

Board holds election of new officers

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Board of Education met with four members, enough to make a quorum. One of the first items of business was to elect new officers.

The new president is Derrick Tice; vice president is Kelly Gienger. Neither were at the meeting so acting president, Ed Marin continued heading the meeting. Sharon Olofson was appointed as clerk of the board and Traci Neitzel, assistant clerk. Marilyn Raile remains the treasurer.

The board accepted a "gift" from St. Francis Recreation Commission for \$2,337 which will help pay for the summer weight program at the school.

At the special meeting on June 29, the board also accepted a gift from Mike and Renee Walker and their new son, Roman. Walker donations up to date total \$2,950.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz reported that the Head Start program have approached him about having room for the children in the grade school. Through the years, they have met across the street in a former daycare center.

Since Joyce Faulkender has retired, her first grade room will be used. The Head Start children have been eating breakfast and lunch at the school.

The board approved the following out-of-district students to attend St. Francis schools this year: Taylor Archibald, Tilyn

Bell, Isaac and Conner Hathaway, Danielle Frink, Gus Jardine, Jade, Joslyn and Jaquelyn Ketzner, McKayla, McKenzie and Keigan Taylor, Caleb Todd, and Laramie and Jesse Jenkins.

Appointments and designations were made as well as the schedule of board meetings through the next year. They will continue to meet at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month except in the month of June when the meeting will be moved to the second Tuesday. They meet in the board room in the high school.

The board voted to pay the Kansas Association of School Board dues of \$3,806 and the legal assistance fund, \$1,400.

Alice Kinen had agreed to serve another 4-year term on the St.

Francis Recreation Commission. Mary Beth Miller, board member, will serve another year as a representative to the Kansas Association of School Board Governmental Relations network. Ed Marin was reappointed to serve as the representative on the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center Board in Oakley.

Next meetings

An early morning special meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Monday in the board room at the high school. The meeting will give the board and administration a chance to study the proposed budget.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m.



EMILEIGH DINKEL races home after completing the poles at the 4-H Horse Show held Sunday.
Herald Staff photo by Karen Krien

Excessive heat puts landscape at risk

Excessively high temperatures and very little rainfall are putting landscapes at risk from the central to southern Plains.

"We're getting a pretty drastic lesson in why we'd do well to plant native or other drought-resistant plant materials. Cold hardiness isn't enough. We also need to be learning how we can get the most out of the water we have available. If we're lucky, maybe we won't have to limit our soap use, so we can recycle our bathwater outdoors on our drying plants," said Pam Paulsen, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

During a drought, the most vulnerable plants are those that don't have a well-established, deep root system, Paulsen said. This automatically includes all recent transplants and all container plants. In fact, depending on how dry and hot the weather is, Kansas container plants sometimes need twice-

daily watering, just to survive.

"Typically we recommend watering early in the morning. That's when you're least likely to lose irrigation water to evaporation," she said. "Plus, the day's rising temperatures will help foliage dry out quickly, reducing the risk of foliar diseases."

"When plants are under severe drought stress, though, watering as soon as possible minimizes further damage - regardless of the time of day. It's a myth that water droplets on foliage will magnify the sunlight and burn plants. What is true is that puddled water where soil doesn't drain readily can heat up and 'stew' plants."

From spring into fall, Plains landscapes need an average inch of moisture per week, supplied by rainfall and/or irrigation, Paulsen said. Some landscapes can need more - particularly where soils are sandy, plants are semi-tough non-natives, soil is bare, and/or temperatures are extremely hot. Extra watering also can be necessary in times of low humidity or high winds.

"Those exceptions also can affect how often you should water," she added.

In general, perennial plants, lawns, shrubs and trees do best if watered deeply and infrequently. On average, about once a week is often enough, except during extreme summer weather, the horticulturist said.

This approach encourages

plants to send roots deeper into the ground. The plants seemingly become more drought-tolerant because they can access soil moisture that's available well below the surface level.

The best timing also can have exceptions, however, and not just ones that call for watering more often.

For example, if watered deeply enough, mature, healthy trees can actually go several times longer between drinks in typical Kansas summer weather, she said. Even Kansas' favorite cool-season lawn turf -- tall fescue -- can often survive without water for up to a month at a time. It goes dormant, so doesn't look too nice. Still, a monthly soaking typically will keep the grass plants' crown from dying.

"Other than that, a 2- to 3-inch blanket of organic mulch will shade the soil surface in planting beds and around trees. This shade will help moderate the soil's temperature and reduce its moisture evaporation rate," Paulsen said. "Rock and rubber mulches aren't as good in hot weather, because they can really warm up. They also retain heat quite a while."

She advises homeowners to remember how time- and energy-draining yard work can be during hot, dry weather.

