



## Commissioners say 'no' to resolution

By Karen Krien

Four members of the St. Francis City Council met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Monday where the proposed "nuisance" ordinance was discussed. This was the first meeting of the commissioners since the joint meeting of the council and city with concerned people of the

county held on Oct. 25.

The commissioners said they had received numerous calls from residents who were not in favor of the ordinance. The city council members, on the other hand, said they had many comments about the unsightly business on U.S. 36, just outside the city limits.

After a great deal of discussion, the commissioners agreed that they were elected by the people to do the job for the people and they were not going to adopt the resolution which would have put the nuisance ordinance in place. However, they were going to write letters to Doug Austin and Dave Meyer. If they make no attempt to clean up,

the matter will be turned over to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he had talked to Mr. Meyer who he said had already started cleaning up and he didn't think there would be any problem there

Representing the St. Francis City Council were Dale Weeks, Roger Jensen, and

Scott Schultz; and Mike Day, city attorney. Justin Barrett, county attorney, was also present along with commissioners Jane Brubaker, chairman; Mr. Beikman and Ray Lee.

At the public meeting, there were residents voicing their concern and anger over See NO on Page 9A



THE MOUNT RUSHMORE PRESIDENTS will be performing at Monday's elementary school Veteran's program. Pictured: (1 to r) are Ross Nicklos (President Bush); Logan

Whitmore (President Roosevelt); Sam Reed (President Lincoln); Jon Hilty (President Jefferson) and Brock Zwegardt (President Washington). Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Program on Monday honors Veterans

The fifth and sixth grade music classes will present a special program entitled "This is America" on Monday, Nov. 8, in honor of Veterans Day. The program begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in the grade school gymnasium. All veterans and mem-

bers of the community are encouraged to attend.

"Plenty of red, white and blue will be seen as the students salute our country, flag and great American way of life," said Jean Ann Confer, music instructor. "One of the special num-

bers will be the "Rap of the Presidents."

At the end of the program, there will be a special dedication for all those in the armed forces and to all veterans.

Joining the students this year will

be the VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary. They will be presenting a special flag ceremony during the program.

### Dress rehearsal

The public is welcome to attend the all-school veteran's dress rehearsal at 1 p.m. on Monday in the gymnasium.

St. Francis Indian football team won the Bi-District game against Ness City/Dighton, 42-0, on Tuesday night. The Indians will meet St. John in St. John on Saturday. Time is tentatively set for 3 p.m.

## Jolly Green Giant born in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

It wasn't until he died that people in St. Francis realized that the person with Jolly Green Giant's "Ho, Ho, Ho," was born in St. Francis.

He was born Elmer Dresslar Jr. in 1926 to Elmer Sr. and Ethel Dresslar. Mr. Dresslar was a professor and superintendent at the St. Francis High School from 1923 to 1927.

Mr. Dresslar (Len) died Oct. 16 of cancer, according to a Palm Springs, Calif., report.

Mr. Dresslar was an entertainer

and singer for nearly six decades. But his voice rang through millions of households when he sang the simple refrain, "Ho, Ho, Ho," in an ad jingle for Green Giant foods.

"His was the most consistent and most frequent voice of the Jolly Green Giant over the years, the one consumers are going to recognize,"

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## Medicare Part D plan to be reviewed

Many questions are being asked concerning the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit.

This is a voluntary benefit available to all Medicare beneficiaries regardless of income and medical history. There are many national and

regional plans available.

Many people are busy evaluating plans; some are questioning whether they should join at all and, with so many options available, it can easily become overwhelming.

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## Craft and quilt show is Saturday

### Over 33 quilts are expected

By Karen Krien

The annual Craft Show will be held Saturday. The doors to the St. Francis Elementary School will open at 10 a.m. and the show will run to 3 p.m. New this year is the Quilt Show.

"We are amazed at the number of quilts which will be on display," said Tammy Grice, one of the coordinators of the show.

As of Monday, there were 33 quilts registered to be shown in the old sixth grade room. People who enjoy quilts will be able to browse for quite some time in order to see everything.

