

Commissioners discuss bridge

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met for a short meeting on Monday where they talked about replacing the Olofson Bridge northwest of St. Francis. The bridge has been discussed numerous

times and is on the county's five-year plan. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, advised the commissioners to try for a Community Development Block Grant but this would require a survey to be taken in that area. The survey would determine if

there was enough low-to-moderate income families living in that area to qualify for a matching grant and, if the county qualifies, it could save \$50,000.

The time it will take to do the survey will move the bridge work back to March 2006

instead of October of this year but, Supervisor Flemming thought the grant would save the county a lot of money.

He also noted that a core drill testing the soil by the bridge showed there is shale. Since the piling on the bridge needs to be 15

feet below flow line, it could drive the cost of the bridge up.

County attorney

County attorney Justin Barrett had the revised copy of the county's employee See BRIDGE on Page 7A

Mail surveys back!!

Several weeks ago, people living in St. Francis received a survey to be filled out so the firemen could apply for a Community Development Building Grant. The grant money will be used to construct a new fire station/emergency building within the city limits.

Dale Weeks, at the March 22 city council meeting, said only 370 surveys had been sent back.

"We need 80 percent (or 550) of the surveys back by March 11 so we can have all of the information together by March 15," Mr. Weeks said.

If the number of surveys returned is still short by March 11, the firemen will be going door to door asking for the completed surveys. Anyone not understanding how to fill out the survey can contact Mary Lampe, city clerk.

A stamped envelope is included with the survey. It is easy to just quickly fill out the survey, put in the envelope and mail it.

The grant is a KANSTEP (Kansas Small Town Environment Program) grant and will provide all of the materials for the proposed building and citizens will do the labor. At the KANSTEP public meeting held on Feb. 5 and since then, there have been 126 people sign volunteer lists and Mr. Weeks said, that when he had talked Michele Kippes, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, she felt there was enough interest for the project. She will be setting up a meeting with the state.

"All we ask is that everyone receiving the survey will return them as quickly as possible," Mr. Weeks said.

Sen., Rep. in town Saturday

Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Kansas Representative John Faber will be in St. Francis for a town hall meeting from 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturday at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant. They will be presenting information from many of the issues being considered and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and the impact they will have on everyone.

Those missing the meeting in St. Francis can catch the legislators in Atwood from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Farm Bureau meeting room.

Everyone is urged to attend the meeting. The legislators will attempt to answer all questions and talk about concerns.

Temps are warm

Temperatures the last week went from a spring-like high of 62 degrees on Friday to a chilly low of 17 degrees on Sunday.

Unfortunately, there was only a trace of moisture and, pastures and wheat fields need moisture.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Feb. 22	45	32	T
Feb. 23	50	31	
Feb. 24	55	19	
Feb. 25	62	26	
Feb. 26	61	25	
Feb. 27	54	17	
Feb. 28	56	19	



NATIONAL ANTHEM was sung by Chelsey Weeden Saturday morning at the State Wrestling Tournament held in Hays. Photo courtesy of Doug Ross

Hospital board retains same slate of officers

By Karen Krien

Election of officers was held at the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting on Thursday, and, it was the unanimous decision that the old officers be retained for another year.

Serving as chairman is Rueben Schultz; Joy Anderegg, secretary; and Traci Neitzel, treasurer. Other members on the board are Swede Calnon and new member Jerry Toler.

Terry Miller, Cheyenne County Clerk, swore in Mr. Toler, St. Francis. Also present was outgoing board member Robert Van Allen. Mr. Van Allen was given a plaque and said he had enjoyed his four years on the board and appreciated the county residents standing behind the projects which had been accomplished.

"Without them (residents), these projects could not have been done," he said.

He also proclaimed hospital administrator Les Lacy as "honorary engineer, architect and building supervisor," noting that he and the hospital and clinic staffs had worked under stressful conditions while the remodeling was being done.

Administrator's report

Administrator Lacy reported that the board had given the hospital

\$75,000 to help pay bills.

He said the number of people staying the hospital had been "strong" the past month and there had been 50 CAT scans during the month.

Administrator Lacy has been working with another physician candidate who has some ties with northwest Kansas and there may be a urologist who is interested in providing service at the hospital. He said he is continuing to work with contacts that may bring in orthopedics and other needed specialties.

