

Officer harvests illegal plants

By Casey McCormick

On Sept. 16, the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, confiscated 112 marijuana plants northeast of Bird City.

The plants, ranging in size from 4- to 7-foot tall, were planted in rows in the ditch along the southeast corner of Road R and Road 33, 4 miles north and 1-mile east of Bird City. There was evidence of people frequenting the location as empty beer cans were found and the plants showed signs that they had been recently picked.

Sheriff deputy Carol Gamblin was the initial investigator on the case. Her research led to finding the location of the marijuana.

"I took Jeff out there to show him where they were and it went from there," Deputy Gamblin said.

She was referring to Jeff Moser, sheriff's deputy, who continued the investigation along with Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring.

"They were big plants," Deputy Gamblin said.

The plants were taken by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to be destroyed.

Stolen vehicle is back

By Karen Krien

The 1993 Ford Escort wagon, stolen on Sept. 5, has been recovered in Colorado Springs.

St. Francis Chief of Police Troy Gardner said the car was abandoned in a grocery store parking lot and found by the Colorado Springs Police Department on Sept. 16.

The two weapons, ammunition and money which were in the car when it was stolen were still there.

The wagon, belonging to Chris and Deb Cisneros, was stolen from the Good Samaritan Village. The Cisneros had reported the guns and ammunition being in the car (no mention of money) and it was low on gas.

St. Francis Police officer Mark Davidson who had worked the case, had listed the stolen vehicle with the National Crime Information Center.

Earlier that same day, an individual was stopped in Kit Carson County on a traffic infraction. He ran from police and stole a pickup in the area which was later found near Riverside Recreation on U.S. 36. Officers Davidson and Tom Raile had investigated the stolen pickup when it was found.

As of Tuesday, the case was still under investigation and there is no evidence that the two incidents are related.



Homecoming crown bearers Reagan Beims and Tate Busse waited patiently for the crowning to begin. Allyse Lampe, the 2003 Homecoming queen, carried the roses for the new queen.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

2004 Homecoming is over

By Karen Krien

Homecoming Week is over at St. Francis Community High School and both students and teachers will be settling into a normal week pattern.

There were activities throughout the week as students painted the streets, dressed as twins and signed T-shirts, just to name a few. On Friday afternoon, Chelsey Weeden and Andrew Feikert were announced as the Homecoming queen and king at the pep assembly held on Greene Field. The members of the court were Kelsey Dunn, Amy Grace, Brooke Lucas, Ale' Tygart, Gabe Gienger, Tanner Kinen, Derek Ross and Seth Swihart. Crown bearers were Reagan Beims and Tate Busse. The queen and king were crowned by the 2003 Homecoming queen, Allyse Lampe.

Friday evening, during the half-time program, the queen and her court were announced to the Indian supporters. The band played and pom-pom squad entertained. The frosting on the Homecoming cake was the Indians' win over the Quinter Bulldogs. The Homecoming dance was held Saturday evening.



2004 Homecoming king and queen Andrew Feikert, Chelsey Weeden

One project nears end; another starts

By Karen Krien

As the hospital renovation nears completion, the county health office renovation in the basement of the clinic is about to begin.

There were two bids for the renovation work and, when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board members met on Thursday evening, they agreed with the hospital administrator that the apparent low bidder, Danny Penn of Penn Building Service, St. Francis, needed to work with Charles Renz, the architect, to get the cost of the county health facility project down below the budgeted amount of \$98,854.

The two bids were: Penn Building Service - \$102,830; and Rhoads Construction Company, Goodland - \$128,300. Mr. Penn has indicated the clinic project will take 98 calendar days and plans to start in approximately four to six weeks.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that the hospital renovation is moving along. The east end of the building has been completely re-

modeled and is being occupied.

He said the X-ray machine (which is in this area) is operational and, as of Sept. 9, they were still waiting for the computerized radiology system and a lead-lined door to make the room fully operational. Until the staff is fully prepared to make the computerized radiology conversion, they will continue to maintain the darkroom capabilities. He also reported that the blood analyzer for the lab had been purchased for \$21,000 instead of \$22,000 as originally priced.

