

Scam targeting the elderly people

Attorney General Paul Morrison warned Kansans today of a new scam targeting the elderly. Seniors are encouraged to contact the Attorney General's Office if anyone contacts them regarding an income tax return on their Social Security benefits.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), scam artists are approaching seniors across the country and offering to prepare tax refunds for Social Security benefits. The victim is instructed to get a 1099 statement for the last three years from Social Security. The SSA has no choice except to provide this information to beneficiaries, although they have been warning anyone who requests this information about the scam.

Once they receive the informa-

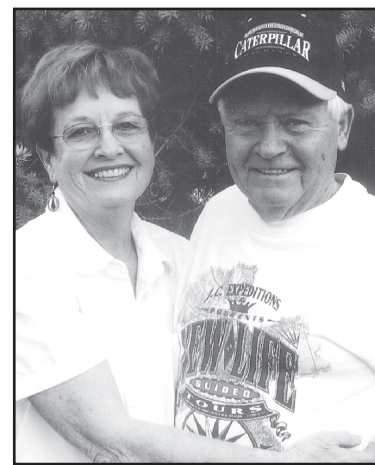
tion, the scam artist prepares three years of tax returns for a fee. The returns show Social Security benefits as income and mistakenly take the standard deduction to create a refund amount. The beneficiary files the faulty tax return and receives a refund from the IRS.

Once the IRS realizes the error, the refund is either removed from the beneficiary's bank account or the IRS sends a demand letter for the refund amount. By that point, the scam artist has moved on and the beneficiary is out the \$40 to \$100 they paid to prepare the return.

For more information on this scam visit: <http://www.ssa.gov/>. For information on other consumer scams and alerts, visit the Attorney General's Web site at www.ksag.org.



Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCann



Couple celebrates 50th anniversary

The children of Jim and Sharon McCann will be holding a come-and-go 50 wedding anniversary open house from 2 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 25 at their home on 216 W. 2nd St., Bird City.

November is national hospice month

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reports that 1.3 million people with life-limiting illness received care from the nation's 4,500 hospice providers last year. This represents continued growth in both patients served and number of providers. Hospice Services provided care for 15 percent additional families this past year. Approximately 35 percent of all deaths in the US were under the care of a hospice program.

Additionally, the top five diagnoses among hospice patients show the continued trend of less cancer patients among those served. The top five diagnoses seen in hospice for 2006 are as follows:

- Cancer 44.1 percent,
- Heart Disease 12.2 percent,
- Debility 11.8 percent,
- Dementia 10.0 percent,
- Lung Disease 7.7 percent.

The true value of hospice goes deeper than statistics. Throughout the month of November, hospice and palliative care organizations across the nation are hosting activities to educate the public and other healthcare professionals about the benefits of hospice and palliative care.

"The philosophy at the heart of

hospice and palliative care is about so much more than what's commonly seen in conventional medical care. It's about providing solutions for difficult times when hope is in question, it's being close in time of fear, it's about dignity, humanity, and hope," said Donald Schumacher National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) president. "When you look at all that makes up hospice and palliative care, and the difference that care makes in the lives of more and more Americans, you begin to understand its contribution in the healthcare continuum."

Hospice is not a place but a philosophy of care created to help people live with dignity, comfort, and compassion at the end of life. Palliative care works to bring this philosophy of care to people earlier in the course of a serious illness.

Hospice and palliative care programs provide pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support, and spiritual care to patients and their families. They also serve as valuable community resources about care options.

Additional information about hospice, palliative care, advance

care planning, and talking with loved ones about these important issues is available for NHPCO's Caring Connections. For national information, or to get a free state-specific advance directive form, visit www.caringinfo.org or call the HelpLine at

800/658-8898. Hospice Services, the local hospice, has provided comfort, compassion and quality end of life care in northwest and north central Kansas since 1982 and can be reached at 900-315-5122 or visited at www.hospicenwks.net.