He has been asked to testify to the Kansas Legislature on KAN-ED. KAN-ED is a state funded intranet network that will connect Kansas schools, libraries and hospitals. The network contains content like EMSsystem (a health care resource tool), various classes, and provides access to some full text databases to its members and users. The KAN-ED website is: <http://www.kan-ed.org>.

In other business

In other business:

The board viewed a program that Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, had compiled showing all the hospital and clinic staffs and physicians. Chairman Schultz had

See OFFICERS on Page 7A

Council looks at employee insurance

By Sandy Barnhart

Charles Krull of Blue Cross and Blue Shield was present to explain different policies to the council. Presently the city has a Stop-Loss policy with a 200 (individual)/400 (family) deductible up to \$200. On one claim the employee pays 20 percent of the out-of-the-pocket expense up to \$1,000, the city pays 80

percent up to \$10,000 then Blue Cross and Blue Shield takes over. The cost for this plan will run between \$192,000 and \$210,000 for the year.

The new policy that the council is considering would have a 500/1,000 deductible. The city has budgeted \$235,000 toward insurance for the upcoming year.

Sewer project

The council approved the fifth pay request of \$58,712.85 to Interstate Irrigation, Yuma, Colo. The council also approved that in the future when a pay request is made to have a breakdown between the grant money and the loan money.

Thaniel Monaco, Miller and Associates of McCook, also presented

to the council a sewer clean proposal. He explained that he had asked Superintendent J.R. Landenberger to send out proposals to several companies asking for bids. This procedure is done in a 4-year cycle and the city of St. Francis is 2-years past having the clean done. Mr. Monaco also suggested that if the city chose to have this

done, that they schedule the clean sometime after October and the cleaners do a one-time video tape of 100 percent of the lines instead of the usual 10 percent. Mr. Monaco felt that this was a necessary expense in order to keep the lines free of roots and debris.

Superintendent report

See INSURANCE on Page 7A

Wrestling official retires after 43 years on the mat

By Karen Krien

Kansas wrestling official, Eldon Zimbelman, left his green and red wrist bands in the middle of the mat following the last match of the 4A, 5A, 6A State Wrestling Tournament Saturday night. It signified the retirement from officiating wrestling.

"It was hard but it was time," Official Zimbelman said, noting that there were a few tears. "I'm gonna miss it!"

The official retired after 43 years of officiating wrestling matches. With his retirement also came the recognition of the National Federation High School Citation Award, one of the highest awards given by the Federation and covers all sports, not just wrestling.

In 2003, he was named the National Federation High School Distinguished Official of the Year. Just to be nominated for this award, the official was to exemplify the highest standards of ethical conduct,

moral character and carry the endorsement of their respective state high school association.

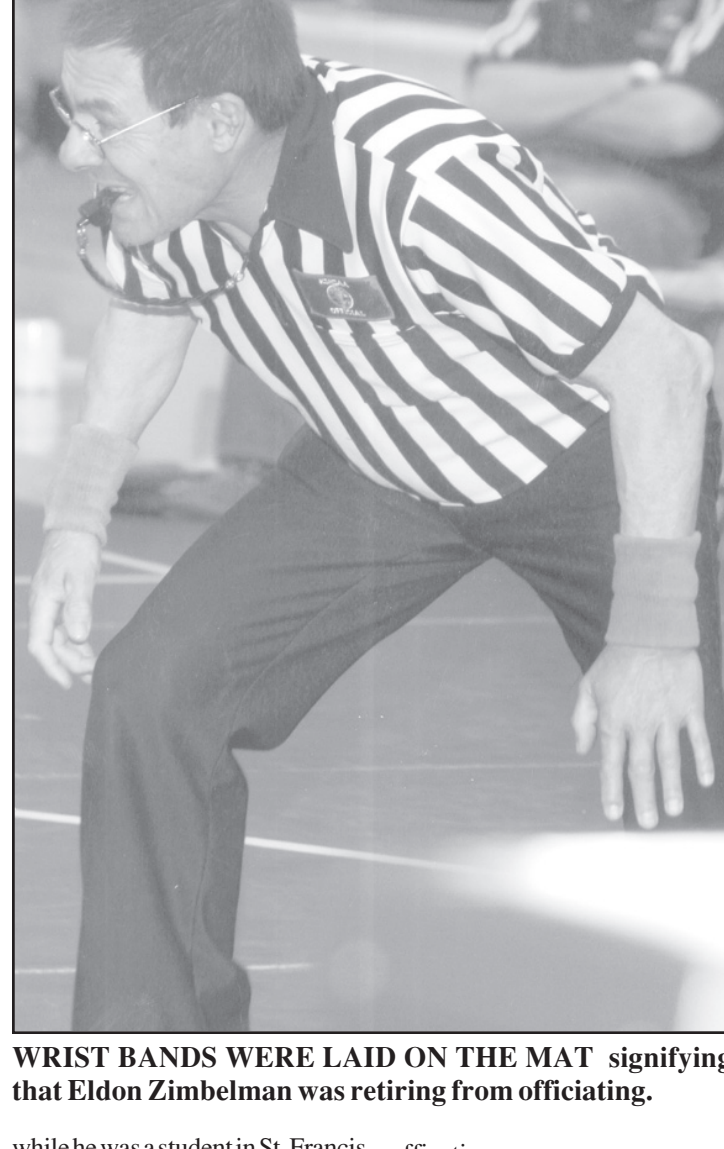
Mr. Zimbelman has been the Kansas Wrestling Official of the Year eight times, along with being the head official of the Kansas State High School Activities Association state high school wrestling tournament numerous times.