The craft show is also amazing

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ADORABLE — This unidentified girl was on hand to watch the Halloween Parade on Monday.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Wide load is stopped at the Republican Bridge

By Karen Krien

Two semi tractors moving a 500,000-pound, wide load had traveled from Lincoln, Neb., down to U.S. 36 and then east to St. Francis with little trouble until they reached the Republican River bridge west of St. Francis on Wednesday.

Repairs being done to the bridge had limited travelers to one-way travel. The super load needed more than its share of the road in ordinary circumstances and one-way travel over the bridge was not enough.

In the middle of September, the Kansas Department of Transportation had hired contractors to repair the joints on the bridge. After the first cement was poured on the north side, the cement would need to cure for two weeks before that side of the bridge



WIDE LOAD TURNS AROUND — It took about 20 minutes but the semi-trucks carrying a 500,000 pound boiler were forced to turn around at the Republican River bridge and head back to St. Francis where the drivers spent the night. They were able to cross the bridge west of St. Francis the next morning and get on their way to Calgary, Alberta. The drivers said they would bring another boiler back through in about three weeks. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

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# PLAN

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Dr. Kody Krien, Pharm D, St Francis, provided the following information which is intended as a guide to help people evaluate the many plans available.

“Make sure you get these questions answered before signing into a plan,” Dr. Krien said.

• **Pharmacy Access:** Can people buy their medicine wherever they want?

Be sure you can buy your medicine from the pharmacist you choose. Do not sign into a plan unless you can get your medicine at the pharmacy you want. Ask your pharmacist what plan(s) they are honoring.

• **Pharmacy Network Size:** How broad is the plan’s pharmacy network? Can you fill prescriptions at pharmacies nationwide while traveling or if you move or are simply out of town?

• **Medication Therapy Management:** Does the plan offer this service

and, if so, where can it be conducted? This is a service in which a member’s medication therapy is thoroughly reviewed in an effort to optimize their therapy. Some plans will allow local professionals (pharmacists, nurses, others) to provide this while other plans utilize a call center (telephone conference).

• **Long-Term Care Benefits:** If I need long-term care services (nursing home or assisted living arrangements) will this plan provide benefits for your geographical area? What process must be completed before you have coverage in the facility you choose?

### Basic Medicare benefit

The following table gives people an idea of how the basic Medicare benefit is structured. The first column being total annual drug expenditures and the last column represents the member’s total out-of-pocket cost for medicine and plan premiums (using national average of \$37 per month).

Total Drug Cost	Member Share	Annual Premium	Member Total Annual Cost
\$0	\$0	\$444	\$444
250	250	444	694
2,250	750	444	1,194
3,600	2,100	444	2,544
3,600 + (ex) 6,000	5% 2,220	444	2,664

“For the many people questioning whether or not to sign up for a plan, there are many things to first consider,” Dr. Krien said.

First some people can’t afford the program and may be entitled to additional assistance from social security (income less than \$14,355 single and \$19,245 married and assets less than \$11,500 single and \$23,000 married) and may call 800-772-1213 for more information.

Other people feel they are healthy and don’t take much medicine. Although this is a valid argument it could be very costly if they later decide to join.

First is the 1 percent per month premium penalty. If you join one year late after becoming eligible, you pay a premium penalty of 12 percent. Wait two years and the penalty is 24 percent every month.

Secondly if the person has a ma-

ior medical event (heart attack, stroke, other conditions) they could suddenly have five or six medications to take.

Finally, enrollment is limited to annually between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31 of each year. If the person has a medical event or diagnosis in January, they must wait 12 months for coverage to begin and medication bills could be very high by then.

“This article is not intended to be all inclusive but rather to serve as a general guide for you to make an informed decision as you evaluate your options for Medicare Part D,” Dr. Krien said. “Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I will further be hosting a community information meeting at 1 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the St Francis Community High School cafeteria and, later, at 4 p.m. in the Cheylin School cafeteria, Bird City.”

# SHOW

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with more new booths including a booth where the person selling her crafts also dyes her own yard. The craft show is held in the gym and down the hall.

Sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, the show gives people the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping as well as adding holiday decorations.

The show offers a variety of items

including wreaths, wooden painted items from Santa dolls, to barnwood items and many more things.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Shoppers are urged to come early as it will take time to see all there is to offer and make their purchases before they are taken by other shoppers.

