



Board prepares for new school year

By Karen Krien

At the Thursday school board meeting, resignations were accepted, reassignments and contracts were approved and a part-time Spanish teacher's contract will not be renewed. These were some steps that the St. Francis Board of Education was taking toward tightening its belt and making plans for the 2005-2006 school year.

Sandy Smull, fourth grade teacher, had turned in her resignation after 32 years of teaching in the St. Francis school system. The board and administration acknowledged the many years of dedication to the school and students, noting that making the difficult decision to retire will help in the reduction of teachers.

Others resigning were Chuck Peters, who

is the technology coordinator, as well as a football and track coach and physics instructor, and Tammi Sherlock, maintenance person at the grade school and seventh-grade volleyball coach. Mr. Peters has accepted a position with another Kansas school and Mrs. Sherlock will be pursuing a nursing career.

Scott Carmichael, junior-senior high

school principal, and Larry Gabel, grade school principal, were offered one-year contracts. Rob Schiltz was reassigned from his duties as the industrial arts instructor to assistant superintendent. Mr. Schiltz's contract will be a 11-month contract.

Superintendent Carl Werner said that industrial art classes will still continue to be offered and details will be

told at a later meeting.

Superintendent Werner recommended the contract for Sharon Van Allen not be renewed. Mrs. Van Allen is a part-time Spanish teacher. Students will be offered internet-taught Spanish by satellite through Kansas State University.

There were still some questions about See PREPARES on Page 7A

Fair board sets dates for coming Demo Derbies

By Lezlie Hilt

The Cheyenne County Fair's early Demolition Derby has been tentatively set for 7 p.m. on June 11 at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

The decision was made at the Thursday fair board meeting but, members felt they needed to talk to Robert and Richard Grace to make sure the Derby would not interfere with the Stearman Fly-In which is scheduled for June 9 and 10. The annual Fair Demolition Derby will be Saturday night (Aug. 6). The Clean-Up Derby will be held Oct. 15, however Wade Krien, board member, wanted to check with the school calendar and make sure there is no conflicts.

Fair entertainment

After talking to the motorcross

people about how much dirt it would take and the kind of work involved to build the track the board felt it just was not feasible to set up a track and haul enough dirt during the limited time of the fair.

The board did discuss the possibility of trying to find a time other than during the fair to hold a motorcross race at the fairgrounds.

Jared Douthit said that there were several people interested in doing the Ranch Rodeo like they used to do it which involved teams of local people participating in the races and other activities. The main concern was that it had become so competitive and most people just wanted to have fun with no prizes.

President Dick Bursch asked if Mr. See DERBIES on Page 7A

County treasurer offers prepay plan

The Cheyenne County Treasurer is now offering a tax prepay program at zero cost to the taxpayer. This is a very taxpayer friendly program. The plan is very similar to an escrow account used by homeowners making house payments to mortgage companies.

Naturally it is less stressful making small monthly payments as opposed to large half payments. Payments can be made by personal check, cash or automatic cash withdrawal (ACH). The taxpayer will decide on how much and select which date to make the monthly payment.

Therefore when the money is needed, it's available. Not only is the prepay account used for paying taxes, but also can be used for renewing Motor Vehicle Registrations.

In order to participate in this program, the taxpayer's taxes must be current with no delinquencies. The Tax Prepay Program cannot be initiated for delinquent taxes.

Taxpayers must fill out and sign an agreement (either in person or through the mail.) Forms can be found at county treasurer's office or on the Cheyenne County website at www.cheyennecounty.org.

The Tax Prepay Program for taxes

and/or motor vehicle renewals is based on an estimate using the most current tax year or renewal calculated to the first of the month of the due date. The due date will be the last day of the month for motor vehicle renewals, and Dec. 20 and May 10 for property taxes. This will be the norm unless otherwise requested. Habitually late payments forfeit the current tax plan and the right to such an account in the future.

Reminders will not be mailed to taxpayers using the Tax Prepay Program; however, a 12-month coupon book is available upon request for check and cash payment methods only. If the account at the due date is short, the taxpayer will be required to pay the difference.

Although it is too late to implement this plan for the second half of 2004 taxes, if started now it could be advantageous in paying the 2005 taxes due in December and future taxes and motor vehicle renewals. If interested in this program, please contact the Cheyenne County Treasurer, PO Box 687, St. Francis, KS 67756, or (785) 332-8810 or visit www.cheyennecounty.org for forms and more information.