He has officiated 40 State tournaments, two Grand State tournaments and numerous college tournaments. He also served as the wrestling commissioner for the Greater Wichita Athletic League.

Mr. Zimbelman was the president of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association for two years and he is the co-founder and president of the Kansas Wrestling Officials Association. He is also a member of the National Federation High School Officials Association, the National Wrestling Officials Association and the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Mr. Zimbelman, a rules interpreter and clinician, each year organizes official clinics bringing clinicians to help officials. He has also served as an area supervisor for three sections of the state.

Mr. Zimbelman started wrestling



WRIST BANDS WERE LAID ON THE MAT signifying that Eldon Zimbelman was retiring from officiating.

while he was a student in St. Francis Community High School. An injury kept him from competing in the state tournament and he things that injury might have led him to

officiating. St. Francis was a member of the Northwest Kansas League and, when asked about the League, he See WRESTLING on Page 7A

Screening set for March 16

Cheylin School District will be offering Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten Screenings on Wednesday, March 16, for children from birth to school age. These screenings are required for children who will be attending kindergarten next August, but they also encourage the participation of babies and preschoolers.

Hearing, vision, speech and language, concepts, and fine and gross motor skills will be screened. Parents are the primary and most influential teachers their children will ever have and these screenings will help parents discover their child's developmental stage and how best to encourage their ever-changing skills. They also help the school districts plan and prepare for future students in order to try to offer the best educational experience.

The St. Francis School District offers screenings in the fall of the year while Cheylin offers them in the spring. If you were unable to attend the fall screening or are new to the county, you are welcome to bring your children to the Bird City site which will be the Methodist Church.

The screenings are free but appointments are needed and can be made by calling the Cheylin elementary School secretary at 9895) 734-2351. If you have questions you may call Judy Sager at the same number.

There were 54 at Sunday school with Judy Willard giving the special number. Mike Pollard was the morning speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Beverlin, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher, Nettie Jane Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob, Phil Osmus, Nancy Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Trembly, Mrs. Matt Parmelle and children, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Haines and her parents visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trast Saturday helping Gracie celebrate her birthday. Doris Osmus has been there a few days.

Chynna Rose and Kinsey Madsen attended the birthday party for Kasey Richards Saturday.

Jennifer Novak, Cade and Brittany were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield. They all had supper Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield and lunch Sunday with Jean Brenner.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen returned last Sunday from a week spent in Mission, Texas, with Mr. and Mrs. Neil Dorsch.

Harold Kamla visited Dr. and Mrs. Pat Stuart Sunday afternoon.

Linda and Andrea Ingo of Ridgeway came Thursday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ekberg. They returned home Monday.

Monte Mansfield had lunch Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield. He visited Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dent in the afternoon.

Nelson Ekberg came Friday to spend a few days with home folks. Mike Pollard spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Ekberg. He was an overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Willard and family. Mike is from Thompsons Station, Tenn.

Amber Simmons spent Friday until Tuesday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus returned home Wednesday from two weeks spent in Yuma, Ariz. On their way home they visited Judy Bowman and family Tuesday afternoon. They had supper with Mr. and Mrs. Tempy Bowman and family Tuesday and lunch Wednesday with Matt Osmus.