Administrator Lacy said the downstairs hallway bathrooms had been demolished in preparation for changes made in the elevator installation. The work in the kitchen area will be finished in a week.

Students from the Northwest Kansas Technical College will be upgrading the computer wiring to category 6 and will be installing several high speed switches. The students will also be implementing the

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Wind gusts reach to 60 mph Sunday

By Karen Krien

Much of the St. Francis area had around an inch of rain on Sept. 14 but by Sunday, the dirt was blowing as wind averaged between 30 and 45 miles per hour.

The wind seemed to really kick in on Saturday and it continued through the night with no let up during the day and night on Sunday. Richard Grace at Grace Flying Service, St. Francis, reported the highest wind gust speed was 60 miles per hour on Sunday.

The temperatures also kicked in with Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reporting a high of 98 on Saturday. The temperatures coupled with the wind made it a miserable day and, while it wasn't as

warm (88 degrees) on Sunday, it was still not a pleasant day.

The wind on Monday had settled down to around 25 to 30 miles per hour and, by Tuesday, the temperatures had cooled down more than 30 degrees with the high being in the 60s. Light moisture fell during the day and the weather forecasters were talking about rain during the day, night and even more on Wednesday.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Sept. 14	88	53	1.95
Sept. 15	86	56	
Sept. 16	85	48	
Sept. 17	98	55	
Sept. 18	88	53	
Sept. 19	82	57	
Sept. 20	86	51	

Oct. 18 is the last day to register

The registration books will close at the end of regular business hours on Oct. 18 and will remain closed until Nov. 3, the day after the election.

Election officer Terry Miller reported that people may register at the clerk's office in the courthouse and the city office, both on Washington Street, St. Francis; or they can register at the First National Bank in Bird City.

To register, the person must be 18 years of age or older, or will have attained the age of 18 years at the

next election.

"When a voter has been registered according to law, his or her registration shall continue to be valid until the voter changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings or changes their residence," Officer Miller said.

Any person may apply to be registered in person or by mail. Forms will be provided by the county election officer upon request in person or in writing by an individual. The applications will need to be signed by the applicant.

St. Francis man wins \$1,000 Shopping Spree

Fall Festival in St. Francis on Saturday also marked the day of the drawing for the \$1,000 Shopping Spree. One name was drawn and that person was not present so a second name was drawn which was Bud Houtman.

Mr. Houtman had celebrated his 86th birthday the day before, when he didn't win at bingo that day, his daughter said maybe he would win the \$1,000 never imagining that he would.

"When he called my name, I could hardly believe it," he said. "It was one of the best presents I ever got."

One of the rules of winning the scrip was spending it before Monday evening. He didn't have any

trouble with this rule.

"We needed a spring and mattress set," Mr. Houtman said.

With scrip in hand, he and his friend Gladys Cullum and daughter Pat Confer headed to Schultz's, one of the businesses participating in the promotion, where he purchased the set. He then headed to True Value to get some paint for the living room. By then, he still had over \$300 in scrip and thought he would go home and think about where else he would spend the money, as he still had a couple of days.

Early Monday, he was out spending money again, buying more paint at Paints Plus, gas at K-Store and the Equity and groceries at St. Francis Super's. He also stopped by The

Herald to renew his subscription to The Saint Francis Herald for another year.

Mr. Houtman said he didn't have one bit of trouble spending the money.

"I had thought about 'what if I would win' and there were several things I needed," he said.

Mr. Houtman has lived in St. Francis most of his life where he was in the auto repair business for over 60 years. Though the years, he helped many people by coming out in the middle of the night, on freezing cold mornings or just when a car was stalled on Main Street.

He retired four years ago but still keeps his shop where he "tinkers" on his own vehicles.



TRYING IT OFF — Bud Houtman tries out the bed before he makes the purchase with his \$1,000 scrip. Scott Schultz, owner of Schultz's, gives Bud and Gladys Cullum the price.

Former resident celebrates 80th

On Sunday, Sept. 12, a surprise birthday party and potluck picnic was held for Calvin Zimbelman of Burlington, near St. Francis at the Jensen's cabin.