INSTRUCTOR BRUCE SWIHART talks to Alyssa Lee about her spring contract which involved community service. Alyssa raised money by baking cookies and muffins.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sixth grader raises money for hospital landscaping

By Karen Krien

Sixth grader, Alyssa Lee decided to do something unique for her sixth grade "contract" project, while also helping the hospital. On March 26, she spent the morning baking muffins and cookies, then put up her stand at Scott and First streets and sold them. The money went to help the new landscaping project at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

She said that she had made 12 muffins and about 60 cookies which had brought in \$32.72.

"Grandma (Connie Holzwarth) helped me take some of the cookies out of the

oven," she said.

That week, she took the money and gave it to Les Lacy, hospital administrator.

"That gift was the best surprise — it made my day!" the administrator said.

"It's great when we get students involved with fund-raising project which help the community. It just goes to show that anyone can get involved."

"I just thought it would be nice to donate to the hospital and help people out," Alyssa said, adding that she did like to bake.

Alyssa's contract was to do some community service.

Bruce Swihart's sixth grade students complete contracts every nine weeks. Earlier contracts dealt with assignments and academics but, in the spring nine weeks, students are to complete one hour of community service. He said besides Alyssa's project, some had worked in the church nursery and one student had picked up trash around town.

Besides baking the goods, selling them and donating to the hospital, Alyssa also helped her neighbor, Wilma Lampe with recycling items and cleaning up the yard.

Salad luncheon planned

The annual Ladies Salad Luncheon, sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, has been set from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, in the First Christian Church fellowship hall.

"We want to invite all women to attend," said Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary. "This is not just a 'working women' luncheon."

A variety of salads, along with rolls and drink will be served. Throughout the luncheon, door prizes will be given away.

Tickets can be purchased at First National Bank or at the Chamber of office in the courthouse.

"It really helps that everyone purchase their tickets or make reservations as early as possible as lets us know how many salads to prepare," Secretary Bracelin said.



RUNNING FAST to keep his kite in the air. Had he waited a day, he wouldn't have had to run.

More wind with little moisture

The wind blew and blew on Friday and through the weekend. Robert Grace, Grace Flying Service, reported the winds at over 50 miles per hour.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
March 29	69	37	.05
March 30	63	38	T
March 31	48	24	
April 1	62	29	
April 2	76	32	
April 3	75	33	
April 4	81	3	T
April 5	57	42	.04
April 6	66	29	
April 7	78	33	
April 8	80	37	
April 9	75	38	T
April 10	38	35	.24
April 11	47	25	

Bird City man presents lesson on early Americans

By Casey McCormick

Local, avocation archeologist, Dan Busse, presented early American artifacts and lectured for the Cheyenne County Historical Society on Sunday. A standing-room-only audience listened as Mr. Busse talked about local history.

The event was held at Ye Olde Country Church and, afterwards, guests moved over to the museum for finger food and fellowship. Fiddle and guitar music entertained the crowd before the presentation. Luann Isernhagen and Lila Whitmore were the musicians.

Mr. Busse is a rancher-farmer from Bird City. In 1968, while building a fence, he came across a large bi-face, or working blade. After more investigation more pieces were found of what became known as the Busse Cache. With time, the University of Kansas, working with

Mr. Busse, came to northwest Kansas and archeologists discovered additional pieces that matched the original cache.

In 1996, the cache was taken to France where it was displayed with five other collections from Europe that were strikingly similar to the Busse Cache. Mr. Busse's artifacts were also displayed at the University of Kansas in 1997.

In addition to discussing early American history, Mr. Busse also talked about the Kidder Massacre of 1867. Lieutenant Kidder and his party of cavalry troops and an Indian guide, 11 in all, were chased down and slaughtered by 250 to 300 Cheyenne and Sioux warriors at the Little Beaver south of present day Bird City.

Several individuals brought their collections of arrow points and tools for others to see.

See LESSON on Page 7A



HISTORIAN DAN BUSSE points out ancient tools and weapons to McKenzie Grace.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Back on the track again



Rail cars are up!

By Karen Krien
On March 31, the engineer backing NKC Railnet grain cars thought the track was longer than it actually was. Consequently, three cars were pushed off the track. One of the three cars was still partially on the track before the engineer knew that there was trouble.

A crew with Hulcher Services, a train derailment response service out of Denver, arrived with two large caterpillars equipped with cranes.

The crew met with the foreman for instructions before the procedure began. Both drivers of the caterpillars and the foreman had radios. Moving the huge cars which, even though they are empty, took planning and obviously the knowledge which had been learned in previous jobs.

