

## Tornado drill rescheduled for Thursday

The tornado drill scheduled for Tuesday, was rescheduled for today (Thursday) at 1:30 p.m.

Western Kansas offices were originally planning to go ahead with the drill even though a snow storm was expected, but in the 11th hour, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted National Weather Service a waiver to perform this test on Thursday.

This will also help because many schools were planning to be closed on Tuesday because of the storm. The Service would like to see as much school participation as possible.

So, as it stands now, all National



Weather Service offices serving Kansas are scheduled to do the tornado drill on Thursday.

## Daylight saving time starts Sunday

The sun is coming up earlier and the days are a little longer. Daylight Saving Time will arrive on Sunday, a week before the first day of spring on March 20.

With the change, the evenings will be lighter longer. Those itching to get out in the yard and garden after work will now have an extra hour. It will also give the golfers a little more time to hit those balls around Riverside Recreation.

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, although most people spring their clocks forward Saturday night before they head

to bed. If not, they might miss church on Sunday.

While Daylight Saving Time used to come later in March, even in April, last year was the second time under federal law that it began the second weekend in March.

While there will still be some cold weather and even a snow storm or two, the time change means that the weather on the way to being nicer — a little warmer — just a couple of months until school is out, the swimming pool is open and harvest will be just around the corner.

## Legislators hold meetings in Sainty

By Karen Krien

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About 30 people came out Saturday afternoon to talk to two legislators at the town hall meeting held at Main Street Java, St. Francis.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Representative Ward Cassidy talked about the state's lack of money and the cuts the governor is proposing.

Mr. Ostmeyer was the first to speak. Among some of the things he talked about was the selling of beer and liquor in grocery stores. He said he thinks that all businesses need to be protected and will vote no on the matter. However, he doesn't think there will be a decision made this year.

Governor Brownback, he said, knows how to save money. However, there are going to be some decisions that make people unhappy.

For instance, there are many who support the arts but it is one of those programs that will be cut. When veterans, the handicap and elderly have been cut financially, he said, how can we continue to fund the arts?

The state has had a problem with spending for 10 years. The state is broke, he said.

There are going to be cuts in the schools. Some school superintendents say when the contingency funds are gone, the school is done. That's not what we want out here. We need the schools open with teachers and students.

Lack of population is a problem in the district. Because of the lack of people, Mr. Ostmeyer will be picking up two more counties. Mr. Cassidy, he said, may pick up another county to the east.

This is Mr. Cassidy's first year as a representative and he shared how it has been a learning experience but one he hasn't regretted. He reported that he loves Northwest Kansas and it's people. It has been a pleasure to serve them, he said.

"I love hearing from the people," he said.

He had promised that he would

answer every e-mail he received from constituents and he has — over 2,000 e-mails. If I don't know the answer, he said, I have the resources that I can find the answer.

"My premise," he said, "is that we can't spend any more money than is being brought in."

With all the budget cuts already proposed and those going on and the loss of the stimulus money, he said, government is still going to grow 6 percent this year and that's bad news. The budget needs to be brought back down so there can be some positive growth.

He was concerned about the fact that the state received money from the federal government. If the state can't meet the maintenance of effort which is \$26 million, the the state can lose that money. Once they have lost the money, they can't get it back. The state of Kansas doesn't have \$26 million, he said.

Mr. Cassidy is expecting more cuts in education this year. A counselor and former teacher/principal, he finds the cuts discouraging but, even more discouraging, he expects the cuts to continue for three more years.

However, there is some good news. Kansas has been awarded the Boeing contract and there are positive indications concerning the Holcomb Power Plant. EPA, he said, needs to back off! He would like to see Environmental Protection Agency defunded.

Having these businesses mean billions of dollars will be coming into the state.

Mr. Cassidy talked about fire marshals. As a principal, he found that their demands on the St. Francis schools and those across the state is unreasonable. The state is cutting schools \$300,000 but the expense for fire marshal issues such as new doors in the buildings is \$400,000.

