

Old Equity turning into haunted house

By Karen Krien
The Saint Francis Herald

It will be dark, creepy with many scary surprises! Association for the Benefit of Cheyenne County members are again preparing for their annual haunting of the old Equity building on the corner of Washington and River streets in St. Francis.

The sign in the window, "Expect the Unexpected!!" has been warning everyone that the Nightmare on River Street will be open again this year Wednesday through next Fri-

day and again on Nov. 1.

There will be surprises around every corner, in every room and nook, in the cemetery, and the freight elevator that will take those attending down to the maze. Each has been created by the association members, including the "Flying Crank Ghost."

"I love Halloween — even more than Christmas," said Chris Mastin, an association member.

He has spent hours pulling up sites on the internet which gives the

directions for making these scary, goulish characters and creating frightening situations.

"Almost everything is made from plywood and PVC pipe," he said, but that is hard to believe when these characters seem to come to life.

Last year, the association spent about \$1,500 on supplies. Ed Garner at the landfill reported when certain items, such as old motors, came through. He saved them for the association and they were able

to pick them up for little or no cost.

Eric Hook at Bandel Home Center and Brent Rueb at Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, donated items and there were also donations of cash and materials from other businesses and individuals. St. Francis Equity Exchange allows the association to set up the hauntings in the building, which is used only in the summer. The haunted items are moved to the back and the basement, where they are stored from year to year.

"We probably couldn't put it (haunted house) together if the Equity didn't let us use the building," Mr. Mastin said.

It takes any where from five to 15 people to keep the production operating in its scary fashion. This year, there have been some more additions to the Nightmare on River Street, but much of the preparation work has been "fine tunings" some of last year's props.

Last year, most of the money made at the "Hauntings" was spent

paying off the materials and equipment. This year, there are still expenses, but the money made will be used for community projects which the association sponsors throughout the year. If enough money is made, members will also be looking at spending some for the July Fourth fireworks display.

Association members will be donating four evenings of their time to host the Nightmare on River Street. Everyone is urged to stop by and enjoy the hauntings.

Business owner tells of addiction

By Karen Krien
The Saint Francis Herald

Last Friday, Kathy Woodcox, co-owner of the Homesteader Motel in St. Francis, was arrested on drug charges.

On Monday, after spending two nights in jail, she wanted to tell her story so she could try to help other people, especially kids, avoid the addictions that she has struggled with for almost 30 years.

In started, she said, with cigarettes. After having talked all of her childhood about how she was not going to smoke, she was hooked by the time she was 15. She remembers that her mother cried when she found out.

"Cigarettes are the most dangerous, because they are just the start," she said.

Alcohol was right behind smoking, added Woodcox, who grew up in Cheyenne County and went to school there.

"But they (cigarettes and alcohol) were easy to get," Woodcox said. "When I was young, I could buy cigarettes from a machine that sat outside the filling station, and if you knew how and where, you could get beer."

She said that through the years, she had tried almost every type of drug. She helped friends come down off of highs and kept one moving around when she had gotten some bad drugs. Several years ago, she said, she found a diet drop that others were using which contained natural ephedra. She felt like she had so many things to do and the "drop" contained just enough ephedra to give her hours of energy.

However, after she had taken a certain amount, the energy boost was no longer there. About three years ago, she said, her addiction had intensified. She said that hers has been a selfish and self-serving addiction, also very secretive, and she wants to be done with her dirty little secret. She said she had been taught right from wrong and takes full and personal responsibility for all her wrong choices over the years.

"Substance abuse takes its toll. I would run, work and sweat, but it was perfect to keep me going," she said, adding that sometimes she could go 24 to 48 hours with little or no sleep.

However, she knew that it was hard on her. Woodcox said she and friends had tried to quit but it didn't work.

"It is a monster lurking," she said. About six weeks ago, she said, her family confronted her about using drugs but she denied it, saying that she was fine.

"And, I probably was that day," she added. "I want to tell my story in hopes that I can keep others from ever getting started."

Woodcox said she has been clean long enough that when she was arrested, she would have probably passed a drug test.

"I feel that I owe this (story) to the town," she said. "I love this town and the people. It was my own problem."

"I'm sorry for what I did and I feel that I need to explain my situation."

Woodcox knows there is a strong possibility of prison time ahead of her. A two-night stay in jail was not fun, but it was a time for her to think.

Police make arrests in meth investigation

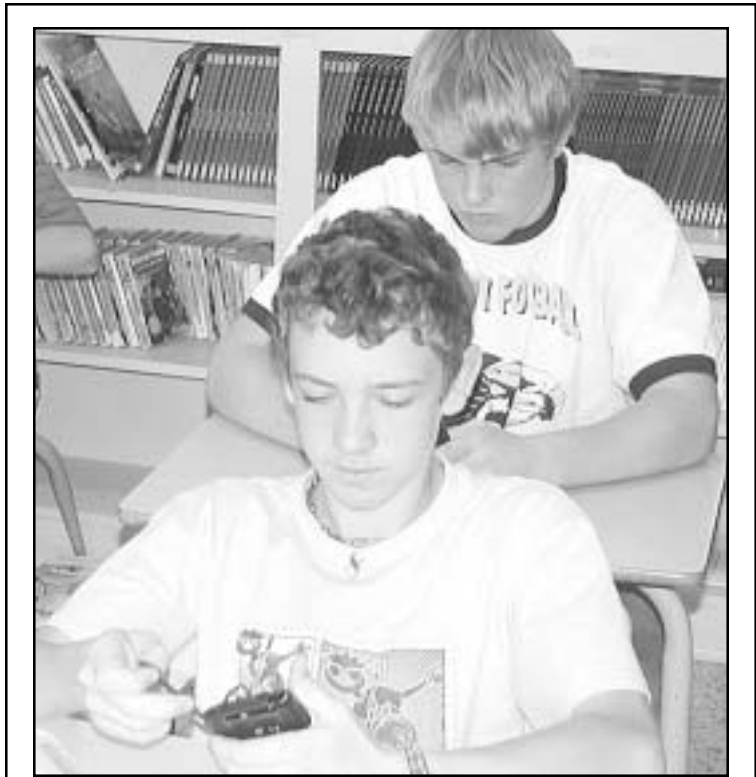
The St. Francis Police Department, with help from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, obtained and executed search warrants for suspected methamphetamine labs in St. Francis and Wheeler last Friday.

