

Previous winner takes spelling bee



THREE-TIME CHAMPION of the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee Austin Patton approaches the microphone.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Council still waits to sign power contract

By Nathan Fiala

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Members of the St. Francis city council met Monday evening, Jan. 23.

The main topic of discussion was still the impending power agreement that needs to be signed. The agreement will most likely be signed on Feb. 13. More information will be in the next issue.

Attorney report

City attorney Michael Day referred to an ongoing issue with power to a water well. He said they are waiting for approval back from Norton on what to do. He would like to have preauthorization from the mayor to act on those recommendations, which was approved.

Mr. Day said the ownership of the bridge at Keller's Pond is still in question. City superintendent J.R. Landenberger said he still needed to talk to county road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming for more information.

A complaint about some metal pipes stored at well number seven had been filed with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Mr. Day had been in contact with the agency and they decided, with the landowner's permission, the city would remove the pipes to come back into compliance.

Mr. Day also said he would need some time in executive session to discuss personnel.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Landenberger gave the superintendent report, first briefly referring to the 800 megahertz radios. He said there was a misconception about the radios and the city was not going to buy them.

Mr. Landenberger addressed the signs that council member Carla Lampe had previously asked about and said they had been designed and would be received

in about three weeks. He also said letters for the sign on the highway had been acquired for less than anticipated and can be sandblasted and repainted.

A few weeks back when a power pole at the vet clinic was damaged during high winds, a step in the repair procedure was missed which resulted in damage to the clinic's furnace. As soon as the city was aware of the oversight, it was fixed, the clinic was notified. The issue is now in the hands of insurance company.

Clerks report

City clerk Glorianne Milne said annual dues were due for the U.S. 36 Highway Association and Kansas Municipal Utilities. Both were approved.

Mrs. Milne said she had received a letter from some concerned citizens about Glenda Krien putting a business in a residential area. Mr. Landenberger said this was regarding a variance Mrs. Krien had in process and that they were aware of it.

Mrs. Milne also received a letter from Fred Waters requesting money for alcohol education, which was approved; and a letter from the Kansas Rural Water Association, which was asking for a letter of support, which was also approved.

In other business

• Chris Bracelin put in a building permit to move a small storage building. It was approved.

• The water emergency plan was approved.

• A trailer park license for John and Anita Amack was approved.

• Council member Dale Weeks said that Janelle Bowers asked if she could paint her office at the emergency building. He said that as long as there was no mess, it shouldn't be a problem.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday.

By Karen Krien

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A St. Francis eighth grader won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Austin Patton won the spelling bee for the third time, having won the first contest in 2009 when he was a fifth grader. He won the contest for the second time in 2010 but, in 2011, he and Jude Faulkender battled it out and Austin took second place.

This year, he and Sydney Sundstrom, St. Francis eighth grader, were the only students left standing. Sydney had the word, "interpret" which she misspelled. Austin then correctly spelled "defiantly" then, as the rules stated, he had to correctly spell the next word which was "laboriously."

All 27 contestants were in the running when the first round ended but the second round found six contestants taking their seats in the audience. The contest ended with eight rounds.

Some of the words used in the contest included marshmallow, echoed, airborne, antelope, ingredient, perturbed and imitate.

Pronouncer was Bruce Swihart, St. Francis junior high teacher. Judges were Jan Busse, Robin Petersen and Scott Carmichael.

Students ranged from grades fourth to eighth. Those students competing from St. Francis were:

Fourth grade: Dakota Morris, Aaron White and Hannah Zimbal.

Fifth grade: Draven Houtman, Shelby Wolff and Shalyn Zweygardt.

Sixth grade: Reagan Beims, Devin Patton and Zoe Sundstrom.

Seventh grade: Taryn Zweygardt (Ryan Grover was absent).

Eighth grade: Jude Faulkender, Austin Patton and Sidney Sundstrom.

Cheylin students competing were:

Fourth grade: Kaylynn Hendricks and Miguel Gonzalez.

Fifth grade: Jessie Frisbie, Bob Havel and Kevin Castillo.

