

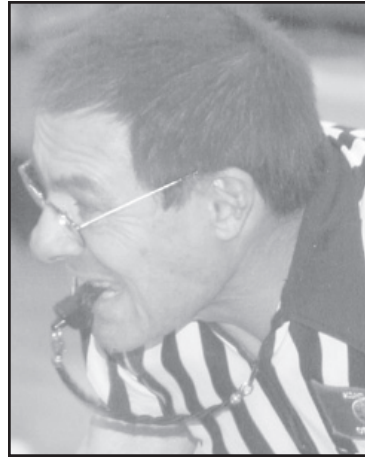
## Coaches, referee receive honors

By Betty Jean Winston

St. Francis Head Wrestling Coach Larry Gabel has been honored by his peers as the 3-2-1A Wrestling Coach of the Year for 2005. The voting took place at the State Tournament in Hays the last weekend in February. This makes the seventh time that Coach Gabel has been so honored. He was 3-2-1A Coach of the year in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1991, 1995, 2001 and now in 2005. Coach Gabel has also been named Kansas Coach of the Year (all classifications) in 1991 and 2001 and Regional Wrestling Coach of the Year in 2001.



Jenkins



Zimbelman

This is not the only honor which the St. Francis coaching staff received following the 2004-05 campaign. Assistant coaches Steve Jenkins and Daryl Loyd were named 3-2-1A Assistant Coaches of the Year by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association and Coach Jenkins was nominated as the National

Assistant Coach of the Year.

Another St. Francis resident who is being honored this year is Eldon Zimbelman, who is being inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. Zimbelman, an official who worked many State tournaments, was featured in the March 3 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Coach Gabel began his career in St. Francis in 1974. He was joined by Coach Jenkins in the fall of 1976 and Coach Loyd in 1998.

Having the St. Francis Community High School wrestling coaches honored is a tribute to the community but Coach Gabel turns right around and gives back much of the credit.

"I am very fortunate to be involved in a great community, with its traditions and the family support I receive," he said. "I am so blessed.

"From the time the wrestlers are young they have a good support system. See HONORS on Page 8A



IT WAS A CLOSE MATCH and coach Larry Gabel, right, and assistant coach Daryl Loyd were ready to add any advice needed. Photo courtesy of Doug Ross

## Citizens concerned about St. Francis

By Karen Krien

Businesses closing their doors on St. Francis Main Street has been a concern since the first of the year when Ruth Milliken, owner of KM Clothier, announced she was closing. That was the third business to close it's doors in the last year. At first, there was a meeting to see if there was enough interest to form a cooperative to keep the women's and children's clothing store open. There was a public meeting on Jan. 24 in the courthouse and then there was another smaller gathering of people who traveled to Oberlin to see how that co-

operative business worked.

Mrs. Milliken also put out survey forms in the banks to see just what people in the community were interested in. At a meeting held Friday noon at Dusty Farmer, Mrs. Milliken said it appeared that the main type of store that people were interested in was a variety store.

Through the meeting, it was apparent that it wasn't just keeping a clothing store open but keeping St. Francis alive, keeping more businesses from closing, putting businesses in the buildings which have been vacated and, thus, keeping people in town, keeping

the school enrollment up and keeping the medical community viable.

There were 11 people at the Friday meeting. It was a "brain storming" meeting where ideas to save St. Francis' Main Street "Our town," were tossed about.

Carla Lampe chaired the meeting which started out talking about the visit to The Dresser, a clothing store, in Oberlin. She talked about how it had worked in Oberlin and how a handful of women decided they were not going to let Oberlin become a ghost town. The investors receive little back from the business, getting a 35 percent reduction

from articles purchased from the store (up to \$100). Their main satisfaction in investing in the business was keeping a clothing store open and helping their community stay alive.

Tom Keller said that people need to say what they want but the people at the meeting needed to realize that they might find that the majority of the people do not want a clothing store. He also questioned just how many cooperatives a community could have.

Brent Rueb thought that the people in the See CONCERNED on Page 8A

## Next meeting is Friday noon

Some of those present at the Friday noon meeting thought there needed to be more direction into how, when and where following meetings in saving "our town" would be held. The Dusty Farmer Restaurant meeting room has been reserved for noon on Friday, March 18.

This is an important meeting and everyone possible is urged to attend. There is no need to make reservations.... just come.

## County hospital seeks support for income tax credits

Past users of the Community Service Project Kansas income tax credits have received letters from the hospital by now asking if they are willing to financially support another project.

The hospital is looking for a funding mechanism to improve the ambulance entrance behind the hospital. This rather steep sloping drive on the north of the hospital has served for many years, but has been a source of concern due to icy conditions and the slope of the ramp.

The cost of improvements to this piece alone is estimated at \$180,000. An additional \$80,000 is sought to improve the functionality and appearance of the front entrance of the hospital.

