

# Firemen selling tickets for grill

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis volunteer firemen are raising money by selling chances on a \$1,000 Traeger Grill and two bundles each containing 10 ribeye steaks. One bundle of steaks is being donated by Calli-crate Cattle Company and the other is donated by Kyle Schultz. In all, there will be three drawings.

The money raised will go to help with expenses incurred during the dry summer and purchase needed equipment and supplies. Clay Zimbelman, volunteer fireman, said that because of the recent wear and tear on the equipment, they have had to buy additional nozzles and a hose.

Equipment used by firemen, he said, is extremely expensive because it has to meet certain regulations.

Besides fighting fires, the firemen teach fire safety to children in the St. Francis schools by bringing the truck to the school. They give students backpacks and fun activities such as coloring books. Firemen are also called to help with traffic control during vehicle accidents and rescue searches.

The fire department is funded by county and city tax dollars. For 2012, the county allots the firemen \$10,000 for personnel, \$13,000 for contractual, \$3,500 for commodities and \$8,000 for capital outlay (equipment replacement). It was noted at the Monday commissioners' meeting that \$9,000 had already been paid out for personnel. Terry Miller, clerk, said all the

money in this year's fire budget (commodities, capital outlay, contractual) may be needed for personnel, so the money raised in the fund raisers could be essential for equipment and supplies.

This year, the firemen have already made almost 60 runs. In an entire year, they generally make around 35 runs. Each time the fire trucks are called out, said Mr. Zimbelman, it costs about \$500 and sometimes, it is much more.

The winner of the grill will be drawn at the Cheyenne County Fair on Saturday evening, Aug. 4, near the ice cream stand. Winners need not be present to win.

Tickets are on sale at the following businesses: Bumper To Bumper, Cooper Tire and Service, Cuppa' Joe Espresso, Frontier Arms, Owens True Value, Republican Valley Auto Parts (NAPA), Republican Valley Veterinary Clinic, The Saint Francis Herald, Yost Ford and Farm Supply, and Zimbelman Motor Company. Look for the signs in participating business windows.

Volunteer firemen include: George Harper, fire chief; Shannon Grover, assistant chief; Pat Owens, training officer; Scott Houtman, treasurer; Dan Blair, Chris Braclain, Randy Dinkel, Brian Draper, Dustin Gilliland, Steve Jenkins, Clay Keller, Gerald Lauer, Brock McAtee, Randy Nelson, Matt Smull, Derrick Tice, Kevin Trembly, Shane Wurm and Clay Zimbelman.

For more information, call Mr. Zimbelman at 332-5122.

# Thresher show only a week away

The 2012 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show is only a week away and clues to the Thresher Queen's identity will be printed in this week's newspaper as well as next week's.

Each year, a committee selects a woman whose identity remains a mystery until the day of her crowning, which is on the first day of the show.

This year's queen said when she was living at home, there was plenty of work to be done. They had cows to milk, then the milk was separated and fed to the calves. There was also the eggs to gather.

Mom, she said, always planned to have a large brood of hens to lay eggs as that was the basis of her grocery money.

"We also sold cream to supplement the grocery money," she said. "I don't remember what the eggs were sold for then, but I think it was around 10-cents a dozen."

The last clue will be printed in next week's issues of the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald*.

If you haven't already guessed who the queen is, look for next week's clue or plan to attend the program in front of the grandstand starting at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday at the thresher show grounds.

Last year's queen, Vernetta Haack, will present a doll dressed in similar attire as what she wore



2012 Thresher Queen

at her crowning. Her doll will be among 38 dolls on display at the Eggers "8" Museum.

The Thresher Show special section, inserted in the *Times* and *Herald*, is full of information and history of the show. Be sure to check out this special section and thank the advertisers who made it possible.



ANTIQUE TRACTORS are lined up and ready for this year's Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City. Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez.

# Tax rebate program explained

Cheyenne County recently adopted the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which is available to all property owners, including residential, commercial, industrial, and farm for all of Cheyenne County.

During the 1994 legislative sessions, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 3732, which provides tax rebates for new construction and the rehabilitation and/or addition of existing structures. In order to implement the legislation locally, each municipality must adopt a plan and designate an area in which they want to promote revitalization and development or redevelopment.