The crew first set the last car (the first car off the track) upright after releasing the brakes and detaching it from the second car. Each caterpillar was stationed on either side of the car and giant hooks attached to the crane cable were used to lift it. The foreman often looked like he was directing a symphony as he signaled to each of the drivers to lift his side just inches and when to quit. It took about an hour and then the car was stable and up-

right. The front wheels were still in the dirt but this seemed to be a small matter to the crew.

They moved onto the second car (middle car). This car was also off in the dirt and was at a precarious angle. Again, the caterpillars moved into place and the crane's cables with hooks were attached to the car and, this time, the foreman began directing the drivers to lift the car on the back end. Slowly it was straightened and the foreman, often squatted down seeing that the wheels were being lined up on the track, directed the caterpillar drivers to move the car onto the track. While the car was being put on the track, it was pushing the third car on down the track.

The whole process of putting all the cars on the track took over two hours. The next day, another crew came to St. Francis and did some repair work before the cars were pulled down the track.

Tim Burr, Equity manager, reported that this load of cars was to be in St. Francis in February. It worried him that there might be a shortage of cars this summer, especially when Kansas may be looking at a bumper wheat crop.



A PROFESSIONAL CREW arrived in St. Francis on Thursday and, within hours had the three cars back on the track. The foreman, at the top, directed the drivers in setting up the cars. Below, this worker makes sure the giant hook is attached.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

PREPARES

Continued from Page 1A
resignations and reassignments. Law states that school boards must notify a teacher, in writing, on or before May 1 if a teacher's contract will not be renewed. The teacher has until May 15 to let the school board know, in writing, if they plan to resign.

With these dates in mind, the board agreed to hold a special meeting at 8 p.m. on April 27 in the board room at the high school. There might be more definite information on which teachers, if any, plan to resign and those who might take re-assignments.

The superintendent pointed out that all salaries will be determined at a later date when more is known about how much funding the state plans to budget to schools.

The board also looked at the list of other school employees who are not teachers. Some suggestions were made and questions were asked but no decision was made at the Thursday meeting.

Principal Carmichael told the board about what had come out of the Northwest Kansas League meeting which had been held the day before. He said that the Hoxie schools are having trouble coming up with enough junior high players for teams in different sports and were proposing to let sixth graders participate. He said sixth graders, by the Kansas State High School Activities Association rules, cannot participate in contact sports such as football and wrestling. They can compete in track, volleyball and basketball, if numbers dictate.

The principal did not see St. Francis sixth graders participating in junior high sports for several more years. However, he did like the ideal of having junior high basketball and volleyball "A" and "B" teams instead of seventh and eighth grade teams. The better players would make up the "A" team. This year, the seventh grade girls basketball team barely had enough to make a team while the eighth grade had 13 team members.

He pointed out if there were "A" and "B" teams, all girls would have a better chance of seeing play time. He also said that the St. Francis coaches seemed to be in favor of the "A" and "B" team plan. Nothing will be decided until a later meeting.

Junior high teams

DERBIES

Continued from Page 1A
Douthit knew of anyone who would be interested in organizing the Ranch Rodeo. Mr. Douthit said he did, but did not want to mention a name until he had a chance to talk with her and make sure she would be willing.

Fair buildings
President Bursch asked the other board members what their feeling were on the tin laying down at the fairgrounds. Mr. Bursch felt like maybe it was time to get some bids on getting the tin on the roof of the buildings before it was ruined. It was decided to put an ad in the newspapers asking for bids.

Danny Penn, St. Francis contractor and overseer of the remodeling of the fair building, said he needed members to volunteer to help finish mudding the walls in the building. There is still some sanding to be done in the ladies bathroom.

In other business:
• The board agreed to seek bids for a new 35-passenger route bus. They will get rid of Bus 1 which has 128,000 miles. They will also advertise for bids to build the new press box for the bleachers.

All bids will need to be received before the May 12 board meeting.

LESSON

Continued from Page 1A
Margaret Bucholtz, president of the Historical Society, helped plan Mr. Busse's presentation.

"I was very, very pleased with the support the public gave," Mrs. Bucholtz said, "The speaker did a wonderful job."

The Historical Society has more events planned for the future. On Flag Day a presentation on the history of flags is scheduled with a barbecue. Also a tour with local historian Tobe Zwegardt is in the works and the U.S. 36 Highway Association will be touring the museum on June 9 and 10.

Anyone interested in joining the Historical Society can stop by the museum on Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. or contact Margaret Bucholtz at (785) 332-2040.