Mr. and Mrs. John Spenser of Alamosa and Bernice Eberhart of Burlington visited Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver Saturday. They all went to the rest home and visited with Berl Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Cutforth, making all of the Allen children together.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wieser and Nelson Ekberg were visitors of Mr.

and Mrs. Bill Strangways Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons, Quentin and Amber were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall. They visited Sam Peters on their way home, also Chris Peters.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose and girls and Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Madsen and Kinsey were Sunday dinner guests of Sylvia Blessman.

Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob and Phil Osmus were Saturday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Parmelee and children.

Steve Goodman was a Saturday overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield. Monte Mansfield visited Sunday afternoon and Jo Ellen Goodman was a Sunday guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall were Saturday dinner guests Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively spent Feb. 11 to Feb. 14 with Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bowman and family in Owasso, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Allen and Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hurlburt and family, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Allen and family, Justin Allen, Cheryl Allen and Sharon Oestman and Kevin attended

the wedding of Ryan Allen and Shaylynn Sandridge in Houston, Texas, Feb. 12.

John Dye visited Violet Brown Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Monte Mansfield visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mansfield and Jo Ellen Goodman Sunday evening.

Wednesday Crystal Zion and Vickie Schleppe had lunch at the Rowe Shivelys and were working on a quilt. Friday Catherine and Crystal Zion, Janie Beckman and Beulah Soehner had lunch with the Shivelys and quilted.

Pat Lohoff and Wilma Norwood spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Allen.

Violet Brown went to McCook with Mr. and Mrs. Rich Brown.

Paxton Waitman spent Friday night with Trevor Hurlburt.

Mrs. Mark Bowman and boys were long weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively. Doris Whomble was a Friday visitor also. Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob were Friday evening visitors.

By Bessie Dent



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policy handbook. The commissioners had requested the changes at the Feb. 15 meeting.

Commissioner Andy Beikman had been asked what could be done when trash is being dumped on an abandoned farm place — that there is a problem of blowing trash and rats. He was informed that if the owners are dumping the trash on their own property, there is little the other party can do. If there is a problem of blowing trash, maybe the other party can talk to the owner and see if something can be done.

Road and bridge department
Supervisor Flemming handed out his monthly department report, noting that the Siegfried bridge, northwest of St. Francis, had been taken out and replaced with a culvert. He pointed out that the department had received a quarterly \$85,965 payment from the stated.

When the department crew had removed the old air conditioners from the courthouse. One was reusable and the Good Samaritan Village offered \$500 for it.

The commissioners signed a highway permit for Marvin Kamla so he can put a water line down a county ditch.

Insurance
Roxie Neitzel, Neitzel Insurance, and Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance, both of St. Francis, explained the county's insurance coverage. It was noted that the county's workman's compensation discount had gone from 24 percent down to 2 percent, thus leading to an increase in the insurance premium.

High Plains Mental Health
Tracy Winchester-Hillmer, Tammi Petitjohn, Carol Rogers and Ilene O'Leary, representing High Plains Mental Health, told the commissioners about the organization and how they help people in Cheyenne County as well as most of northwest Kansas. Mrs. Petitjohn said she has nine clients in the county but there are others who are helped in other ways through the organization. She also talked about the Big Brother program which could be implemented in the county.

In other business:
• Attorney Barrett said he would like to look over the information concerning the Community Governing Board and he will let the

BRIDGE

board know of his decision later. Jolene Dodd indicated that she would serve on the board.

• The commissioners signed the Cheyenne County Health Department grant form which had been submitted by the county health nurse, Susan Roelfs.

• Ambulance totals brought in \$7,592 for February — write-off \$1,473.

There may be other money com-

ing in so the write-offs could be less.
• More was discussed about moving the Food Pantry but it was the consensus that there was no other available space in the courthouse. They talked about other places outside of the courthouse where the Pantry could be moved but it was noted that when Reva Pownell, coordinator, was out of the building, the sheriff's staff could open up and hand out items.

INSURANCE

Continued from Page 1A

Testing - Superintendent Landenberger told the council that the testing on the protective equipment was done. The cost for the test was \$3,500.

Senior Center - Several bricks at the senior center have moved causing a hazard to the seniors walking into the building. Superintendent Landenberger noted that the crew would be fixing the problem.

Poles - The council approved to offer to another city 67 steel poles which St. Francis no longer needs. Fair market price for the poles each runs a little under \$500.