Officers arrested Kathy Woodcox, 45, St. Francis, for manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of pseudoephedrine, possession of anhydrous ammonia in an unlawful container, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Cindy Robinson, 38, Wheeler,

was arrested on charges of possession of methamphetamine, marijuana and paraphernalia. Both were transported to the Sherman County Bastille in Goodland.

Chief Jason Ryan said that his officers had been investigating for several months and that he was happy that, with the help of the KBI, "We were able to get rid of another active methamphetamine lab in Cheyenne County." Chief Ryan said that he appreciated Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson and Cheyenne County Undersheriff Clifton Flock, who helped in the execution of the search warrants.



Travis Schollard (front) and Casey Henderson, eighth graders at Grant Junior High, used their hand-helds in study hall Wednesday afternoon. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Students get hand-helds to help with their work

PALM, from Page 1

held, since the smallest one currently available needs two megabytes by itself.

Gray said one of the advantages the newer models have is that it is rechargeable rather than using disposable batteries. The new machines are loaded with Graffiti 2 application, a newer version than the one in the older models, which allows students to write, with an accompanying stylus, on the screen using a modified alphabet that allows the hand-held to record what was they write. Graffiti 2 uses an alphabet easier for students to adjust to, Gray said.

The hand-held serves as a note pad, a "To Do" list, a datebook and a calculator. Free Write provides word processing capability. The hand-held can transmit, import, duplicate and exchange documents with other hand-helds through a sensor that can literally beam information from across a room.

Among the applications now available to students is Pict-O-Map, a graphics organizer, and Quizzler which allows teacher to

create paperless quizzes and transmit them to students to complete with the hand-held.

Eighth grade science teacher Sue Hagerman, another faculty leader for the project, said two general categories of applications are available. One is freeware, which includes most of the applications already described. The other is shareware, which provides educational material free for a specific time period, then gives the user the option to buy and keep the application.

One of the shareware applications she provides to her students is Planetarium, which provides information about the stars and planets, and allows her to make assignments that can done entirely on the hand-held.

Hagerman said that the "To Do" list is what students generally are finding most useful in all their classes. She said some students dislike writing on the hand-held because the Graffiti application can be touchy and sensitive to stray marks and improper lettering.

The hand-held project is being paid for by a federal grant.

Downtown costs 'voluntary' for owners

CITY, from Page 1

- Approved an ordinance to allow manufacturing and assembling operations in a general business zoned district on a case-by-case conditional basis.
- Approved closing the 1200 block of Arcade Avenue, in front of Max Jones Fieldhouse, during the Nu Phi Mu's annual crafts fair on Nov. 15.
- Approved an agreement between the city and the state Department of Transportation for the K-27 improvement project. Work will begin where the previous project ended on K-27 near the city's southern border and will go south about seven miles.
- Examined the commission's list of grant recommendations for 2003 and each item's current status.
- Pickman reminded the commission of the Sherman County Economic Development Council's annual meeting Tuesday, the League

of Kansas Municipalities regional supper Nov. 19 at Sugar Hills Golf Club and the league's Leadership Academy personnel management course on Nov. 7.

- Approved the closing of Main Avenue for the Christmas parade on Saturday, Nov 15.
- Commissioner Dean Blume said that residents need to be aware that electric bills will go up regardless of the weather.
- Mayor Rick Billinger recommended that commissioners attend the league supper on Nov. 19 to show support. Pickman recommended they attend Aquila Network's annual governing body meeting, also at Sugar Hills, on Nov. 10. Aquila is the city's natural gas provider.

Commissioner John Garcia was absent.

The meeting adjourned around 5:58 p.m. The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at the City Administration Building.

Firm checking building

COUNTY, from Page 1

expenses for advanced paramedic training required for his credentials as a mobile intensive care technician. The classes are conducted at the Hays Regional Medical Center and accredited through Barton County Community College.

- Heard Commissioner Mitch Tiede report that county had received oral approval from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to continue its household hazardous waste material collection without its personnel being certified as long as a certified individual was present to supervise. He said a short collection day is being considered for late fall.
- Selected Rasure to be the county's voting delegate, and

student of the week



Name: Trista Lalicker
Parents: Mary and Brian Callahan and Dewayne and Lori Lalicker
Grade: Senior
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: Trista has done an excellent job in Calculus class. She is always prepared and gives 100% effort. She also has a keen problem solving ability.
Student Comment: My senior year has been great so far and it is going really fast. I am looking forward to the

rest of this year and graduation. I will always remember all of my friends and the fun times we had.

Activities involved in at school: X-Pressos, musical, tennis, Science Olympiad and math relays.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are comedies, books are anything by Danielle Steele and I like any game that is fun.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to Fort Hays State University to be a radiology technologist.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: starting a family and working as a radiology technologist somewhere.

Favorite Quote: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson -

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Hosted by Nationwide Homes of Goodland

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Haley Joel Osment

Secondhand Lions

PG: Thematic material; language; action violence.

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Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1 OFF on a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks

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Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:00

Sunday 1:30 & 7:00

Mon. - Tues. 7:00

Closed Oct. 29 - Nov. 6

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