UNDER \$9,000

- *92 Buick LeSabre, beige, 104,504 miles, 4 dr., 3.8, CC, PW, PDL
- *96 Chevy K-2500, silver/blue, 216,000 miles, HD, reg. cab, 350, cass./CD, hail
- *97 Olds Aurora, maroon, 74,893 miles, 4.0, tilt, CC, PW, PDL, CD/cass., leather/heat, sun roof
- *94 GMC Suburban, dark blue, 350, 5.7 V8, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, 112,000 miles
- *01 Chevy Cavalier, white, 4 dr., 4 cyl., 43,000 miles

UNDER \$15,000

- *99 Chevy Suburban, white/pewter, 95,326 miles, LT, CC, PW, PDL, CD/cass., leather/heat
- *01 Pontiac Montana Van, white/gray, CD, power windows/locks, tilt/cruise, 78,000 miles
- *02 Buick LeSabre, pewter, 71,881 miles, 4 dr., Limited, leather/heat, CD
- *03 Chevy Malibu, red, 28,191 miles, LS, 4 dr., CD, PW, PDL
- *03 Chevy Cavalier, blue, 2 dr., 4 cyl., CC, 23,073 miles
- *04 Chevy Cavalier, white, 30,510 miles, LS, 4 dr., 4 cyl., PW, CC
- *04 Chevy Aveo, silver, auto., 4 dr., MP3 player, 20,500 miles

UNDER \$23,000

- *00 Ford Expedition, maroon, 74,618 miles, XLT, V8, CC, cass./6 CD, buckets, hitch, 3rd seat
- *03 Chevy Venture, red, 22,714 miles, FWD, ext. LS, 6G, CC
- *04 Buick Century, beige, 12,896 miles, 4 dr., custom, V6, PS, PW, mm CC
- *04 Buick LeSabre Limited, maroon, PL, PW, CD, 24,500 miles
- *02 Chevy TrailBlazer, pewter, 65,411 miles, 4 dr., LS, I-6 4200, CC, CD, receiver hitch
- *04 Chevy Impala, tan, 25,072 miles, LS, 4 dr., CD, V6
- *02 Chevy TrailBlazer, pewter, LT, cloth, 4x4, 27,500 miles
- *03 Chevy TrailBlazer, black, 30,102 miles **SOLD** ☺, 6G, PW, CCC
- *03 Chevy TrailBlazer, LT, blue, **SOLD** ☺, un roof, CD, cassette, 38,000 miles
- *04 Chevy Express, white, 13,521 miles, 2500, 12 passenger, PW, PDL
- *02 Ford Explorer, black, 66,070 miles, 4.0, CC, PW, PDL, CD, leather/heat
- *04 Chevy Colorado, white, 10,500 miles, 2WD, crew, LS, I-5
- *02 GMC Ext. Cab, 4x4, white, 1/2 ton, CD, windows/locks, tilt/cruise, 83,000 miles

OVER \$23,000

- *03 GMC Yukon SLT, 4 dr., 4x4, white, leather, bucket & center bucket, heated seats, 29,000 miles
- *02 GMC TK25753, pewter, 77,110 miles, ext. cab, SLE, 6.0, cruise, PW, PDL, CD
- *01 Chevy K-2500, white, 71,347 miles, crew, long box, HD, LS, 6.0, cruise, CD, bedliner
- *02 GMC K-2500, white, 56,700 miles, ext. cab, long box, SLE, 6.0, cruise, PW, PDL, CD
- *01 Chevy K-2500, white, 42,830 miles, V8, PS, AC, PW, PL
- *02 GMC Yukon, blue, 46,000 miles, SLE, 5.3, CC, PW, PDL, cass./CD
- *04 Chevy K-1500, maroon, 5,539 miles, 4 WD, crew cab, leather, OnStar, DVD player
- *04 GMC Yukon, red, 14,000 miles, Denali, AWD, 1/2 T.
- *03 Ford Crew Cab, long box, power stroke, 4x4, auto., beige, CC, 48,000 miles, nice

SENIOR PARENTS!!!

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Congratulate Your Graduate ...

HURRY! The Deadline is May 6th!!!

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times are now planning the Senior Graduation Section and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for \$20 extra. This feature is optional.

Senior pictures will be sponsored by parents or businesses for \$32.50 each or three for \$80.

Trey Hilt

I plan on going to college and pursuing a career in chiropractic. When I complete school, I will open my own practice and potentially a partnership.

Trey,
We are proud of you. You will accomplish everything you set your mind to. We all love you!
Your family

Parents:
Terry Hilt & Lezlie Hilt

Park Hill Restaurant

St. Francis

Call Casey @ 785-332-3162 for more information or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, KS.

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