aerobic ability.

Last year, the golf tournament raised \$8,200 through the 75 businesses and individuals who sponsored the tournament. The pool will cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The tournament is a three-person scramble. There will be team prizes as well as special event prizes such as:

- Hole one - shortest drive.
- Hole two - shortest iron.
- Hole three - closest to pin on second shot.
- Hole four - hole-in-one.
- Hole 5 - longest putt.
- Hole 6 - closest to the outhouse hole.
- Hole seven - closest to pin.

• Hole 8 - longest putt.
 • Hole 9 - longest drive.
 There will be a variety of door prizes given out following the tournament at the dinner banquet. The banquet will start at 6 p.m. and tickets will be available at the door for those who have not participated in the golf tournament. For those who have entered the tournament, the cost of the dinner is included in the tournament ticket.

New vehicle provided by Yost Ford-Mercury

A brand new vehicle is being provided courtesy of Yost Ford-Mercury, St. Francis, for the golfer hitting a hole-in-one.

Donations
 Anyone wanting to donate to the hospital's annual golf tournament should contact the Cheyenne County Hospital or mail a check to P.O. Box 547, St. Francis, KS 67756.

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