Fuel tank - The new fuel tank which was ordered for the power plant is in and the county will be helping to unload it. Superintendent Landenberger told the council that he had talk to Tim Stimbart about storing the fuel in the old tank until the new one was in place. There is approximately 8,000 gallons of fuel that will need to be transferred into the new tank. Mr. Stimbart said that his company, Weis Oil, would transfer the fuel and store if needed for up to 2 months at a cost of \$.15 a gallon. The council approved and the cost will be approximately \$1,200.

Other business
In other business:
• The council approved \$1,929 in dues, the city's share, to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. The dues are split between the county and city.

• The council's meeting schedule for March will be March 15 and March 22. The council will meet briefly at noon on March 7 to approve end of the month bills.

• Councilman Dale Weeks told about the KANSTEP surveys.

Building permits

The council approved a building permit for Dave Straub to build porch cover, contingent upon Superintendent Landenberger inspection.

OFFICERS

Continued from Page 1A
asked that something be put together for the board.

• The board recommended that the county commissioners pay the application for payment of \$8,526 to Penn Building Service for work done on the county health clinic which, when completed, will be located in the basement of the clinic. The administrator noted that the crew installing the overhead sprinkling system in the clinic had finally arrived and the job will take approximately two weeks.

• Brenda Hays, registered nurse at the hospital, is applying for advance training to become a nurse practitioner and presented cost estimates. The board asked the administrator to prepare a proposal with the contract points.

• Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, will hold a board meeting in St. Francis on March 22.

Next meeting
The next meeting has been rescheduled from March 17 to March 24 in the Cheyenne County Clinic basement in St. Francis. The meeting time has also been changed from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the items to be on the agenda are heat bill comparisons, landscaping for the hospital, more discussion on the Community Service Project plans and there will be paper handouts concerning the upcoming strategic planning meeting on April 14.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1A
said, "It is still tough!" He went on to say that wrestlers are more skilled today because they have opportunities that were not available in the 1960s.

"We started wrestling when we were in the sixth grade. Today, many kids start when they are little and can go to camps in the summer," he said. "Wrestlers have more skills and are more aggressive which makes wrestling more of a spectator's sport."

"But, there is still the dedication today that there was back then."

He thinks that one of the worst things that has happened to wrestling is opening the weight classes to include 14 weights.

"The teams aren't able to fill all the weights and there are too many forfeits," he said.

He noted that in northwest Kansas, schools still have a number of duals throughout the season and, while they last only two hours, they generate excitement and allow the home crowd to come and support the teams.

Through the years, he has known

a lot of coaches including Rocky Welton, who coached for Goodland and later went to Garden City. Mr. Welton was inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame on Saturday.

"I admired his high character and, if there was a conflict on the mat, it was never carried any further," Mr. Zimbelman said.

"St. Francis also has one of the finest coaches (Larry Gabel)," he said. "He teaches more than wrestling. His athletes always have neat appearances, good character and sportsmanship."

Mr. Zimbelman plans to continue participating actively in the many organizations including the Kansas Wrestling Officials Association and, in two weeks, he will be making a trip to St. Louis to evaluate officials at the National Collegian Athletic Association Division 1 Wrestling Championships.

"Out of 20 officials, we will pick 10 to work the finals," he said.

"I'm gonna miss it (officiating) but I'm still going to be there," he said.



We're Proud of Our Indians!



Back row, l to r: Kelly Frewen (coaching aide), Heath Owens, Tanner Kinen, Nick Raile, A.J. McAtee, Andrew Feikert (student asst.), Ward Cassidy (head coach); middle row: R.L. Walz, J.D. Hawkins, Mac Frewen, Adam Peter, Joel McAtee, Levi Weeden; front row: Chance Hobrock, Ted Crabtree, B.J. Killingsworth, Keaton Frewen, Corbin Sherlock.



Back row, l to r: Devin Dinkel (head coach), Sheryl Miller, Cassie Dankenbring, Sam Marin, Talisa Voorhies, Schuyler Coates, Erin Neitzel, Amy Grace, Susan Dinkel (asst. coach); middle row: Katie Marin, Holly Keller, Danielle Flemming, Lauren Ross, Katora Sherlock, Brittany Lucas, McKenzie Grace, Sara Miller, Kattie Ford, Chelsey Weeden; front row: Maddie Knodel, Alecia Zimbelman, Megan Rice, Addie Swihart, Jenice Hartman, Dara Loyd, Ashton Rueb, Ally Reichert, Jade DeGood, Kelsey Dunn.

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