Mr. Cassidy, after studying the matter, talked to Governor Brownback, expressing his anger and frustration. He was advised to write a bill so he did. Since then, the nursing home



ATTENDING THE AUCTION is Mike Rooney, Ernie Ketzner and Troy Burr.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Over \$1 million spent at auction

By Norma Martinez  
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Over \$1 million dollars was brought for land south of Bird City.

On Thursday, Don Hazlett auctioned four tracts of land consisting of 625 acres. The total

for the land belonging to the Fuller Foundation was \$1,267,648.

Tracts one, two and three had been the Greenhalgh family since 1909 when the family of the tenant broke it out of sod. Track four adjoined the Sherman-Cheyenne County line with 95.6

acres cropland and 46.5 acres in the conservation reserve program (CRP).

Out of approximately 125 prospective buyers, the final bids went to: Gerald Kaus, from Colorado who purchased tracts one and two consisting of

160 acres. Each tract brought \$2,302 per acre; B&W Farms, St. Francis, bought tract three consisting of 160 acres for \$2,050 per acres; and Leone Pfeifer, Hill City, purchased tract four, consisting of 145 acres for \$1,400 per acre.



WARD CASSIDY talks to a group of 30 at Main Street Java on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

administrators have contacted him, also wanting his support for them.

He believes that he can make a positive impact in Topeka. He has made the front page of the Topeka newspaper and plans to make Northwest Kansas known on the hill.

Mr. Cassidy said his website is scheduled to be up and running at www.wardcassidy.com. He's also been writing columns for the local newspapers.

Several people asked

questions. Immigration issues seemed to bring out a lot of discussion. Mr. Cassidy believes in E-Verify but it hasn't passed because it will cost millions of dollars if it is attacked. On the other side of the coin, he said, illegal immigration is costing local hospitals millions.

He encourages everyone to go to his new website, www.wardcassidy.com. Anyone having questions should e-mail him at Ward.Cassidy@house.ks.gov.

## Residents return to nursing home

By Karen Krien

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Almost five months to the day, Good Samaritan Village residents will begin returning to the renovated facility.

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, reported the fire marshal, on the last visit, had found only a few minor details which were repaired. On Thursday, he had received permission from the state for residents to start returning on Monday, March 14.

On Oct. 19, a fire started in the middle-wing attic. It was afternoon and a warm fall day. Residents were removed and later transferred to different nursing homes in the area.

Cleanup and renovation has been on-going since November but the burned wing, at this time, will not be opened for residents or staff. The west wing, which suffered the least

damage, will be open for 22 residents.

When the Good Samaritan Society has finished with phase 2 of their remodeling, there will be beds for 10 more residents.

They will also create an 8-foot wide corridor down the middle wing which will better allow the staff to move from the kitchen area to the west wing.

Many of the staff will be returning to work at the Village. During the last five months, a few were employed by the Society, some traveled to other nursing homes to work and others had enough time built up to wait out the duration.

An open house was held Sunday, Feb. 27, and around 250 people attended to see the facility. Janet Siegfried, director of nursing, said the staff plans to have a homecoming party for the residents.

## County 4-H Day set for March 17

By Karen Krien

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People are urged to stop by the St. Francis high school Thursday, March 17, about 4:30 p.m. to see the 4-H'ers in action.

Cheyenne County 4-H Day will find 4-H'ers performing a variety of talents from singing, to dancing, to playing instruments. There will also be demonstrations, project talks and skits.

The Favorite Food Show will be held in the cafeteria. The 4-H'ers will create a meal, party or snack, attractively set the table and provide the recipe. They are judged and the room is then opened to the public.

Attending 4-H Day encourages the 4-H'ers as they learn to speak and perform to the public. It is also entertaining for those in the audience.



Don't forget to spring forward on Sunday