



PERK AND BETTY O'DELL, St. Francis Super's owners, were in St. Francis to judge the store's decorations. Charolette Schmid, store manager, was also on hand. Herald staff photo by Sandra Barnhart

Performance set for Nov. 20

By Karen Krien

The Windsong Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will be presenting "The Best of Windsong" on Nov. 20. There will also be guest appearances by the St. Francis high school choir.

The concert will start at 4 p.m. in the St. Francis Community High School auditorium. Following the show, the Rebekah's Lodge members will be serving chili and cheesy potato soup, relish and cinnamon rolls in the cafeteria.

etaria.

Tickets can be purchased at First National Bank, the Chamber office (in the basement of the courthouse), Koinonia Coffee Shop or from any Rebekah member.

Two St. Francis women, Carol Ross and Colleen Gardnerrare are members of the group. Sarah Guthmiller, a freshman at St. Francis Community High School, will also be singing with the group.

The Windsong Chorus sang last year and practically filled the auditorium. Those wishing to attend should get their tickets so they are sure to have a seat. Check elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Chili cookoff winners earn bragging rights

Halloween evening found the Legion hall full of people anxiously awaiting the tasting of the chili. The cooks included mother against daughter, wife against husband and mother-in-law against son-in-law, all in friendly competition.

Cooks included Marvin Dowdy, Ned Smith, Theresa Knapp, Brenda Johnson, Rod Klepper, Roger Jensen, Deb Smith, Ranae Pilkington and last year's champion, Ben Leibbrandt.

The winner of this year's competition was Theresa Knapp for her "Mountain Chili." She was given bragging rights, a traveling trophy

and a 20-pound bag of pinto beans donated by Smith Farms.

Second place was Marvin Dowdy and third place went to Ranae Pilkington. Larry and Treva Henry provided chips and several different dips for the crowd to enjoy. The crowd also enjoyed the Spook Parade where Ninja's princesses and pumpkins crossed the stage.

All proceeds will be donated to Century II for the park improvement project. The evening could not have been such a success if it were not for the cooks and tasters.

By Karen Krien

"Dumping and dashing" is a problem at the county landfill site and the Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Monday meeting, agreed to adopt a policy which might help eliminate the problem.

Ranae Pilkington, bookkeeper for the landfill, said there are people who do not pay for the items brought in to the dump. Some will weigh the truck going in but not weigh it going out, thus, not paying while there are others who bypass the weigh station both times and do not pay.

Then, there are those people who have outstanding dumping bills and continue to dump which is another problem.

The commissioners agreed to have a sign posted that will tell those coming in that they must weigh and pay or there will be a fine to pay. The sign will also state that if the customer has an unpaid balance, they cannot bring items to the landfill until the bill is paid.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that while it sounds good to not let them dump at the landfill, if they are followed on the way back to town, they will probably dump it along the ditch which is against the law.

Mrs. Pilkington wondered if not paying at the landfill could be considered littering. There was some question that this would actually be called "littering."

They talked about rolling unpaid bills onto the person's taxes but were not sure if this would apply to dumping at the landfill. Unpaid bills for spraying for noxious weeds could be put on a person's taxes but, again, they were not sure if this could be done when the county comes in to eliminate prairie dogs. Putting unpaid bills on the tax will be looked into and brought up at another meeting.

Mrs. Pilkington said the auditor had said she needed to get permission to take \$123.90 off the books for a 1999 bill left by Cheyenne Trucking. There is no longer a Cheyenne Trucking business.

County audit review

Jack Eldridge, county auditor, discussed the 2005 audit with the commissioners. There were several departments which needed to have better documentation. Employees, with the exception of those hired before 1986, need to have an I-9 paper filled out and on file. The I-9 regulation, implemented after 9-11, is a homeland security documentation of authorization to be employed in the United States. A copy of a photo driver's license and Social Security card are sufficient but other such forms of identification will also work.

Employee unhappy

Mike Antholz, road and bridge

employee, was unhappy that only the supervisor gave evaluations — that the commissioners should also talk to people (in his instance, people in the district where he takes care of the county roads) and see what their opinions are. Commissioner Jane Brubaker said her philosophy has never been based on the number of years worked but on merit as it is a motivation to improve. Mr. Antholz did not think that raises in pay should be based on merit.

He said he had been with the county for 22 years and was one of the best operators if not the best but was one of the lowest paid. He said he had been documented for using all of his sick leave and needing more. He had knee surgery which had taken it all. Then when he needed to take his wife to the doctor and wanted to take a personal day, he was told that he had to take a sick day. There was just no way that he could build up his sick leave.

"I don't want to cause problems but I think I'm getting cheated along the way," he said. "I just wanted the commissioners to look at it and see what they think."

Commissioner Beikman said that he had been on both sides of the fence (concerning merit pay) and understood what Mr. Antholz was saying. He also said that when the cost-of-living raise is given, the people making more money get a higher raise which could be considered unfair. Commissioner Brubaker said that in year's past, the commissioners had given a set amount raise.

No decisions were made.

In other business

In other business:

The commissioners met with the St. Francis City Council members to discuss the proposed "nuisance" ordinance. The commissioners agreed to send letters to the people in question, Doug Austin and Dave Meyer, giving them 45 days to clean up or show they are trying to clean up their property. If

not, the matter will be turned over to the state of Kansas officials. See related article.

The county's health insurance, The Corporate Plan, was briefly discussed. It was noted the county had a good year with fewer claims. The commissioners will look over the information sent by Corporate Plan's representative and discuss it at the Nov. 15 meeting.

The Ambulance Department had \$556.29 in write offs and brought in \$404.87. It was noted there were eight runs in October.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, gave a summary of work done in the county over the past money. They also talked about the entry to the sale barn in St. Francis, noting that the drive was to a business and fixing the entry did not comply with county statutes.

The commissioners agreed to pay the 2006 Kansas Legislative Policy Group dues of \$725. The 2005 dues were only \$702.

The commissioners signed the Nex-Tech renewal contract which had gone up \$500 because of "increase costs and overhead." Nex-Tech is the courthouse employee's computer support and the commissioners felt they had no choice but to approve the contact. The 2006 contract is for \$10,936. In 2005, the contract was \$10,415.

Mr. Eldridge had gone over the emergency medical technician teaching contract and said the \$15,000 paid to the instructor will need to be taken out of the 2005 budget even though it will not be completed until 2006.

County attorney Justin Barrett asked for executive session. When they came out, he announced that he had hired Danielle Gardner, St. Francis, to be his part-time secretary.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

College Sports

Cross Country

Kansas Wesleyan University - Amy Grace - The Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) Cross Country Championships took place at Southwestern College in Winfield on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Kansas Wesleyan University did not have enough runners for a complete womens team but Grace ran the 5K race with a time of 24:01.96.

Saturday, Nov. 5 Regionals will take place at McPherson.

Football

Garden City Community College - Tanner Kinen - The Broncbusters rallied from an 18-point halftime

deficit to make the score 26-25 but Coffeyville stopped Garden City and went on to claim a 40-6 win.

Sterling College - Seth Swihart - In a very low-scoring game St. Mary defeated Sterling 3-0. Sterling is 4-3 in both the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and overall.

Fort Hays State University - Dustin Dunn - The Fort Hays record fell to 2-5 in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference play and 2-7 overall when they were defeated by Nebraska-Kearney 54-20 on Saturday. Check picture and information on Dunn's interception.

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WHAT DO THE RESEARCH STUDIES SAY?

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