For more information, contact Tammy Grice, 785-332-2910 or Bonnie Zwegardt, 785-332-2569.

# GIANT

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said Tara Johnson, a spokeswoman for General Mills, which owns Green Giant Co.

Mr. Dresslar moved to Chicago with his wife in the early 1950s to study voice after touring with a production of “South Pacific.” By the 1960s, the Navy veteran had carved out a career singing in clubs, on television and in advertising jingles.

According to the Palm Springs article, he recorded 15 albums with The Singers Unlimited jazz group and appeared on the CBS television show “In Town Tonight” from 1955 to 1960. He and his wife, Dorothy, retired to Palm Springs in 1991.

Ad jingles were the most consistent part of his career, and he landed roles for Rice Krispies cereal, Marlboro cigarettes, Amoco oil and Dinty Moore canned beef stew.

He periodically re-recorded the “Ho, Ho, Ho” for Jolly Green Giant commercials, most recently about 10 years ago.

Teri Bennett said her father auditioned for the Green Giant job without any idea his baritone would become so recognizable.

### More about the Dresslars

Margaret Bucholtz, St. Francis history buff, went to work and studied the microfilm of *The Saint Francis Herald* during those years and, interestingly enough, there is no mention of Elmer “Len” Dresslar being born — he was mentioned as “Buddie” in the April 8, 1926 Herald.

In the Jan 1, 1925, issue of *The Herald* on page two, it tells about Dr. and Mrs. J.H.A. Peck entertained at their home Christmas day with a dinner to Prof. and Mrs. E.L. Dresslar and Corrine. There was no mention of a baby boy.

### Elmer and Ethel in St. Francis

Elmer and Ethel were married in Mankato and the Dresslars often traveled to see the family. Later in 1923, Mrs. Dresslar’s parents moved to Edmond and then to Athol.

It appears that the Dresslars were both entertainers and associated with a number of people in the community.

On Dec 4, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Dresslar entertained about 35 guests at a musicale at their home Thursday evening. The guests included the members of both the Methodist and Christian church choirs and a few other friends. The entire evening’s entertainment was given by Mrs. Dresslar and her sister Mrs. E.N. Baher of Denver, with the exception of two solos sang by Rev. Baber. Mrs. Dresslar is a very wonderful singer and equally a pleasing was the music played by Mrs. Baher. Altogether the evening was one highly appreciated and long to be remembered as a rare treat by the guests.

On the front page April 16, 1925, the headline was “Played To Big Crowds.”

# WIDE LOAD

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could be opened. Then the other side would be poured. The work had taken longer than expected.

On Wednesday, the work crew was on hand to pour the cement into the joints on the south side. Without the cement in the joints, the bridge could not handle the weight of the load, however, if the drivers would wait for two hours, it would be set.

The trucks and load, which was a boiler, reached the bridge late in the morning and, by the time the cement was poured and then allowed to set up for 2 hours, the trucks would only have an hour or two before they would be forced to pull over.

“We can’t drive after dark,” said Don Fortier, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the driver of the semi which pushes.

“And, we can’t pull over anywhere,” said Harold Lackten, Calgary, Alberta, driver of the semi pulling the load.

Westfreight Systems personnel had been planning the route for the big load for five months, getting permits from states. The one-way bridge had not been reported.

Traffic was backed up for at least a 1/2 mile to the east and was stopped west of the bridge and south on the River Road as the back semi was disconnected from the trailer, then Mr. Lackten began slowly backing the load back onto the River Road so they could turn around and head back to St. Francis.

Even though the highway and the River Road were not the widest roads in the area, the driver’s (Mr. Fortier was steering from the back of the load), backed up the load without taking out any of the signs.

Mr. Fortier said he has been working with wide loads for 19 years, and Mr. Lackten said he had been driving the wide loads for 20 years.

The drivers of the semis and the pilot cars spent the night in St. Francis and were on their way early the next morning.

Mr. Lackten and Mr. Fortier said they make about 250 miles a day and, because of the size of the loads could only go on certain highways. That is why they had come south from Lincoln to U.S. 36. They didn’t expect the delay to hinder them too much. They would reach Sterling, Colo., on Thursday and then hoped to be into Wyoming before Saturday.

In Colorado, they were not allowed to travel on weekends but in Wyoming, they could travel on Saturdays.