"You're going to more likely water as often as you should if it's easy," Paulsen said. "For example, think about strategically

placing soaker hoses, sprinklers or drip irrigation systems. You could even leave them out where they're always ready to go. If they've got snap-on connection valves, you can easily use them alone or in combination. You could even link them to an automatic, programmable timer connected to your faucet."

To prepare for future water-scare times, she said, some possibilities are to:

1) Use free water to irrigate. Collect your roof's downspout runoff in rain barrels during the growing season.

2) Use yard slope and landscaping ideas (baffles, decorative rocks, mounds, etc.) to slow down any runoff from rain or irrigation, giving your yard more time to absorb all the moisture it can.

3) Whenever you can, apply this principle: Incorporating organic matter improves soil's water-handling ability - no matter whether the soil is heavy clay or fast-draining sandy loam.

"Organic mulch helps with No. 3 because it decays over time. But, you can make a much bigger difference in beds you till every year, because you can incorporate small pieces of organic materials at the same time," Paulsen said. "Any fall garden debris that you can mow and catch in your grass catcher - leaves, dead annual plants, whatever - is great for that."

New questions about terraces

By Craig T. Scheuerman
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Terrace rebuilding is a subject we hear a lot about, but lately some new questions have been raised.

Do I need to rebuild every terrace in the field or can I just rebuild every other one?

To decide about rebuilding you first need to know something about how a terrace system is designed. Terraces are designed to contain a 10-year rain without overtopping. This means they can hold the total

runoff from a rain that would occur once in ten years for the drainage area above the terrace.

When terraces are rebuilt, every terrace in the system needs to be restored to original design height for the system to have adequate capacity and work properly. If only every other terrace were rebuilt, the old terraces, with their low capacity, would overtop.

The overflow runs down the slope and is caught by the rebuilt terraces. Since these terraces are only designed to handle the runoff from the area above, the excessive

runoff from the old terraces would cause the newly rebuilt terraces to overtop.

If terrace spacing is a problem, an entire new system may help. Spacing can be adjusted by installing new terraces with wider channels. In certain situations, a new system can improve alignment and formability.

For more information about terraces, please contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office or conservation district office located at west U.S. 36, St. Francis.

ACROSS

1. Place for a cup of joe
5. Stretch of land
10. Monk's hood
14. Small brook
15. "One of Ours" novelist Cather
16. They try harder
17. Boer's migration
18. More slippery
19. Dweeb
20. HART
23. Audiophile's stack
24. Singer Sumac
25. Granny Smith, for one
28. Speaker systems, for short
31. Feeling for Woody Allen
35. SOLE
38. All right, informally
39. Mary's follower
40. Rock bottom
41. The Shirelles' "___ Him on a Sunday"
42. Wolfed down
43. HART
45. Puccini heroine
47. Med. specialty
48. Vital vessel
49. Like some lots and socks
51. Have the blahs
52. SOLE
59. Inside info
60. "All in the Family" spin-off
61. Gung-ho feeling
63. Jacob's twin
64. Invite to enter
65. "Or" follower
66. High-energy snack mix
67. Quickie Halloween costume
68. Did in

Hart and Sole

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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American Profile Hometown Content 7/17/2011

DOWN

1. Obsolescent PC hookup
2. Suffix for the well-to-do
3. Show off one's bod
4. Fraternal bunch
5. Doublemint hucksters
6. Costa ___
7. Touched down
8. "Pinocchio" goldfish
9. Procrastinate
10. The Promised Land
11. [see other side]
12. Like an Airedale's coat
13. Letters for Leary
21. First place?
22. Fed
25. Black key
26. Aristotle's teacher
27. 25-Acrosses, pears, et al.
28. Portraitists' family name
29. "Our Miss Brooks" actress
30. Sidestep
32. Pal of Andy and Barney
33. Airborne targets
34. Aquarium dweller
36. Kind of "fingerprinting"
37. Ill temper
41. Places on a pedestal
43. Whipped up
44. Roaster's spot
46. Keep confined
50. Creator of Athos and Aramis
51. "You ___ kidding!"
52. Eliciting a shrug, perhaps
53. Icy coating
54. He rhymed "talcum" with "walcum"
55. Home of the Blue Devils
56. Emmy winner Falco
57. Secluded valley
58. Mitigate
59. Cribbage board insert
62. "Ben-Hur" author Wallace

The Crossword Puzzle brought to you by:

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Cheyenne County Fair

Special section features
4-H results, Parade,
Event Winners and
pictures from the
2011 County Fair

All Papers Property Tax Section

This section is packed full of information on county tax rates for readers to compare the rates and spending in surrounding counties.

Fall Sports Section

Start the school year off with a section featuring the players and schedules