The many family and friends attending enjoyed an afternoon of visiting, laughing and talking about the "good old days." Some of Calvin's guests included a former Army buddy (who left together in 1944 for World War II), former neighbors, and former softball buddies from the Cheyenne County area.

From St. Francis guests included Roger and Janet Jensen, Arrilla Zimbelman, Rueben and Valjean Schultz, Marvin and Donna Zimbelman, Erna Schleppe, Carl and Connie Williams, Ernie and Marlene Lebfrom, Bob and Edna Zimbelman, Ronnie and Marsha Zimbelman, Raymond and Dorine Zimbelman, Tim and Robin Burr, Mark Zimbelman, Helen Peter, Willard Peter, Eddy and Sherry Schultz, Kenneth and Janet Roberson, Tobe Zwegardt, Dale and Mary Rath, Robert and Gertie Zwegardt, Darrel Zwegardt, Pete, Kaye and Trent Raile, Drew, Ty and Brock Zwegardt, Marvin and Veda Orth, Gordon and Betty Orth, Pete, Alice, Tanner and Trent Kinen, Melvin and Louise Schleppe, Spencer, Lisa, Aubree and Aly Schleppe,

Elton and Ella Mae Keller, Pete and Wanda Gienger, Tony and Joan Gienger, Helen Burnham, Hulda Raile, Nina Raile, Coleen Applegate, Larry and Pat Brunow, Donny and Jennifer Krien, and Morita Truman.

Attending from Burlington were: Dorothy Zimbelman, Jay and Carol Zimbelman, Rick, Kim and Jindy Davis, Gary and Judy Andrews, Dennis and Diane Vance, Dave and Donna Hilt, Helmuth and Francis Orth, and Leland and Joyce Lampe.

Other guests included: Kenneth and Suzie Zimbelman, Ozark, Mo.; Von and Loretta Sidman, The Dalles, Ore.; Dax and Dayne Webring and Stacie Cooper and Kiefer Eberhardt, Goodland; John and Kathy Roll, Holyoke, Colo.; Phil and Tara Krumm, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Jack and Sheila Davis, Denver; Terry, Wendy, Aaron, Jordan and Dalton Davis, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Drew Doggett, Kansas City; Donita Baird, Brewster; Glenn and Millie Glasco, Bird City; Charlie Wallace, Dodge City; Mitchell Schleppe, Kanorado; Carroll and Edie Reed, Seibert, Colo.; Amy and Britney Zimbelman, Greeley, Colo.; and Jenna Zimbelman, Fort Collins, Colo.

Occasion

Knodel birthday celebrated

The family cookout for a birthday celebration for Martha Knodel held at the John and Natalie Knodel's home on Saturday evening was a huge success. All had a good time.

Guests present were Art Knodel, Jr., and children Eloyssa, Aron and Adam, North Platte, Neb., Al

Knodel, Kanorado, Ed and Tanya Knodel, Burlington; Joan Knodel, Colorado Springs, Ruth and Joyce Knodel, Burlington, Lydia Hilt, St. Francis, Meredith Knodel, Kearney, Neb., Maddie Knodel, John and Natalie Knodel and Art and Martha Knodel.

PROJECT

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KAN-ED technology grant which will make the necessary network improvements and install dedicated interactive television systems in the emergency room and one clinic exam room. These upgrades are in preparation for the computer radiology, upgraded interactive television systems, electronic medical record and the future.

Administrator Lacy said the cost of the installation will be for the materials only. He also noted that the students doing the installation will be second-year students.

The board briefly discussed a sidewalk repair in front of the clinic and it was finally decided that it was an operational issue and the cost would not be taken out of board funds.

The board approved Change Order 4 for \$47,693 that includes changes in the building which were required to prepare for the installation of the CAT scanner. The board also approved Pay Ap-

plication 14 from Rhoads Construction for \$52,346. Administrator Lacy reported that he had contact with another physician who had been practicing in Kansas for the past three years

Administrator Lacy reported that he was talking to another physician who had been practicing in Kansas for the past three years.

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, in the financial report, showed the hospital had a very good month and, so far, the year is standing very well.

