

Board member writes book review for readers

The Big Burn
Book review by Stan Dorsch

“The Big Burn” follows Timothy Egan’s best seller, “The Worst Hard Times,” and is written with the same intensity as the award winning book. “The Big Burn” commences in the 1890s in the Pacific Northwest. The topics of conservation and the creation of the National Parks are on Teddy Roosevelt’s agenda. Roosevelt has spent time in the Dakotas and has done hiking and exploring in the Coer d’Alene forest in Northern Idaho. Roosevelt eventually runs for and is elected president. Roosevelt sets up some National Parks and is trying to limit the amount of lumber being cut in the forests. His goal is ambitious and drastically underfunded. In 1910 the Idaho, Washington,

Montana and Canada area started to burn. This area was in a severe drought and fire was started by lightning strikes. The forests did not have proper equipment to fight fires. Communications were unavailable. People were burned trying to escape the inferno by train or on foot. The fires eventually brought death to nearly 100 in an area the size of Connecticut. The fire was not a pretty picture. Unfortunately funding was not available to pay benefits to the fighters or their families. The National Park Service survived the bad press from the fire. I found it interesting the project started by Teddy Roosevelt, a Republican,

was finally carried out by a Democrat, Franklin Roosevelt. Interestingly, the practice of no fire fighting in the 1880s to the complete control in the mid-century has now gone to a policy of allowing some of the overgrowth to burn. Fire was and is a major problem in our forests. Warren, Idaho, is mentioned frequently in “The Big Burn.” Warren received a Carnegie Library. Recently the library was remodeled and now houses many of the papers Mr. Egan used in his research. Be sure to read the book and you will appreciate Dr. Oliva’s talk at the recent full board meeting in Bird City on Carnegie Libraries.

Another scam comes to St. Francis

There appears to be another scam in St. Francis. Carole Burr, St. Francis resident, stopped by *The Herald* office on Tuesday to report a different type of scam than the “grandparent scam” which was reported in the Nov. 17 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*. She said her scam involved a young person selling magazines. A kid, she said, reported he was selling magazines for a school project. Not knowing the local high school kids, she believed him.

that she would be receiving the magazine. Ms. Burr said originally, she wasn’t going to say anything about the problems she had with the magazine company but, if there was someone in town selling her magazines, there were probably others who were contacted and bought magazines. If there are people who felt like they were victims of a similar incident, they can contact the Colorado Better Business Bureau or call Ms. Burr.

I like to support kids in their school projects, she said. She bought a magazine and said she paid more than she would probably paid for it by ordering it directly but, again, it was a kid and for the school. However, when it didn’t come, she became suspicious. She had saved her receipt and began making phone calls and sending letters to the publication company in Falcon, Colo. The check to pay for the magazine was made out on May 5, 2011, and, after much communication, on Nov. 7, Ms. Burr was notified by the customer service department

number to receive these supplies. The scammer is then billing Medicare for diabetic supplies from several companies and then sometimes selling the Medicare number to others who are billing Medicare for other medical services. Protecting your personal information is the best line of defense in the fight against healthcare fraud and abuse. Here are some ways to take an active role in your healthcare benefits:

- Protect your Medicare or Medicaid number as you would your credit card or bank information. Don’t give out your personal information, such as your Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security number, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone you do not completely trust.
- Medicare and Medicaid do not sell or endorse any product. If someone calls you or visits your home and tells you that he or she represents Medicare or Medicaid, they are lying and cannot be trusted. Hang up the telephone or shut the door. “It’s shrewd to be rude.”
- Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, banks, etc. will not call you by phone to ask for your account number or personal information. They already have your information.
- Never accept “free” services from people selling medical services. If anyone tries to offer you free services, be very suspicious.

If you suspect Medicare, Medicaid fraud, errors, abuse or scams, contact the Kansas Department on Aging Senior Medicare Patrol hotline at 1-800-860-5260.

Ozark group presents Christmas show Dec. 11

The award-winning Ozark Jubilee is coming direct from Branson, Mo., to provide a Country Christmas Show! Show time is 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, in the Colby High School auditorium. Comedian and world-class violinist, Randy Newman, (a.k.a. Doofus Doolittle,) will be headlining the show. He’s fiddled alongside stars such as Ronny Milsap and Mel Tillis! The Ozark Jubilee show is filled with country standards such as

bluegrass and gospel music. This unique blend of classic country music and hillbilly humor will leave audiences with lasting memories. Admission will be taken at the door or with Western Plains Arts Association season ticket.