Store Volunteers— back row (l to r) Carol Forsythe, Bonnie Hill, Janet Jensen, Sherry Schultz, Vickie Schliep, Coleen Applegate, Sue Zimbelman, Mayetta McCall, Jo Frewen; front: Floris Raile, Louise Wilson, Betty Louden, Wanda Gienger, Elaine Kite

United Methodist Thrift Store

104 W. Washington St. Francis



Shirley Marino, Mike Marino, Mike, Jr. Marino

GOODELL GREENHOUSE & FLORAL

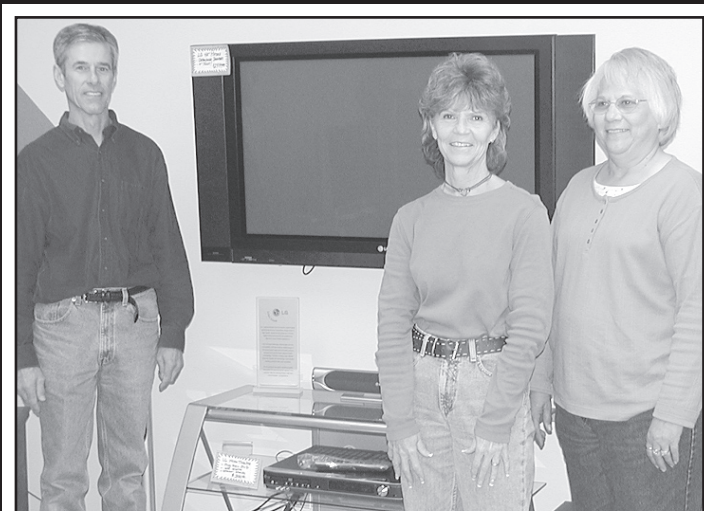
219 W. Whittier • St. Francis • 785-332-2263



Brianna Zwegardt, Andrea Holzwarth, Jenice Hartman, Cassie Dankenbring

Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge

Hwy. 36 • St. Francis • 785-332-2255



Terry Bandel, Diane Hessar, Mary Lou Douthit

Video Kingdom
SHARE THE EXCITEMENT! ~ Mon.-Sat. • 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
~ Sunday • 1-5 p.m.
414 Washington • St. Francis • 785-332-3207



Gordon Ross, John Guthmiller

ROSS MANUFACTURING & SUNSHINE TRAVEL

311 W. Jackson St. Francis 785-332-3012/2677

Club Clip

McDonald Area Development
McDonald Area Development met on Wednesday, Nov. 7 with 11 members present. Ray Johnson called the meeting to order and the Minutes and Treasurer's report were accepted as read.

A report given on the McDonald Area Development Soup supper indicated a good crowd in attendance and the kids all had a lot of fun picking up candy after the pinata

was broken. Christmas Bingo will be held on Saturday, Dec. 22. Plans will be finalized at the December meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

Ray reported that all the playground equipment at the Highway 36 Park has been painted red, white, and blue. Lois Morelock reported that the rent on the Legion Hall has been paid for the year.



PHYLLIS WRIGHT is the only senior present to celebrate her birthday for the month. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Early Deadline

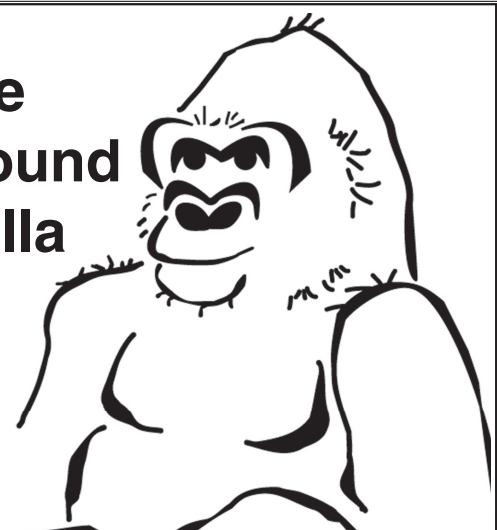
The week of Thanksgiving, The Herald and Times will be coming out early so everyone will have their paper which will include the Treasure Hunt numbers.

Articles and Ads are due Friday, Nov. 16, at 5 p.m.

The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times



900 The 800-pound Gorilla



GETS THINGS MOVED... FAST!!

The Country Advocate is the 800-pound Gorilla of Northwest Kansas. The Advocate, with its circulation now 16,000 strong, is delivered to homes from Oberlin to Cheyenne Wells and Burlington out in Colorado, and from St. Francis down to rural Hoxie and Oakley. The Advocate goes nearly everywhere in this area, sells just about everything. Face it, nobody argues with an 800-pound Gorilla.

The Country Advocate

**CALL CASEY AT:
The Saint Francis Herald**

785-332-3162
310 W. Washington St. Francis, Kan.