The program will provide incentives for building improvements through property tax refunds, and does not interfere with current property tax revenues. The program creates new long-term tax revenue, without creating a fiscal burden for the cities, school districts and county. It offers incentives for development where development might not otherwise occur. It helps create jobs because, historically, jobs follow development. Local businesses will benefit from construction material purchases. The Neighborhood Revitalization/Tax Rebate Plan will help reverse the outward migration of residents and the resulting deterioration of neighborhoods within the county. It will help stabilize land value and strengthen the fiscal capacity of our city and county governments to grow and serve our area. It provides a limited window of opportunity for participation (3 years), thereby, prompting immediate response, and will encourage housing, commercial and industrial development in the county.

There must be a minimum investment of \$5,000 to receive a

tax rebate for commercial or residential construction. New as well as existing improvements must conform with all codes, rules and regulations in effect. You must secure a building permit for all improvements, if applicable. The tax rebate will be based on the increase in assessed value following the first full year of completion. New construction, additions and major rehabilitations will increase the assessed value. Repairs generally will not increase the assessed value unless there are several major repairs or improvements completed at the same time.

Prior to beginning construction (not after construction has started), the property owner may apply for the Neighborhood Revitalization/Tax Rebate Program, by obtaining an application from the county appraiser, or the city offices. The application must be submitted to the Cheyenne County Appraiser along with a \$50 non-refundable fee. Once the project is approved by the county appraiser, construction may begin. Prior to submitting the application, property owner's may want to discuss the proposed project with the appraiser, to check and see if the project will qualify for the program.

Under the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan legislation, the taxes relating to the assessed value on the property prior to the improvement may not be reduced and will continue to be payable.

Property owner's may apply each year that they make a qualifying improvement to the property even though the improvements may not actually be completed during the year. If no further improvements are made, the initial application will be sufficient without the property owner having to file an additional application for succeeding years in which a tax

rebate is received.

Tax rebates will be received over a 10-year period on a sliding scale. The first year 100% of the taxes on the improved property will be rebated. The second year 90 percent of the taxes will be rebated and so on throughout the tenth year at which time 10 percent of the taxes will be rebated. In year 11 and on, no taxes will be rebated.

The total taxes rebated over the 10 years may decrease only if the assessed value of the property decreases. However, if the assessed

value of your property increases during the 10 years, your rebate will not increase. In other words, the rebate paid in any given year (1-10) will be based on the lesser of the increase in assessed value from the first year or the value assessed in the current year.

In order to receive the tax rebate, all taxes due must be paid in full, including taxes owed on all properties of the owner. Should a property owner fail to pay the taxes owed, participation in the program will be forfeited for the remaining term.



FIREMEN and law officers were called to a house fire on Francis Street in St. Francis. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Help Wanted

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL is accepting applications for four positions. Apply by sending letter (and resume, if available) to Rob Schiltz, Superintendent, for the cook positions, or to Carl Werner, Athletic Director, for the coaching positions, both at St. Francis High School, PO Box 1110, St. Francis, KS 67756; or email the same information to rschiltz@usd297.k12.ks.us or to cwerner@usd297.k12.ks.us If questions, call Rob at 785-332-8182 or Carl at 785-332-4489.

- 1) PART-TIME COOKS. There are two part-time openings in our food service department. One position is in the elementary school and one is in the high school. Both are 2.5 hour/day positions. Responsibilities include food preparation, serving, and cleaning. Hours are 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pay rate is \$8.00/hour.
- 2) HEAD HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING COACH. There is no teaching position open with this position; the position is coaching only.
- 3) ASSISTANT JR. HIGH FOOTBALL COACH. There is also no teaching position open with this position; the position is coaching only. Also needed are substitute cooks on an as needed basis. If you would like to be placed on our substitute cook list, please contact Traci at the USD 297 office (785) 332-8182.

## Help Wanted

The Cub's Den in Idalia, CO is now accepting applications for an Infant/Toddler Teacher. Applicants must hold current Infant/Toddler qualifications, as per the State of Colorado Rules & Regulations. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please inquire to Carrie at (970) 354-7587 for further details.

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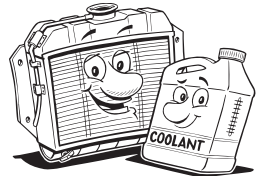
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