Crowds greeted the players when they staged a western comedy drama, “A Daughter of the Desert.” It was put on for the benefit of the athletic fund of the high school and the total receipts were about \$256. After all expenses are paid it will leave nearly \$199 to clear up the deficit in the athletic fund.

The play pleased the crowd as was evidenced by the frequent applause. A fine orchestra furnished the music and Robert J. Taylor sang and Stewart Churchill played his xylophone between acts. The cast was carefully selected and each character was particularly suited to the part they played. Elmer L. Dresslar directed the play.

In the July 16, 1925, issue, it read that Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Dresslar and the children left to spend several weeks in the mountains. While in Denver, Mrs. Dresslar will broadcast a few vocal musical programs.

Mrs. Dresslar also wanted to be involved with politics as on the front page of the Herald, April 8, 1926, it stated that she had placed her announcement asking the Republican voters to nominate her for the office

of register of deeds in the August primary. However, in the primary, Mrs. Dresslar was defeated by Kitty Price.

In Jan 15, 1925 on Page 3, it read that Prof. Elmer L. Dresslar had notified the board of education that he will not be an applicant for the principalship of the St. Francis Community High school the coming year. Prof Dresslar had a couple of years work in a medical school and expected to complete the course and then take up the practice of medicine.

But, in the April 15, 1926, issue on the front page, the headline read “Need new high school.” Professor Dresslar reported on the overcrowded condition of both the high and grade school and called attention to the extreme necessity of a new high school building. He cited that 57 percent of the high school students were from the country.

There is still mention of the Dresslars in 1927. At this time, little is known after that. However, Mrs. Bucholtz has taken on the challenge of finding out more about the “Jolly Green Giant,” who was born in St. Francis, Kansas.

# NO

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the nuisance ordinance which was designed to clean up areas in the county. Earlier, the city council had asked the commissioners to adopt a resolution which would “encourage” people to clean up their property and suggested that they were interested in only areas just outside the city limits. However, some residents living in the country thought that, in time, the ordinance could be used to force them to clean up their farm yards.

Commissioner Lee, after the meeting, phone calls and talking with people on the street, had made some phone calls to Bob Mendina with the Kansas Department of Transportation getting more information on the Junkyard and Salvage Control Act statutes and regulations. He found that the purpose of the Act involved many areas including public safety, health, convenience, enjoyment of public travel, protecting the public investment in highways and preserving the beauty of the land bordering public highways.

“Junk” could include old/scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste or junked automobiles and/or parts which could also include iron, steel and scrap materials.

Commissioner Lee said Mr. Mendina had said if the people in question did not comply, representatives of the Kansas Department of Transportation will come to St.

Francis and take care of it.

Attorney Day said he didn’t think it was appropriate for the county (commissioners) to neglect its obligation. He said that the Department of Transportation will clean up depending upon the money available and there are a lot of hoops to jump through. And, even if the Department of Transportation representatives come out, it doesn’t replace a nuisance resolution.

Councilman Schultz told about a state guy who came to town and said there were problem areas but it was up to the council to take care of them.

Commissioner Beikman said he had received a call from Karen Neitzel who said her family had used the state to clean up a property they had bought.

“The state has to declare it (P & D Repair building) as an illegal dump site,” Attorney Day said.

It was pointed out that owner Mr. Austin said he no longer runs a business from there but sells items. However, it wasn’t classified as a “business.”

The commissioners agreed to send letters to both Mr. Austin and Mr. Meyer giving them 40 days to clean up. If they don’t comply, the commissioners will then talk to the Kansas officials.

The city council representatives asked that the commissioners keep them informed on the matter, to which the commissioners agreed.

# Register To Win

Give-Away begins in November 10 with Drawing to be held December 15, 2005

Watch next week’s issue of *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times!*



## The Saint Francis Herald

~ and ~

## Bird City Times

Presents —

# Christmas ON US

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- Bier’s Hometown Store
- Burr Retail Liquor
- Krien Pharmacy
- Owens True Value
- Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge
- Schultz Ltd.
- St. Francis Chamber of Commerce
- St. Francis Equity
- St. Francis Super’s
- The Saint Francis Herald/Bird City Times
- Video Kingdom