The tax credit program provides 70 percent Kansas Income Tax credits to approved projects. Hospital administrator

Les Lacy said, "The application for tax credits is just like a grant application. It is a fairly labor intensive investment in time."

The refundable tax credits allow a donation of \$1,000 to qualify for a \$700 refundable Kansas Income Tax credit. This brings the cost of the donation down to \$300.

If the donor itemizes on the federal income tax return, additional savings can be appreciated since the Hospital holds 501(c)(3) status. Some donors in higher tax brackets can actually make money with this program.

Interested individuals should visit with their accountant or tax preparer for more details.

There are currently \$69,000 in commitments accumulated at the hospital. Administrator Lacy indicates that there is still time if others would be interested in committing support for the proposal. The amount of support will be a factor in the board's decision about whether or not to proceed with the application process.

Those interested in showing support should contact Shawna Blanka at 785-332-2104 for a pledge document or questions.



MARINE CORPORAL JASON SMITH, center, was welcomed home (Bird City) after two tours in Iraq. Signing the banner was his stepmother Sarah Smith. His dad, Scott Smith and Jason's fiancée Laura Cain. Herald staff photo by DeAnza Church

## Saturday is 4-H Day

Cheyenne County 4-H'ers will participate in the 2005 County 4-H Club Day on Saturday at the high school in St. Francis.

"The day will start at 8:30 a.m. and will showcase the talents of area 4-H'ers," said Tye Faulkender, Cheyenne County Extension Director.

There will be demonstrations, Favorite Foods Show, musical presentations including vocal, piano, instrumental and dance, project See 4-H on Page 8A

## Music concert is tonight

The St. Francis Community High School music department will present a concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the high school auditorium. Performing in the concert will be the high school band, vocal and advanced music classes, as well as several soloists who are preparing for Regional Music Festival on April 2.

Soloists scheduled to perform include: seniors - Amanda Jones, Kali Rueb, Julie Voeller, Hailey Crabtree, Kelsey Dunn and Danie McFarland; juniors - Sawyer White, Ashley Dowgwillo, Sheryl Miller and Jade DeGood; sophomores - Janae Glidewell, Meg Rice, Shaina Gohl, Andrea Blair, Mac Frewen, Zach Mills and Miranda Teeters; and freshmen - Katelyn Jones, Lauren Zweggard, Gavin Smull and Kattie Ford.

Instructor Debbie Fiala noted that there is no admission charge for the concert and the public is welcome to attend.

## Board accepts bid for football field bleachers

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Board of Education accepted a bid for aluminum bleachers for the west side of the football field. Work will begin soon and the bleachers will be ready for Indian supporters before the first football game.

For years, the home team bleachers have been on the east side of the football field and for several weeks, fans face the blinding sun. The new bleachers will be 10-rows high and will hold around 650 people.

Bids for the bleachers had been opened before the meeting. Four bids had been received but one bid from Dant Clayton Corporation, Louisville, Ky., had been thrown out be-

cause of being incomplete (first bid), and not on time (second bid). The lowest bid was from Outdoor Aluminum, Geneva, Ala., for \$73,877 with the estimate of the press box construction (local builder) being \$14,400. The total cost was \$88,277. Other bids including the press box construction were: \$90,329 from DGJD, Inc. - Bleachers, Jefferson, Colo.; and \$98,880 from Heartland Seating Inc., Shawnee. There were three optional prices for additions: 1) make the bleacher seating completely enclosed, \$9,174; 2) replace the angle iron with aluminum square tubing, \$2,600; and 3) use green paint on the risers \$2,012.

The original estimated cost of the bleachers had been \$105,202 but, even with the extra additions, the cost would come to less, \$102,063.

The board discussed that there would be less wind and draft coming through the bleachers if they were completely enclosed and there would also be more stability to the structure. The angle iron would look better and, if a vehicle were to hit it, would be stronger. Finally, the green risers would designate the green Indian color and would reduce the glare of the sun.

### Auditorium heat/air conditioning project

Bids had also been received for the

new heating/air conditioning project in the high school auditorium and music room. Genee Dodd, board member and employee of Midwest Energy, one of the bidders, excused himself from the discussion as there could be a conflict of interest. The other company bidding the project is Lampe Hardware, St. Francis.

Two completely different proposals in how the companies had planned to install the vents and system were bid. The board reviewed the plans and after considerable discussion, they decided the Midwest plans for installation were the plans which would work best for the project.

Mr. Dodd was brought back into

the meeting and asked to sketch the plans Midwest had presented and both companies will be asked to re-bid on those specific plans.

The bids for the new seats for the auditorium had not been received. Superintendent Carl Werner thought that, by the time the bids for the heating/air conditioner project had been received, the bids for the new seats would be in. He thought there would be sufficient funds from the Ray and Vergie Rogers Memorial Funds to complete the auditorium project but it may take some additional funding to complete the project in the music room.