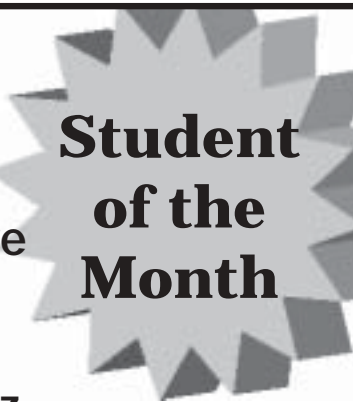
Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the hospital board has been set for 7 p.m. on Oct. 21 in the clinic basement in St. Francis. The special construction meeting will be announced later to coordinate it with the pre-construction meeting for the county health addition.

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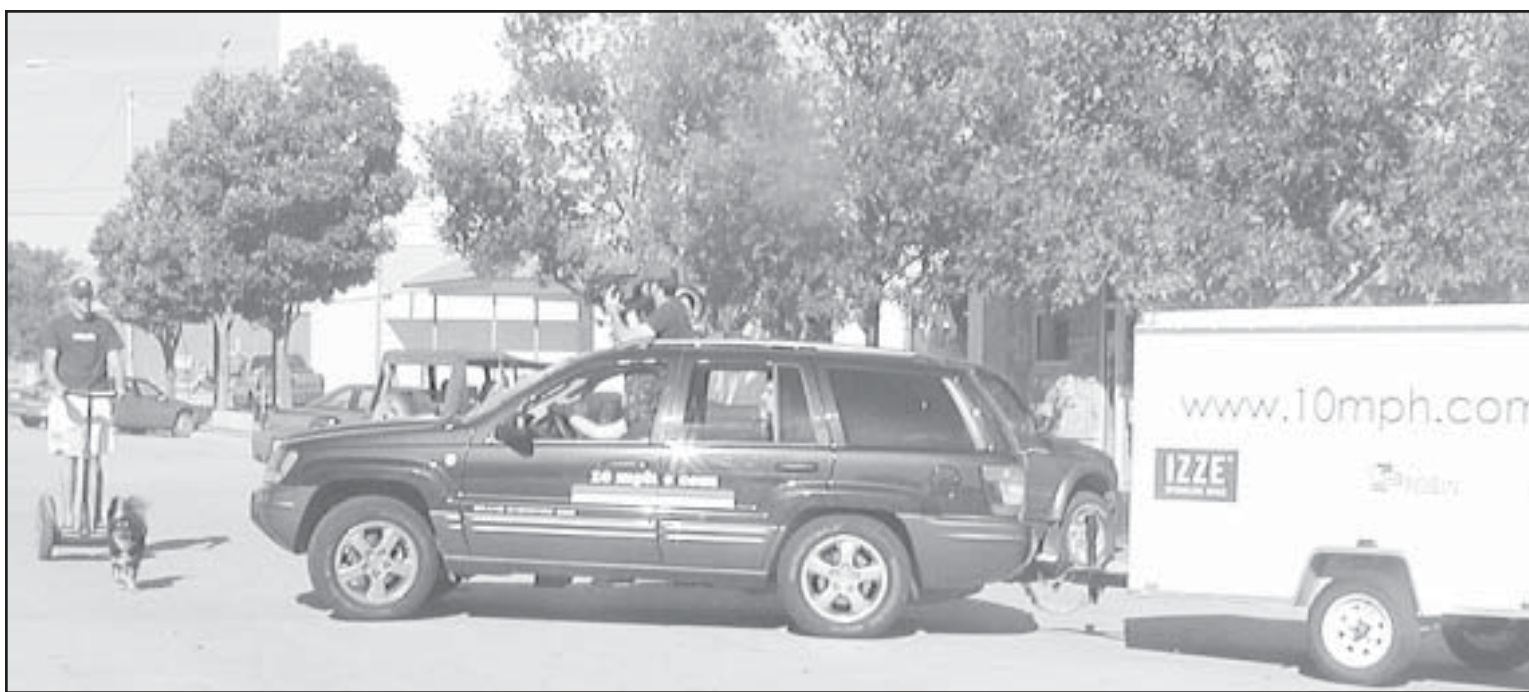