Sixth grade: Jordan Janicke, Rachel Keltz and Alex Hazuka.

Seventh grade: Haleigh Rucker, Bergan Bock and C.J. Antholz.

Eighth grade: Devon Janicke, Kelsey Miller and Elizabeth Keltz.

Austin will be traveling to Great Bend for the state spelling bee contest on March 17. In the event he would not be able to go, Sydney would take his place.

"All students, teachers and parents should be proud of their respective sons and daughters for being selected and participating in our local spelling bee," said Scott Carmichael, St. Francis schools principal. "We are all proud of Austin and Sydney's performances and wish Austin all the luck as he travels to Great Bend to compete at the state level."



EIGHTH GRADER Sydney Sundstrom came in second place at the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

The Gardener

By Kay Melia

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Alright, lets see the hands of all you gardeners out there who are as pleased as I am that the seed catalogs seem to be coming our way earlier and earlier each year. Those opposed, same sign. The "pleaseds" win, hands down.

It was the day before last Halloween that the catalog for Pinetree Gardens suddenly appeared in my mailbox, and it was just last week that I received what is surely the final offering of the season in the form of a colorful catalog from the Michigan Bulb Company. All together, 21 wonderful reminders of spring have been studied very thoroughly as I divert my attention from television to visions of beautiful flowers and gorgeous cucumbers!

You know what? After I've digested the contents of all those

catalogs; after I see that one or two of my all-time favorite varieties are no longer available; after I carefully study the possibilities of some of the new varieties; only then will I visit my nearest friendly hometown fully-accredited garden center and buy the seeds and plants that I intend to grow this year.

Please understand that the seed rack at the garden center doesn't always display the varieties of seed that I prefer, but if they do, that's where I will do business. Never mind that in my case, the nearest real garden center is at least 30 miles away from where I live. I'm going there anyway to see if they can provide what I want. And also, other needed garden supplies such as fertilizers and bug killers and whatever else I feel like I need.

For me, seed is the problem. I can never remember seeing a

packet of YaYa carrot seed on a seed rack, and I must have YaYa carrot seed.

I've not seen Megaton cabbage seed on a seed rack, and I must absolutely have Megaton cabbage seed because it has proved to me to be the best I have ever grown.

The same goes for Super Tasty tomato seed, Sweet Success cucumbers, and Mirai sweet corn.

And yet, for every preferred seed I can't find on the rack, there are always two or three that are always there. And please understand this. Although I will pay extra if need be to secure the variety of seed I prefer, most packets of seed on the garden center's seed rack are lots less expensive than their counterparts in the seed catalog.

Burpee Seed Company's regular size packets in the

catalog are nearly all \$4.95 this year, and the newest offerings are mostly \$5.95. You'll have to hunt diligently to find a seed packet that costs more than \$2.50 at the garden center. Never mind that you'll also pay upwards of a \$5.95 minimum for shipping and handling when you order from the catalog.

Still, I'm not about to pass up the varieties of vegetables or flowers I like best. Therefore, a small order goes out to a big seed company every spring, with my sincere thanks for providing me with valuable information about the seeds and plants that I'll try my best to find at the nearest hometown greenhouse and garden center. Never yet have I returned a seed catalog to the sender.

*In Loving Memory
To My Wife, Our Mothers,
Grandma & Great-Grandma
Betty Gleason
who passed away on 2-13-03*

*Mom,
It's been 9 years since I held
your hand the day you went
away. I wish we could have
had more time, but it just didn't
work out that way. I had more
questions I should have ask, but
thought you'd be here forever.
So now I talk to you on the hill
and wait for your answer from
heaven. I Thank You, Miss
You and Love You Very Much.*

~ Claudette

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| | |
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You're invited

Open House
Sunday, Feb. 12
2 - 5 p.m.

Good Samaritan Society - St. Francis Village
is celebrating the completion of the new section and we would like for you to join us in the celebration.

Good Samaritan Society
820 South Denison, St. Francis, Ks. 67756 • 785-332-2531