Bird City News

Paul and Edna Roesener guests for Thanksgiving were: Larry and Cathy Atkins of S.D., Michelle Stasser and girls, Oriona and Ariya of Oklahoma City, Bethany Stone and girls, Tierra and Kaitlyn of Great Bend. Birthdays were celebrated on Wednesday evening for Bethany and daughter Kaitlyn. Everyone returned to their homes on Friday.

Hulda Dorsch took the gifts for our overseas military S.O.S or Hugs as it is known to Salina on Monday where she met the Oklahoma people for the exchange. She stayed with her niece and husband Kenny and Michellin Fiske and daughter. Other family members who joined the Fiskes for the evening meal were Leona Fabrizius, Hulda’s sister-in-law, niece, Kathy Nash of Minneapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Don Fabrizius of Niles, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fabrizius of Salina.

On the return trip home Hulda enjoyed a brief visit with Chad and Desiree Churchwell at the Quinter library where Desiree is employed and Chad is the ag teacher at Quinter High School.



Maintenance Supervisor

Full-time, on-call every other weekend. Facilities include the skilled nursing home, senior living apartments and the home health care offices.

Primary areas of work responsibility include: Building maintenance, grounds maintenance, vehicle maintenance, routine schedule checking and reporting per GSS policy. Candidate should have prior skills in all or some of these areas.

A complete job description is available upon request. Salary commensurate with training and experience.

Apply online at www.good-sam.com or obtain an application at St. Francis Village, 820 S. Denison, St. Francis.

Good Samaritan Society

820 South Denison, St. Francis, KS. 67756
St. Francis Good Samaritan Village is an EEO/AAP — M/F/V/D employer

Thank you

The family of David Sowers would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of support shown to us during this difficult time. There is truly no place like home, and home is right here in St. Francis, and with the wonderful people of Cheyenne County. From the start, my “work family” has been a constant reflection of sincere friendship. You have been there for me (us) day in and day out, and for that I thank you. The countless hugs and words of encouragement have been a soothing salve for our wounded hearts. Thank you for organizing this benefit that has blessed our family with the assistance of David’s medical expenses. Thank you to the PTA and Lutheran Thrivent and numerous area ministers and churches for donating delicious desserts for the dinner and bake sale. Many thanks to a number of other area businesses for donations of time, money and resources; your giving is greatly appreciated. Lastly, thank you to our church home of Living Water Fellowship, and the faculty and staff of the St. Francis School System for the continuous charity shown to our family. You have helped make our loss bearable, and we are strengthened by your love.

Teresa Sowers & family



CHECKING THE PRESSURE — Val Coleman gets her blood pressure checked by Mila Bandel, county health nurse, before the Thanksgiving dinner at the senior center. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

<h3>YOST FARM SUPPLY</h3> <p>Noel Ketzner Machinery Sales</p> <p>Bus. - 785-332-3351 Bus. - (800) 421-3914 Cell - 785-332-8255</p> <p>1545 US Hwy 36 • P.O. Box 1080 St. Francis, KS 67756 www.yostfarmsupply.com</p>	<h3>Ken Johnson Computer & Network Service</h3> <p>KJCNS 785-734-0757 kjcn.com ken@kjcn.com</p>
<h3>Natalie Knodel</h3> <p>Personal Trainer</p> <p>nBalance</p> <p>122 W. Washington, St. Francis, KS 785-332-0191</p>	<h3>THE CLASSIC ROSE FLORIST</h3> <p>116 W. Washington Street Saint Francis, Kansas 67756 Phone: 785-332-2200 Toll Free: 855-700-ROSE (7673)</p> <p>We are here to help with all your floral needs!</p> <p>www.TheClassicRose.com RoseMary@TheClassicRose.com</p>

Herald And Times Happenings:

Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is priceless

This year, as in the year’s past, the Special Christmas and New Year’s sections will be published before the holidays. The sections will feature letters from Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

The *Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* staffs welcome participation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 9 in order to get them into the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to The Herald at P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 or fax 785-332-3001, or drop them off or e-mail to sfherald@nwkansas.com titling the subject as “Christmas for the Paper.”

DON'T MISS BRINGING IN 2012 WITH A MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMERS IN THE NEW YEAR'S SECTION.

FIRST BABY CONTEST

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy! Coming in January a bundle of businesses ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

To participate in a Special Section contact Tim at:

The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —

Bird City Times
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731