Amanda Nipps
Grade: Sophomore
Parents: Charlie Nipps Greg & Susie Walz



Amanda, a sophomore at St. Francis Community High school, is the September Student of the Month. Amanda is presently involved in Yearbooks and a Hospital Volunteer. Her hobbies include listening to music, playing guitar, spending time with her brother Izzy and reading. She likes frogs, stars and the colors green and black. After St. Francis Community High School, Amanda plans on continuing her education in college as I prepare for her career in possibly child psychiatrist specializing in play therapy. 10 years from now Amanda plans on being successful in the career she has chosen and doing her best. Amanda's favorite quote is: "Don't spend time crying over someone who won't cry over you." W.E.E.

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SEGWAY HUMAN TRANSPORTER, ridden by Josh Caldwell, stopped in St. Francis on Sept. 15. The group of filmmakers were making a documentary and were on their way to Boston.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Filmmakers make stop in St. Francis

By Kimberly Davis
Three young filmmakers traveled through St. Francis last week on their way to Boston.

The road is full of people walking, running, biking or skating with a cause, but this group is traveling at 10 miles per hour, filming with one member on a Segway Human Transporter, basically a motorized scooter. The Segway has two wheels on opposite sides of the platform. A handle bar comes up from the platform, and the rider has to balance himself on it.

The trio — Gannon Weeks, his sister Hunter Weeks and Josh Caldwell,

all 27 — started their journey in Seattle on Aug. 9.

Both of the men had worked for Best Software in Phoenix, but quit and moved to Denver, where they started Spinning Blue, the company sponsoring the film.

Ms. Weeks said she has had a corporate job in the past, but most recently worked as an assistant to a behavioral counselor. She quit the job to help make the film although she said she would be interested in going back.

The idea is to cross America while making a documentary and meeting people along the way, said Mr.

Weeks. They didn't say what they were planning on doing with film.

They said they are using the Segway to slow the trip down a bit.

Mr. Caldwell said the Segway lets them meet a lot more people. Mr. Caldwell, who rides the scooter, says he is able to talk with people along the road while traveling at 10 miles an hour.

On Thursday, the team pulled into Oberlin. They said they met a young police officer in Atwood who was related to Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn. He suggested the group stay at the inn

On Thursday they pulled out, heading to Bird City and Oberlin.

The idea is to get to Boston sometime in October. Mr. Weeks said the journey might be stretched out some depending on weather and opportunities. Total mileage is 4,200, with 1,700 of that done and 2,500 to go.

Each place the group has been, said Mr. Caldwell, has been different. There are unique aspects about each part of the country. The most interesting thing, though, is the people they have met along the way. He said they met smoke jumpers, farmers and others. It is great to hear how they enjoy what they are doing.

Mr. Weeks said the most interesting area to him has been the Yakima Valley, east of the Cascades in Washington, where the group was first introduced to farm country. It was neat to see the different kinds of farming, he said.

People in the cities, said Ms. Weeks, don't grasp the idea that they

can move to a small town. Both Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Weeks live in Denver and Ms. Weeks lives in Seattle.

The group said the smallest town they have been through was in Wyoming. The state sign outside the town of Highland said the population was 10. Ms. Weeks said they stopped and the population actually was three, all in the same family. She said they had one building which housed a bar, grocery and post office.

"They all thought the team was crazy," she added.

The biggest cities they've visited have been Denver and Seattle.

Mr. Caldwell said he grew up in a small town, but the other two are from the city. None of them had been to Kansas before except driving through.

Ms. Weeks said she expected it to be flat, but it hasn't been. The towns in eastern Colorado weren't very exciting, she said, and they expected Kansas to be that way, but it hasn't been that, either. She said Oberlin has a charm about it. The group got a kick out of the "cobblestone" streets.

By traveling at 10 miles per hour, said Mr. Caldwell, he has had the chance to notice all the little things. When driving through, a person doesn't notice those.

The team planned to stop in Norcatour and possibly have lunch on Friday, and then whiz on to Norton.

Along the way, the group has been interviewing people in the towns. Mr. Weeks said the whole project is independent. Total cost is \$100,000.

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